

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Approved Minutes of the January 18, 2023,
STA Board Meeting
1230 W Boone Ave., Spokane
with a Webex Video Conference Option

MEMBERS PRESENT

Al French, Spokane County, *Chair*
Betsy Wilkerson, City of Spokane
Chris Grover, Small Cities (Cheney) *Ex Officio*
Dan Dunne, Small Cities Representative (Liberty Lake)
Dan Sander, Small Cities (Millwood) *Ex Officio Virtual*
Hank Bynaker, Small Cities (Airway Heights) *Ex Officio*
Josh Kerns, Spokane County *Virtual*
Kitty Klitzke, City of Spokane
Lance Speirs, Small Cities (Medical Lake) *Ex Officio*
Pamela Haley, City of Spokane Valley
Paul Dillon, City of Spokane (Alternate) *Virtual*
Tim Hattenburg, City of Spokane Valley
Zack Zappone, City of Spokane
Rhonda Bowers, Labor Representative, Non-Voting

STAFF PRESENT

E. Susan Meyer, Chief Executive Officer
Brandon Rapez-Betty, Chief Operations Officer
Carly Cortright, Chief Communications & Customer
Service Officer
Karl Otterstrom, Chief Planning & Development Officer
Monique Liard, Chief Financial Officer *Virtual*
Nancy Williams, Chief Human Resources Officer
Dana Infalt, Clerk of the Authority

PROVIDING LEGAL COUNSEL

Megan Clark, Etter, McMahon, Lamberson, Van
Wert and Oreskovich, P.C.
Michael Connelly, Etter, McMahon,
Lamberson, Van Wert and Oreskovich, P.C.

1. Call To Order and Roll Call

Chair French called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and conducted Roll call.

2. Approve Board Agenda

Chair French requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Ms. Haley moved to approve the December Board Agenda. Mr. Dunne seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Expressions

Mr. Erik Lowe submitted a written expression which was distributed to Board members. He also appeared in person to read his expression.

Mr. Zappone asked about a letter submitted by Mayor Brown. He reported it was for the entire Board but had been sent at 1:04 PM to Smeyer@spokanetransit.com. Ms. Meyer advised she had not seen the letter. Mr. Zappone said he would forward it to the Clerk for distribution.

4. Public Hearing

A. 2024 Service Revisions: Draft Recommendation

Mr. Otterstrom advised the proposed service revisions aim to adhere to the principles and goals included in guiding documents Connect Spokane, STA Moving Forward, and the 2021 Near Term Investments (Board Resolution No. 790-21). He gave details on the Service Improvement Program which is a subset of the 2024-2029 Transit Development Plan.

Mr. Otterstrom reviewed service growth estimates – annualized revenue hours, gave detail on the public outreach and implementation timeline, and the focus areas of the 2024 service revisions. He explained the draft recommendations for each route.

He noted the online survey was available on STA’s website from December 11 through January 10th and was advertised via on-board coach announcements and 466 signs with the URL to the survey posted at various stops and transit centers around the STA system.

Mr. Otterstrom offered to answer questions. Discussion ensued.

Chair French opened the public hearing for comments at 2:03 and called three times for comments. There were none. Chair French closed the public hearing at 2:04.

5. Recognitions & Presentations

A. 4th Quarter 2023 Years of Service

Ms. Williams presented, recognized, and congratulated employees with 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, and Mr. Robert Sutterlund was in person to receive recognition for his 25 years of service and a pin commemorating the achievement. The Board recognized and congratulated all employees and thanked them for their service. Mr. Sutterlund expressed his appreciation to STA and said how much he has enjoyed working here.

6. Board Action - Consent Agenda

Chair French asked for a motion on the Consent Agenda items. Mr. Zappone requested to amend the minutes and Ms. Wilkerson mentioned her reservations about approving 6F, the 2024 Interlocal Agreement with the City of Spokane.

Chair French removed Items 6A and 6F from the Consent Agenda and asked for a motion on items 6B through 6E.

Mr. Zappone moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 6B through 6E. Ms. Haley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

~~A. Minutes of the January 18, 2024, Board Meeting – Corrections/Approval~~

B. Approval of the following October 2023 Vouchers:

DESCRIPTION	VOUCHER/ACH NUMBERS	AMOUNT
Accounts Payable Vouchers (December)	Nos. 625022 – 625481	\$ 13,937,976.21
Worker’s Comp Vouchers (December)	ACH – 2286	\$ 154,518.95
Payroll 12/01/2023	ACH – 12/01/2023	\$ 2,022,758.94
Payroll 12/15/2023	ACH – 12/15/2023	\$ 2,861,521.27
Retention 12/15/2023	ACH – 12/15/2023	\$ 1,024,383.65
Payroll 12/29/2023	ACH – 12/29/2023	\$ 2,192,805.54
WA State – DOR (Excise Tax)	ACH – 1767	\$ 5,690.53
DECEMBER TOTAL		\$ 22,199,655.09

C. Acceptance of the contract with ATS for the Plaza Parking Garage Carbon Monoxide Sensors as complete and authorize release of retainage security subject to the receipt of such certificates and releases as are required by law.

D. Acceptance of the contracts as complete and authorize release of retainage security subject to receipt of Department of Labor & Industries approved prevailing wage affidavits.

E. Approval travel for up to eight Board members to attend APTA conferences in 2024.

~~F. Approve, by motion, the interlocal agreement with the City of Spokane for Spokane Police Department services as presented.~~

Following approval of Consent Agenda Items 6B through 6E, the Items 6A and 6F were reviewed individually by the Board.

Chair French advised for the record that Ms. Padden was on the phone.

- A. **Mr. Zappone made a motion to amend the Minutes of the December 21, 2023, Board Meeting – Corrections/Approval** He requested adding words to the minutes as it was not captured in the audio due to the technical difficulties that occurred at the beginning of the December Board meeting. Specifically, after roll call when they started discussing the chair and who would chair until the end of the year. He requested to summarize it to say: *Mr. Connelly advised the City of Spokane holds the chair seat until December 31st. Mr. Zappone asked why the City of Spokane was not notified before the meeting. Mr. Connelly said he notified Attorney Mike Piccolo. Mr. Zappone asked if Mr. French knew about this advice and Mr. French said he was aware.*

Ms. Wilkerson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair French advised he was open to a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Mr. Zappone moved to approve the amended minutes. Ms. Wilkerson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- G. Discussion was held regarding Agenda Item 6F, Interlocal Agreement with City of Spokane for Spokane Police Department Services and the fact that the Spokane City Council had not yet approved the interlocal agreement.

Chair French indicated he would be open to an amended motion to approve the 2024 Interlocal Agreement with the City of Spokane for Spokane Police Department services subject to the approval of the City of Spokane Council.

Ms. Wilkerson moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Spokane for Spokane Police Department services subject to the approval of the City of Spokane Council. Mr. Dunne seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Board Action – Other

- A. Election of Chair Pro Tempore

Chair French advised the City of Spokane Valley is the jurisdiction in the rotation for Chair Pro Tempore. He said it was discussed that Ms. Haley would serve as Chair Pro Tempore as Mr. Hattenburg had declined the position. Chair French indicated he was open to motion to a nomination.

Ms. Padden moved to nominate and approve Ms. Haley as Chair Pro Tempore. Mr. Zappone seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- B. Legislative Task Force Resolution: Approval

Ms. Clark provided background on the creation of the legislative task force and noted the Board Operations Committee had unanimously recommended having a Resolution presented for the formation of an ad hoc Legislative Task Force during the 2024 legislative session. The Resolution was provided in advance of the meeting in a final format and a redlined outline format which had been presented to Board Operations.

She reviewed the Resolution and explained the Exhibit to make sure everyone agreed with the content and format. She noted it would be effective immediately upon approval. Ms. Clark offered to answer questions.

Chair French asked if Ms. Clark had received any additional input since it was presented to Board Operations last week. Ms. Clark said she had not received any additional input. She noted the committee recommendation was to convert the outline to a resolution and present today. She reiterated that each jurisdiction would choose their representative to the task force.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Dunne made a motion to approve, by Resolution 817-24, the 2024 Legislative Task Force as presented. Mr. Dillon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Board Action – Committee Recommendations

Board Operations Committee

- A. Confirmation of Appointment of Board Members and Chairs to the Planning & Development and the Performance Monitoring and External Relations Committees for 2024.

Chair French outlined his recommendations for the committee structure for 2024 and offered rationale behind the recommendations.

Mr. Dunne moved to approve confirmation of the Board Chair's 2024 appointment of members to the Planning & Development and Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committees, and confirm Pam Haley, Spokane Valley, as Chair of the Planning & Development Committee and Josh Kerns, Spokane County, as Chair of the Performance Monitoring & External Relations. Ms. Haley seconded.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Bowers requested to be appointed to the Planning & Development Committee, suggesting an alternating schedule year by year. Chair French consulted legal counsel. Ms. Clark confirmed there is no prohibition to allowing Ms. Bowers to have a seat on the Planning & Development Committee but noted implementing an alternating annual appointment would be a change to the Committee Guidelines and Functions, and/or the Bylaws.

Chair French advised he was open to a motion to amend his recommendation to include Ms. Bowers on Planning & Development Committee instead of Performance Monitoring & External Relations.

Mr. Dunne moved to amend his motion to redirect Labor Representative from Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee to Planning & Development. Ms. Wilkerson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zappone had additional questions concerning committee appointments and the Board Operations Committee. Chair French noted his recommendations for Board Operations included the automatic appointment of the Chair of Board, Chair of P&D, and Chair of Performance Monitoring & External Relations. Additionally, he noted Mr. Dunne would represent Small Cities, and he recommended Ms. Klitzke as the non-voting member for the City of Spokane representation.

Ms. Klitzke respectfully declined the appointment.

Mr. Dillon said a board orientation and additional guidelines would be helpful for new board members and said he was curious of logic behind the member as non-voting.

Legal counsel suggested returning to the Committee member appointments before finalizing the Board Operations committee appointments.

Chair French said as Ms. Klitzke declined the appointment, he would recommend Ms. Wilkerson be the appointee to the Board Operations Committee.

At this time, Ms. Wilkerson mentioned a letter sent from the Mayor to the CEO prior to the meeting concerning representation and the importance of Board Operations Committee and the City of Spokane having a vote and expressed her desire to have it disseminated to everyone. She suggested Mr. Zappone or Mr. Dillon be appointed to Board Operations as a voting member. Ms. Wilkerson commented further to say the City of Spokane's concern is that of two voting representatives from the County and none from the city because it is disproportionate representation if the City of Spokane is not voting on the Board Operations Committee.

Mr. Zappone requested copies of the guidelines and functions. Ms. Clark clarified what the documents were named and when they were passed, and Mr. Grover mentioned it was summarized in the slides. Mr. Zappone asked to have it shared on the screen so he could see it.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Clark repeated that the structure requires members to vote on the Committee appointments first and then the remaining positions are open for discussion under the Board Operations committee appointments. She reiterated that we do not have Planning & Development or Performance Monitoring & External Relations appointments yet.

Mr. Zappone suggested eliminating one of the two voting members of Spokane County. He said Mr. Kerns could not be the Chair and Dan Dunne could be for P&D. He suggested Mayor Haley as the Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee Chair and himself for the Board Operations committee.

Ms. Clark said she did not want to conflate serving as a Committee Chair to a voting or non-voting member, clarifying those are two different things. Mr. Zappone said he thought it would solve the problem and asked if Chair French would be open to that suggestion.

Discussion ensued.

Chair French commented that Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee has been a challenge in the past year and noted Mayor Haley requested to not chair that committee this year which is why she was suggested to Planning & Development to give her a break from the controversy associated with Performance Monitoring & External Relations. Chair French asked Mr. Dunne if he wanted to serve on the Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee. Mr. Dunne said he would serve in whatever capacity is needed and would support either. Mr. Zappone requested placing Ms. Wilkerson on Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee and himself on Planning & Development Committee. Chair French said he would not support that due to the amount of work coming before Planning & Development and Mr. Zappone's desire try to control that committee. All that work would come back to the Board. He discussed alternative appointments and said he suggested moving Mr. Dunne to Chair of Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee and on Board Operations, Ms. Haley Chair Planning & Development and be on Board Operations, and have Mr. Kerns sit on P&D.

Ms. Wilkerson commented, respectfully, that Chair French's comment that Council Member Zappone wants to control was out of line. That was a personal comment in her opinion and any relationship between him and Mayor Haley was not relevant.

Mr. Kerns stated that over the last two weeks, Council President Wilkerson has suggested in Range articles that he or Chair French be removed from STA. Mr. Zappone just suggested Mr. Kerns be removed as Chair of a committee. Mr. Kerns stated that he takes those to be personal attacks as well.

Mr. Zappone said his suggestion was not personal towards Commissioner Kerns. Mr. Zappone said he has spent time reviewing the comprehensive plan and has ideas to share. He expressed concern that ideas are being shut out around the comprehensive plan. Mr. Zappone said he thinks it would save time and tension at Board meetings to have conversations at the committees. He said he thought Board meetings are dragging out because there hasn't been conversation at the committee level and didn't see anything of control there but thought it's about input and conversation and that is why he'd like to be on Planning & Development because there is important work there that he would like to represent there and believes the City of Spokane supports that representation, as well as Board Operations.

Chair French asked for additional comments.

Ms. Haley stated for the record, the reason she requested to be moved to Planning & Development is because the Performance Monitoring & External Relations meetings were running past the scheduled time which was conflicting with other obligations and that was why she requested to be moved to Planning & Development in the hope that she could be on a committee that only required the designated time.

Ms. Clark reminded the Chair of a motion on the floor.

Mr. Zappone made a motion to amend to appoint Mr. Zappone to Planning & Development and Ms. Wilkerson to Performance Monitoring & External Relations – and to appoint Mr. Dunne Chair of Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee and Mr. Hattenburg to P&D. Ms. Wilkerson seconded.

Mr. Dunne stated there was a motion on the floor. Chair French said there was a motion on the floor to accept the original recommendation. Now, we are dealing with the amendment. The amendment has been presented. He asked for comments. Brief discussion ensued.

Chair French repeated the amended motion was for Planning & Development to appoint Mayor Haley as Chair, Mr. Zappone, Mr. Hattenburg, Ms. Klitzke, and for Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee, appoint Mr. Dunne as Chair, Ms. Wilkerson, Mr. Kerns, and Mr. Dillon as voting members. He confirmed that was the amended motion.

Mr. Grover asked if Mayor Haley was okay with the City of Spokane Valley not having representation on Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee. Ms. Haley said she was not comfortable with Spokane Valley not being represented on Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee and suggested moving Mr. Hattenburg back to Performance Monitoring & External Relations.

Mr. Zappone asked to amend his motion. Chair French said Roberts' Rules does not allow a motion to be amended after it has been seconded. Once made and seconded, it belongs to the Board and must be voted on before making another motion.

Chair French called for the vote on the amended motion. Ms. Klitzke voted yes, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Zappone, Mr. Kerns, Ms. Padden, Ms. Haley, Mr. Dunne, Ms. Wilkerson voted no. The motion did not pass.

Mr. Zappone made an amended motion to address the Valley not being represented on Performance Monitoring & External Relations. He moved to appoint Mr. Kerns as Chair of Performance Monitoring & External Relations; Mr. Dunne be appointed to Planning & Development and Mr. Hattenburg be appointed to Performance Monitoring & External Relations Committee, Mr. Zappone be appointed to Planning & Development, and Ms. Wilkerson on Performance Monitoring & External Relations.

Chair French repeated the motion for clarity, Mr. Zappone offered to reword his motion. The Chair agreed.

Mr. Zappone reworded his amended motion to appoint Mr. Zappone to Planning & Development and Ms. Wilkerson to Performance Monitoring & External Relations.

Chair French confirmed the current motion would have Ms. Haley as Chair, Mr. Zappone, Mr. Dunne, Ms. Klitzke, Mr. Grover, Mr. Sander, Ms. Bowers, and Ms. Meyer on Planning & Development and Mr. Kerns as Chair, Ms. Wilkerson, Mr. Hattenburg, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Speirs, Mr. Bynaker, and Ms. Meyer on Performance Monitoring & External Relations.

Ms. Klitzke seconded.

Chair French called for the vote.

A roll call vote noted Ms. Wilkerson, Ms. Klitzke, Mr. Dunne, Mr. Kerns, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Zappone, and Chair French voted yes. Ms. Haley and Ms. Padden voted no. The motion passed 7 to 2.

Mr. Zappone moved to approve the motion as amended. Mr. Dunne seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Grover left the meeting at 3:15

B. Confirmation of Appointment of Board Members to Board Operations Committee

Chair French shared his recommended appointments – Chair French, Chair of Board, Ms. Haley Chair of Performance Monitoring & External Relations, Mr. Kerns, Chair of P&D, City of Spokane, Mr. Zappone, and Ms. Meyer, ex-officio.

Mr. Zappone moved to approve the Board Operations Committee representation as presented, with Mr. Kerns being the non-voting member. Mr. Dillon seconded. A roll call vote noted Ms. Wilkerson, Ms. Klitzke, Mr. Dunne, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Zappone, Ms. Haley, and Ms. Padden voted yes. Mr. Kerns and Chair French voted no. The motion passed 7 to 2.

9. Board Report

A. Connect 2035 Strategic Plan Phase 2 Update

Mr. Otterstrom provided a brief update of the Connect 2035 Strategic Plan. He reviewed the Goals, Phase 2 Desired Outcomes, Outreach, the website of staconnect2035.com, the Project schedule, and noted next steps include the February 15, 2024, Workshop to present and

gather feedback on fixed-route network assessment recommendations and concepts; gather input from the Board on guiding principles that will be used to evaluate and prioritize initiatives, and provide Board members with an overview of how the Connect 2035 initiatives list will be organized and developed.

He offered to answer questions. Ms. Wilkerson said she would be interested in seeing how many people he is interfacing with, stating that some of the meetings can be many people and some just two. Mr. Otterstrom advised he did not have that information at hand.

10. Board Operations Committee

A. Chair Report (*Al French*)

Chair French discussed the items covered at Board Operations which have also been addressed here today.

11. Planning & Development Committee – no January meeting

12. Performance Monitoring & External Relations– no January meeting

13. CEO Report

Ms. Meyer noted she had invited Sherry Little, Partner & Founder of Cardinal Infrastructure to provide an update on Federal. She offered a brief introduction to Sherry. We have applied to FTA to be in Project Development for Division BRT, which is the first step in getting into the pipeline for federal funding.

Ms. Little thanked everyone and introduced herself. Prior to representing STA, spent 15 years on capitol hill and ran the FTA for President Bush. She was providing 2023 highlights and describing our aspirations for 2024. She said 2023 was a good year, with many things to celebrate. From a federal perspective, it was notable in Spokane, DC, and the industry that, in a year with challenging COVID and supply chain, labor shortages, escalation in construction problems, this and one other capital investment project came in on or under budget. She stated this is not to be under-celebrated and was attributable to construction management on the part of the STA staff and team, with construction benchmarks established and recommended, contractors held accountable, and an atmosphere of ownership established for the community and STA to believe what the City Line was going to represent and the ridership it would develop. She said she had participated in a lot of projects and the person who was her successor at FTA said it was one of her highlights for the year. STA had the Governor and the Deputy Administrator from FTA at the City Line ribbon cutting. Ms. Little said we had a lot to celebrate in 2023 and the plan for 2024 looks good, as well. She said Division Street BRT is the successor project for City Line and has already been accepted into Project Development. She noted the FTA looks at the success of previous projects to determine investment in future projects. As we had a project come in under budget and been successful, they have accepted us into next phase of development. That is what we are focusing on for 2024. What does that look like for the STA Board? A concerted effort to duplicate what we have done for the past decade or more to focus on what this project does – which is right-sized for Spokane, and focusing on what we want to do for the next phase – participating industry events, highlighting Spokane events, relaying successes for City Line. Ms. Little said she was happy to provide a cheerful part of the meeting today and reiterated that we have a lot to celebrate with City Line and the next project, a culmination of many years of effort.

Ms. Meyer and Chair French thanked Ms. Little. Chair French offered anyone to ask questions and he reiterated STA was one of two agencies to deliver under budget in the country in 2023, which is important. Ms. Little agreed there is a lot to celebrate. The ridership and environmental benefits

from the federal perspective. Ms. Meyer reminded the \$92M project will come in \$10M under budget and thanked the Board for designating the local match to Division BRT, which was a selling point for funding at federal level.

Ms. Meyer reported on Ridership for Fixed Route, Zero-Fare Youth, Paratransit and Rideshare. December year to date FR is 31.2% increase month over month and 33.3% year-to-date. Zero Fare youth is subset of Fixed Route and it is 77.5% over December 2022; year to date 124.3% increase in ridership. Paratransit ridership increased 14.3% in December and has increased 16.2% year-to-date. Rideshare saw a decrease of 2.1% in December and a 5.6% year-to-date increase.

January 21st Service change brings City Line to 7.5 minute weekday peak frequency. As of January 16th, STA is at 96% of hiring goal of coach operators. There are fourteen other routes with new schedules, incorporating minor schedule adjustments.

Monthly Fare Revenue by type was reviewed and totaled \$6.84M in December 2023.

STA Sales Tax for December 2023 actual was \$9.659M against a budget of \$8.380M for a \$1.279M overbudget (15.3%). When compared to last year, it is slightly below December 2022.

A legislative update was discussed by Mr. Otterstrom concerning HB 2160 – promoting community and transit-oriented housing development. He provided details about the bill. Ms. Meyer discussed HB 2191 – a bill to add two voting members that are transit users to the governing body of public transportation benefit areas. Brief discussion ensued.

Initiative 2117 -reached the number of signatures required to go to ballot in November. It would repeal the Climate Commitment Act. From a transit perspective, it is part of the funding for Move Ahead Washington which supports \$3B in transit over a 16-year period, if eliminated, without additional legislative action, it would impact the \$50M grant for Division BRT, Annual Transit Support Grant for Zero Fare for Youth, as well as additional funding for special needs transportation.

Ms. Meyer welcomed new Board Members Mr. Lance Speirs, Ms. Kitty Klitzke, and Mr. Paul Dillon. She advised information about STA Board Orientation will follow.

She offered to answer questions. There were none.

14. Board Information

- A. Committee Minutes
- B. December 2023 Sales Tax Revenue
- C. November 2023 Financial Results Summary

15. New Business

Mr. Dillon was curious about rides to warming centers and appreciated STA doing that – from back end what is the training and notification look like for operators when that goes into effect and we heard of some folks not being able to get on the bus. He asked what would be a good place to put those citizen concerns and do some education and expressed his interest in additional information to share. Ms. Meyer restated STA’s commitment and communication to coach operators. Ms. Meyer encouraged reporting the time, day, and route where someone has been turned away to (509) 328-RIDE and STA can look at the video, or board members may communicate with Brandon Rapez-Betty directly. Mr. Rapez-Betty provided background and how STA aligns with City of Spokane for 32 degrees. An Operating Notice was issued on November 9th for coach operators to follow specific guidelines. Notifications are also posted, delivered by supervisors, and sent by automated messages, among other notification procedures.

Ms. Klitzke thanked everyone for working through the committee process.

Mr. Zappone requested training for the full board on governance and Chair suggested Board Operations Committee find a time to have a half-day retreat for everyone to receive training. He agreed it was critical that everyone understand this agency.

Mr. Dunne welcomed new members.

Ms. Wilkerson followed up on weather related incidents. She observed a gap with low income people who ride a bike or walk to work. She expressed concern for these people being able to get to work in the winter weather. She said she thinks it needs to be addressed, not only for this weather, but for all weather incidents. Meyer asked for clarification. Ms. Wilkerson mentioned the low-income working people who are unable to afford the bus fare and need to get to work, or their primary mode of transportation is a bicycle and they cannot ride a bike through the snow. She thought that gap under these inclement weather conditions was something to consider as an organization. Ms. Meyer said she was not exactly following but did say when someone tells a coach operator they are going to a warming center and do not have the fare, the operator will make an exception and the fare doesn't have to be paid. A discussion about a new fare type, which sounds like what Ms. Wilkerson is suggesting, is not within staff's purview to implement. A Board Discussion is what it sounds like you are recommending. Ms. Wilkerson agreed that she was recommending that.

16. Board Members' Expressions

Mr. Zappone said yesterday was a tough day on the road for everyone yesterday and wanted to thank everyone here. STA is critically important for everyone in the community, and he wanted to thank staff and operators.

17. Executive Session

Chair French advised that the Board would be going into Executive Session for the next 15 minutes. He also stated there would be no action taken as a result of the Executive Session and, therefore, the meeting would adjourn upon completion of the session. As such, the virtual option was ended so the Board members could hold the Executive Session in the same room.

At this time, the Board adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing, planning, or adopting the strategy or position to be taken during the course of ongoing collective bargaining.

After 15 minutes, legal counsel advised the Board would need five additional minutes.

After 5 minutes, the Board reconvened in open session.

18. Adjourn

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair French adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dana Infalt

Clerk of the Authority