

**MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 12, 2023**  
**GRTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Members Present: Tyrone E. Nelson, Chair, County of Henrico  
Andreas Addison, Vice Chair, City of Richmond  
Barbara K. 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, Chief Executive Officer  
Adrienne Torres, Chief of Staff  
John Zinzarella, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer  
Stefan Marks, Chief Development Officer  
Tony Byrd, Director of Maintenance  
Joe Dillard, Director of Equitable Innovation & Legislative Policy  
Dexter Hurt, Director of Information Systems  
Michael Hurt, Interim Director of Marketing and Communications  
Tonya Thompson, Director of Procurement  
Henry Benton, Communications Specialist  
Jamal Briggs, Senior ITS Project Manager  
Ashley Mason, Manager of Organizational Advancement  
Maurice Wilkins, Capital Improvement Project Manager  
Janice Witt, Executive Assistant  
Molly Brannan, Citizen  
Nick Britton, Michael Baker  
Dironna Clarke, City of Richmond  
Dometrious Gordine, Citizen  
Lorna Parkins, Michael Baker  
Faith Walker, RVA Rapid Transit

I. Call to Order & Introductions

This meeting of the Board of Directors and the GRTC Transit System, Old Dominion Transit Management Company (ODTMC), and RideFinders was called to order on October 12, 2023, by Chairman Nelson, at 3:00PM. The meeting was held at GRTC, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 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://youtube.com/live/M4fZtmRUy0s?feature=share>.

## II. Public Comments

The public notice, meeting agenda, and agenda attachments for this October 12, 2023, special Board 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 Henry Benton 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.

### ***Joy Robinson***

The 2 B needs to run on a more regular basis. I'm late for work a lot of times because the bus I need to catch hasn't come. Please fix it.

### ***Ed Wren***

91 - consistently late/no-show when others are ON TIME.

### ***Mason Manley***

Thank you to GRTC for re-instating the Riders Advisory Council. It makes me happy to see that GRTC cares so much about involving its riders in decision making and listening to their voices. That being said, I think in the spirit of making this new decision making tool and advisory body as useful and helpful as possible, GRTC must extend the application deadline. Bus riders are inherently very busy, not always internet-connected, and have limited capacity to complete applications on a day-to-day basis. Please extend the application deadline by an additional two weeks to allow for total of a month application process.

### ***Monica Freeman***

I think your submission policy was too short for allowing the biggest pool of applicants to apply.

To be fair, wouldn't you please extend the submission deadline. I would really appreciate it.

### ***Kimberly Denmark***

My name is Kimberly Denmark. I am a resident of Richmond's 5th District and a regular GRTC bus rider. I want to thank GRTC for the opportunity afforded bus riders to work with GRTC in developing a strong public transit system for the Richmond area by giving us the opportunity to apply to serve on the Riders Advisory Council (RAC). However, I am concerned that the application process prevented or at least significantly hindered the fullest possible representation of GRTC riders. I was very surprised to see that the application period for RAC was less than two weeks long. I don't believe this was long enough to give people sufficient time to consider their involvement and to apply. Along these same lines, I doubt individuals who chose to print their application and mail it to GRTC were able to get it in on time. My final concern is in regard to advertising. I noticed information about RAC in the Henrico Citizen and on GRTC's website but nowhere else. Surely, this lack of visibility negatively affected how many applicants GRTC received. Therefore, I would ask GRTC to extend the application period for RAC. When doing so please consider accessibility to the application by making it available in a variety of formats, not just online, and encourage more media outlets to advertise the opportunity.

These are very simple steps GRTC can take to help ensure that RAC truly represents the many different voices and perspectives of bus riders. Thank you for your time and efforts.

***Laura Blackwell***

I wanted to comment to bring forth the issue of the deadline for Rider Advisory Council (RAC) applications as well as hope for an extension. As someone who has applied for the council, I want to make sure that all riders are given the opportunity to have their voices heard. However, a lot of that starts with adequate advertising to ensure those who want to apply can and have the time to do so. The application was only available for a short time (10 days) with little to no promotion, making it difficult for GRTC passengers to learn about the opportunity. I was only made aware due to being a current graduate of Mobility University who themselves were very knowledgeable about GRTC. Not all riders are. Because of that, they aren't sure of where to look and why they should be looking at all. I would like the council to have a wider pool of advocates to not only create more pool diversity, but to make sure more busier transit users have the time to submit an application. That starts with increasing RAC visibility. Thank you so much for your time.

***Faith Harris***

Please extend the period for applications to the RAC so that those who want to apply have time to do so.

***Angie***

Hello, my name is Angie. I take the 7A and the 7B most of the time to get to doctor's appointments for my kids, to do grocery shopping, and to get back and forth to work. For the bus to be able to come every 30 minutes would be beneficial for myself, because I'm trying to start a new job with Amazon. Just because, right now, I can't get the shift that I need - with my kids - because the bus comes every hour. So that prevents me from being able to get a better job to support my family. If the bus came every 30 minutes, it would change everything for me.

***Amanda Nunez***

Hello my name is Amanda Nunez. The reason I would like a bus to go out to Chesterfield is because my parents live out there. They actually live over there off of Robious, so it's kind of hard for me to visit my parents if I got to take the bus. They don't really come out because of Covid. So that's why I would love to see buses go out to Chesterfield.

***Molly Brannan (In-Person)***

Hello, my name is Molly Brandon and I live in Ginter Park on the Northside. This is my first Board meeting, very excited so thank you. I would like to ask for more frequent bus service on Route 91 which is the Laburnum Connector. My fellow transit enthusiast said that it might be happening anyway. Right now, the bus comes every hour which makes it very challenging to plan and I don't rely on the bus to get to work but many of my neighbors do and having it come every 15-30 minutes would give us all more options. I would love to be able to take the bus to my kids' school, to the YMCA, Fairfield Library, but in order to get to an activity like soccer practice which is actually happening today it's only a mile away but we'd have to leave about 40 minutes early so having a more frequent bus on the Laburnum would make traveling along our busy car centered corridor easier and safer for all our residents.

***Dometrious Gordine (In-Person)***

Hello, my name is Dometrious Gordine. I live in the Manchester area, I know I look back at easier access to bus service on Hull Street at Commerce and Maury and even though I rode the service on almost the entire area I see the missing piece of the Williamsburg Road in which the 4A and 4B should go to which access the residents in Montrose Heights at Darbytown to Laburnum and those at White Oaks so that way they don't need to deal with 2 – 3 hours to go around the area if they had access would be 10-15 minutes.

- III. Board Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2023  
Mr. Schmitt motioned to approve the August 15, 2023 Board Meeting minutes, Mr. Saunders seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- IV. Board Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2023  
Ms. Smith motioned to approve the September 19, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes, Mr. Anderson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- V. Consent Agenda
  - A. Office Space Utilization
  - B. Stormwater Management Services Contract
  - C. Title VI Analysis of September 2023 Service ChangesMr. Saunders motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, Ms. Robertson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- VI. Action Items
  - A. Pulse Expansion – North/South Project Update  
The Pulse BRT has made a significant difference in connectivity and revitalization for the Richmond community. The Pulse BRT has decreased east/west travel between downtown and Willow Lawn, reduced crash rates, and increased property values. After this incredible success, there is regional momentum to move forward with a second line. GRTC has just completed a one-year study to identify the prioritized corridors for a new Pulse line that will travel north and south from Henrico County through downtown Richmond into Chesterfield County. Mr. Britton gave a detailed presentation on the study and included the technical analysis, outreach/engagement, and regional collaboration. Staff recommends that the Board of Directors concur with the recommended corridor alignment to move into phase II study, which will identify station locations, traffic level routing, ridership projections, environmental analysis, robust engagement, and preliminary design (30%). This next study will be completed following the required criteria for competitive capital grants for full design and construction.  
Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the recommendation, Mr. Schmitt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
  - B. Ratification of GRTC/ATU Local 1220 Collective Bargaining Agreement  
Ms. Adams highlighted some of the monetary items from those negotiations and they are listed here: provide pay to all collective bargaining employees associated with an 8.5% pay increase effective October 1, 2023 with an approximate budget impact of \$4.7M in this fiscal year; increase employer paid pension contributions in Year 2 from 15% to 15.5% and in Year 3 from 15.5% to 16%; increase in employer paid life insurance from \$50K to \$60K for life of contract; increase in short-term disability benefit from \$400 per week for thirteen weeks to \$500 per week for thirteen weeks for life of contract; and the maximum number of part-time bus operators shall not exceed thirteen percent (13%) of the number of full-time bus

operators. Ms. Adams also stated that the Union Membership voted and 98% of the members approved the Agreement. The recommendation is that the Board of Directors authorizes the CEO to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement between GRTC and ATU Local 1220 for the period October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026.

Ms. Robertson motioned to approve the recommendation, Mr. Saunders seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

VII. Chief Executive Officer Report – Sheryl Adams

- A. Ms. Adams introduced Stefan Marks, GRTC’s Chief Development Officer, to the Board of Directors.

VIII. Board Chair’s Report

- A. The Board will need to have a Nominating Committee to reappoint Officers for the Board of Directors at the next meeting. The Board decided that Ms. Smith, Mr. Saunders, and Mr. Eure will be on the Nominating Committee and Ms. Smith will be the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

IX. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:03PM.

APPROVED:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Tyrone E. Nelson, Chair  
GRTC Board of Directors

\_\_\_\_\_  
October 24, 2023

Date