REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

REGIONAL METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF OMAHA
2222 Cuming Street
Omaha, Nebraska, 68102
September 17, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

The Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority of Omaha Board met on Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., in person at the Authority's Administration Building, 2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102, and virtually.

Attendance

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 (Absent)
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 (Absent)
A. Johnson, Civil Rights and Inclusion Director
J. Beverage, Maintenance Director (Absent)
N. Ebat, Sr. Manager of Communications and Community Relations (Absent)
A. Summerfield, Operations Director
S. Scheer, Safety and Training Director (Virtual)
S. Perry, Executive Administrator and Board Secretary (Absent)

Others Present

Other Metro staff
Members of the public

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order at 8:31 am

Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Omaha Daily Record on September 11, 2026. For the benefit of the public in attendance, a copy of the Open Meetings Law was posted in the meeting room, and the Agenda was displayed in the facility lobby.

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

Regular Meeting: August 27, 2026
Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Padilla
ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Special Meeting: September 9, 2026
Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Corrigan
ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #3: General Public Comment Period

This was 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.

Chris Nanke, Transportation Workers Union 223

Mr. Nanke expressed concern regarding the absence of a proposed wage increase plan for Metro Transit's more than 200 hourly employees. He noted that contract negotiations have been ongoing for approximately one year and that employees have been working without a finalized contract since the previous agreement expired on December 31, 2025. Mr. Nanke stated that approving a budget before determining employee wage increases appears premature and that there has been limited discussion regarding employee compensation, despite progress on other contract-related issues. He indicated that no negotiation meetings have occurred since June and stated that meeting scheduling is the responsibility of Management and the Board, rather than the Union. Mr. Nanke expressed concern that employee contract negotiations do not appear to be a priority, despite employees continuing to work without a contract, and compared contract negotiations to other organizational priorities, such as fire remediation.

Director Williams shared that he saw Mr. Nanke driving the bus one day.

There were no other public comments.

Agenda Item #4: Administrative Report (L. Cencic)

Ms. Cencic reported Metro Transit's August ridership. Fixed-route ridership for the month totaled 304,748, which was 2.7% higher than 2025. Notably, ORBT carried 54,608 rides, which was 10.6% higher than in 2025. In terms of fixed-route ridership to date, Metro is running just shy of 6% higher than 2025, year-to-date. August was the highest August K-12 ridership year-to-date, and annual ridership is 6.7% higher than 2025.

Staff are working with partners to host a key stakeholder meeting for community nonprofits on Thursday, October 8, to educate about Micro Flex and options for purchasing passes.

Lastly, Ms. Cencic shared that construction at the Metro Community College South Transit Center is going well. The large volume of rain this week has slightly impacted the schedule, but the transit center should still be able to reopen by the end of the month. Opening next week is still a possibility, depending on the weather over the next few days.

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

Director Lonergan asked if Metro is in any negotiations with the Union. Ms. Cencic said yes, there are two full days scheduled with the Union on September 28th and 29th, which will include a representative from the Union's international group.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Agenda Item #5: Administrative Reports

Administration/Human Resources (D. Grant)

Mr. Grant reported on Metro Transit's August hiring activities, welcoming 18 new hires and identifying 7 additional for September. Of the 18 new employees, there were 14 bus operators, one paratransit operator, a bus mechanic, a network security technician, and a custodian. Mr. Grant shared that in addition to welcoming new employees, Metro also celebrated the recent retirements of several long-term employees: Richard Vance, Bus Operator for 13 years; Lafern Stennis, Bus Operator for 27 years; Chris Smith, Bus Operator for 18 years; and David Kozol, MOBY operator for 10 years.

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

Director Simon congratulated all the retirees and thanked Mr. Grant for sharing the retirements with the Board.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Programs/Operations (K. Pendland)

Mr. Pendland reported on customer service in August. A total of 12,280 calls were offered, with 11,983 calls answered, resulting in an overall service level of 93%.

Fixed route revenue hours in August were 25,472, which reflects an increase in service delivery of 1,522 hours compared to August 2025. This is largely due to an increase in service hours that began on April 19th. Passenger trips were at 304,748, an increase of 8,048 passengers compared to August 2025. This brings Metro's cumulative ridership for 2026 to 2,403,630, which

is 5.9% higher than the pace set last year and the highest totals seen for August since 2015. Ridership for the K-12 program was 52,194, which is the highest ridership for August in the program's history and represents a cumulative increase of 6.7% over the pace set in 2025. Metro operated over 25,000 hours of fixed route service in August, which is 6.4% more service than August 2025. This increase in service contributed to a route productivity level of 12 passengers per revenue hour across all fixed routes. On-time performance in August averaged 4.3% early and 14.2% late, with an on-time departure rate of 81.5%. In August, service interruptions accounted for 2.1% of total revenue hours compared to 2.6% in August 2025. This is a 1.3% reduction from July 2026.

For paratransit operations, MOBY completed a total of 8,265 trips in August, which is an increase of 573 trips from August 2025. The average paratransit passenger per revenue hour was 2.0.

For microtransit, there were 1,276 completed rides, with 610 in the North Zone, 131 in the South Zone, and 535 in the West Zone. Based on reporting from the fare systems, 142 riders transferred from microtransit to fixed-route service, 123 riders transferred from fixed-route service to microtransit, three riders transferred from microtransit to paratransit service, and four riders transferred from paratransit service to microtransit. Staff are seeing an uptick in intermodality. In the expanded microtransit areas from August, there were not any completed rides in the McKinley Road area or the Carter Lake/Levi Carter Park area. There were five departures and five arrivals in the Regency/Trader Joe's area and 16 departures and 15 arrivals in the Westwood Plaza/Montclair Shopping Center.

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

Director Corrigan asked if there is an understanding of the month-to-month variation in Micro Flex service and if a trend has been identified. Mr. Pendland shared that staff are looking at service month-over-month and how the public outreach is transferring into those numbers. Mr. Pendland said staff are not seeing as much movement as desired but noted that it is still early in the process with just a year into service. Looking at year-over-year data is currently skewed because of the fare-free period during launch. For totals August-to-August, there were 28,157 completed rides, 18,753 in the North Zone, 2,592 in the South Zone, and 6,430 in the West Zone. Mr. Pendland provided an example of how the data is skewed: 7,373 of the completed rides were within the fare-free period, which accounts for 26% of the total.

Director Simon asked Mr. Pendland what he attributes to no Micro Flex activity on McKinley Road, noting that previous activity in the area had been consistent. Mr. Pendland stated that Metro included the McKinley Road area to expand service to that area because of past requests. When staff look at the microtransit data for requested pickups and drop-off locations, it's hard to say exactly how many individuals are responsible for those data points. However, staff did see a large uptick in the area, which prompted expansion. In the first few months of microtransit service, staff did see several riders taking advantage of the service, but that has

dropped off. Mr. Pendland noted that staff are unclear of the reason but are still reviewing requests and completed trips for the area.

Director Simon asked Mr. Pendland to get in contact with the employers in the McKinley Road area because they have always been fairly vocal about wanting that type of service in their area. He noted there may be some reason why people are not using the service that Metro can help with. Ms. Cencic shared that staff do have a lot of coordination with employers in that area and are doing ongoing outreach.

Director Simon asked about the recent virtual meeting for route changes. Ms. Cencic deferred the response to the Communications report.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Communications (A. Pigaga)
Ms. Pigaga, Senior Creative and Communications Specialist, presented on behalf of Ms. Ebat.

Ms. Pigaga reported that since the previous Board meeting, Metro Transit received five earned media placements and participated in four outreach opportunities and events, two of which were transit training. Public meetings being held during the period of the Board meeting were not included in these numbers.

Outreach staff have been focused on public meetings regarding proposed service changes and proposed fare payment option changes. Staff have been creating infographics, handouts, maps, and presentations. There will be four public meetings. Two virtual meetings were held this week, one in English and one in Spanish. Both recordings of those meetings are available on Metro Transit's website, along with text transcriptions, slide decks, and a comment form. Staff have started receiving a fair number of comments from the public about the proposed changes and are excited to see early engagement.

There is another public meeting on Friday, September 18 at the North Omaha Transit Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Staff will be distributing informational handouts, checking in with people before they transfer to their next bus, and really meeting riders where they're at to talk to them about the proposed changes, especially those for Routes 3 and 24. The last public meeting will be on Wednesday, September 23 either at the MCC South Transit Center, or at the temporary transit center, depending on construction completion. Public comments on all the proposed changes will be accepted through Sunday, October 4.

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

Director Simon asked how participation was for the virtual public meetings. Ms. Pigaga shared that attendance was moderate and there tend to be more viewings of the recording when people can watch the recording on their own time. The recording views are tracked.

Director Garcia asked for clarification about the number of in-person meetings. Ms. Pigaga noted that two virtual meetings have occurred, one in English and one in Spanish, and that the first in-person meeting would be the following day.

There were no further questions or discussion.

Agenda Item #6: Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) Report (TAC Representative)

Transit Advisory Committee Vice Chair Clyde Anderson shared that TAC met on September 9 following the Budget Hearing and that Board Directors stayed to attend the TAC meeting. In addition to the TAC and Board members discussing the proposed 2027 annual budget, a member of the public in attendance commented how much he likes using the Micro Flex service. However, he believes the service needs more publicity, especially on the Metro website.

TAC Member Alex Mendoza suggested that Metro Transit provide transit information and Umo card sales at the new Omaha Central Public Library. In response during the TAC meeting, Ms. Ebat noted that she has talked to the library management and they are exploring options. Mr. Anderson suggested an informational display in the library like the one he is familiar with from his time working at Union Pacific.

Lastly, Mr. Anderson shared that Mr. Evan Schweitz presented the proposed service changes to TAC and the TAC members were very supportive of the increased frequency of service on Routes 24 and 3. There were no negative comments shared about the proposed changes.

There were no questions or discussion.

Agenda Item #7: Resolution 2026-28: Request Approval of the 2027 Tax Levy (W. Clingman)

Per State Statute 18-822, the Board must, by resolution, on or before September 30 of each year, certify the tax levy. Pursuant to the attached resolution, the proposed Property Tax levy for the 2027 budget year is $58,740,357.25, or 10 mills.

Staff requested approval of the 2027 tax levy, which was the first of two resolutions that would set the 2027 budget for Metro Transit. The tax levy and budget approval must be completed by September 30 of each year as a Nebraska Statutory requirement; failure to do either would result in Metro not operating the following year. Mr. Clingman noted that the tax levy accounts for about 60% of Metro Transit's annual revenue. The proposed 2027 tax levy maintained the 10 mills with a total revenue of $58,740,357.25. This resolution was recommended to the Board for approval.

Public Comment
There were none.

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Padilla

Board Discussion
There was none.
ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #8: Resolution 2026-29: Request Approval of the Proposed 2027 Annual Budget (W. Clingman)

Staff requested approval of a resolution to adopt the 2027 annual budget. The total disbursements and transfers for the 2027 budget are $99,958,663.68, which is an increase of 5.35% from the 2026 approved budget.

This increase for 2027 will allow for:

- A 10% service level increase by the end of 2027 when compared to current service levels.
- An increase in facilities staff to expand bus cleaning to 6 days a week instead of the current 5.
- An increase in capital expenditures when compared to the 2026 budget. The 2027 proposed budget is $22,374,955, which is an increase of 11% versus the 2026 approved budget.

The revenue for 2027 is $97,609,107.54 which is a decrease of 1% from the 2026 approved budget.

Proposed revenues for 2027 can be summarized as follows (a text description follows the table):

Item	Revenue Total
Fares	3,968,131.71
Tax Levy	58,198,011.84
Federal	32,595,964.00
State	200,000.00
Other	2,647,000.00
Total	**$97,609,107.55**

Text description of table: The first column is a list of revenue items. The second column is revenue total. Proposed revenue totals by item include: $3,968,131.71 from fares, $58,198,011.84 from the tax levy, $32,595,964.00 from federal, $200,000.00 from State, and $2,647,000.00 from Other. The total proposed revenue is $97,609,107.55.

The required public hearing for this budget was held at 6:30 pm on September 9, 2026.

Mr. Clingman shared that approval of this resolution would establish Metro Transit's budget for the state form and statutory requirements for the coming year. The proposed revenue is very similar to the revenue for 2026. This resolution was recommended to the Board for approval.

Public Comment
There were none.

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Williams

Board Discussion
Director Lonergan asked if the budget being voted on is the overall budget. Yes, Mr. Clingman responded; the second page shows what was published and matches what was presented during the public hearing on September 9. He noted that the Board statutorily approves the expenditure amount for the entire entity for the coming year.

Director Simon commented that entirety of the board was present for the budget hearing on September 9th and that the Board has been well briefed on this year's budget.

There were no further questions or discussion.

ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

Agenda Item #9: Resolution 2026-30: Request Approval of the Renewal with Cubic Transportation Systems, Inc. (W. Clingman)

Staff requested approval of the renewal with Cubic Transportation Systems, Inc. to November 9, 2027. Mr. Clingman shared that the major change is an increase to $65 per vehicle per month over the current $55, the Umo cards maintain the cost of $3.50 each. Staff estimate the cost will fluctuate by approximately $120,000 a year to maintain the service. This resolution was recommended to the Board for approval.

Public Comment
There were none.

Motioned by Lonergan; Seconded by Williams

Board Discussion
Director Simon asked whether there are changes for the public in the contract. Mr. Clingman said no, the contract extension maintains the existing service with the cost per vehicle increased from $55 to $65 per month.

Director Corrigan shared that Umo has been great as a rider and that it is very convenient to use his phone. He suggested that after this contract period it would be useful for Metro Transit to look at more uses of the technology, such as being able to tap a debit card and board to remove even more friction. Ms. Cencic shared that Metro Transit has aging fare boxes and is using two fare systems, so staff are having early conversations about combining fare systems and that she would be happy to work with the Board, especially the Operations Committee, on that exploration of functionality.

There were no further questions or discussion.

ROLL CALL: UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIES

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

Director Simon thanked the TAC committee for their commitment and said it was encouraging to see the very well attended meeting. He stated appreciation that a report from a TAC representative is on the monthly Board agenda.

Director Simon enjoyed hearing about the retiring employees from Mr. Grant and suggested adding retirees to the monthly report, if relevant.

Agenda Item #11: Date, Time, and Place of Next Board Meeting

Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.
Authority's Administrative Building

Agenda Item #12: Tentative Resolutions for October

- 24th Street Transit Corridor Study
- Change the Date of the Next Board Meeting

Agenda Item #13: Adjournment at 9:00 a.m.

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

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Curt Simon, Board Chair

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Selina Perry, Board Secretary