REGULAR BOARD MEETING
REGIONAL METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF OMAHA
2222 Cuming Street
Omaha, Nebraska, 68102
August 27, 2026
8:30 a.m.

Minutes

The Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha Board met on Thursday, August 27, 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 August 21, 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 displayed 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 (Virtual)
A. Johnson, Civil Rights & Inclusion Director (Virtual)
J. Beverage, Maintenance Director (Virtual)
N. Ebat, Sr. Manager of Communications & Community Relations
A. Summerfield, Operations Director
S. Scheer, Safety and Training Director (Virtual)
S. Perry, Executive Administrator & Board Secretary

Others Present:
Other Metro staff
Members of the public

Agenda Item #1 Call to Order at 8:30 am
Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Omaha Daily Record on August 21, 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 displayed in the facility lobby.

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

Regular Meeting: July 23, 2026

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Padilla
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 Transit's July ridership results. Fixed-route ridership for the month totaled 287,348, which was 6.4% higher than 2025. ORBT carried 50,000 rides, which was 15% higher than July of 2025 and the highest recorded ridership in July since its inception.

Metro Transit collaborated with the City to hold a press conference at the North Omaha Transit Center to spread the word about the Ames Street safety survey. Metro Transit was pleased to link the importance of transit with the upcoming improvements on Ames Street.

Ms. Cencic further reported that recent media coverage has highlighted the positive role public transit plays in community development and accessibility. One article focuses on a proposed affordable housing project at 24th and Dodge, where residents would benefit from immediate access to ORBT service and Route 24 connections to downtown. Another article points to the early success of the Central Library at 72nd and Dodge, citing its location along the ORBT corridor and near Route 18 as a key factor in attracting visitors during its opening months.

Lastly, Metro Transit and MAPA are jointly hosting representatives from U.S. Department of Transportation including the Build America Bureau Director Dr. Morteza Farajian along with representatives of the Nebraska Department of Transportation. On September 3rd, the topic of discussion will center on innovative financing, opportunities in the area, and upcoming projects, one of which will be the Omaha Streetcar.

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

There were no further questions or discussion.

Agenda Item #5 Administrative Reports
Administration/Human Resources (D. Grant)
Mr. Grant reported on Metro Transit's July hiring activities, welcoming 11 new hires and identifying 18 additional for August. Of the 11 new employees, eight are bus operators, and three are paratransit operators. For the 18 identified to start in August, 14 will be bus operators, a paratransit operator, a bus mechanic, a network technician, and a custodian.

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

Director Williams posed a question regarding the start times of new hires. Mr. Grant clarified that all positions requiring a CDL are scheduled to begin together as a cohort.

Director Simon commended Mr. Grant's department on its efforts to hire staff to meet recruitment goals.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Programs/Operations (K. Pendland)

Mr. Pendland reported on customer service in July. A total of 12,233 calls were offered, with 11,987 calls answered, resulting in an overall service level of 95%.

Fixed route revenue hours in July were 25,230, which reflects an increase in service delivery of 1,438 hours compared to July 25. This is due largely to an increase in service hours which began on April 19th.

Passenger trips were at 287,348, an increase of 16,259 passenger trips compared to July 2025 representing the highest July ridership since 2019. This brings our cumulative ridership for the first half of 2026 to 2,098,882, which is 6% higher than the pace we set in 2025.

Ridership for the K-12 program was 39,468, which is the highest ridership for July in the program's history and represents a cumulative increase of 6.6% over the pace set in 2025.

Metro carried an average of 11.4 passengers per revenue hour across all fixed routes in July.

On-time performance in July averaged 4.9% early departures and 13.7% late departures, with an on-time departure rate of 81.4%.

In July, service interruptions accounted for 3.9% of our total revenue hours, compared to 2.4% in July 2025. This number is in line with expectations due to the time of year, and Metro Transit expects to have service interruptions in the 2% to 3% range between May and August. Based on current reports, Metro expects to see a reduction in overall service interruptions for August.

For paratransit operations, Metro Transit completed a total of 7,996 trips in July, which is an increase of 812 trips from last July. The average paratransit passengers per revenue hour in May was 2.1.

For microtransit in July, 1,109 rides were completed, with 456 within the North Zone, 122 in the South Zone, and 531 in the West Zone. Based on reporting from the fare system, 123 riders transferred from microtransit to fixed route service, 100 riders transferred from fixed route service to microtransit, and one rider transferred from microtransit to paratransit service.

In the expanded microtransit areas for July, 18 rides were completed to the McKinley Road area, including 9 departures and 9 arrivals. In the Carter Lake / Levi Carter Park area, there were no riders to report; in the Regency / Trader Joe's area, there were 9 departures and 6 arrivals; and in the Westwood Plaza / Montclair Shopping Center area, there were 30 departures and 26 arrivals.

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

Director Simon asked if there was an ongoing analysis of the microtransit destinations request to line up any future fixed route service being anticipated.

Mr. Pendland confirmed yes; the departure and arrival microtransit requests are being reviewed, including areas not in current zones, to determine where those hot spots reside. Patterns are showing

some data; however, it is skewed because multiple requests are made. It's difficult to know real requests from those experimenting with the system.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Communications (N. Ebat)

Ms. Ebat reported that since the previous Board meeting, Metro Transit received 11 earned media placements; these did not center on any one particular subject, but several looked at traffic safety and development and how transit impacts both.

Metro Transit participated in 10 different in-person outreach opportunities and events. One highlight was the Transit Planning Workshop led by members of Metro's planning team. It was in partnership with Joslyn Castle as part of their month-long event asking people in Omaha to envision Omaha's future. They allowed Metro Transit to hold the event in the Carriage House on the Joslyn Castle property. There was a full room of people excited to try their hand at planning their own fixed-route network. Many very quickly learned it's not as easy as they had imagined.

Ms. Ebat reported that Metro Transit staff attended a health fair over the weekend at the Siena Francis House, where they were able to sign people up on site who qualified for Metro's half-fare program.

Metro Transit also held four training events. In one, staff worked very closely with a group that focuses on helping refugees get oriented upon their arrival in Omaha; learning how to get around is one of the skills they focused on.

Upcoming events:

- Sep. 5th: Afrofest
- Sep. 12th: Fiestas Patrias Parade

The deadline for Wheel Appeal is August 31st at the end of the day.

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

Director Simon asked how many Wheel Appeal submissions have been received.

Ms. Ebat explained that the submissions for Wheel Appeal go to a separate email and she does not look at them until the entry deadline has closed.

Director Simon also mentioned Metro Transit's previous participation in Open Omaha; how was this year's participation?

Ms. Ebat confirmed that Metro Transit did participate in Open Omaha, where Metro featured a 1948 Retro bus that was refurbished in 2009/2010, and participation was the best year yet. Many were those who rode the bus as children, and staff heard of its history from them.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Agenda Item #6 Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) Report (TAC Representative)
Gabriella Rima, 4125 S. 13th Street, Omaha, NE

Transit Advisory Committee member Rima shared that at the last meeting, TAC was presented with a look at the bus stops and percentages related to how many of them had certain amenities, e.g., lighting, seating, shelters, etc.

Committee member Rima also shared that TAC discussed several safety concerns regarding students who are returning to educating them about crossing in front of buses. It's not the same as crossing in front of school buses, and how that instruction can be accomplished.

Agenda Item #7 Resolution 2026-21: Request Approval of Administrative Employees' Pension Plan Actuarial Report as of January 1, 2026 (W. Clingman)

Staff requested approval of the updated Administrative Employees' Pension Plan Actuarial Valuation report, produced and presented by Ryan Falls of Milliman Retirement Services. The Administrative Pension Committee met on July 27, 2026, to discuss the report presented to them by Milliman. The Committee voted to recommend approval of the January 1, 2026, actuarial report to the Metro Board.

The finalized report was included in the Board Packet information. This resolution was recommended to the Board for approval.

Public Comment
There were none.

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Williams

Board Discussion
There were none.

There were no further questions or discussion.

ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #8 Resolution 2026-22: Request Approval of Administrative Employees' Pension Updated Mortality Tables from PUB-2010 to PUB-2016 (W. Clingman)

The Administrative Employees Pension Committee met on July 27, 2026, to review the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha Administrative Employees Pension Plan and mortality table assumptions. At this meeting, Ryan Falls from Milliman Retirement Services presented the proposed update of the mortality tables from PUB-2010 to PUB-2016 to the Committee. The Society of Actuaries published a final public plans mortality table article published by Milliman Employee Benefits Research Group, which is included in the Board Packet information. Metro employees are part of the "General Services" group of employees. The Committee voted to recommend approval of the updated mortality tables to the Metro Board.

This resolution was recommended to the Board for approval.

Public Comment
There were none.

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Padilla

Board Discussion
Director Simon asked if this was an automatic triggering event.

No, Mr. Clingman responded; it does require Board action. It doesn't require staff to amend the plan document, which is an additional step.

There were no further questions or discussion.

ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #9 Resolution 2026-23: Request Approval of Collective Bargaining Employees' Pension Plan Actuarial Reports as of January 1, 2026 (W. Clingman)

Staff requested approval of the updated Collective Bargaining Employees' Pension Plan Actuarial Valuation report, which was produced and presented by Ryan Falls of Milliman Retirement Services. The Collective Bargaining Pension Committee met on July 27, 2026, to discuss the report presented to them by Milliman. The Committee voted to recommend approval of the January 1, 2026, actuarial report to the Metro Board. The finalized report is included in the Board Packet information.

This resolution was recommended to the Board for approval.

Public Comment
There were none.

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Williams

Board Discussion
There were none.

There were no further questions or discussion.

ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #10 Resolution 2026-24: Request Approval of Collective Bargaining Employees' Pension Updated Mortality Tables from PUB-2010 to PUB-2016 (W. Clingman)

The Collective Bargaining Employees' Pension Committee met on July 27, 2026, to review the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha Collective Bargaining Employees' Pension Plan and mortality table assumptions. At this meeting, Ryan Falls from Milliman Retirement Services presented the proposed update of the mortality tables from PUB-2010 to PUB-2016 to the Committee. The Society of Actuaries published a final public plans mortality table article published by Milliman Employee Benefits Research Group, which is included in the Board Packet information. Metro employees are part of the "General Services" group of employees. The Committee voted to recommend approval of the updated mortality tables to the Metro Board.

This resolution was recommended to the Board for approval.

Public Comment
There were none.

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Garcia

Board Discussion
There were none.

There were no further questions or discussion.

ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #11 Resolution 2026-25: Request Approval to Procure Seven (7) Replacement Buses (L. Del Rio Lopez)

Staff requested full board approval for Metro Transit's CEO to procure seven (7) replacement New Flyer fixed route buses, for a cost not to exceed $6,642,246.34. The final price will be dependent on final customization and selection of options during the bus build. The majority of the cost will be funded through Federal Transit Administration 5339 and 5307 grants, with the local match paid for by Metro Transit's allocation of local property taxes.

The bus order would consist of five (5) 40' Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses and two (2) 35' CNG buses. Said purchase would replace seven (7) transit buses that have met their useful life. The anticipated delivery of these buses is in the fourth quarter of 2027.

The procurement would occur through a cooperative agreement with the State of Washington, which, through a federal-compliant competitive procurement process, has executed contract number 04824-01 with various transit bus manufacturers, to include New Flyer. Permission for Metro Transit to participate in the cooperative procurement effort has been granted by the State of Washington.

This resolution was recommended to the Board for approval.

Public Comment
There were none.

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Williams

Board Discussion
Director Corrigan asked if the not-to-exceed cost total includes anticipated tariffs.

Ms. Lopez Del Rio responded that the total cost does include an estimate for the tariffs but that the total cost for tariffs is unknown at this time.

Director Simon asked if this would retire the Alexander Dennis buses.

Ms. Cencic informed the Board that the 2015 Alexander Dennis buses had already been retired, but the 2018 buses still have remaining useful life before they can be retired.

There were no further questions or discussion.

ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #12 Resolution 2026-26: Request Approval to Schedule a Public Hearing (L. Cencic)

The Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha d/b/a Metro Transit will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Authority's Administrative Building regarding the proposed 2027 Budget. The Public Hearing will be an opportunity for members of the public and interested parties to receive information about and provide comments regarding the proposed 2027 Budget. The Public Hearing will be held in conjunction with the monthly Transit Advisory Committee meeting.

This resolution was recommended to the Board for approval.

Public Comment
There were none.

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Corrigan

Board Discussion
There were none.

There were no further questions or discussion.

ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #13 Resolution 2026-27: Request Approval to Change the Date of the Next Board Meeting (L. Cencic)
Staff requested approval to change the date of the next regular Board of Directors meeting to Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. at the Transit Authority Offices located at 2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

This resolution was recommended to the Board for approval.

Public Comment
There were none.

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Williams

Board Discussion
There were none.

There were no further questions or discussion.

ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #14 Board Chair Report (C. Simon)
Director Simon shared with the Board, staff, and public that he spoke to a former employee, Kal Mathema, currently living in Nepal, and that she was safe during the tragic flash flood that occurred on August 26th.

Agenda Item #15 Date, Time and Place of Public Hearing on Budget
Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
Authority's Administrative Building

Agenda Item #16 Date, Time, and Place of Next Board Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.
Authority's Administrative Building

Agenda Item #17 Tentative Resolutions for September
- 2027 Tax Levy
- 2027 Budget
- UMO/Cubic Contract Extension

Agenda Item #18 Adjournment at 8:58 am

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