



Jeremy Peterson  
Chief Executive Officer

Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority  
127 East 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503

**Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority  
August Board Meeting  
February 26, 2024  
MINUTES**

**Attendance via zoom:**

**Board members**

Ashley Lawson  
George Willis

Ben Wilson  
Jessica Molczan  
Shantel Hilliard

Jill Nagy (solicitor)

**EMTA Staff Present**

Jeremy Peterson  
David Robinson

Ed Torres  
Dani Duran  
Vicky Takach  
Branden Montgomery  
Sarah Morrison  
Rebecca Gathers

**Guests**

Passle Helminski  
Deb Spilko  
Tyler Titus (city council)  
Freda Tepfer

Ashley Lawson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 406 p.m.

Ashley Lawson called for the review and approval of the AGENDA for the Feb 26, 2024 meeting. Ben moved to approve the agenda as presented. Shantell seconded. Motion carried.

Ashley called for the Approval of the Minutes for February 26  
Ben moved to accept, Shantell 2<sup>nd</sup>; all in favor.

There were no announcements from Jill Nagy or Jeremy Peterson.

Public Comment was offered by Passle Helminski who reported on the upcoming E & D meeting in April. She requested more participation in the E & D meetings.



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### **CEO REPORT:**

Several things to report this month. As you know, we are holding a press event this Thursday at 10am over in the LIFT garage to announce our new bus acquisitions. Any Board members who would like to participate can check in with Sarah.

There was a lot of action in the legislature this month. I participated in some statewide press regarding transit funding and support for Sen. Laughlin's bill in the Senate and the companion bill sponsored by Representative Bizzaro in the House. Dave attended the meeting of transit CEOs in Harrisburg on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Secretary of Transportation Mike Carroll was there and spent time outlining the need for grassroots support of the transportation bills. Sec. Carroll gave a shout out to EMTA mentioning he was at the rodeo when Luke won two years ago.

As a follow up, Dave and I met with the Erie delegation including Sen. Laughlin, Reps. Harkins and Merski as well as Bizzaro's Chief of Staff here at the Joint Operations Center. The purpose was to thank them and to discuss ways EMTA can support them as they try to get this very important legislation through. If you would like details of the legislation, you can contact Dave for more information.

We continue to prepare for the eclipse. Sarah has attended many, many meetings and EMTA will be running a shuttle from downtown to the bayfront.

I continue to meet with Mayor Schember, County Exec Davis and others to address the homeless issue in downtown. We are close to moving on a solution that would offer both housing and health care in an appropriate facility. I will share more details as they become available.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Nothing to add.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Vicky Takach – reported on the EMTA financials for February.  
Ben made the motion to approve financials as presented. Shantel Hilliard seconded. Motion passed.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

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Dave reported on the status of the DEI initiative. By-laws are being drafted for the committee and a mission statement is being worked on. We are working with Opened Eyes to set up a next training date in May to continue offering the intro session that others attended in October.

**MARKETING COMMITTEE:**

Sarah has been working on developing new partnerships including with the Childrens Museum. She is also looking into a new mural project. Sarah has updated the marketing plan and developed a new advertising policy.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:**

**Jessica Molczan reported:**

Fixed route 125,582 February rides. An increase month over month.  
LIFT rides were 11, 513, of which 3,363 ADA funded.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

Jeremy reported on the status of the construction project. A delay is waiting on approval of the city permits necessary to move forward.

**NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:**

EMTA counsel and ATU counsel met to discuss avoiding arbitration.

**CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT:**

Nothing to add.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Nothing else to add.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

EMTA Emergency Operations Procedure was approved. Ben moved, Shantell 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved

Ben moved to declare April 8 an Emergency as per the Emergency Operation Procedure just approved. Shantell 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

Updated Procurement Policy was presented. Ben moved, Shantell 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Ashley Lawson adjourned the meeting at 4:29 pm

Ben made motion to adjourn. Shantel Hilliard seconded. Motion carried.



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The next meeting will be **April 22, 2024**, via **ZOOM** @  
4:00 p.m.