



Jeremy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

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

**Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority
Board Meeting
June 22, 2026
MINUTES**

Attendance via TEAMS & hybrid meeting:

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

The board meeting was called to order at 4:00PM.

Ben Wilson asked for approval of the June 22, 2026, meeting agenda. Ron Jones moved to approve the agenda. George Willis seconded. Motion passed.

Ben Wilson asked for approval of the May 18, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes. Ron Jones moved to approve. Shantell Hilliard seconded. Motion passed.

Agenda Correction

A typographical error in the committee report assignments on the published agenda was noted following agenda approval. It was determined that no further action was required, as the order of business remained unchanged.

SOLICITORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

CEO ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Deb Spilko commented that the recent survey and suggested changes were well done. She expressed concern regarding EMTA's reduction of traditional on-bus signage for important rider notifications, noting that many riders rely on or prefer physical signage rather than digital communication. She suggested that front-of-bus signage provides the strongest visibility for rider notifications and emphasized that she has observed a reduction in on-bus signage since at least

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2023. She encouraged EMTA to ensure that modern communication methods can coexist with traditional signage to better serve all riders, including those who may not access digital information.

- Freda Tepfer commented on difficulty locating the transit plan survey, stating that she had to “go on a treasure hunt” through multiple links and emphasized that the survey should be easily accessible on the EMTA website alongside the transit plan materials. She encouraged EMTA to make public participation more straightforward and intuitive. She also discussed broader concerns regarding the planning process, noting that public input should be incorporated early to help establish evaluation criteria for service options. She raised concerns about service coverage and frequency, including limited access to employment areas such as industrial sites, and encouraged outreach to immigrant and refugee support agencies to better understand rider needs. She further noted funding constraints and encouraged transparency so the public can better advocate for additional local support and match opportunities. She expressed hope that future planning would be more forward-looking and responsive to rider needs, particularly regarding service frequency, routing, and accessibility for workers.

CEO REPORT:

- Recognized employees celebrating 20 years of service and acknowledged all employees who have contributed to EMTA’s success over the past 60 years. Reported that the 60th Anniversary Celebration, held in conjunction with 14th Fest, was successful and expressed appreciation to staff, board members and community members for their support of the event.
- Introduced Toby Fauver from Rockport Planning who provided an update on the Transit Development Plan:
 - Toby Fauver noted that public input is currently being gathered on proposed short-term service changes intended to improve operational efficiency, on-time performance, and route connections. Public engagement includes in-person meetings, planned virtual sessions, an online survey, and outreach through onboard communications. Feedback received will be used to refine the proposed service changes before developing three service scenarios: a budget-neutral plan, a modest service enhancement plan, and a long-term aspirational plan. Draft scenarios will be released for additional public review, followed by a formal public hearing process before any service changes are considered for implementation. Board members were encouraged to promote participation in the public survey and community engagement opportunities.

SOLICITOR REPORT: none

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: none

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- George Willis reviewed May financials and made a motion to approve. Lyn

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Twillie-Darby seconded. Motion passed.

- The FY2027 budget, previously reviewed by the Board, was presented with no significant changes other than updated figures. George Willis motioned to approve the budget as presented by staff. Ron Jones seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Fixed Route recruitment received 23 applicants, with 12 qualified and 4 interviews scheduled; 2 applicants began employment on June 8, 2026, and 3 additional candidates remain in the hiring process. LIFT recruitment received 48 applicants, with 17 qualified and no interviews scheduled; 1 applicant began employment on June 8, 2026, and 3 candidates remain under consideration.
- LIFT Dispatch recruitment received 217 applications, with 45 qualified and 10 interviews scheduled; 1 applicant is currently in the hiring process. Mechanic B recruitment received 32 applications, with 14 qualified and 1 interview scheduled. Utility recruitment received 25 applications, with 12 qualified and no interviews scheduled.

MARKETING COMMITTEE:

- 14th Fest was well attended on June 11, 2026, recognizing employees with 20 years of service and celebrating EMTA's 60th anniversary.
- Token Transit fare collection is being expanded to PennWest Edinboro, allowing the university to access ridership data while maintaining free transportation for students, faculty, and staff.
- Complimentary shuttle service will continue for 8 Great Tuesdays events and the July 3 fireworks celebration in coordination with the City of Erie.
- Presque Isle Express (Route 33) continues summer service, with staff anticipating increased ridership during the Sunset Music Series.
- Marketing initiatives include production of three new commercials in partnership with MenajErie Studios, with release planned for the fall, and expanded travel training efforts focused on back-to-school outreach and National Night Out events.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

- May ridership stats: 112,627 rides for fixed route and 10,653 rides for LIFT, with 3,117 of them being ADA rides.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

- A resolution authorizing EMTA to enter a diesel fuel purchasing contract with Melzer's Fuel Service, Inc., effective July 1, 2026, through the county cooperative purchasing program (COG) was presented. Staff explained that the cooperative bid process secures competitive fuel pricing, with the fuel cost fluctuating based on the market and a delivery differential of plus or minus one cent per gallon. George Willis motioned to adopt the resolution. Ron Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.



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NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:

- It was noted that collective bargaining negotiations for the Fixed Route contract are ongoing, with discussions reported as productive and additional bargaining sessions scheduled.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: none

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chair noted no formal report items, but expressed appreciation for staff, leadership, board members, and partners involved in the successful 14th Fest event. The event was described as very well received, with positive feedback and strong attendance, including participation from state leadership.

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 4:34PM.

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