



Jeremy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

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

**Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority
Board Meeting
May 18, 2026
MINUTES**

Attendance via TEAMS & hybrid meeting:

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

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

Ben Wilson asked for approval of the May 18, 2026, meeting agenda with amended additions of the approval of the March Board Meeting Meetings and the approval of the Pension Audit RFP. George Willis moved to approve the agenda with the suggested amendments. Ron Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Ben Wilson asked for approval of the April 27, 2026 and March 23, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes. George Willison moved the approved of both. Ron Jones seconded. Motion passed.

SOLICITORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

CEO ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

CEO REPORT:

- Attended the CATA (Crawford Area Transportation Association) ribbon cutting for their facility last week.
- Met with PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll and discussed an invitation to visit Erie this summer, with an opportunity to showcase EMTA facilities and future initiatives.
- Traveled to Harrisburg for meetings held May 3rd–5th. Met with multiple



Jeremy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

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

legislators from both the House and Senate.

- Held discussions with Representative Ed Nielsen regarding transportation initiatives and legislative priorities.
- Noted increased bipartisan engagement around Senate Bill 597, sponsored by Senator Dan Laughlin, and House Bill 1510, supported by Representative Ryan Bizarro, with growing bicameral support and continued legislative discussion.
- Reported updates regarding anticipated Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision on games of skill, with potential fiscal implications for transportation funding being monitored by multiple stakeholders.
- Participated in Erie Day events in Harrisburg alongside the Erie delegation. Noted strong engagement from state legislators and positive representation of Erie initiatives.
- Overall legislative meetings described as productive and informative, with continued focus on elevating Erie's transportation priorities at the state level.

SOLICITOR REPORT: none

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- Informal committee discussion held with review of recent Harrisburg legislative trip and related activities. Appreciation noted for staff participation and representation during state meetings.
- Planning discussion held regarding upcoming 14th Street Fest and related organizational activities and logistics.
- General discussion held regarding broader economic conditions, including fuel and inflationary pressures, and their impact on transit operations. EMTA noted continued stability in maintaining fares and service levels without recent fare increases.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- Vicky reviewed April financials. Ron Jones made a motion to approve. Shantell Hilliard seconded. Motion passed.
- PennDOT Local Match Resolution for the State Operating Assistance Grant was previously approved using preliminary funding estimates pending final PennDOT allocation. PennDOT has since provided final funding figures and is requesting an updated resolution to align the match amount accordingly.
 - George Willis motioned to adopt the resolution with the updated figures. Shantell Hilliard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Annual Audit Report RFPs were received and reviewed by a three-member internal committee. Based on the evaluation, the committee recommends awarding the annual audit to Maher Duessel.
 - Ron Jones motioned to adopt the resolution. Shantell Hilliard seconded. Motion passed.
- Five proposals were received and reviewed for the Pension Audit RFP. Materials were reviewed by the regular Pension Committee and distributed to the Supplemental Pension Committee. A three-member internal review team

Telephone: (814) 459-4287 • Fax: (814) 455-0071 • www.ride-the-e.com



Jeremy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

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

evaluated submissions, and the committee recommends awarding the pension audit to Maher Duessel.

- George Willis motioned to adopt the resolution. Shantell Hilliard seconded. Motion passed.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Personnel report covers hiring activity through May 15, 2026, with reporting period beginning April 20, 2026. Fixed Route recruitment included 18 applicants, 11 qualified, with no interviews scheduled. LIFT recruitment included 156 applicants, 102 qualified, and 4 interviews conducted; 3 applicants began employment on May 11, 2026, and 3 additional candidates remain in the hiring process.
- Mechanic B position received 5 applicants, all qualified, with no interviews scheduled. Building and Grounds position received 2 applicants, both qualified, with 1 applicant starting May 11, 2026.

MARKETING COMMITTEE:

- Return of Route 33 (Presque Isle Express) scheduled for May 30, 2026, with Wednesday service adjustments to accommodate the Sunset Music Series.
- Outreach included participation in a re-entry fair at SCI Albion to provide transit system information, including policies, procedures, and rider etiquette for individuals preparing for release.
- Ongoing updates include signage improvements to distinguish retail tenant space from EMTA operational areas and enhancements to public-facing digital presence.
- Working with a production company on updated marketing and commercial materials, with rollout anticipated prior to fall.
- 14th Fest scheduled for June 11, including recognition of six employees with over 20 years of service and recognition of EMTA's 60-year milestone. Board members encouraged to attend.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

- April ridership stats: 1117,339 rides for fixed route and 11,447 rides for LIFT, with 3,339 of them being ADA rides.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

- Continued coordination related to the East 16th Street property acquisition and related development planning. Discussions remain ongoing with the Erie County Redevelopment Authority and project partners regarding site use, conceptual planning, and future development considerations.
- Update provided regarding interest in remaining retail space within the project footprint. Committee anticipates follow-up discussion with interested party and relevant advisors as part of ongoing due diligence.
- Security Services RFP was issued, and three proposals were received and evaluated. Committee recommended award of the Security Services contract to Arrow Security.
 - George Willis motioned to adopt the resolution. Ron Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Telephone: (814) 459-4287 • Fax: (814) 455-0071 • www.ride-the-e.com



Jeremy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

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

- Resolution presented confirming availability of local match funds for capital project requirements. Finance confirmed funds are available.
 - George Willis motioned to adopt the resolution. Ron Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:

- Committee met to review management and union contract proposals in preparation for ongoing labor negotiations.
- Representatives from both parties are scheduled to meet to review proposals and continue discussions toward a successor agreement.
- Positive discussions continue with union leadership, and additional updates are expected at the June meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: none

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: none

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

ADJOURNMENT: Ben Wilson asked for approval to adjourn the meeting. Shantell Hilliard made a motion to approve. Ron Jones seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28PM.

The next meeting will be **June 22, 2026** via TEAMS and In-person @ 4:00 p.m.