



Jeremy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

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

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

Attendance via TEAMS & hybrid meeting:

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

The board meeting was called to order at 4:00PM and immediately went into Executive Session until 4:19PM.

Ben Wilson asked for approval of the March 23, 2026, meeting agenda. George Willis moved to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Ben Wilson asked for approval of the February 23, 2026, meeting minutes. Ron Jones moved to approve the minutes with amendments to correct name spellings. Lyn Twillie-Darby seconded. Motion passed.

SOLICITORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

CEO ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

CEO REPORT:

- Attended Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association (PPTA) CEO Roundtable and Safety Board meeting; continues to participate monthly
- Will attend PPTA Spring Conference in Lancaster (April 20–23); additional staff attending Avail User Conference in State College
- Scheduled meetings in Harrisburg with legislative consultant (approximately 12 meetings over two days) regarding state transportation budget
- Met with Executive, Planning, and Pension Committees
- Thanked board members and staff for successful press conference and unveiling of new buses
- Reported Otis 12 construction began; estimated six-week schedule with visible



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progress

- Participated in Employee Appreciation event recognizing staff and drivers
- Met with Christina Vogel, board members, and liaison to discuss EMTA initiatives and future planning
- Met with Daria Devlin to discuss current and future transportation efforts

SOLICITOR REPORT: none

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- Executive Committee continues to meet prior to board meetings to improve efficiency and productivity
- Acknowledged successful ribbon cutting event and strong community support
- Participated in meetings with local officials, including Mayor and County Executive, to discuss future planning and community engagement
- Positive feedback received from public officials regarding EMTA initiatives and services

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- Vicky reviewed February financials. Ron Jones made a motion to approve. Shantell Hilliard seconded. Motion passed.
- Resolution presented to amend the non-bargained employees' supplemental retirement plan. George Willis motioned to adopt the resolution. Shantel Hilliard seconded the motion. Motion passed.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Applicant totals (Feb 19–Mar 18): Fixed–43 (25 qualified; 1 interview), Lift–66 (32 qualified; 6 interviews), Mechanic–21 (15 qualified; no interviews), Building & Grounds–69 (32 qualified; interviews pending)
- Two fixed-route employees hired; two additional candidates in process
- Internal transfer planned from Building & Grounds to Utility position upon backfill

MARKETING COMMITTEE:

- Launched "Find My Ride" scheduler for LIFT passengers
- Hosted Lucky Trolley event and participated in St. Patrick's Day parade
- Held ribbon cutting for new buses and trolleys
- Celebrated Transit Employee Appreciation Day; opened public appreciation portal
- Preparing to launch Token Transit validator with tap-to-pay (go-live April 13)
- 5th Annual 14th Fest scheduled for June 11
- Ongoing updates to marketing and commercials

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

- February ridership stats: 110,378 rides for fixed route and 10,509 rides for LIFT, with 3,016 of them being ADA rides

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

- Planning Committee discussed potential facility expansion, including the

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possible purchase of property behind EMTA; a motion was made by George Willis to authorize sending an offer letter (no commitment to purchase), but no action was taken.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:

- Awaiting union signature to finalize fixed route contract; next contract negotiations planned for April ahead of June expiration, with goal of a seamless transition

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: none

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: none

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:41PM, followed by Executive Session.

The next meeting will be **April 27, 2026** via **TEAMS** and **In-person @ 4:00 p.m.**