

River Valley Metro Mass Transit District
Metro Centre, 1137 E 5000 North Road, Bourbonnais IL 60914
Board of Director Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2025

Chairman Argyelan called the regular monthly River Valley Metro Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Attending Board Members: Chairman Mark Argyelan, Vice-Chairman Jerry Pearce, Secretary Nick Allen, Treasurer Ron Jackson, Board Members David Hinderliter, Kenny Blake. Absent: Kelly St. Aubin.

Staff Members Present: Managing Director Siron Sims, Director of Administration Mandy Taylor, Director of Operations Michelle Brutlag, Facilities Director Tim Goodman, Project Manager Cortney Koning, COO Ken Munjoy, MPD Tobe Fulford

Others Present: We Drive U G.M. Rodriques Kimbrough

Pledge of Allegiance led by: Mandy Taylor

Public with Business to Come Before the Board: None

Consent Agenda: Nick Allen made a motion to approve the consent agenda. David Hinderliter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken of those in attendance, with all in favor. Consent agenda approved.

Communications:

Chairman's Report: Mark Argyelan

Election Day is April 1. Be sure to go vote if you have not already.

Managing Director's Report: Siron Sims

Mandy just returned from Drug and Alcohol training. Some changes have been made that will necessitate updates to our Drug and Alcohol Policy.

Siron just returned from APTA's CEO Conference. This is a great conference with a number of points that can be implemented here.

Operations Report: Rod Kimbrough

We have 56 operators. 52 are available for service. 48 are full-time. 2 are in training. We are still hiring new operators.

Ken Munjoy reported that February ridership this year was 45,994, compared to 48,448 last year. The decline is due to more extreme winter weather this year and last year was Leap Year, providing an additional day of ridership. Year-to-date, ridership is up 4.5% from last year.

Complaints/Comments: Michelle Brutlag

In the last month, there were 9 complaints, 5 of which were valid and 2 were preventable. We also had 2 compliments. CCS and Transit Officers provided 67 rides.

Board Report:

David Hinderliter noticed that the wind blew over our sign at Midway Airport. Ron Jackson commented on how nice the new floor in our entryway looks.

New Business**Funding**

The Federal Appropriations Bill has been signed. Transit funding is better than expected. Our allocation should be approximately \$3 million. Our state funding is approximately \$8.9 million. The formula for funding downstate transit is 80% of 3/32 of sales tax revenue. There has been some discussion within IPTA to ask for legislation to change the formula to 100%. This would ease the burden on local funding, especially since we are one of the few transit districts in Illinois that does not levy a local tax or receive funding from a local university. However, with the current funding crisis affecting Chicago area public transportation, now may not be the right time to request this change in the formula.

Vehicles

Two of the 3 CVP vehicles that we ordered are here and one of those is in service. These are medium duty buses intended for use as paratransit vehicles. The other medium duty bus and 6 super-medium duty buses should be delivered soon.

Old Business

Maintenance Facility

The floor is currently in the process of being epoxy coated. Paving will happen soon, and lifts are scheduled for installation in April. We will have a ribbon cutting when the project is finished.

Questions from the news media: None

Other Business to come Before the Board:

Tobe Fulford told the board about a recent incident that resulted in a very happy customer. One of our riders left a wallet on the bus and it was picked up by another passenger. Using camera video and relying on our drivers' familiarity with our regular passengers, Tobe was able to find the person who took the wallet and return it, along with its contents, to the owner.

Executive Session:

None

Adjournment

Jerry Pearce made a motion to adjourn at 8:46 AM. Motion was seconded by Kenny Blake and passed unanimously in a voice vote.