



Jeremy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority
127 East 14th Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503

**Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority
Board Meeting
February 23, 2026
MINUTES**

Attendance via TEAMS & hybrid meeting:

Board members	EMTA Staff	Guests
Ashley Lawson (V)	Jeremy Peterson	Maurice Troop (V)
George Willis (V)	Dave Robinson	
Lyn Twillie-Darby	Ed Torres	
Ron Jones	Dani Duran	
Shantell Hilliard (V)	Vicky Takach	
Dr. Ben Wilson (V)	Sarah Morrison	
Jill Nagy (V)	Branden Montgomery	
John Trucilla (V)	Sara Little	
Dave Cannon (V)	Taylor Patten	

The board meeting was called to order at 4:02PM.

Ben Wilson asked for approval of the February 23, 2026, meeting agenda. Ron Jones made a motion to approve. Shantell Hilliard seconded. Motion passed.

Ben Wilson asked for approval of the January 26, 2026, meeting minutes. Ron Jones made a motion to approve. Shantell Hilliard seconded. Motion passed.

SOLICITORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

CEO ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

CEO REPORT:

- The Union voted **76 to 14** in favor of the fixed-route contract, which was a little over 2½ years expired. The contract will be retroactive to **July 1, 2023**, and run through **July 1, 2026**. This short-term agreement allows us to negotiate a longer-term contract (3–5 years) while restoring morale with the Union membership. It also gives the new Union executive committee time to address language changes and other adjustments needed in the contract.
 - Ben Wilson asked for approval of Fixed Route Collective Bargaining Agreement. George Willis made a motion to approve. Ashley Lawson seconded. Motion passed.
- Harrisburg trip is scheduled for May 4–6, with 11 meetings set up with state legislators. Also looking at scheduling a one-on-one with Governor Josh Shapiro.
- Governor Shapiro's proposed budget includes \$300 million for public transit,



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funded by a 1.75% sales tax transfer. We're also looking at the cannabis tax and skill game tax, which generates about \$2 billion annually, as potential funding sources to help support public transportation in Pennsylvania.

SOLICITOR REPORT: none

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- Executive Committee met last week, primarily discussing the union fixed-route contract, CEO performance appraisal, and contract; future meetings will focus on agenda alignment and reporting to the board.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- Vicky reviewed January financials. George Willis made a motion to approve. Ashley Lawson seconded. Motion passed.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Applicant totals (Jan 26–Feb 18): Fixed–27, Lift-49, Mechanic–27, Utility–44
- Completed CEO Performance Assessment, moving onto CEO contract renewal

MARKETING COMMITTEE:

- Sara Little joined as Administrative Support Specialist, providing fresh perspective on projects
- Third annual Winter Goods Drive for Erie Humane Society completed successfully
- TDP rider surveys finished, awaiting consultant data for board review
- "Find My Ride" online scheduler for LIFT paratransit riders launching Feb 23
- New Token Transit validators installed on fixed-route buses; testing ongoing
- PennWest contract renewal in progress; ribbon-cutting on new vehicles expected in late March
- Lucky Trolley with green lights and St. Patrick's décor runs Feb 27–March to promote ridership

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

- January ridership stats: 99,546 rides for fixed route and 10, 235 rides for LIFT with 2,978 of them being ADA rides.
- Operations Committee met with staff and company representatives to review parking garage ticketing for Otis 12

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

- The Otis 12 project needs approval for an indoor hood system, as the traditional vented system won't work with the parking ramp's construction; construction will begin once approved, aiming for completion before the next 14 Fest.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:

- Future negotiations for a new, longer-term contract are expected to begin in March; updates will be provided at that time.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: none

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Chairman expressed appreciation to EMTA staff, board members, and representatives from County and City Council, noting positive developments at EMTA and upcoming initiatives this summer; updates will continue to be shared.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dave Robinson will coordinate meetings with board liaisons Jim Wertz and Maurice Troop to discuss board appointments and related matters. An email will also be sent to the board regarding a March press conference to unveil the new buses, with invitations extended to the Mayor, County Executive, legislators, liaisons, and board members.

ADJOURNMENT: Ben Wilson asked for approval to adjourn the meeting. Lyn Twillie-Darby made a motion to approve. Shantell Hilliard seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28PM, followed by Executive Session.

The next meeting will be **March 23, 2026** via TEAMS and In-person @ 4:00 p.m.