

LUZERNE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

PRESENT:

CHARLES SCIANDRA, CHAIRMAN
MICHAEL CEFALO, VICE-CHAIRMAN
LYNETTE VILLANO, SECRETARY
VALERIE KEPNER, PH.D., MEMBER
JOSEPH ZELLER, MEMBER

ATTORNEY JOSEPH BLAZOSEK, SOLICITOR
ATTORNEY MATTHEW CARMODY, ASST. SOLICITOR

ABSENT:

JOHN YOUNG, TREASURER
DENNIS DRISCOLL, ASST. TREASURER
GARY POLAKOSKI, ASST. SECRETARY
JOSEPH PADAVAN, MEMBER

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

ROBERT FIUME, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JOE ROSELLE, DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES/I.T.
GINO MARRIGGI, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
VINCE COVIELLO, MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR
BRANDY SPENCER, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
JOANN DECKER, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
GRETCHEN WINTERMANTEL, MARKETING DIRECTOR
DEBBIE DENNIS, SHARED RIDE DIRECTOR
TRACY KLINE, ACCOUNTING MANAGER
MARK GIFFORD, OPERATIONS MANAGER

OTHERS:

JIM DURLAND, PUBLIC

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Board Chairman, Mr. Sciandra, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited those present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call: The following Board Members were present or available by phone for the meeting: Mr. Cefalo, Dr. Kepner, Ms. Villano, Mr. Zeller and Mr. Sciandra.

3. Public Comment: None.

4. Approval of Minutes: Board Chairman, Mr. Sciandra asked for approval of the board minutes from the August 26th, 2025 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Villano and seconded by Dr. Kepner. Motion carried.

5. Treasurer's Report: Mr. John Young, Chairperson

Mr. Cefalo made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, pending audit. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kepner. All members present voted yes; motion carried.

6. Chairperson's Report: Mr. Charles Sciandra

Mr. Sciandra did not have a report at this time.

7. Solicitor's Report: Attorney Joseph Blazosek

Atty. Blazosek noted for the record that there was an executive session from 4:12 p.m. until approximately 4:50 p.m. He said during that time the board was updated on personnel matters that may involve litigation. Atty. Blazosek stated there was discussion on some actions to resolve cases that are pending. He said that Mr. Fiume updated the board on some real estate matters but no final decisions were made and any action that will be taken will be at today's meeting or a future meeting.

8. Executive Directors Report: Mr. Robert Fiume

Mr. Fiume said he would like to give an update on the state funding crisis. He explained that nothing has happened as far as public transit funding that the governor has proposed. Mr. Fiume said the legislature has allowed SEPTA, Port Authority and Pittsburgh to use capital money to balance their budgets but noted that it's a short-term fix. He said agencies across the state are preparing to plan for possible cuts. He stated that LANTA in Allentown is next on the list to start implementing cuts, possible layoffs and fare increases. Mr. Fiume said the Shared Ride system is one area that agencies are looking to cut back. He explained that Shared Ride was implemented 50 years ago and things have changed. He said that LCTA puts in a million dollars a year from Fixed Route to balance Shared Ride and other agencies are doing similar things adding that PennDOT is working on a solution for another funding source. Mr. Fiume stated that agencies are looking at limiting Shared Ride trips where they can and other plans include cutting service, raising fares, not filling open positions or hiring. He mentioned that COLTS wanted to expand service but they are not able to do it. He said Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are in the worst position with Allentown right there behind adding that the remaining 36 Fixed Route agencies have their own fiscal cliffs to hit. Mr. Fiume said he is hoping that something happens as it is getting to be a crisis in PA and if it doesn't happen this budget it will have to happen next budget. Mr. Sciandra stated that we are not looking to make any cuts. Mr. Fiume agreed we are not looking at any service cuts and said that we are not hiring anyone at this time and we are not adding any service. He mentioned that we are not able to expand Microtransit even though there are people that need more service.

Mr. Fiume presented the following motions:

Motion to approve Shared Ride contract with LCCC for Shuttle Service. A motion was made by Mr. Cefalo and seconded by Mr. Zeller. All members present voted yes; motion carried.

Motion to approve Contract Award for Bus Decals Installation and Removal of Existing Decals to Brand Graphics Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$268,705.20. A motion was made by Mr. Zeller and seconded by Ms. Villano. All members present voted yes; motion carried.

Dr. Kepner confirmed that the contract will be covered by grant funds.

Motion to approve settlement agreements with former employees #127 and #00-GN. A motion was made by Mr. Zeller and seconded by Dr. Kepner. All members present voted yes; motion carried.

9. Committees:

Customer Service/Public Transit Ridership Committee- Valerie Kepner, Chairperson

Dr. Kepner said they met on September 9th and Mr. Fiume gave a report about working with the union and revising policies. She stated that ridership was slightly down in August compared to July and on time performance for Fixed Route was up to 85%. Dr. Kepner confirmed with Mr. Roselle that any driver with at least 95% on time performance for both Fixed Route and Shared Ride get their name up on a screen outside of dispatch. She said that the Francis Slocum run has ended but there were 420 rides in total. She explained that LCTA administrators are working on streamlining pre and post trip evaluations of the buses. Dr. Kepner said they would be waiting to do the customer satisfaction survey until September in the hopes to have a better completion rate. She stated there was a preview of a revised new website for LCTA. She added that the CAC meeting was held later the same day at 5:00 pm.

Operations/Safety Committee- Dennis Driscoll, Chairperson

Mr. Driscoll was absent from the meeting.

Strategic Planning Committee- Michael Cefalo, Chairperson

Mr. Cefalo said he would be speaking with Mr. Fauver this week.

Personnel and Continued Progress Committee- Joe Padavan, Chairperson

Mr. Padavan was absent from the meeting.

Finance and Budget Committee- John Young, Chairperson

Mr. Young was absent from the meeting.

10. Old Business: None.

11. New Business: No new business was discussed.

12. Remarks: There were no remarks.

13. Adjournment: With all business completed, Mr. Cefalo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Villano. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

BY: Tracy Kline, Secretary to the Board