



**Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes
April 17th, 2025**

Members Present: Hattie Burns, Carolyn Gause, James Jackson, Yolonda Dupree, Tom Ewart, Vivian Rogers

Members Web Viewing/Absent: George Jebaily, Belva Britt, Tyron Jones, Judy Alexander, Rebecca Gamble

Staff Present: Don Strickland, Ania Dixon, David Adorno, Rachel McMillian

A. Hattie Burns called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

B. Invocation – Yolonda Dupree

C. Approval of the Agenda:

Agenda – motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved.

D. Approval of the Minutes:

March 18th, 2025, meeting minutes – motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved.

E. Public Comments:

None.

F. Operations Report:

David Adorno, Director of Operations, shared the March Operations Reports. There have been some changes in the workforce transportation. The Ruiz foods workforce will not be renewed and will run until March 25th, however, there are other contracts in the pipeline and potential partnerships, such as MUSC, AESC, and others. This month showed an increase in transportation since the last couple of months due to less inclement weather and there was a 7.1% overall increase from this time last year. Year to date, we are at 23,000 trips. We have a class of new drivers and dispatchers that should be ready in the next couple of weeks.

G. Executive Director Report:

Don Strickland, Executive Director, shared the Executive Director Report but saved his comments for the Director's Comments portion of the meeting.

H. HR Report & Newsletter

Ania Dixon, HR Director, shared the HR Report and Newsletter. We ended the month of March with 68 employees. There were three terminations and three new hires. The turnover rate is similar to what it was this time last year. Ania attended two job fairs in the past month. PDRTA is looking for another mechanic, a deputy maintenance manager, drivers, a transportation supervisor, dispatchers, and a finance manager.

The newsletter included highlights for the new employees, employee birthdays, current job postings, pictures from the TASC Roadeo, and information from the employee assistance program.

I. PIO Update

Don shared the PIO update. There has been a focus on outreach efforts and several advertising agreement opportunities. Harbor Freight is doing a wrap and ALFA will be wrapping two buses. Lauren Leonard, Public Information Officer, visited the transit center with Briston Gerrald, marketing intern, to gather 6-7 rider interviews and discuss opportunities and needs.

J. Finance Report

Don shared the Finance report. Operating revenue is at 75% for this quarter. This is somewhat due to service reductions. Grant revenue will likely see a spike once the state makes announcements for some facility and infrastructure opportunities. Total revenue is 67% for the quarter. We have not replaced any buses in the past six to nine months, although there is a need for a local auction as some vehicles have met their useful life. Operating expenses for salaries are at 88% for this quarter. Overtime figures should drop as a new batch of drivers come in. Overall Operating Expense at is 93% for this quarter. Administrative expenses are at 85% for this quarter.

K. Committee Reports

Don shared that with the new year approaching, new committee assignments will be made. Don advocated for the addition of different committees to what we currently have, such as a passenger ambassador committee.

L. Old Business

a. APTA International Bus Roadeo

We had five drivers compete in the TASC Bus Roadeo this past month in Columbia. Mitch Brantley won first place in the Heavy-Duty Bus competition and Veronica Bostic won first place in the Cutaway competition. Our maintenance team won third place in their competition. Mitch then competed in Austin, Texas for the APTA International Bus Roadeo. Veronic will compete in the CTAA Bus Roadeo in San, Diego California in June. We are very proud of how well our drivers and maintenance team represented PDRTA.

b. Budget

Don shared that we are still pushing for a sales/transportation tax and registration fees as sustainable funding options. Local governments are beginning to step up and push the

needle in the right direction. We will have a draft budget for the May meeting for the finance committee to review for approval at the June meeting.

c. Florence Transit Center Rehab

Don shared that the Florence Transit Center is being renovated to include more office space and an area for training inside. HVAC will be added, and the bays will be removed to accommodate these changes. This project will be budget friendly as our long-term goal is the Intermodal Center.

d. Senate Bill S.399 Transit Trespass

Don shared that there is currently no legislation at the state level for trespass for public transit. There is an issue with people loitering at the transit center and, while they can be removed, there is nothing to stop them from coming back. The S.399 Transit Trespass Bill will address these issues. It will go to the Senate and then the House for approval. If approved, it will allow PDRTA to enforce trespassing which will protect both drivers and passengers.

M. New Business

a. Approval of Lapsing 5307 Grant Application – VOTE

Lapsing 5307 Grant Application was motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved.

b. Approval of Annual 5307 Application FY23-24 – VOTE

Annual 5307 Application FY23-24 was motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved.

c. Approval of Annual 5322 Application FY25-26 – VOTE

Annual 5322 Application FY25-26 was motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved.

d. Approval of Pee Dee Region Private-Public Foundation Grants – VOTE

Pee Dee Region Private-Public Foundation Grants was motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved.

e. State Oath of Office

Don shared that this Bill was still on the floor and receiving lots of push back. Currently, it would require Board members to file state ethics. As of now, it is unclear whether the bill was pass as is or be revised.

f. TASC Conference

Don shared that this year's annual TASC Conference will be August 19-21 in Myrtle Beach. Don is the current President of TASC, however, a new president will be elected in July.

g. APTA Legislative Event Washington, DC – VOTE

Don shared that since he will be travelling out of state for this event, he would need Board approval. He will attend this event to push for additional funding.

The APTA Legislative Event was motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved.

h. SCAPA Conference Presentation – Transit Study

The FLATS Transit Study was invited to be presented at the 2026 SCAPA Conference.

i. CTAA Bus Roadeo June 1, 2025 San Diego

Veronica Bostic will be competing nationally at the CTAA Bus Roadeo with David Adorno, Director of Operations, joining her. Lauren Leonard will be working on a sponsorship opportunity to help support this event.

j. PDRTA Authorizing Resolution

Ania shared the policy update. The update was a change in language from “drivers, dispatchers, and mechanics” to “non-exempt employees.”

Policy #315 Leave – Addendum was motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved.

N. Executive Session:

An executive session was held.

O. Action Taken from Executive Session:

None.

P. Executive Director’s Comments:

Don shared that PDRTA is in the middle of budget season and there have been many discussions with local governments and municipalities about the need for funding. PDRTA has great funding support from local partners, however, more sustainable funding is needed to maintain and expand services. There may also be some route changes due to ridership levels. Funding will be reallocated within the same areas of the route changes.

Q. Chairwoman’s Comments:

Chairwoman Hattie Burns thanked everyone on the Board and staff for their hard work, congratulated Mitch Brantley and Veronica Bostic, and thanked Neil Jackson for joining the meeting.

R. Adjournment:

Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:41 pm.

Respectively submitted,



Don Strickland
Executive Director