

River Valley Metro Mass Transit District
September 26, 2023
Metro Centre, 1137 E 5000 North Road, Bourbonnais IL 60914
Board of Director Meeting Minutes

Chairman Argyelan called the regular monthly River Valley Metro Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:01 AM.

Attending Board Members: Chairman Mark Argyelan, Vice-Chairman Jerry Pearce, Treasurer Nick Allen, Board Members: Norman Grimsley, Ron Jackson, and David Hinderliter (video). 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, Transit Officer Tobe Fulford, COO Ken Munjoy

Others Present: National Express G.M. Lashanda Brown Smith, Carole Franke (video)

Pledge of Allegiance led by: Mark Argyelan

Public with Business to Come Before the Board:

None

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

Communications:

Chairman's Report: Have received a number of positive comments regarding the Kankakee Metro Centre and how clean it is compared to other properties in the area.

Managing Director's Report: Siron Sims

Siron, Mandy, Cortney, and Ken went to the annual IPTA conference in Bloomington 2 weeks ago. There was a very interesting presentation regarding cyber security and

the methods used by hackers. Siron and Cortney had an opportunity to speak with IDOT officials regarding a liquidated damages agreement for the Kankakee Metro Centre. Progress was made and this should be resolved soon.

Cortney, Siron, and Tim will be attending the APTA conference in Orlando in 2 weeks. David Hinderliter will join them at the event.

Siron and Cortney met with a company regarding a possible testing of hydrogen fuel cell buses. They can help with each step of the process, including grant writing. We will likely be applying for LoNo grants for infrastructure and buses at the next opportunity.

Operations Report: LaShanda Brown Smith

There are 53 operators with 46 active. Additional operators are in various stages of training. New driver classes will be held once a month. 2 are in training, and interviews continue.

Ken Munjoy reported the August ridership for 2023 was 54,492, compared to 48,606 in 2022. August trips were 87% of pre-COVID. Last week, we exceeded 600 weekly rides on Midway for the 4th time since May. It had never happened prior to May.

Complaints/Comments: Michelle Brutlag

We had 13 complaints in the last month. Ten were valid. We also had 1 compliments. CCS and transit officers provided 150 rides.

Board Report:

Norm Grimsley stated that heard from his son that the mass transit system in Houston is looking into taking steps to protect their riders from extreme heat while using their services.

Jerry Pearce commented that he has a friend who tried our Midway service for the first time and said that he will never drive himself to Midway again.

Mark Argyelan heard that managers of the new Gotion plant in Manteno are very strong on public transportation.

New Business

Title VI

David Hinderliter made a motion to approve the newly updated Title VI policy. Motion was seconded by Nick Allen and passed unanimously with a voice vote.

Paid Leave Act

The Paid Leave Act requires employers to allow employees 40 hours per year of time off with no reason stated and with little to no notice. We already allow 40 hours per year of personal time. Policy is being amended to accommodate rules changes.

Old Business

Maintenance Facility

Siron and Cortney had a conversation with IDOT people while at the IPTA conference. This was very productive in getting this project back on track. The contractor still hopes to start on the project this fall with portions that can be worked on during cold weather months. It is likely that bricks will not go up until Spring.

Questions from the news media:

None

Other Business to come Before the Board:

None

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

Jerry Pearce made a motion to adjourn at 8:36 AM. Motion was seconded by Norm Grimsley and passed unanimously in a voice vote.