

**Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

March 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, March 26, 2026 at 2:30pm.

A quorum was established, and Chair Carr Williams called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call of Persons Present

Gail Carr Williams, Chair
Aron Thompson, Vice Chair
Jessica Dauphin, Member
Katherine Hays, Member
Jeff Haynes, Member
Steve Bland, CEO
Melissa McIntyre, Sr EA
Andy Burke, COO
Nick Oldham, Chief Safety & Security Officer

Debbie Frank, DCEO of Growth & Development
Amanda Vandegrift, DCEO of Finance & Administration
Vince Malone, COA
Lindsey Ganson, COS
Rob McElhaney, Director of IT
Billy Higgins, Director of Grants & Compliance

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

Prior to the start of the agenda, Chair Gail Carr Williams exercised the privilege of the Chair to reflect on a special recognition. Monica Howse was recognized as the longstanding Senior Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer and Board Liaison. During her tenure with WeGo Public Transit, Ms. Howse served with integrity and distinction and always with a smile on her face and a calm demeanor. She was responsible for the assembly of Board materials, and keeping all of our Board Members informed about meetings and related events in addition to her responsibilities as Executive Assistant to the CEO. Chair Carr Williams indicated that Ms. Howse will be pursuing a new opportunity and will be leaving WeGo Public Transit, but she extended the well wishes of the Board to Monica in her future endeavors and presented her with a commemorative bus stop sign highlighting some of the many accomplishments in her career with WeGo Public Transit.

III. Minutes

Mr. Haynes made a motion to approve the minutes of the Nashville MTA Board meeting held on February 26, 2026. The motion was seconded, 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:

- Matthew Stutter
- Peter O’Conor
- Darius Knight

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:

- **State WeGo Ride Contract Renewal (M-A-26-007)** – (Billy Higgins, Director of Grants & Compliance) The Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (Nashville MTA) seeks Board approval to renew its long-standing commuter benefits agreement with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), originally established in 2006, which subsidizes public transit use for State employees. The renewed contract will maintain the current total value of \$1.75 million for a 12-month term from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, with negotiated rates of \$2.50 per standard transit ride, \$3.70 per WeGo Access trip, and \$65 per month per rider for vanpool services administered through the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). The program continues to support State employee commuting needs, alleviate parking demand, and sustain transit ridership across regional services, with revenue shared proportionally between MTA and RTA per a separate agreement.
- **Motorola Solutions Voice Communications Hardware and Services Contract (M-A-26-008)** – (Rob McElhaney, Director of IT) WeGo Public Transit requests Board approval to increase its existing contract with Motorola Solutions by \$150,000, bringing the total to \$425,000, to support its mission-critical radio communications system used for operations, dispatch, maintenance, and emergency response. The proprietary system, which enables real-time communication and interoperability with public safety, requires specialized maintenance, software updates, equipment replacement, and system upgrades that Motorola Solutions is uniquely qualified to provide. The additional funding will address operational needs and state of good repair requirements, with procurement conducted through a cooperative purchasing agreement via Sourcewell. This investment is funded through previously approved State of Good Repair IT capital funds, supported by federal, state, and local sources.

Mr. Haynes made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. The motion was seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda without discussion.

VII. Operations & Finance Committee Report

a. Nester Sinkhole Repair Project (M-A-26-009)

Patrick Hester provided an update on the long-standing Nester sinkhole, outlining prior stabilization efforts and the proposed repair approach.

A public bid opening occurred on January 13, 2026. Following the compliance review, Bedrock Construction Company LLC was identified as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, with a base bid of \$496,700.00 and a bid alternate of \$35,630.00, for a combined total of \$532,330.00.

Due to the nature of this project, which involves significant unknowns related to subsurface conditions and the potential for additional void or pavement damage to be discovered during construction, staff also requests that the Board approve a 30% contingency (\$159,699.00), bringing the total authorized project budget to \$692,029.00. This project is part of the capital plan under the State of Good Repair for Nestor Improvements, utilizing FTA Section 5307 formula funds with state and local matching contributions.

Staff requested that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract with Bedrock Construction Company LLC in an amount not to exceed \$692,029.00, including a staff-directed contingency amount of \$159,699.00.

Mr. Haynes made a motion to approve the Nester Sinkhole Repair Project. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hays, and the Board unanimously approved.

b. Agency Safety Plan Update (M-A-26-010)

Chief Safety and Security Officer Nick Oldham presented the Safety Plan performance update and proposed targets.

Under the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) regulations issued by the Federal Transit Administration, transit agencies must update annual safety targets on an annual basis, including input from the mandated Safety Committee composed of representatives of management and represented employees. Proposed targets reflect a data-driven and balanced approach to maintaining safety and reliability.

Staff requested that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Agency Safety Plan in compliance with federal requirements and incorporate the updated annual safety targets for the upcoming year as presented in the action item.

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Agency Safety Plan Update (M-A-26-010). The motion was seconded by Mr. Haynes, and the Board unanimously approved.

VIII. New Initiative & Community Engagement Committee Report

a. Murfreesboro Pike Headway Management Smart Grant Project Update (M-I-26-012)

Staff presented an update on the Murfreesboro Pike Headway Management Project, funded in part through a Federal Transit Administration SMART (Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation) grant.

The project focuses on improving service reliability by maintaining consistent spacing between buses rather than strict schedule adherence. Key components include:

- Real-time operator feedback tools
- Supervisor monitoring systems
- Transit signal priority enhancements
- Data-driven decision support tools (in development)

The initiative is currently in pilot phase, with additional technology deployments planned throughout the year.

There was general discussion about the project.

IX. CEO's Report

CEO Bland provided the following report:

1. Recognition of Monica Howse:

CEO Bland echoed the Board's earlier recognition of Monica Howse, acknowledging her years of dedicated service to the agency as Executive Assistant and Board Liaison. He noted that Ms. Howse supported both staff and Board members through a number of complex and demanding periods, always demonstrating professionalism, patience, and a positive attitude. He reflected on her career progression within the organization and expressed appreciation for her consistent willingness to take on responsibilities beyond the scope of her role. CEO Bland wished her well in her future endeavors and noted her contributions will have a lasting impact on the organization.

2. Nolensville Pike All-Access Corridor Project:

CEO Bland reported that, in coordination with the Mayor's "Choose How You Move" Program Office, NDOT, and Metro Planning, a solicitation for proposals has been released to initiate advanced planning for the Nolensville Pike All-Access Corridor Project. He reminded the Board that this project follows the previously approved Memorandum of Understanding, under which the MTA will serve as the contracting entity. He noted that proposals are due in April and that staff anticipates bringing a contract recommendation before the Board in the coming months. This project is expected to be a major focus throughout the summer as planning progresses.

3. FTA Triennial Review:

CEO Bland provided an update on the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Triennial Review process, which occurs every three years to evaluate compliance with federal requirements. He reported that contractors initiated the review process and are currently

conducting an extensive document review phase. He commended Director of Grants & Compliance, Billy Higgins, for her leadership and organization in coordinating the agency's response, noting that the review team has provided positive feedback regarding the quality and accessibility of submitted materials. CEO Bland also noted that, based on progress to date, the FTA has determined that an on-site visit is not required and that the review will instead be conducted virtually in May. Final results are expected later this summer.

4. **Fuel Hedging and Market Conditions:**

CEO Bland addressed recent increases in fuel prices resulting from global geopolitical developments, including instability in the Middle East. He reported that the agency continues to closely monitor fuel market conditions but is well-positioned due to its fuel hedging program. He noted that the agency, in partnership with Metro Nashville and the City of Franklin, has secured fuel pricing for Fiscal Year 2027, with approximately 80% of fuel needs hedged. He reported that pricing has been locked in at favorable rates, significantly below current market levels, helping to insulate the agency from volatility. CEO Bland noted that while some of this success is attributable to timing, it also reflects strong financial strategy and coordination.

5. **“Choose How You Move” Program & Metro Council Engagement:**

CEO Bland reported that staff participated in a recent joint meeting of the Metro Council Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and Budget & Finance Committee to provide updates on the “Choose How You Move” program. He noted that the meeting included strong engagement from council members, with productive discussions and positive feedback on progress to date. He indicated that these quarterly updates will continue as part of ongoing coordination with Metro leadership.

6. **Youth Action Team:**

CEO Bland highlighted continued engagement with the agency's Youth Action Team, conducted in partnership with the Oasis Center. He reported that the current cohort has been actively participating in executive-level discussions and engagement sessions with agency leadership. He noted that the group has demonstrated strong interest and engagement and that staff anticipates the Youth Action Team will present to the Board in an upcoming meeting, likely in May.

7. **Secondary Transit Centers & Downtown Capacity:**

CEO Bland reported that staff has initiated discussions with the Mayor's Office and Metro Planning regarding the development of secondary transit centers within the downtown core. He noted that this effort is critical to relieving operational pressure at WeGo Central as service expands. Initial discussions have focused on a potential transit hub near Lafayette Street, in proximity to the existing Greyhound station, and further planning efforts are underway.

8. **Regional (RTA) Project Updates:**

CEO Bland provided several updates on Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) initiatives:

- The Murfreesboro Park-and-Ride project has advanced, with the RTA Board approving both a construction contract and a memorandum of understanding with the City of Murfreesboro. Construction is expected to begin shortly.
- Staff continues to work with a developer in the Cool Springs area to relocate and improve the existing Franklin Park-and-Ride facility to a more accessible location.
- Progress continues on the Donelson Station Transit Center project, including recent approval of a utility relocation agreement with NES. CEO Bland noted that final property acquisition remains in progress and that public engagement sessions are ongoing.

9. Security Services:

CEO Bland highlighted the agency's continued partnership with Archangel Security Services, noting increased visibility and effectiveness of security presence across the system. He reported that the Archangel Captain assigned to WeGo Central was recently recognized as "Captain of the Year" across the company's operations, reflecting the strong performance of the team supporting transit operations. Positive feedback has been received from both employees and customers.

10. Winter Storm After-Action Report:

CEO Bland reported that staff is actively developing a comprehensive after-action report following Winter Storm Fern. He noted that this effort involves cross-departmental collaboration and is being led by Director of Operations Nick Pecenka. The report will identify lessons learned and opportunities for improvement in future severe weather events. CEO Bland indicated that staff anticipates presenting the findings to the Board within the next few months.

11. FY 2027 Budget Process:

CEO Bland reported that the agency is actively engaged in the FY 2027 budget development process. He noted that recent meetings have been held with the "Choose How You Move" program team regarding expansion and capital investment priorities. Upcoming meetings with Metro Finance will focus on baseline operating budgets. The process will culminate in the mayor's recommended budget, which is expected to be presented in conjunction with his State of Metro Address on April 29, allowing staff to propose a balanced FY2026-27 operating budget in advance of the Board's June meeting.

X. Chair's Report: Chair Carr Williams expressed appreciation to Monica Howse for her service and acknowledged staff efforts across the organization. She also commented positively on the agency's long-term fuel hedging strategy.

XI. Other Business: None

XII. Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting adjourned at [Insert Time].

Attested:

Gail Carr Williams
Chair

Margaret L. Behm
Board Secretary