

Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority

Board of Directors Meeting

February 26, 2026

I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville MTA) Board of Directors was held at the Greater Nashville Regional Council located at 44 Vantage Way, Ste. 450, Nashville, TN 37228, on Thursday, February 26, 2026.

II. **Roll Call of Persons Present:**

Gail Carr Williams, Chair

Aron Thompson, Vice Chair

Jeff Haynes, Member

Margaret Behm, Board Secretary

Steve Bland, CEO

Melissa McIntyre, Sr. EA

ABSENT

Jessica Dauphin

Kathryn Hays

Debbie Frank, DCEO of Growth & Development

Amanda Vandegrift, DCEO of Finance & Administration

Vince Malone, COA

Lindsey Ganson, COS

Nick Pecenka, Director of Operations

Carl Rokos, Director of Maintenance

Rob McElhaney, Director of IT

Billy Higgins, Director of Grants & Compliance

Katie Freudberg, Director of Service Development

A quorum was established, and Chair Carr Williams called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

III. **Minutes:** Mr. Haynes made a motion to approve the minutes of the Nashville MTA Board meeting held on January 22, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson, and the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

IV. **Public Comments:** Chair Carr Williams opened the floor for public comments. The public was reminded that comments were limited to two minutes. The following members of the public gave public remarks:

- John Bull
- Peter O'Connal
- Richard Gonyer
- Jacob P. Mahon
- Mannon Hall

V. **Informational Items:** The following items were presented for the board members' review:

- Monthly Financial Report Compared to Budget – No questions
- Monthly Operating Statistics – No questions
- Upcoming Procurements – No questions

VI. **Consent Agenda Items:** The following items were presented to the board members

- **Bulk Fluids Maintenance (M-A-26-003)** – Carl Rokos, Director of Maintenance. The Procurement Department issued an Invitation to Bid for the purchase of bulk fluids and vehicle lubricants. This solicitation was to encompass an initial three (3) year contract with two (2) one (1) year options, with the option to award the successful bidder for the full five (5) years. The contract term would begin on March 1, 2026. The RFQ solicitation was sent to over 1600 vendors via OpenGov and posted on NashvilleMTA.gov and in Transit Talent. Six companies submitted bids. the companies that provided bids were Beach Oil Company, Jamison Professional Services, Key Oil Company (Authorized Mobil Distributor), Kimbro Oil Co., Parman Energy Group, Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc.

All submittals were reviewed for responsiveness and compliance with the required specifications by the Procurement Staff and by the Maintenance Department Staff. After a detailed review of the submitted bids, Parman Energy had the lowest, most responsible, and responsive bid. Parman Energy is the incumbent supplier for this contract and has done an excellent job.

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve, Mr. Haynes seconded and the Board unanimously approved.

- **Nova Tech Printer, Copier & Related Maintenance Contract Increase (M-A- 26-004)** – Rob McElhane, Director of IT. In June 2022, the Board authorized a five-year extension option for \$315,000 for a new contract end date of July 31, 2027, increasing the total printing, service, maintenance cost, and copier printer equipment replacements up to \$610,000.

In April 2018, NovaCopy rebranded to NovaTech to better reflect the company's strategic plan of being a Managed IT and Print Service provider. Current copier/printing expenses are trending at \$68,000 per year, plus the cost of replacement of aging high-volume copiers and printers. Copiers and Printers are replaced based on reliability and print counts.

Staff request that the Board provide the Chief Executive Officer with the authority to increase the contract value by \$90,000 to a total contract value of \$700,000 through the contract period ending on July 31, 2027. These expenses are funded through our operating budget for consumables, printing supplies, maintenance and repair services; and through our Capital Plan for equipment assets that meet the required threshold to be considered a capital project, typically under the broad category of Information Technology Equipment.

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve both Bulk Fluids Maintenance, M-A-26-003 and Nova tech Printer, Copier & Related Maintenance Contract increase, M-A-26-004 Mr. Haynes seconded and the Board unanimously approved.

VII. Operations & Finance Committee Report:

- **Annual Audit Report (M-A-26-005)** – Amanda Vandegrift, DCEO of Finance & Administration. Erica Seager and Mark England with Crosslin gave the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. MTA received a clean opinion and the report from our auditors and had no findings. On behalf of accountants from Crosslin was requested that the Board accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

There was a discussion.

Mr. Haynes made a motion to approve the Annual Audit Report – R-A-26-005, Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

- **Quarterly Route Performance (OF-D-26-002)** -Katie Freudberg, Director of Service Development.

Ridership on MTA services was up 7.1% compared to last year's second quarter ridership and was a little under 2% higher than the preceding quarter. Ridership increased in response to the more frequent service added in July 2025. This includes Route 6 Lebanon Pike, Route 23 Dickerson Pike, Route 50 Charlotte Pike, Route 55 Murfreesboro Pike and Route 56 Gallatin Pike.

There was a significant increase in the number of riders using the Journey Pass in early to mid-November, when registration opened to SNAP recipients. By December, passengers were taking about 7,000 rides per day using the Journey Pass program. December ridership was 14% higher than ridership in December 2024. We are monitoring changes in the ridership carefully to ensure we can respond appropriately as the program expands. On-time performance remains fairly steady. Some of the proposed summer service changes will be focused on improving service reliability on routes where on-time performance is poor or has declined.

Mr. Thompson asked if there is a threshold we are trying to achieve for on-time performance. Katie Freudberg said that it is 83%.

VIII. New Initiative & Community Engagement Committee Report: Committee Chair Aron Thompson introduced the following items for discussion:

- **FY2026-FY2030 Capital Investment Plan (NICE-D-26-006):** Billy Higgins, Director of Grants & Compliance.

The Capital Investment Plan for FY2026-2030 prioritizes needs, identifies funding sources, and sets timelines for MTA's capital projects over five years. The plan outlines regulatory, state-of-good-repair, and expansion needs that guide MTA's future project development activities. Investments totaling approximately \$116.0 million are recommended in Year One (FY2026) of the plan, with a total project investment recommendation of nearly \$1 billion over the life of the plan. Projects identified in Year One have access to full funding. Staff projects a balanced capital budget over the full 5 years, while being relatively conservative in estimating future resources. Staff is requesting the Board formally adopt the FY2026-2030 MTA Capital Investment Plan.

There was a discussion.

Mr. Haynes made a motion to approve the FY2026-FY2030 Capital Investment Plan – NICE-A-26-006, Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

IX. CEO's Report: CEO Bland provided the following report

1. As discussed last month, Nashville did bear a significant portion of the wrath of Winter Storm Fern and the impacts to service were significant. Impacts began on Saturday, January 24 when we ran a reduced schedule on major routes. There were major service impacts on Sunday and Monday, including a total suspension of service during several periods. Service began ramping back up on Tuesday, was nearly back to normal on Wednesday and returned to full operation in Nashville on Thursday, though regional bus service was still impacted. Kudos to all our staff involved under the leadership of Chief Operations Officer Andy Burke, and specific callouts to our fleet and facilities groups who had our buses and transit facilities in a full state of readiness throughout the storm. We also had excellent cooperation and coordination with NDOT, who were able to keep our primary routes in very good condition throughout most of the storm period. Our largest challenges were fallen trees and power lines along routes, Operations personnel who were unable to get to work due to conditions in their home areas, and a complete loss of power to our radio transmission equipment for several hours on Sunday.
2. After reporting that our long-time Director of Government Affairs Eric Beyer was retiring last month, this month I need to report that my Executive Assistant and our Board Liaison Monica Howse has left to accept another position. We'll formally recognize Monica at a future meeting when she can attend, but I do want to publicly thank her for her service and professionalism over the years. We are currently recruiting for both positions. In the meantime, I'd like to express my appreciation to Lindsey Ganson and Melissa McIntyre for keeping the office running without skipping a beat, in addition to their other duties and responsibilities.

3. On a more upbeat note, I'm pleased to welcome Tiarra Dunn to our leadership team. Tiarra is our new Director of Training and Development, reporting to Vince Malone. Tiarra comes to us with over 20 years of strategic training and organization development experience across a broad array of industries including communications, retail, manufacturing and non-profits. Her educational background is in industrial and organizational psychology, and additional background in operations makes her well suited to this role in our environment. Welcome Tiarra!
4. We are working closely with the Mayor's Choose How You Move Program Office to release a request for proposals to initiate advance planning and related work on the Nolensville Pike All Access Corridor Project. You may recall that you recently approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mayor's Office, NDOT and Metro Planning with respect to our participation in this project, including leading on procurement activities. We are fortunate that our former Director of Procurement and Business Diversity, Denise Richardson, has agreed to come back on a part-time basis to support this project.
5. This month, contractors for the Federal Transit Administration kicked off the Triennial Reviews for both the MTA and RTA. As its name suggests, the triennial review is conducted every three years and consists of an in-depth examination of all FTA grantees compliance with various requirements under the program. Our Director of Grants Management Billy Higgins leads this process, but it requires significant engagement and cooperation with almost every member of our leadership and administrative team. We are currently submitting various documents to the contractor for their review and anticipate the full review to take the next 4 – 6 months, after which time they will issue a final report.
6. On February 4 we celebrated Transit Equity Day, commemorating the birthday of Rosa Parks, with a group trip to the Jefferson Street Sound Museum. I'd like to thank Board Members Gail Carr Williams, Aron Thompson and Jessica Dauphin for joining us on this annual adventure!
7. The FY2026-27 budget season is in full swing. We submitted our budget request materials to Metro Finance earlier this month and, earlier this week, participated in budget request meetings with the Choose How You Move Program office with respect to system expansion initiatives.
8. We have completed the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Metro Nashville Police Department relative to the creation of a Transit Policing Unit. We are currently awaiting a final signoff from Metro Legal before we bring it before you for approval.
9. On the RTA side:
 - a. Work continues on our City of Murfreesboro Park and Ride facility. We anticipate taking recommended construction contracts and operating agreements to the RTA Board at their March meeting, with construction set to commence soon thereafter.
 - b. We are also working with a developer in the Cool Springs area of Franklin to potentially locate a new park and ride facility there. The existing Franklin park and ride is located south of the city, so the new location would be much more convenient for most residents.
 - c. We are also edging closer to construction of the Donelson Station transit center improvements. We anticipate conducting several public engagement activities through March, closing on a necessary parcel of property for the project and initiating utility relocation with NES.
 - d. We have initiated Corridor meetings in the Wilson and Rutherford County corridors to begin the process of developing local funding commitments for the upcoming fiscal year and beyond.
- X. **Chair's Report:** Gail Carr Williams expressed appreciation to Andy and his team on the great job they did during Winter Storm Fern.

XI. **Other Business:** None

XII. **Adjournment:** With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Attested:

Gail Carr Williams
Chair

Margaret L. Behm
Board Secretary