Transportation Authority of Calhoun County
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2026
Ride Calhoun Administrative Offices
49 South Cass St., Battle Creek, MI 49037

I. **Call to Order**
The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Tom Tarkiewicz at 5:45pm He noted that we are unable to record this meeting due to the system repeatedly crashing.

II. **Roll Call**
Members present: Tom Tarkiewicz, Vivian Davis, Maya Williams, Amy Evans, and Dr. Paul Watson.
Members absent: Erick Stewart and Jenasia Morris.

III. **Approval of Agenda**
It was motioned by Evans and supported by Williams to approve the agenda.
Motion carried.

IV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
None.

V. **Consent Agenda**
It was motioned by Watson and supported by Davis to approve the Consent Agenda.
Motion carried.

VI. **Unfinished Business**
None.

VII. **New Business**
None.

VIII. **Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items**
None.

IX. **Board and Executive Director Comments**

a) We received a FOIA request asking for all employee information including whether they are covered by collective bargaining agreements, position, title, and wages. We cleared all of it with our attorney and we will be replying to that FOIA tomorrow. Per the recently revised FOIA policy, all FOIA's go directly to Mallory, and they are pushed to the Attorney. We are in the process of setting it up as an electronic form so there will be timestamps etc. for receipt, re-routing, and answers. Mallory also shared a voice mail message she had received from a passenger regarding an employee (Kery) when she had brought his keys he had left on our vehicle months ago. He expressed how impressed he was with her as a trainer and a person. Mallory explained to the board that the interaction with this individual started because he is one of the people who was impacted by the service area change in Emmett Township but during her conversation, he had mentioned that he left his keys but has not been able to come back down now to get them. He understood why the changes happened and even though his call was not initially about getting his keys back we were able to return those to him and made him very happy.

b) Consultant Updates – Clark wanted to thank everyone for their attention today during the board workshop and felt it was worthwhile. Peter concurred.

c) Executive Director Comments – Mallory first wanted to point out that the finance and budget report now shows bills that have already been paid per the recently

revised accounts payable policy. Moving forward on these statements, payroll will start showing also. Mallory reported we should see the invoice from the City of Battle Creek for roughly $2+ million for July of 2025 until now once they finally send us the invoice and we also have a purchase order for $2+ million for 4 new buses and then we'll continue to have payroll. Another thing that will start appearing in the reports will be credit card transactions. It will be up to the board if they want to see the credit card transactions separately or if they are included in the financial reports as they are, but we can work through that as those credit card transactions start coming in. Lastly, Mallory gave an update on the state budget. According to legislature, we should get 60% of our expenses reimbursed. If we are looking at the language as it was written, it was written with the intent that all transit agencies our size get reimbursed 60% of their eligible expenses. That was based on 1997 values. We haven't seen 60% since probably shortly after that was put into place. Mallory says in her time in the transit industry, we've been in the 30's and during COVID we peeked over 40 a little bit. Even right now, we're at 33%. We typically budget conservatively at 30%. Even though they have increased funding by $33 million in the local bus operating (LBO) pot, it sounds like a lot of money but it's divided between 100 transit systems across the state, so for us it equates to probably about a percent or less increase in funding. To get all the transit systems at 45% funding, we would need an extra $140 million in the LBO at the state level. Some other factors that go into formula distribution are fuel taxes. We are still waiting to hear about some little carve outs and special projects that come out of CTF or what was MTF. One of the pieces of language that did get removed was bipartisan and it was the 6% farebox recovery. This language was added to the budget last year and required transit agencies to strive for 6% farebox recovery. That was struck from the language this year. We would like to see them open Act 51 altogether but it's unlikely that will happen so adding and removing bits and pieces from the budget bill is pretty much our best bet. Getting them to remove the 6% language was a win for all of us. Another piece that they tried getting included in the budget bill was Park n' Ride access. Public transit vehicles are not allowed in Park n' Ride lots according to state law. They've been trying for several years to get that changed. That language wasn't successful this year. Lastly, they also tried getting the transit worker assault bill included which Mallory had shared in the past which is non-partisan. It shouldn't be an issue either way but recognizing that transit workers can be assaulted just like postal workers or any other public worker and it should be treated the same. Our drivers are still somewhat unprotected even though we have plexiglass barriers and doors on the big buses but treating an assault on a transit worker the same way you would treat an assault on a postal worker is really all they're asking for in that language. They thought they had it included in this bill, but it got cut at the end but it's something they're still working towards. Originally, they had tried revising the language that already existed to include transit workers and had opposition into opening that can of worms as to "this is already in place, do your own thing" kind of thing, so they had proposed language but then one official had picked it up and they wanted to bundle it with another package and that's where she thinks it failed. They had support for it, but the requirement was that it was bundled with another bill and when that other bill died, this one died. Mallory said in 2019 when she first came to Battle Creek there was a different police chief and attorney, so she had a little bit

of traction in changing some city ordinances. If it doesn't pass at the state level, we may look locally to address this again. Even at the Federal level they are looking at requiring barriers in vehicles that are purchased using Federal funds. But it was not part of this bill.

d) Board Member Comments – Davis wanted to make sure everyone is aware that Albion's Festival of the Forks is scheduled for September 19th. The parade is at 10 but the event runs until 4pm. Mallory will follow up on the application. Tarkiewicz questioned if we needed to have a special meeting this month to address the documents we had to postpone from tonight. Mallory will get with the board if a special in-person meeting does need to be called.

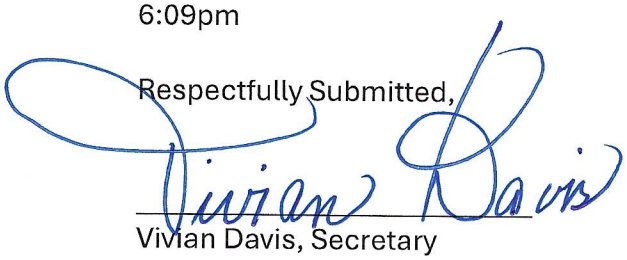
X. Next Meeting

a) Board Meeting – August 12, 2026, at 5:30pm at Ride Calhoun Admin Office

XI. Adjournment

6:09pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Vivian Davis, Secretary