

BATA Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Location: Hall St. Transfer Station, 115 Hall St. Traverse City, MI

Date/Time: Immediately following BATA Org. Meeting, Thursday, January 22, 2026

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Schmidt at 1:18 PM.

2. Roll Call

- John Sommavilla - PRESENT
- Lance Boehmer – PRESENT
- Gwenne Allgaier – PRESENT
- Fern Spence – ABSENT
- Sarah Bye - PRESENT
- Wayne Schmidt - PRESENT

3. First Public Comment*

Dana Pfughoeft from TART Trails addressed the Board regarding the Tax Increment Financing (TIF). Dana came in full support of East Bay Township's efforts to secure the Corridor Improvement Plan (TIF). This corridor improvement will ensure that future growth can be reinvested in sidewalks, crossings, better signage, wayfinding and other safety improvements. Dana would like to encourage the BATA Board to support this effort as well.

4. Approval of Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest

5. Consent Calendar

The purpose of the consent calendar is to expedite business by grouping non-controversial items together to be dealt with in one Board motion without discussion. Any member of the Board, staff, or the public may ask that any item on the consent calendar be removed and placed elsewhere on the agenda for full discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected. If an item is not removed from the consent calendar, the action noted in parentheses on the agenda is approved by a single Board action adopting the consent calendar.

Consideration of Approving the Following

- a. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2025

Consideration of Accepting the Following Reports

- b. LAC Minutes from January 13, 2026

- c. FY26 Q1 Ridership Report
- d. FY26 Q1 Turnover Report
- e. Correspondence – Staff Compliments
- f. BATA Board Tracker

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Gwenne Allgaier to approve the January 22, 2026, Regular Board Meeting, Consent Calendar as presented.

- **Ayes:5**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 5-0**

6. Any items removed from the consent calendar.

No items were removed from the Consent Calendar.

7. Executive Director's Report – Chris Davis

Chris informed the Board that she met with MPTA Executive Director John Dulmes. Mr. Dulmes visited the new BATA HQ and was given a tour. Chris participated in a Zoom meeting with other urban operators including Ann Arbor, Grand rapids, Muskegon, Flint, and Battle Creek. Staff met with Masabi staff regarding a contract with them and signed it. Chris participated in the Executive Group luncheon this month, that was held at TC Tourism. Attended the photoshoot for non-profit winner TC Paws at Image360. The photoshoot featured TC Paws free bus ad. Chris gave a shoutout to BATA staff on the tremendous job everyone has been doing navigating this year's winter weather. BATA did have a pause in service but no cancellations. BATA provided rescue rides to riders that needed them. Chris reported that BATA gave over 500k rides in 2025!

8. Chairperson's Report

No report given at this time.

9. FY26 Q1 Finance Reports

a. Income Statement

Key Points Include:

- Contract with GTI billed in November. Using actual hours on Agency routes. Billing will now be a month later than last year.
- Big advertising contracts are being executed.
- Investments averaging 3.9473%
- The budget reflects the new propane contract price, which is \$0.29 less per gallon for FY26.

b. Operating Reserve Fund

Key Points Include:

- Earned \$35,252.00 bringing the total Michigan class to \$3,451,960

c. Capital Reserve Fund

Key Points Include:

- Interest income \$86,280.00
- One pending transaction of \$27,000

d. New Facility Reserve Fund

Key Points Include:

- Still have a couple outstanding project payments that need to be transferred over. Once the projects have been completed, further discussion will take place for the remaining funds.

e. Net Position

Key Points Include:

- Interest earned averaging 3.9473%
- State reimburses based on revised budget. Adjusted to state share of eligible operating expenses. Positive represents amount due from MDOT.
- FY25 Summer delinquent taxes based on taxable calculations.
- Potential adjustment to net pension liability once the auditors do all the final calculations.

Moved by John Somnavilla and supported by Lance Boehmer to accept the FY26 Q1 Finance Report as presented.

- **Ayes: 5**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 5-0**

10. Old Business

No old business at this time.

11. New Business

a. TIF/Development Plan – Guest speaker Claire Karner

The Acme corridor or U.S. 31 Beach District has been identified as a high priority corridor. Many safety concerns have been identified within this area, high traffic, it also has an incredibly high density of land uses. There are many hotels, condos, retail, long term residential, restaurants, parks, TART trail and more.

Some of the opportunities in this area include:

- Fixed bus route
- Lake Michigan Shoreline
- Locally owned businesses
- Non- motorized trail
- Business owner enthusiasm and engagement.

East Bay has adopted a plan that includes:

- 2 Federal Grants have supported all outreach and activities undertaken to date.
- Engaged with more than 700 residents in surveys, design charrette, public open houses, stakeholder meetings and interviews.

- Great feedback was received through open houses. Including safe crossings, traffic management, and park development.

Development plan and Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

- Existing revenue is protected.
- With no tax increase, property owners inside and outside district will see no change in their tax rate or annual bill.
- No growth, no capture. If development does not occur, no TIF revenue is generated.
- Time limited. After 20-year TIF period, all increased taxable values are fully returned to all taxing jurisdictions, including BATA

Items within the corridor that will benefit BATA include:

- Funding for Bayline improvements
- Safety improvements for new sidewalks and safe crossings for transit riders.
- Increased ridership and fare revenue

b. FY27 Preliminary Budget and Resolution of Intent

Key Points Include:

- For FY27 the reimbursement rate is 33.18% which is a 1 ¼ percent reduction. This has been calculated into eligible expenses.
- This is the last year for the current millage. Calculated 1.5% rollback.
- Contract with GTI now calculated on real hours.
- Now that we are reporting directly to FTA, we have the opportunity to earn additional funding.
- Labor and benefits make up 88% of the budget.

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Sarah Bye to approve the FY 2027 Preliminary Budget and Resolution of Intent for submission to MDOT as presented.

- **Ayes: 5**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 5-0**

c. FY27 Vehicle Accessibility Plan (VAP)

Key Points Include:

- The vehicle accessibility shows we are providing accessibility to individuals with disabilities as well as seniors.
- The VAP is required to be updated every year and brought to the attention of the Local Advisory Committee and then brought to the attention of the Board of Directors.

Moved by Sarah Bye and supported by Gwenne Allgaier to approve the FY27 Vehicle Accessibility Plan for submission to MDOT as presented.

- **Ayes: 5**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 5-0**

d. The Governance Committee – HR Partners

Original Motion - The Governance Committee has recommended that we hire Human Resource Partners to assist and evaluate in the search process for the Executive Director of BATA.

Discussion about motion that was presented -

Lance Boehmer asked what the non-exceed number is and do we have an idea on budget?

Wayne Schmidt answered – It was to reach out and talk with them. We don't have a number set in mind, it's just to reach out and talk with and get a request for proposal from them.

Sarah Bye asked Chris Davis if she applied and if she was interested in the position.

Chris Davis answered yes, she has applied for the position.

Wayne Schmidt responded that is part of the reason why.

Lance Boehmer responded that it takes it out of our hands.

Wayne Schmidt stated for disclosure that he will recuse himself from the vote, because it is his sister-in-law's firm.

Board Recorder, Tracy Melville asked if they already have the proposal or are you looking to get a proposal. I want to make sure the verbiage is correct.

Lance Boehmer and Wayne Schimdt both responded that we are looking to get a proposal and this is just directing.

Fern Spence will be making contact with HR Partners.

Updated Motion:

Moved by John Somnavilla and supported by Lance Boehmer that the BATA Governance Committee move to obtain a proposal from Human Resource Partners to assist and evaluate in the search process for the Executive Director of BATA.

- **Ayes: 4**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Abstained: 1**
- **Motion Carries: 4-0**

12. Second Public Comment

No public comment was made at this time.

13. Director's Comments and Announcements/ Open Floor

Wayne Schmidt made an amendment to the agenda and added item 11d to new business. The item added was to discuss HR Partners.

14. Adjournment

Moved by Lance Boehmer to adjourn the January 22, 2026, Regular Meeting of the BATA Board of Directors at 2:15 PM. The next BATA Board meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2026 at 1:00 at Hall St.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: _____

Meeting Minutes Approved on: _____

Gwenne Allgaier, Secretary: 