REGULAR BOARD MEETING
REGIONAL METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF OMAHA
2222 Cuming Street
Omaha, Nebraska, 68102
April 23, 2026
8:30 a.m.

Minutes

The Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha Board met on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., in person at the Authority's Administration Building, 2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102, and virtually. Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Omaha Daily Record on April 17, 2026, in advance of the meeting. For the benefit of the public in attendance, a copy of the Open Meetings Law is posted in the meeting room, and the Agenda is published on the display in the facility lobby.

The following were in attendance at the meeting:

Authority Board:
Mr. Curt Simon, Board Chair
Mr. Daniel Padilla, Vice Chair
Mr. Josh Corrigan
Ms. Clarice Dombeck
Ms. Yanira Garcia
Mr. Tim Lonergan
Mr. Cornelius Williams

Authority Staff:
L. Cencic, CEO/Executive Director
K. Pendland, Deputy Executive Officer
D. Grant, Human Capital and Talent Development Director
E. Simpson, Legal Director (Absent)
E. Schweitz, Senior Manager of Planning and Scheduling
W. Clingman, Finance Director
J. Willoughby, Senior Project Manager
A. Johnson, Civil Rights & Inclusion Director
J. Beverage, Maintenance Director (Absent)
N. Ebat, Sr. Manager of Communications & Community Relations
A. Summerfield, Operations Director
S. Perry, Executive Administrator & Board Secretary

Others Present:
Other Metro staff
Members of the public

Metro connects people, places, and opportunities through quality transit services.

Agenda Item #1 Call to Order at 8:31 am
Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Omaha Daily Record on April 17, 2026. For the benefit of the public in attendance, a copy of the Open Meetings Law is posted in the meeting room, and the Agenda is published on the display in the facility lobby.

Agenda Item #2 Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Regular Meeting: March 26, 2026

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Dombeck
ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #3 General Public Comment Period
This is an opportunity for members of the audience to be heard regarding topics related to the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha, not on the agenda, for a maximum of 2 minutes.

There were none.

Agenda Item #4 Administrative Report (L. Cencic)
Ms. Cencic reported Metro's March ridership results. Fixed-route ridership totaled approximately 307,000 rides, representing an 11% increase over the prior month and marking the highest March ridership total since 2019. ORBT carried approximately 56,000 riders during the month.

Ms. Cencic also noted that Metro Transit partnered with the Omaha Public Library to offer free ORBT fares on April 19th in celebration of the opening of the new Omaha Central Library at 72nd Street and Dodge. As a result, ORBT ridership on that Sunday increased by 50% compared with the average Sunday ridership in April.

Ms. Cencic reported that Metro's microtransit service completed 1,036 trips in March. She noted that, notably, the West Zone recorded the highest number of trips, surpassing the North Zone, which has historically generated the highest trip volume.

Ms. Cencic further reported that new service changes went into effect on April 19th and were implemented successfully. Minor adjustments to microtransit were made to the West Zone, extending service to Regency and shopping destinations further South on West Center Road, as well as in the North Zone, extending service north to McKinley Road.

Ms. Cencic shared that she participated in two recent speaking engagements: the North Omaha Trail Groundbreaking and the announcement of the Heartland Bike Share Free Rides Program, which will provide free bike access for residents. She emphasized the important connection between public transit and other multimodal forms of transportation, noting that transit riders begin their journeys using a variety of transportation modes before reaching a bus stop.

Ms. Cencic also shared that Metro Transit will participate in the CTAA Roadeo at the CHI Health Center on Mother's Day weekend. She announced that the operators representing Metro at the event will be Robert McKean and Darlito Ragodos from MOBY, and Julia Myszkowski and Dennis Kerr from fixed route.

Additionally, Metro Transit will host an internal Roadeo on Memorial Day at the Mid America Center, combined with the agency's Safety Awards program to recognize employees who have demonstrated

exemplary safety performance over the past year. The Roadeo competition will serve as a pre-qualifier for participation in CTAA 2027.

Ms. Cencic concluded her report by sharing an update on the Omaha Inland Port Authority's work with the Innovation District and development efforts in North Omaha near NOTC, with an emphasis on creating transit-friendly and transit-oriented development opportunities.

She also noted that the update to the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP), which is approved annually by both the Safety Committee and the Board, will be presented at a future Board meeting.

Ms. Cencic concluded her report and opened the floor for questions from the Board.

Director Dombeck asked whether the increase in ridership on April 19th was specific to ORBT or reflected ridership increases across all routes serving the new library area.

Ms. Cencic responded that the reported increase applied only to ORBT ridership.

Director Williams asked whether Heartland Bike Share Stations are located near bus stops.

Ms. Cencic informed the Board that Metro Transit and Heartland Bike Share have maintained a long-standing partnership. Through collaborative federal funding efforts, bike share stations have been strategically placed near transit centers and ORBT stations, and Metro hopes to continue expanding that partnership in the future.

Director Simon asked whether safe pickup and drop-off locations had been identified for the microtransit extension to McKinley Road due to a lack of sidewalks in that area.

Ms. Cencic confirmed that designated pickup and drop-off locations have been established in nearby business parking lots within walking distance of the surrounding buildings.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Agenda Item #5 Administrative Reports:

Administration/Human Resources (D. Grant)

Mr. Grant reported on Metro Transit's March recruitment, noting that 12 new employees were hired, including six bus operators, two paratransit operators, and additional staff for the building and maintenance departments, as well as Robert Mavis, who was promoted to Scheduling Supervisor and Data Analyst. Mr. Grant further reported that Human Resources identified seven additional new hires scheduled to begin in April, six of whom are bus operators.

Mr. Grant also addressed the significant increase in monthly turnover reflected in the March board report, which included the departure of 11 bus operators. He explained that this figure included retirements, employees who did not complete the new hire training program, and separations resulting from the disciplinary process, all of which occurred during the same period. Mr. Grant noted that there was no consistent reason or identifiable trend suggesting this level of turnover would continue on a month-to-month basis.

Mr. Grant concluded his report and opened the floor to the Board for questions.

Director Dombeck asked if the data analyst role was new. What is the scope of the position?

Mr. Grant explained that the position is a replacement role; however, the job responsibilities have been updated to have a greater impact on the Planning department. Ms. Cencic added that the position is housed within the Planning Department and works closely with Evan Schweitz. She noted that the role will focus on data analytics related to scheduling optimization, evaluating the overall efficiency of scheduling and on-time service performance, and augmenting work already being done in those areas.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Programs/Operation (K. Pendland)

Mr. Pendland reported on customer service for March. A total of 12,289 calls were offered, with 11,076 calls answered, resulting in an overall service level of 93%. Mr. Pendland further explained that the current service level percentage is calculated by dividing the total number of calls answered within 180 seconds by the total number of calls answered.

Moving forward, the new customer service provider's reports will calculate service level percentage by dividing the total number of calls answered within 60 seconds by the total number of calls offered. This updated methodology will be reflected beginning with the May 2026 Board Meeting Packet.

Fixed route revenue hours for March were 24,695, an increase of 854 hours compared to March 2025. Passenger trips 307,953, an increase of 25,463 compared to the previous year, and the highest March ridership since 2016.

Ridership for the K-12 Rides Free program was 53,678, the highest ridership for March in the K-12 program's history and represents an increase of nearly 9% (8.7%) over the numbers from March of 2025.

Route productivity level was 12.5 passengers per revenue hour across all fixed routes in March, which is the highest productivity number we have seen in March over the last 10 years.

On-time performance in March averaged 3.6% early departure, 13.7% late departure, with an on-time departure rate of 82.7%.

In March, service interruptions accounted for 2.1% of our total revenue hours, which is a decrease of 0.3% from February.

For paratransit operations, we completed a total of 8,218 trips in March, which is an increase of 1,205 trips from last March. The average paratransit passenger per revenue hour in March was 2.0, which is the highest productivity level we have had in paratransit for March over the last 5 years.

For microtransit in March, we had 1,036 completed rides, with 410 in the North Zone, 132 in the South Zone, and 494 in the West Zone. Based on reporting from our fare system, we had 81 riders transfer from microtransit to fixed route service, and 94 riders transferred from fixed route service to microtransit.

Mr. Pendland concluded his report and opened the floor to the Board for questions.

Director Corrigan asked if the increases in ridership were for specific areas of the city or broadly distributed.

Mr. Pendland responded that he currently does not have that data; it's something he will be looking into. He further clarified that events could skew that data with free fare days. ORBT continues to be a strong contender.

Director Simon asked if the increase in revenue hours could be due to the mild weather in comparison to previous months, and whether this could be a contributor to the ridership data and the increase.

Mr. Pendland agreed that it could be a factor and also shared that service increases in December would result in increased revenue hours.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Communications (N. Ebat)

Ms. Ebat reported that since the previous Board meeting, Metro Transit received nine earned media placements highlighting service upgrades, transit-oriented development, and the opening of the new Omaha Central Library along the ORBT corridor and Route 18 on April 19th.

Ms. Ebat also reported that Metro Transit conducted five outreach and training events, in addition to targeted outreach related to recent service enhancements.

She provided an update on outreach efforts related to Route 30, noting that the former Route 30 alignment was divided into five sections for focused outreach. Efforts concentrated on major employers, healthcare providers, pharmacies, government buildings, and grocery stores located along the route. Ms. Ebat shared that staff received positive feedback from community locations where materials were distributed, with many expressing their appreciation for Metro's proactive outreach efforts.

In total, Metro Transit staff visited more than 50 locations in person. Physical outreach materials were also made available at the North Omaha Transit Center (NOTC) and the Downtown Layover at 14th and Dodge. Ms. Ebat noted that outreach efforts this week would focus on maintaining a staff presence at NOTC throughout various times of day to distribute materials and engage riders at a key transfer point for Routes 30 and 26.

Ms. Ebat highlighted several upcoming community engagement events, including:

- Earth Day at Elmwood Park on April 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Earth Day at the RiverFront on April 26 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and
- A ride-along event with Metro's partner, Conservation Nebraska, to visit the new library on May 2.

Ms. Ebat concluded her report and opened the floor to the Board for questions.

Director Simon requested an analysis of Route 30 and the impact of the recent service changes, as well as a review of routes such as ORBT, Route 15, and Route 55, to evaluate how ridership patterns may shift and to identify any potential service duplication once updated ridership and service data become available.

Director Williams asked whether Metro buses are equipped with intercom systems.

Ms. Cencic confirmed that Metro buses have intercom systems, along with other automated messaging capabilities. She added that signage, printed materials, and staff support are also available to assist riders in adjusting to service changes. Director Corrigan, noting his experience as a regular rider, commented that the various communication methods appear sufficient.

Director Dombeck asked whether MyRide had also been updated to reflect the recent service changes.

Ms. Ebat confirmed that service alerts have been added to affected routes within MyRide.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Agenda Item # 6 Resolution 2026-11: Request Approval to Enter into Contract for the Construction of the Boilers Replacement Project (J. Willoughby)

Bids were received and opened at a public bid opening on April 8, 2026, at 2 pm to perform construction services associated with the Boiler Replacement Project. This project includes the following items:

- Removal of the two existing dual-fuel boilers, three pumps, and associated piping and ductwork
- Removal of wall-mounted heaters and associated piping
- Removal and replacement of existing air intake ductwork and equipment
- Installation of one dual fuel (Diesel/CNG) boiler and two condensing boilers and associated piping and ductwork
- Installation of three heating water pumps and associated equipment
- Installation of 30-unit heaters and associated piping
- Installation of 30 wall-mounted baseboard heaters and associated piping
- Installation of thermostats to control heater units, including connections to the building management system

A Notice to Bid was published on Metro's website, in The Daily Record, on Standardshare, and notices were sent directly to Contractor's on Metros' bidder's list. Four Contractors, Christopherson Mechanical, Cerris Systems, Fluid Mechanical, and Grunwald Mechanical, each submitted a bid. After reviewing the submitted bids, Christopherson Mechanical's bid was deemed non-responsive. The remaining three bids were responsive, with the lowest bid from Grunwald Mechanical for $1,429,809. An Independent Cost Estimate (ICE) was completed with a project cost of $1,390,776. The bid submitted by Grunwald Mechanical was 2.8% higher than the ICE. Staff have reviewed the bid and determined the price to be fair and reasonable.

Staff requested that the Board authorize the CEO to prepare and execute a contract with Grunwald Mechanical for the construction of the Boiler Replacement Project.

This item was reviewed with the Finance/Procurement Committee, prior to the Board meeting.

Public Comment
There were none

Board Discussion
Director Simon asked why Christopherson had been deemed noncompliant and whether there were any offsets or arrangements in place for the metal to be recycled.

Ms. Willoughby responded that there were issues related to the Buy America requirements. She also confirmed that arrangements had been made for the metal to be recycled.

Director Williams asked whether a vendor deemed unresponsive was permitted an additional opportunity to respond.

Ms. Willoughby explained that, under FTA procurement guidelines, providing an additional opportunity to respond is not permitted. She noted that the only circumstance in which another opportunity would be available would be if a new bid solicitation were issued to all vendors.

Director Dombeck asked whether maintenance services were outsourced.

Ms. Willoughby informed the Board that boiler maintenance is performed in-house.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Williams
ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #7 Resolution 2026-12: Request Approval to Award Work Order 6-Administration Building Upgrades Final Design as a Part of the A&E IDIQ Contract with SRF(J. Willoughby)
The Architectural & Engineering (A&E) Contract with SRF is split into multiple work orders. These Work Orders are based on each individual project and are negotiated based on the scope of work of the project. Work Order 6 – Administration Building Upgrades Final Design includes the design and construction administration for several improvements to the Administration Building. This work order includes the replacement of 120 metal doors throughout the building and along the exterior. New door hardware will be installed at all interior and exterior doors, and a new access control card system will be installed throughout the building. All exterior windows will be replaced, and the metal façade along the top of the building and front entry will be painted. The lights within the main interior portions of the building will also be replaced with LED lights, and the front desk will be reconstructed with a more secure desk and window. In order to create a more secure environment throughout the building, an access control system will be installed, where access will be granted with badges. The existing doors that will have access control need to be replaced to accommodate the system, and the remaining metal doors have several deficiencies, not limited to rusting, settling, and hardware malfunctions. The current exterior windows and the majority of the lighting are not energy efficient and are either obsolete or will become obsolete. Finally, the exterior metal façade is rusting, and the metal is becoming exposed. Painting and sealing the metal will keep it from degrading and requiring replacement.
Metro negotiated Work Order 6 with SRF in three steps. The first step was the negotiation of the scope of work, which was approved by Metro and SRF to include the design and construction administration of the items listed above. The second step was the negotiation of the fixed fee percentage based on the size and type of project. The third step was the negotiation of the hours required to complete the Work Order. Metro and SRF agreed on 2,071 hours. The negotiated hours were 7.8% higher than the Independent Cost Estimate developed by Metro. After negotiations, Metro and SRF agreed to a total fee of $465,652.21. The negotiated fee amount was 3.62% higher than the Independent Cost Estimate developed by Metro. Metro has determined that the price is fair and reasonable.

Staff requested Board authority to enter into Work Order 6 – Administration Building Upgrades Final Design as a part of the A&E IDIQ Contract with SRF for the amount of $465,652.21.
This item was reviewed with the Finance/Procurement Committee, prior to the Board meeting.

Public Comments
There were none.

Board Discussion
Director Simon asked that the front aluminum metal painting, which has always been an issue at the main entrance, be researched further regarding painting it.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Padilla
ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #8 Resolution 2026-13: Request Approval of Federal Certificate & Assurances
(E. Brooks)

Each year, as a part of Metro's receipt of federal grant funding, Metro and its attorney are required annually to sign and file Certifications & Assurances (C&As) that federally mandated programs and requirements will be followed. Included in the Board packet is the list of 20 compliance areas covered by the C&As.

Staff requested authority to authorize the CEO/Executive Director and Attorney to execute the 2026 C&As.

Resolution 2026-13, authorizing the same, is included in the Board packet and was not read during the Board meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-13

April 23, 2026
Omaha, Nebraska

RESOLVED BY THE BOARD of DIRECTORS of the REGIONAL METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF OMAHA:

WHEREAS, the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha exists and is in being by virtue of Section 18-801 through 18-825, Neb, Rev. Stat. as amended from time to time ("Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority Act"), together with such other state and local laws as may be applicable from time to time;

WHEREAS, the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha is a governmental subdivision of the State of Nebraska, a body politic and corporate, and pursuant to the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority Act has broad powers relating to public transportation, excluding railroads and taxicabs; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha is a "Designated Recipient" (as defined by 49 USC §5307 (a)(2), of Urbanized Area Formula Program assistance and the Master Agreement) and other federal assistance and other programs in keeping with the Federal Transit Administration, an operating administration of the United States Department of Transportation (the "FTA") award of federal transit assistance (funding or funds) in the form of a federal grant, a cooperative agreement, a loan, a line of credit, a loan guarantee or otherwise to support a public transportation project (individually or collectively, "Federal Assistance"); and
WHEREAS, application for, grant and receipt of, such Federal Assistance has, may, will require or impose certain obligations upon the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha from time to time as a prerequisite to, or condition of, such application, grant or receipt of Federal Assistance, including without limitation, the execution and performance of and in respect of the "Master Agreement" and any related cooperative or other agreement and any related programs, providing the local share of the project cost, making any and all required certifications and assurances to the FTA as may be

time to time required for specific projects or otherwise as a prerequisite to, or condition of, such application, grant, receipt or award of Federal Assistance and related programs; and

WHEREAS, among other matters, it is intended that this Resolution shall authorize the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha to file applications for Federal Assistance in the manner and form as may be and to execute, deliver, perform, and to otherwise comply with, under and in respect of, the "Master Agreement" and any related cooperative or other agreement and any related programs, and such other obligations as required or imposed by the FTA from time to time as a prerequisite to, or as condition of, such application, grant, receipt or award of Federal Assistance and related programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE REGIONAL METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF OMAHA:

1. The CEO/Executive Director of the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha (and his/her written designee) is hereby authorized on behalf of the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha and to execute and file applications with the FTA for federal transportation assistance authorized by 49 USC Chapter 53, Title 23, United States Code,

and any and all other federal statutes administered by the FTA authorizing a project administered by the FTA for projects programmed in the then current first-year element of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) of the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha, including any amendments thereto.

2. The CEO/Executive Director of the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha (and his/her written designee) is hereby authorized to execute, deliver, perform and to otherwise comply with, under and in respect of, the "Master Agreement" and any related cooperative or other agreement and any related programs, and such other obligations as required or imposed by the FTA from time to time as a prerequisite to, or as a condition of, such application, grant, receipt or award of Federal Assistance at any time and to execute and file application for such other federal financial assistance and related programs in keeping with the FTA's award of federal transit assistance (funding or funds) as may be approved by this Board from time to time in fiscal year 2026/2027 or calendar year 2026 and, together with any such application to execute such annual certification and assurances and other documents as may be required by the FTA as a prerequisite to, or as condition of, such application, grant, receipt or award of Federal Assistance and related programs.

This resolution was recommended to the Board for approval.

Public Comment
There were none.

Board Discussion
Director Simon asked if the attorney's signature is counsel in-house or externally?

Ms. Cencic advised that Metro still uses an external attorney.
Director Dombeck asked about all the different compliance sections applying to Metro.

Ms. Cencic explained that all apply to Metro with limited exceptions, such as #11, the 5310 funding that MAPA falls under, rail, and tribal transit provisions that don't apply.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Williams
ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #9 Resolution 2026-14: Request Approval of Fiscal Year 2025 Audited Financials

(W. Clingman)

Staff sought approval of the 2025 audited financial statements. Eide Bailly audited Metro's financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2025, and produced the audit report. The 2025 audit report was reviewed with Metro's Finance/Procurement Committee prior to the Board meeting.

This was recommended to the Board for approval. Presentation of the audit was presented by Nathan Edelman with Eide Bailly.

Public Comment
There were none.

Board Discussion
Director Simon asked if the Metro materials were up to date so that they would not impede the audit from going through.

Mr. Edelman confirmed that everything requested was provided without fail or issue.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Dombeck
ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #10 Board Chair Report (C. Simon)

Director Simon agreed to allocate time for a Board discussion regarding the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) and recognized Director Dombeck to address the Board and the public.

Director Dombeck shared that, prior to joining the Board of Directors, she served as a member of TAC for approximately one year. She noted that TAC meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Metro and consists of 11 committee members.

Director Dombeck explained that serving on TAC provided her with an opportunity to better understand Metro's operations and transit functions while working alongside staff, fellow committee members, and the community. She expressed interest in strengthening collaboration between the Board and TAC in support of TAC's objectives, which include:

- Providing a closer connection between Metro staff, the Metro Board of Directors, and the communities that make up the Omaha region; and
- Making recommendations to Metro staff and the Board on transportation programs or projects of interest to Metro and the community.

Director Dombeck suggested the possibility of holding evening Board meetings in conjunction with TAC's regularly scheduled meetings, particularly when budget matters or major service changes are being considered by the Board.

The Board discussed what additional meetings or increased coordination with TAC might look like. Ms. Cencic advised the Board that staff would seek guidance from legal counsel regarding how such meetings could be structured, given that the Board is a governing body and TAC is an advisory committee, including considerations related to the Open Meetings Act and Robert's Rules of Order.

Ms. Cencic further noted that Board bylaws permit special meetings at the request of the Board Chair. However, because the matter was not included on the agenda, no Board action could be taken at this meeting and today is considered a Board discussion only. She added that staff and legal counsel would further research the matter and, should the proposal move forward, it would be brought before the Board. She also noted that regular Board meetings are established in the bylaws for the fourth Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m., with special or additional meetings remaining an option pending further review.

Agenda Item #11 Date, Time, and Place of Next Board Meeting
Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.
Authority's Administrative Building

Agenda Item #12 Adjournment at 9:32 am

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Garcia
ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Curt Simon, Board Chair

Selina Perry, Board Secretary