

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
1/3/2025

I. Call to Order:

Board Chair, John Waltman, called the January 3, 2025 meeting of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority Board to order at 10:30 a.m.

II. Roll Call was taken:

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Waltman, Brandon Wheeler and Lynda Garlitz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nick Huyck (excused), Joe Henne (excused)

III. Pledge of Allegiance:

Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

IV. Agenda: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Brandon Wheeler SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Approve the January 3, 2025 agenda, as presented
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V. Public Comment:

- Lori Miller
- Burt Menard

VI. Minutes: Discussion; It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Brandon Wheeler	Approve the December 3, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
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VII. Finance Director Report:

- Ms. Gordon discussed the A/P and EFT transfers for November 2024.
- Resolution of Intent FY2026 annual application for MDOT. This is due February 1 of each year. Resolution of Intent is completed to obtain funding. Ms. Gordon explained the federal funding is for bussing and state funding is for bussing and ferry. Local funds are the fares and appropriations. Estimated expenses are over 5.4 million with a balanced budget with the securing of this funding. Resolution of Intent FY2026. Discussion. It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Brandon Wheeler SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Approve Resolution of Intent for FY2026 Annual Application.
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- The audit should be complete in February and presentation on the audit will be at the March meeting.
- EUPTA took delivery on November 5, 2024 of an Equinox for Non-Emergent Medical Transportation. This was bid out and then purchased with grant funding. There were zero local funds for this purchase.
- FY24 Bussing: The LBO (local bus operating) percentage fluctuates from year to year. In 2024, there was a one-time bump which increased our reimbursement rate to 40%. The 2025 rate is 35.085% we have been told for FY2026 to plan on only 30%. EUPTA does not have a millage for bussing, which many agencies in the state do. We rely on NEMT. We may have to review contract rates for 2026, as there will be a 10% decrease in funding from MDOT. Our state association, MPTA, are working diligently to get this rate raised with the legislature. Ms. Gordon reviewed graphs; bussing fares and passengers are down slightly from the previous year.
- Ferries: Fares and vehicles are up 3% and passengers are slightly down by 1%
- There was a decrease in funding for the ferries ~~money~~ as we no longer receive ARPA funding.
- We receive federal operating for bussing, but there is no federal operating funding for the ferries.

VIII. Director's Report:

- We are one board member down today. Regrettably, Mr. Huyck will not seek re-election for the board.
- TSA was here on December 16, 2024. This is part one of a three-part assessment. They planted some foreign book bags on busses. Our drivers conduct a pre-trip check and found the bags. They will be coming back on January 16th and a debriefing and training will happen.
- Monday – Wednesday mechanic and captains will be going to Great Lakes Captains Association in Traverse City. Various seminars including safety, NOAA, EV fires on ferries, just to name a few agenda items. Year in review with operators and USCG.
- We purchased a snow box for the backhoe.
- We are working with mechanics and captain for specifications for D3 dry-docking in the spring. We will be sending solicitations before end of January for D5 Naval Architect contract.

IX. New Business

- Chippewa County Board Resolution: Resolution accepted by Chippewa County Board of Commissioners. Final version same as draft version. It was moved and carried by unanimous vote to request 1.5 – 3 million dollars in a three-year period from Michigan Legislature for EUPTA operation expenses . Looking for our board to also accept this resolution. Discussion.

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Brandon Wheeler	Accept resolution as Chippewa County Board of Commissioner Resolution as presented.
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- X. Board Comment:
- Lynda Garlitz
 - John Waltman
 - Brandon Wheeler

XI. Adjourn: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote to:

MOTION: Brandon Wheeler	Adjourn the meeting at 10:56 AM
SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	


Lynda Garlitz, Secretary



Bonnie Kaunisto, Recording Secretary

Board Approved: