RCTB RICHLAND COUNTY TRANSIT BOARD

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MINUTES of the June 15, 2026 RCT Board Meeting

PRESENT:

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

Call to Order

Board Chair Scott Heimann called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

Recommended Actions: Routine Matters – CONSENT AGENDA

The May 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. The April RCTB financial reports and grant programs report were also provided since they were not included in the April meeting.

Jean noted on the TMR Financial report that we are currently under budget for the year by about $270,000. On the RCT financial reports, revenue for advertising and GovDeals are currently over budget by 227% and 153%. Also our contract revenue is up because of Third Street. On the current bills there is a $47,000 advance for TMR for the BWC payment and a repair bill for the Gillig bus. On the ridership report, there has been a 6 month streak with daily averages above last year.

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

Old Business

Procurement updates:
The 2027 projects are moving through the STIP approvals with the state.

HD Bus - We had our pre-production meeting with Gillig for the first bus we ordered in July of 2025. It should be delivered in January of 2027. We have approved all the components but we are working out the branding.

Cutaway buses – we have been having problems with the recent buses we purchased. It is a Ford problem. A class action lawsuit is possible in the future. In the meantime, BSI is willing to work with us to repair the buses for us instead of having them done locally. They can repair them for less money and finish them sooner. They would like to have us include them in quotes for repairs going forward. We still need to order two more cutaways. BSI also offered to have their mechanic talk with our mechanic to help mitigate recurring problems.

Paint & Floors – Jean sent an RFQ on 5/29/26 to Attorney Middis for approval for an architect for the painting & flooring projects. She has suggested breaking the RFQ's into two separate projects instead of keeping them together as we have them now. It would also keep our dollar thresholds lower.

MATI Phase 2 update:
Ridership numbers from Chris for the first 19 days of service were discussed. On the evening shift of Route 17 we have not had any riders yet. In general, routes that already existed have much better ridership than the new routes, such as on Route 15 to the airport. We will talk about this with the stakeholders tomorrow as well. We may need to adjust the routes at some point but we should probably wait until we have ridership numbers for at least three months before we make any decisions.

Contract amendments – There are two contracts that need to be amended because they want us to do more in the research area than we had budgeted for. They gave us $21,252.31 more for this additional research, which will be passed through to NECIC.

Emily Adams made a motion to approve the first amendment, which is the University of Minnesota's agreement with the board. Donna Hight seconded the amendment. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Emily Adams made a motion to approve the pass through amendment with NECIC. Ed Pickens seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Wheels to Work bike grant waiver:
The waiver was approved as to form but no waiver will ever protect someone from every liability. The media has posted about the program and applications are due to us by June 26. Jean asked the board to help spread the word about this bike grant that is available.

Final Friday update:
We received a sponsorship of $10,000 from the City of Mansfield, promising them that we will include them on all signs and banners and bus advertising. We had 43 passenger trips for May. Our goal is 50+ for each month.

Third Street Family Health Services contract – service update:
Jean provided the ridership numbers for the first month of service with Third Street Family Health. For May we had 119 trips and 51 no-shows. We are working with Third Street Family Health and the RCT team to improve efficiency and reduce no-shows. The contract will be reviewed after 6 months for any changes that need to be made such as charging for no-shows.

New Business

Ecolane add-ons for customer service:
Ecolane is the software we use to schedule our Dial-A-Ride trips. They have an add on feature to call the night before and when the driver is on the way. They have given us a discounted rate of $15,539.50 annually for this year. The normal price is $28,279.00 annually. This year will be a discounted rate but next year we don't know how much the price will increase and the people will get used to having it so it will be hard to stop it at that point. Chris and Tara do not feel it is

worth the money for our services. The board decided it is not worth the money at this point to purchase this add-on.

Pioneer contract for 2026-27:
The contract with Pioneer is the same as the last three years. The price has increase slightly for this year and has different dates. The ridership has been low this year. Their board was supposed to review the contract this past week. Legal has already approved the contract.

Emily Adams made a motion to approve the 2026-27 Pioneer contract. Donna Hight seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Cybersecurity policy:
The law changed and is now requiring every entity in the state to update their Cybersecurity policy in accordance with HB 96 and it is to be completed by July 1st. Our policy came from Net2 Services, the IT Company RCT uses. PEP has offered to assess our policy and make sure it meets the requirements, and Jean will forward the policy for their review.

Emily Adams made a motion to approve the RCT cybersecurity policy, pending PEP's recommendation to amend the policy after their review. Donna Hight seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

PEP property appraisal:
PEP's property appraisal is expected sometime between June and August 2026. They should be looking at the buses and property. We want to make sure we have enough coverage, which may mean an increase in the price of our coverage.

Financial forecasting (apportionment & local match):
The Governor's apportionment letter came through and they are giving us exactly what the Federal Formula recommended, which $1,474,000. Last year we spent $1,611,000. Our current budget is currently about $2.1 million. Transit could be sitting at about a 20% cut in the federal budget for next year, but nothing is final. We need to schedule a Finance Committee meeting to start preparing after we receive the June numbers. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 14 at 3:00 pm.

Ohio small urban transit levy comparison:
ODOT is encouraging agencies to look at levies to raise money. Christy Campboll shared a report about the systems that have levies. Allen County passed their levy– county sales tax. Steel Valley has had a levy since 2015. Licking County tried to pass one this year but it failed.

<u>Other Business from the Floor</u>

There was no other business from the floor.

<u>Executive Session</u>

There was no executive session.

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Next Meeting
The next RCTB meeting is Monday, July 13 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 rctadmin@rcrpc.org to request the link at least 1 hour before the meeting started. Board members could attend virtually with 48 hours' notice.

7-13-26

Trae Turner, Secretary 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 Monday, June 15, 2026.

7-13-2026

Scott Heimann, Chairman Date