

**MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 2022
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GRTC TRANSIT COMPANY**

Members Present: Eldridge Coles, Chair, Nominating Committee, City of Richmond
Tyrone E. Nelson, Chair, County of Henrico
Andreas Addison, Vice Chair, City of Richmond
Barb Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, County of Chesterfield
Dave Anderson, County of Chesterfield
Todd Eure, County of Henrico
Jim Ingle, County of Chesterfield
Ellen Robertson, City of Richmond
Lincoln Saunders, City of Richmond
Daniel Schmitt, County of Henrico

Others Present: Bonnie Ashley, General Counsel
Sheryl Adams, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Adrienne Torres, Chief Development Officer
John Zinzarella, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer
Tim Barham, Chief of Transit Operations
Tony Byrd, Director of Maintenance
Anthony Carter, Director of Risk Management
Joe Dillard, Director of Equitable Innovation & Legislative Policy
Mike Frontiero, Director of Communications
Dexter Hurt, Director of Information Systems
Sam Sink, Director of Planning & Schedules
Tonya Thompson, Director of Procurement
Von Tisdale, Executive Director of RideFinders
Brandon, Butler, Procurement Specialist
Monica Carter, Safety and Service Compliance Manager
Jamel Harper, Procurement Specialist
Jean Lombos, ITS Project Implementation Manager
Ashley Mason, Manager of Organization Advancement
McGregor Sheppard, Capital Improvement Program Manager
Marquis Taylor, Planning and Scheduling Department
Janice Witt, Executive Assistant
Maurice Carter, President – Local 1220, Amalgamated Transit Union
Dironna Clarke, City of Richmond
Lyndon German, Richmond Times Dispatch
Amy Guzulaitis, Partnership for Smart Growth
Richard Hankins, RVA Rapid Transit
Ken Lantz, PlanRVA
Dan Motta, PlanRVA
Jonathan Rigby, Transit Rider
Faith Walker, RVA Rapid Transit

I. Call to Order & Introductions

This meeting of the Board of Directors of the GRTC Transit System, Old Dominion Transit Management Company (ODTMC), and RideFinders was called to order on October 25, 2022, by Eldridge Coles at 8:00AM. The meeting was held at GRTC Transit System, Operators Lounge, 301 East Belt Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia. Video and audio of the meeting will be streamed live online and recorded for later viewing at the following web address: <https://youtu.be/ODJzW7v-mDQ>.

II. GRTC Board of Directors

A. Annual Shareholders Meeting Report / Board Membership

The Shareholders met on October 19, 2022, at 8AM; nominations were submitted and approved.

III. Public Comments

The public notice, meeting agenda, and agenda attachments for this October 25, 2022, standing meeting of the Boards of GRTC, RideFinders, and Old Dominion Transit Management Company were posted at rideGRTC.com. Per the meeting notice, all written comments received via email by Mike Frontiero prior to 5:00PM on the day preceding a meeting were provided to all members of the Board the night before the meeting, are read during the Public Comment Period of the meeting by staff following the two-minute speaking limit and will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Sarah Kirchner

I support the North-South GRTC line because it will improve the job options for our low-income residents. In order to take care of yourself and your family, a job is important. Without reliable transportation, finding a job that pays enough to do so is almost impossible.

Ilya Yablochnikov

I live in the DC area. Though I am no longer a resident of Richmond, I work for a company based in the Richmond area. I would like to support the plan to open a BRT line along Midlothian Turnpike. My company's office is located in the Boulders Office Park along with several other offices. When I visit the office, I take the #1A bus from Downtown and the bus is always full. I believe a BRT line along that route would attract even more riders, just like the success of the Pulse bus. In the same area, along Midlothian Turnpike, are the Kroger and New Grand Mart supermarkets and numerous restaurants and businesses. There are no supermarkets in Richmond's Southside so running a frequent and quick bus service along Midlothian Turnpike would make Southside's residents lives much easier. It would also provide access to jobs. With car prices at an all-time high, giving Richmonders the option to take convenient public transit instead of paying another monthly car payment would improve their economic well-being, make them healthier, decrease traffic and reduce climate-change-causing emissions. With the nation-wide press that the Pulse received, another BRT line would bring more attention and prestige to the Richmond Metro Area.

Ian Young

I am a resident of the fan in Richmond. I am here today to support the North-South BRT. Last year when I got a new job on May Will Street, I was relieved knowing it was within walking distance from the Staples Mill Station. In addition, the fact that I could go back and forth from my neighborhood to work was beneficial for other residents who regularly ride as well as me. I support the North-South BRT because it would increase access to jobs like the East-West BRT has done.

George Sinkler

I am a resident of Richmond. I am in support of a North-South BRT line because it will give me and many more like me more opportunity to go places that I couldn't go because of lack of transit service. The necessity of life travel for health issues, personal services, and expenses for personal reasons and businesses will be greater beneficiaries for transit riders of everyday users. Our lifestyle will improve greatly. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chaya Braxton

I am a resident of Southside Richmond. I also am a Transit Advocate with Rapid RVA Transit. I am here today to support the proposed construction of Richmond Highway BRT and on behalf of fellow Richmond citizens who take the bus every day. Before moving to Richmond in 2002, I frequented the Metropolitan Transit Authority in New York City. I used a similar rapid transit system to travel back and forth to a school that would have been out of my reach if I did not have adequate transportation. As a result of attending that school, I was hired for better-paying internships and had the freedom to travel back and forth at an affordable rate. The money I earned from that job was used to pay for books, buy

clothes for my siblings and help my mom with bills. I am excited about the Richmond BRT coming to this region to provide other young people with the same opportunities. The time to build the Richmond BRT is now.

Brenda Phipps

I have been a resident of the Church Hill area for over 20 years. I am writing in support of a North-South BRT. Currently, I work at a preschool in the Southside of Richmond as a Teacher's Assistant. A student in my class is late to school every day. Unfortunately, my student's mother has to take three buses to take two children to two schools [in opposite directions. I believe a North-South BRT will reduce travel time for some parents with children at my school.

Richard Hankins

Hello GRTC Board, my name is Richard Hankins, and I am a resident of the Westover Hills neighborhood in Southside Richmond and a transit advocate with RVA Rapid Transit. I am here to speak today about the North-South BRT. I am in full support of a North-South BRT with frequent service, dedicated lanes, and sheltered stations. I have always believed that transit is a pillar of an economically resilient & flourishing region, as each dollar spent on transit brings \$5 in economic benefits. Also, 48% of carbon emissions in Virginia comes from transportation. As riding the bus reduces emissions compared to driving your own vehicle, it not only mitigates the impact of climate change, but also decreased gasoline consumption reduces our dependence on foreign oil supplied by dangerous and often corrupt petrostates. There is also an equity component: 90% of those on public assistance do not own a car. Many elderly folks and those with disabilities also cannot drive - these people a second BRT could double their accessible world. Finally, at this stage, I think several southbound corridors should be studied, including Midlothian Turnpike, Hull Street, and Richmond Highway. But I don't want disagreements over corridors to impede such a transformational project for Greater Richmond.

Faith Walker

Good morning, my name is Faith Walker I am a resident of Henrico County and Executive Director for RVA Rapid Transit. RVA Rapid Transit is a non-profit dedicated to advocate and educate for frequent and far-reaching public transportation in the Richmond region. First, I would like to congratulate and welcome all new GRTC Board members I'm so grateful to see two females appointed to the Board. Females represent over half of the ridership in this region, it is wonderful for the company shift to represent and reflect who is using public transportation. On behalf of RVA Rapid Transit, I also want to express our strong support for GRTC to explore a North-South BRT. Over the last two years, I have been engaging bus riders who desperately want and need access to jobs inside Richmond. Putting a BRT line through any of these corridors would increase access to jobs; for example, on Hull Street currently 4,200 jobs within a half-mile of this route, on Midlothian Boulevard currently 6,400 jobs within a half-mile of this route, and on Route One currently 5,900 jobs within a half-mile of this route. The number of jobs accessible within an hour-long unusual ride to share considerably with the combination of the East-West pulse in the North-South BRT. Thank you so much for working collaboratively to move this project without delay. Thank you.

Amy Guzulaitis

Good morning, members of the Board, my name is Amy Guzulaitis representing Partnership for Smarter Growth. Before you today is an important step forward for equity in our transportation system. The addition of the North-South Bus Rapid Transit line to GRTC's routes will have a huge, immediate impact for people that currently use the system, as well as encouraging new riders to use it. It would improve access to jobs and opportunity, providing dedicated lanes that will allow for fast, frequent, and reliable service. The Partnership for Smarter Growth, along with the community, have repeatedly advocated for a strong regional transit system, and one of the key connections is the north/south corridor. It would connect City residents to suburban jobs and suburban residents to City jobs and would serve a number of areas with lower income residents who need better transit. Combined with updated parking policies and parking pricing in the City, it would provide an alternative to driving and help to reduce average vehicle miles traveled and lower greenhouse gas emissions in our region.

The best way for our region to grow is through walkable, transit-oriented communities tied to frequent, reliable transit. We urge you to approve the North-South BRT Corridor.

Jonathan Rigby

Good morning, my name is Jonathan Rigby. I'm a resident of Chesterfield County, frequent bus rider, Faith Outreach Coordinator for Virginia Interfaith, non-profit and transit justice. I am in support of expanding the BRT line; having more individuals using public transit means fewer carbon emissions, 48% which from the Commonwealth from the transportation sector in and around Richmond primarily impact those brown and black communities. As a transit rider, I have experienced the dignity that comes with waiting in a sheltered covered bus stop knowing that I can get to West BRT line in 15 minutes has increased my usage of that bus line and also I would like to share a brief story of my last experience riding the 77-bus line. I arrived on the Grove and Belmont about 15 minutes before the bus was scheduled to arrive and there's no shelter or bench at that stop. So, I thought I would walk in the direction I was going to be going to get a bench to sit on, and of the five stops I passed before I reached my line not a single one had a bench, not a single one had a shelter, so I ended up standing at the corner waiting for the bus there. There really is dignity difference when you're waiting at a bus stop with a shelter, so I really do encourage you all and thank you all for considering this North-South BRT Line.

Maurice Carter

Good morning everyone, my name is Maurice Carter, President of Local 1220, at GRTC. I would like to welcome the new Board of Directors to GRTC. Ever since September, the Union and Company have been working together to bring GRTC efforts back to the way it was when I first started. When looking for a new CEO, I would like your consideration in bringing somebody in here that would keep our family atmosphere like when I first started. Thank you.

B. Nominations and Elections of Board Officers

Mr. Coles moved that the following officers be elected for the coming year October 2022 – October 2023; Tyrone Nelson, Chair; Andreas Addison, Vice Chair; and Barb Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, the motion was seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of September 20, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Eure motioned to approve the September 20, 2022 Board Meeting minutes, Mr. Saunders seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

V. Consent Agenda

- A. BRT Station Communication Switches/Network Equipment
- B. Vehicle Lifts
- C. Architectural & Engineering (A&E) Services
- D. North-South BRT Study
- E. Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) Grant Application for Micro Transit

Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, Mr. Ingle seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

VI. Information Items

- A. Updated List of Recent and Upcoming Procurements
- B. Richmond Chapter Public Relations Society of America Awards
- C. Downtown Transfer Station Update

VII. Staff Reports

Staff discussed the Reports provided in the Board Packet as follows with no significant changes from the prior month to report and no new significant issues pending:

- A. Safety Performance – Tony Carter
- B. Service Report and Operator Staffing – Tim Barham
- C. Vehicle/Facility Report and Maintenance Staffing – Tony Byrd

- D. Ridership Report – Sam Sink
- E. Quarterly Report – Sam Sink
- F. Rider Comments – Monica Carter
- G. Financial Report – John Zinzarella

VIII. Interim Chief Executive Officer's Report – Sheryl Adams
No report.

IX. Board Chair's Report – Tyrone Nelson

- Personnel Search Update – Christian Kent with KL2 is the Consultant assigned to help with the CEO Search. Started Advertising for the CEO position last month and have received 20+ applications and the Consultant has a list of five/six that he is recommending. The Personnel Search Committee will meet on November 7. The entire list of candidates will be sent out prior to the meeting.
- Due to long Board meetings, the Board decided it would be beneficial to have Board Committees. Recommendations have been made for serving on the Committees which are Finance, Operations, Development, and Personnel (temporary). Please review and decide if these recommendations will move forward.

X. Other Business

- A. Resolution Honoring Eldridge Coles GRTC Board
- B. Resolution Honoring Daniel Smith GRTC Board
- C. Resolution Honoring Gary Armstrong GRTC Board
- D. Resolution Honoring Ben Campbell GRTC Board

Mr. Ingle motioned to accept the four Resolutions, Mr. Schmitt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

XI. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30AM

APPROVED:



Tyrone E. Nelson, Chair
GRTC Board of Directors

November 15, 2022

Date