



**Topeka Metro
Board of Directors Minutes
September 18, 2023**

MEMBER'S NAME	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT / ABSENT / EXCUSED
Scott Tummons, Chair	Topeka Metro	Present Admin Ofc.
Candis Meerpohl, Vice Chair	Topeka Metro	Present Admin Ofc.
Rodd Miller	Topeka Metro	Present Admin Ofc.
Alan Bearman	Topeka Metro	Present via ZOOM
Beverly Hall	Topeka Metro	Present via ZOOM
Fatima Perez-Luthi	Topeka Metro	Absent

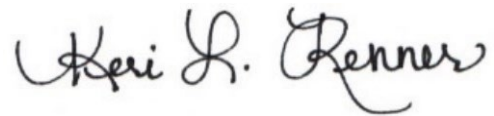
Staff/Visitors	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT / ABSENT / EXCUSED
Bob Nugent, General Manager	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Richard Appelhanz, Chief Financial Officer	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Keri Renner, Director of Marketing and Communications	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Andy Fry, Director of Planning	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
John Cassidy, Legal Counsel	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Denise Ensley, Chief Operations Officer	Topeka Metro	Present via ZOOM
Terri Miller, Director of Human Resources	Topeka Metro	Present via ZOOM
Jared Culbertson, Director of Information Technology	Topeka Metro	Present via ZOOM
Alan Parrish, Director of Maintenance & Facilities	Topeka Metro	Present via ZOOM

TOPIC	KEY DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDED ACTION / STATUS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Call to Order	Called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.	5 of 6 members present	Scott Tummons
		MOTION: Alan Bearman moved, and Rodd Miller seconded the motion to approve the August 21, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 5-0.	
Public Comment	No public in attendance.		
Department Reports			
Planning Report	Planning report as submitted. Andy had a graph that showed student ridership as he was curious about any notable changes. There was a lot going on with Kids Ride Free through Aug. 15 th , then a grace period for high schoolers riding until Aug. 25 th (time to get an ID). Candis mentioned it looked as if youth ridership was going down on weekends. Buses are full in the mornings with students.		Andy Fry
Operations Report	Operations report as submitted. Denise did include photos of shelters that had been damaged. Very high percentage of shelter damage this year.		Denise Ensley
Maintenance Report	Maintenance Report as submitted.		Alan Parrish
Finance Report	Finance report as submitted. Approval of August Financials.	MOTION: Rodd Miller moved, and Candis Meerpohl seconded the motion to approve the August 31, 2023, financials as presented. The motion passed 5-0.	Richard Appelhanz

<p>Discussion Items</p>	<p>Topeka Rescue Mission issue with considerable problems with homeless people at two shelters near TRM. Issues continue to get worse. Bob talked to the director of mission, and she asked if we could take the shelters out. Two of the shelters were removed August 28. Also discussed the City's ordinance regarding camping.</p> <p>Alan Bearman asked about Proterra, the electric bus vendor we have been working with and their status with our buses.</p> <p>DoubleMap/TransLoc – DoubleMap was bought out by TransLoc. After TransLoc took over, saw reduction in customer service. Never got NTD reports or helped us validate our system. We have a 5-year contract with them, and they want \$70,000 to renew.</p> <p>Property & Service Changes</p>		<p>Bob Nugent</p>
<p>Continuing Business</p>	<p>Ridership Award – At KPTA Midwest Transit Conference, Topeka Metro was presented with the Award of Excellence from the Federal Transit Administration for Region VII for highest urban public transportation ridership among transit systems with population less than 200,00 in Kansas for 2021. This is based on NTD.</p> <p>QSS & Meetings: New Furniture will be coming. We'll also be putting in two large 75" monitors so we, as well as the audience, can see presentations better. We still need to replace the audio system as we've had issues with the current one. The IT equipment will be moved from a closet to a room in the board room.</p>		<p>Bob Nugent</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Mentor Program – Federal Government making efforts with the Transit Workforce Center. A gentleman who is with Amalgamated Transit Union International started a mentoring program aimed at new bus operators partnering with experienced operators. The mentee can go to their mentor for work reasons, personal reasons, etc., and assigned for a year. Jamaine Gibson believes we</p>		<p>Bob Nugent</p>

	all have a common goal and that is to make your organization successful & brings everyone together. Bob talked to Jamaine and then talked to our union president, Jeremy Holloway, about the program. Jeremy has to make the request to the ATU to have Jamaine do the presentation to our operators.		
Executive Session	N/A		
Adjourn	Board meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.		Scott Tummons

Respectfully Submitted –



Keri Renner, Topeka Metro Board Secretary