Jeremy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

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

Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority
Board Meeting
September 28, 2026
MINUTES

Attendance via TEAMS & hybrid meeting:

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

The board meeting was called to order at 4:01PM.

Dr. Ben Wilson asked for approval of the September 28, 2026, meeting agenda. Ron Jones moved to approve the agenda. Dave Cannon seconded. Motion passed.

Dr. Ben Wilson asked for approval of the August 24, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes. Lyn Twillie-Darby moved to approve. Ron Jones seconded. Motion passed.

SOLICITORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

CEO ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

The Board recessed into Executive Session to review the Fixed Route Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), reconvening in public session at 4:31PM.

CEO REPORT:

- Awaiting confirmation of a meeting with Representative Bob Merski, Dr. David Livingston and Joe Spano of Mercyhurst University to discuss potential transportation needs.
- EMTA participated in a regional Low or No Emissions Grant application through the Northwest Transit Managers Group, with letters of support from Representative Mike Kelly and Senator John Fetterman.

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  - The total proposed project is approximately $41 million, with PennDOT providing a 50% match.
  - If awarded, EMTA would receive approximately $3.5 million for four new CNG buses.
  - Grant award notifications are anticipated by December 5.
- Ongoing discussions regarding the Transit Development Plan, including a comprehensive review of the current system and potential future service models, such as microtransit.
- Continuing to address concerns with Greyhound/FlixBus operations at the Intermodal Transportation Center, including property damage, security, maintenance costs and on-time performance.
  - Greyhound's acquisition of Queen City Bus Lines is expected to increase activity at the facility.
  - A formal letter was sent to Greyhound outlining concerns and contractual responsibilities for security, cleaning and property maintenance.
  - EMTA entered into a new three-year agreement with Greyhound in July.
- EMTA received a safety award recognizing improvements in workplace safety and workers' compensation performance. The agency is also expected to receive a six-figure workers' compensation dividend.
- Odis 12 has opened at the MidCity Strip following a soft opening. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday at 11AM.

SOLICITOR REPORT: none

FINANCE COMMITTEE:
- Vicky reviewed August financials. Chelcie Alcorn made a motion to approve. Ashley Lawson seconded. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
- The committee continues to meet consistently on the Tuesday prior to each monthly Board meeting.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:
- Fixed Route: 16 applicants, 8 qualified, 2 interviews scheduled, and none currently in the hiring process.
- LIFT: 8 applicants, 3 qualified, 2 interviews scheduled, and none currently in the hiring process.
- Utility: 3 applicants, 1 qualified, no interviews scheduled, and no new hires.
- Mechanic B: 1 applicant, 1 qualified, with interviews being arranged.

MARKETING COMMITTEE:
- EMTA's website received a multimedia and layout update to improve usability, particularly on mobile devices.
- TSI Video selected Erie as the location for filming new promotional materials, providing additional exposure for EMTA.
- EMTA participated in community events and travel trainings with OCY, Safe Harbor, BCM, USCRI, the City of Erie Housing, and other organizations.

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- Staff were recognized for their response and management of the September 3 storm.
- The Spooky Trolley will return in October with seasonal decorations and activities.
- Signage and visitor communications have been updated at the MidCity Strip to distinguish EMTA operations from the Odis 12 tenant space.
- Advertising rates and production pricing are being updated for 2027, along with clarification of EMTA's advertising policies and production standards.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

- August fixed-route ridership totaled 117,883 rides, an increase of approximately 6,000 from July, largely attributed to the start of the school year. LIFT ridership totaled 10,423 rides, including 2,943 ADA trips.
- EMTA is developing Share the Road, Ride Responsibly, a proactive safety awareness campaign encouraging the City, County, schools, and community partners to engage in conversations about e-bike and electric scooter safety and shared roadway responsibility.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

- Members were invited to attend the upcoming Odis 12 ribbon cutting, marking the completion of a lengthy effort to secure a tenant for the MidCity space.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Lyn Twillie-Darby requested approval of the Planning, Personnel, Marketing, Operations, and Executive Committee reports. Ron Jones moved, seconded by Ashley Lawson. Motion passed.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:

- The Fixed Route Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), effective July 1, 2026, through April 1, 2029, was presented for Board approval.
  - Motion by Dave Cannon, seconded by Ron Jones. Motion carried unanimously.
- A revised pension resolution was presented, allowing eligible employees to use funds from their 457 accounts to purchase pension service credit.
  - Motion by Ron Jones, seconded by Shantell Hilliard. Motion carried unanimously.
- Jeremy recognized Vicky, Ed, the negotiating team, and union representatives for their work throughout the contract negotiations.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: none

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

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ADJOURNMENT: Lyn Twillie-Darby asked for approval to adjourn the meeting. Ashley Lawson made a motion to approve. Dave Cannon seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04PM.

The next meeting will be October 26, 2026 via TEAMS and In-person @ 4:00 p.m.