SOUTH CENTRAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: June 17, 2026

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Reading / Virtual

PURPOSE: Regular Monthly Meeting

ATTENDANCE: Members: Jim Schlegel, June Wolf (virtual), Sandra Burke (virtual), Gail Landis, Jessica Jones (virtual), Joy Ashley, Timothy Snyder and Sally Blondet Mojica

Solicitor: Jill Nagy, Summers Nagy Law Offices

Staff: Greg Downing, Carl Albright, Keith Boatman (virtual), Laura Hopko (virtual), Dave Avery (virtual), Lauri Ahlskog (virtual) and Erika Gustus

Guests: Michael Golembiewski, County of Berks MPO (virtual), Mark Cassel (Virtual)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

   Mr. Schlegel called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

   Mr. Downing announced the appointment of Ms. Sally Blondet Mojica to the SCTA Board of Directors. Ms. Blondet Mojica introduced herself to the board and reviewed her background.

2. Changes to Agenda

   Mr. Downing asked Mr. Schlegel to call for a motion to approve the addition of Resolution 13-2026 (Replacement of Garage Equipment at the BTC) to the agenda as the last item under New Business. Mr. Schlegel requested the motion as stated.

   Upon motion by Ms. Ashley, seconded by Ms. Jones, the Board approved the amendment of the agenda to include Resolution 13-2026 for the replacement of garage equipment at the BTC.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

   None

4. Approval of Minutes from the May 20, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Upon motion by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Ms. Burke, the Board approved the May 20, 2026 Regular Board Meeting minutes.

5. Bills and Communications

   None

6. Reports of Committees

   A. Personnel Committee

      Ms. Burke stated that the remaining candidates to replace Mr. Delgadillo as the Director of Maintenance position in Lancaster were entering into their final interviews. Ms. Burke asked Mr. Downing if there was a timeline for making a decision, Mr. Downing responded that he was expecting to make a decision by the end of next week.

   B. Operations Committee – The monthly Performance Report for May is included in the packet.

      Mr. Downing noted that there was a decrease in the complaints with nine (9) in Lancaster and ten (10) in Reading.

   C. Finance Committee – The monthly Procurement Report for May is included in the packet.

      Mr. Snyder stated that the item on the report is a change order pertaining to the BTC Renovations. Mr. Downing explained that a design change was required and necessitated the change order. At. Mr. Schlegel's request, Mr. Dowing reviewed the parameters of the Procurement Report for Ms. Blondet Mojica.

   D. Marketing Committee – The monthly Marketing Report for May/June is included in the packet.

      Mr. Downing reviewed the Bus to the Market event, noting that it would be done once a month throughout the summer. Further, he stated that the Authority continues its presence at the senior events.

   Upon motion by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Ms. Ashley, the Board approved the Committee Reports.

7. Old Business

   A. **Approval of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Reading Capital Program of Projects** - A copy of the proposed capital budget for FY 2026-2027 was submitted in the May board packet for review. The Program of Projects proposes how SCTA will utilize the federal funding apportioned to the Reading urbanized area for transit related projects. A public hearing on the Program of Projects was held on Monday, June

15th. A summary of the results of the public hearing was presented at the meeting. Staff recommends approval.

Upon motion by Ms. Wolf, seconded by Ms. Burke, the Board approved the Reading Capital Program of Projects for fiscal year 2026-2027.

B. **Draft of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Operating Budget** - A copy of the proposed operating budget for FY 2026-2027 was included in the board packet for review. The budget highlights Lancaster Microtransit Service pilot and time adjustments needed for improved fixed route service, technology updates and funding for a new shared ride contract. Approval will be sought at the July Board Meeting. No action was required at this time.

8. New Business

A. **Resolution 10-2026 Award of Design, Engineering & Construction Management Services for the Lancaster Operations Center Renovation -** Proposals were received from eleven (11) Engineering and Design firms for the renovation of the administrative offices, dispatch area, driver breakroom and shop bay. Chris Dawson Architect, Harrisburg, PA, submitted a proposal that ranked highest based on the evaluation criteria described in the Request for Proposal. A Cost proposal was received on June 5, 2026 in the amount of $277,000. Staff recommends approval.

Mr. Downing clarified that this cost was separate from construction costs. Ms. Jones asked Mr. Downing to clarify the scope of work involved with the project, Mr. Downing reviewed the areas that will be covered by the project including the break area, dispatch area and shop bay.

Ms. Nagy requested that the stipulation 'subject to negotiations' be added to the motion for approval citing contract concerns. Mr. Schlegel added the stipulation as requested to his call for a motion.

Upon motion by Ms. Landis, seconded by Ms. Ashley, the Board approved the award of design, engineering and construction management services to Chris Dawson Architect, Harrisburg, PA subject to negotiation.

B. **Resolution 11-2026, Purchase Eight (8) Shared Ride Vans for Reading -** This purchase will replace eight (8) 2022 Ford shared ride vans in Reading that at the time of delivery will be beyond their useful service life. The award is to Coach & Equipment Bus Sales who has the statewide contract for these vehicles at unit price

of $146,395.75 or $1,171,166 for the eight (8) vehicles. SCTA has capital funds from FTA and PennDOT for this purchase. Staff recommends approval.

Upon motion by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Ms. Burke, the Board approved the purchase of eight (8) Shared Ride vans for Reading from Coach & Equipment Bus Sales

C. **Resolution 12-2026, Purchase Eighteen (18) Shared Ride Vans for Lancaster** - This purchase will replace eighteen (18) 2022 Ford shared ride vans in Lancaster that at the time of delivery will be beyond their useful service life. The award is to Coach & Equipment Bus Sales who has the statewide contract for these vehicles at unit price of $146,270 or $2,632,860 for the eighteen (18) vehicles. SCTA has capital funds from FTA and PADOT for this purchase. Staff recommends approval.

Mr. Downing noted that the difference in cost per vehicle is due to the branding of the buses being more complex for BARTA.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Ms. Wolf, the Board approved the purchase of eighteen (18) Shared Ride vans for Lancaster from Coach & Equipment Bus Sales.

D. **Shared Ride Fare Increase Notification and Comments - Lancaster** - Public comments regarding the announcement of a shared ride fare increase will be received June 9th through July 6th, 2026. A public hearing was held on June 30th 4pm – 6pm in Lancaster for in-person and virtual comments about the fare increase. Included in this board packet is the fare increase chart approved by PennDOT and details of the fare increase were shared at the June 11th Advisory Committee meeting as well. No action was required at this time.

Mr. Schlegel asked for clarification on when the last increase was made to the fares, Mr. Downing clarified that the last increase was in 2017.

Ms. Burke inquired what percentage increase this would be over the current rates. Mr. Downing responded that the increase would be approximately 20%. To clarify, he went on to state that the average customer would see an increase between $.45 and just under $2.00 per trip for rides over 50 miles. He also noted that these increases were the same for Reading and Lancaster.

Ms. Landis noted that other authorities are increasing their fares as well. Mr. Downing stated that SCTA fares would still be lower than many other authorities

after this increase and that legislators encouraged and sought authorities to increase fares on the consumers using the service before asking for additional funding.

Ms. Ashley asked if increases could be passed on more incrementally rather than large percentages after a considerable amount of time. Mr. Downing responded that there had not previously been a set schedule to increase fares but that PennDOT had a recommendation of increasing them as needed every three (3) years.

E. **Shared Ride Fare Increase Notification and Comments - Reading** - Public comments regarding the announcement of a shared ride fare increase will be received June 9th through July 6th, 2026. A public hearing was held July 1st, 4pm – 6pm in Reading for in-person and virtual comments about the fare increase. Included in this board packet is the fare increase chart approved by PADOT and details of the fare increase were shared at the June 11th Advisory Committee meeting as well. No action was required at this time.

F. **Proposed RRTA Route and Schedule Changes** - A copy of the proposed RRTA Rider Alert will be presented at the board meeting. The proposed changes are mainly focused on improving on-time performance and route adjustments because of road construction. A public hearing is scheduled for July 13th, 2026 to solicit comments. No action was required at this time.

G. **Approval of May Operating Statement** - For the month of May, ridership in Lancaster showed a 9.5% increase with fixed route showing a 10% increase and shared ride showing a 6.2% increase. For Reading, ridership showed a 6.6% decrease with fixed route showing a 7.1% decrease and shared ride showing no change. Total ridership was 279,814 for fixed route and 32,990 for shared ride for a total for the month of May of 312,804 rides compared to 314,889 rides last May, for an overall decrease of .7%.

Financially for May 2026, Lancaster recorded $533,983 in operating revenue combined with operating grants of $1,055,132 for total revenue of $1,589,115 against total expenses of $1,736,636. For Reading, operating revenues of $529,703 combined with operating grants of $1,227,747 for total revenue of $1,757,450 against expenses of $1,965,635. For the eleventh month of the fiscal year, operating revenue was at 82% of the projected budget and operating grants

were 106% for total revenue of 97% of the projected budget compared to expenses at 96% of projected budget.

Upon motion by Ms. Wolf, seconded by Ms. Landis, the Board approved the April Operating statement, subject to audit.

H. Resolution 13-2026, Replacement of Garage Equipment at BTC – Authorization for the replacement and upgrade of the parking equipment garage equipment for the BARTA Transportation Center and Park-N-Transit parking garages. The system currently in place for taking credit card payments can no longer be upgraded and only one reader is operational. A proposal has been received from PSX in the amount of $189,349 to replace the existing system. Funds have already been allocated for this project and it was scheduled for the beginning of the next fiscal year but must be started earlier due to its state of disrepair.

Mr. Schlegel asked for clarification that this was both for the BTC garage and the one at Saucony Creek, Mr. Downing confirmed.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Snyder, the Board approved the replacement of garage equipment.

9. Public Comment

None

10. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the public meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM upon motion by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Ms. Landis.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail A Landis

Gail Landis

Secretary