

RCTB RICHLAND COUNTY TRANSIT BOARD

19 N. Main St. Mansfield, Ohio 44902 419-774-5684 fax 419-774-5685

MINUTES of the February 10, 2026 RCT Board Meeting

PRESENT:

Board: Scott Heimann, Ed Pickens, Trae Turner, Emily Adams, Donna Hight
Absent: Todd Blankenship, Crystal Davis-Weese
Regional Planning: Jean Taddie, Carol Coover
Transdev/First Transit: Chris Terry, Tara Burchett

Call to Order

Board Chair Scott Heimann called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Recommended Actions: Routine Matters – CONSENT AGENDA

The January RCTB meeting minutes, bills to pay, TMR and RCTB financial reports, GM report, status of grant programs, ridership and advertising reports were provided in advance for review. Jean noted the safety report. We are at 365 days without a missed day of work due to accidents.

In the RCTB financial report, we finally got approval for the 2025 CDBG contract so we were able to go ahead and bill out the entire grant amount in January, which covered the period of July through December 2025.

We were able to take our ODOT rep out on a bus ride when she came for a site visit and she mentioned the grants that we applied for fiscal year 2027 should be announced in the next few weeks.

Ridership reports – once again this month, the DAR is running at 1.4 rides per hour, which is still low. The ridership report for year-end that were presented in last month's meeting had an error in the formula and the total ridership was lower than previously reported.

Tara discussed some changes to a few of the routes that will be made in the near future. We are changing a few of the stops that we make on the Lexington Ave. route. On route 5, we are looking at some alternate stops and discussing it with the drivers. Rt. 9 we may need to adjust the timing a little and adding Goal Digital as an on-call stop. At the campus, the Dean has requested an on call stop for Molyet Village, so we are looking in to this.

Ed Pickens made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Donna Hight seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Old Business

Procurement updates:

EZFare launch update – We did have a press release on EZFare on Richland Source. More of our riders have been using EZFare. There is a version 2 that gives the agencies a way to order passes for their clients but we are finding that the cost is probably prohibitive at this time. Scott asked that going forward we move EZFare data to the monthly ridership report showing how many

riders are using EZFare.

JFS Contract Services follow up:

Jean and Carol met with JFS Director, Lori Bedson and Fiscal Officer, Toby Borders. We had a good conversation and helped each other see the various perspectives. They are reimbursed through Medicare. There is no minimum or maximum cost per trip or number of trips per person. They require a two week minimum at the request of providers. We offered our same day and day before option and they said that would be beneficial for them. We offered to come and speak to their transportation schedulers and they will get back to us when they are ready for us to come meet with them.

MATI Phase 2 update:

Jean shared the final route map. We added the Ohio Health loop. NECIC is out recruiting for 150 participants to survey. Jean passed out sheets to vote on different options for a new name for our MATI Route. We are planning to make a final decision on the name of the MATI service when our Steering Committee meets on Friday.

Ohio Loves Transit Week (2/16-2/20) and OLT Day (2/17):

Randy is planning a seniors and dignitary ride on 2/17 at 1:00 p.m. We are doing a fare-free day on Tuesday, 2/17. Chris and Tara are going to be giving out free items at the Transit Center that day. On 2/20, we are hosting a dignitary ride with state rep, county commissioner, mayors, ODOT rep, and other dignitaries featuring a preview ride of one of the MATI routes.

2026 Board Meeting Dates (review Oct & Nov):

We need to make changes to a couple of the meeting dates for 2026. October 12th is Columbus Day so we would like to meet on Tuesday, October 13th instead. November 16th Jean and Carol and the RCT team will be at the OPTA conference so we are changing the meeting for November to November 12th. Carol will send out new calendar invites.

Emily Adams made a motion to approve the revised 2026 meeting calendar. Trae Turner seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Mansfield CDBG application:

The resolution for this was already approved in the last board meeting for Jean to submit the application. We applied for \$104,000, which most likely is greater than what we will be awarded. The application is in the packet for review.

New Business

First Transit/Transdev Operations Management contract amendment:

During the last board meeting we made a motion to allow Jean to negotiate on personnel and compensation matters on the boards' behalf. We need to approve the contract amendment with Transdev and then approve the changes to the budget from this contract amendment. The amendment is in the packet for review.

Emily Adams made a motion to approve the First Transit contract amendment pending final legal review. Ed Pickens seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Revised 2026 budget:

The contract amendment with Transdev increased the total budget for Transdev, but part of the cost is covered in the MATI grant expenses. We increased the MATI budget by about \$3,000, so our Transdev expenses went up by about \$7,274. Most of this will be paid by the FTA and the remainder will come out of local funds.

Donna Hight made a motion to approve the revised 2026 budget. Trae Turner seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

New contract service proposal:

Currently all of our agency contract services are for fixed route or ADA Paratransit services. We were approached by Third Street Family Health Services to help them with some of their transportation services they provide. This would not be ADA paratransit service. This would be to handle their overflow at first, since they currently have their own driver and van to provide transportation. Our cost per mile for Demand Response was \$11.69 in 2025. Jean is tentatively suggesting that we charge them \$10.00 per mile for the service within our DAR area at a higher rate of \$15.00 per mile. We will have a contract come before the board for approval before service begins.

Other Business from the Floor

There was no other business from the floor.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Ed Pickens made a motion to adjourn. Trae Turner seconded the motion. With no further discussion the motion carried.

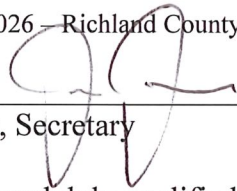
The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next RCTB meeting is Monday, March 16 at 3:30 p.m.

*Note: The RCT Board meeting was held in person, with an option to attend virtually in accordance with RCTB's virtual meetings policy. Community members could attend virtually by contacting rcadmin@rcrpc.org to request the link at least 1 hour before the meeting started. Board members could attend virtually with 48 hours' notice.

February 10, 2026 - Richland County Transit Board



Trae Turner, Secretary

3-19-26

Date

The undersigned duly qualified and acting chairman of the Richland County Transit Board certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes, approved at a legally convened meeting of the Board, of the RCTB meeting held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026.



Scott Heimann, Chairman

4-6-2026

Date