

River Valley Metro Mass Transit District
May 23, 2023
Metro Centre, 1137 E 5000 North Road, Bourbonnais IL 60914
Board of Director Meeting Minutes

Vice Chairman Pearce called the regular monthly River Valley Metro Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Attending Board Members: Chairman Mark Argyelan, via zoom, Vice-Chairman Jerry Pearce, Treasurer Nick Allen, Board Members: Norman Grimsley, Ron Jackson, and David Hinderliter Absent: Secretary Kelly St. Aubin.

Staff Members Present: Managing Director Siron Sims, Project Manager Cortney Koning, Director of Administration Mandy Taylor, Director of Operations Michelle Brutlag, Facilities Director Tim Goodman, Rich Berns – Kankakee County Sheriffs Department, Jermaine Davis – First Transit

Others Present: None

Pledge of Allegiance led by: David Hinderliter

Public with Business to Come Before the Board:

None

Consent Agenda: Nick Allen made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Norm Grimsley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken of those in attendance, with all in favor. Consent agenda approved

Communications:

Chairman's Report: Nothing to report

Managing Director's Report: Siron Sims

Senate Bill 1769 Government Zero Emission Bill passed. It requires all state vehicle, excluding law enforcement, to be zero emissions by 2030. There are two issues: electric vehicles are not ready and funding is not there for other fuel services by 2030. IPTA is putting a group together to amend the Senate Bill to exclude CVP vehicles.

Tomorrow, 5/24 at 10:00 am, is the ribbon cutting for the Kankakee Metro Centre. Government officials Joyce, Sims, Smith and Kelly have been called into session and will not be able to make it. The Mayors are in Vegas at a conference, but Mayor Curtis from Kankakee is returning a day early for the event. Senator Durbin will attend the event.

The Board members new iPads are in, but are not set up yet. If you can be without your iPad for a couple days, please leave yours here and I will get set up and back to you soon.

Operations Report: Siron Sims and Jermaine Davis

Davis reported there are 43 operators fully trained and in service. There are currently 5 in class and will be in behind the wheel training later this week. First Transit will be interviewing for new drivers until 5/31 for the transition to National Transit. National Transit has started interviewing, background checks and other necessary pre-employment requirements off site. Sims advised the Board that Davis had been doing a great job and this change is in no way a reflection on his performance.

Board member Hinderliter asked how the transition was going and are we going to keep employees or start over. Sims advised we will keep all good drivers that would like to move to the new company. There has been a lot of communication between Metro and National.

Sims reported the April ridership for 2023 was 45,031, compared to 2022 which was 43,275, a 4% increase. Year to date ridership for 2023 is 449,012, compared to 2022 of 370,449. On May 10th we had the highest single day ridership on Midway with 128 riders. In May, we are on track to bypass the 2021 annual ridership.

Complaints/Comments: No report given

Board Report:

David Hinderliter commented that he was at an event that there was a lot of positive vibe about the Kankakee Metro Centre amongst non-riders. It is a great contribution to the area.

New Business: Drug and Alcohol Policy

Included in your Board packet is a revised Drug and Alcohol policy. The policy had not been changed since 2017. After returning from training in San Diego, Mandy has

been revising the policy to meet FTA requirements and make the language more reader friendly. It has also been updated to include a substance abuse resource for employees and non-employees that test positive.

We would like to proceed with version, but there will be another change in the near future. FTA will soon be accepting oral samples for those that cannot produce enough urine.

David Hinderliter made a motion to approve the latest version of the River Valley Metro Mass Transit District Drug and Alcohol Policy. Nick Allen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor.

New Business: Transit Officers

Officer Rich Berns will be retiring on 6/27/23. He has been in service with Metro for a little over 5 years. Toby Fulford III will be replacing Berns. Toby was previously with Metro, before he took the promotion to Sargent and doing the required training. Toby was the only one that applied for the open position. There was no need to interview since we had a great working relationship previously. He will start on 6/26/23. Sims thanked Rich for his time here and all his work and dedication to the system. Rich appreciated the opportunity for the great position.

Old Business: Maintenance Facility

Bids for the facility were returned on 5/12. Six companies picked up bids, and two submitted. The two bidders are PSI and Vissering. PSI's bid was the lowest, but both bids were too high. Nick Allen asked what is the difference between lowest bid and funding. Sims stated that there was about a \$1.5 million gap between funding and lowest bid.

Tria Engineering will be doing value engineering, removing brick and concrete from the project. This will just change the esthetics of the facilities. There will be no changes to the function of the facility. Once the value engineering is complete, IDOT requires that we send to both bidders and they can both supply revised, sealed bids. There is approximately \$1.3 million from Rebuild 2 to roll to this project, if necessary.

Old Business: Vehicles

There are 4 vehicles on order with New Flyer. We have had our first pre-production meeting. The first call was 3 hours long. All meetings are very, very detailed, every minor change is discussed. We will have a weekly meeting every Friday until

completion of the project. The first two buses are scheduled for delivery in December and the other 2 the second week of January 2024.

We have picked up two Freightliners from Lee Ogle County. These buses are 2015 diesel, with 400,000 miles, and new batteries. There is some rust on the steps that will be removed. These buses are set up for commuter service with upgraded seats, charging ports, luggage stowed in the back and overhead storage like airplanes and more seating. These buses are air suspension ride. Once they are in service, there will be 4 air ride suspension buses for Midway. The newest buses will be wrapped with the CVB wrap and a Midway promotion at our cost.

Questions from the news media:

None

Other Business to come Before the Board:

None

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

Norman Grimsley made a motion to adjourn at 8:43 AM. Motion was seconded by David Hinderliter and passed unanimously in a voice vote.