



BATA Regular Meeting Agenda
115 Hall Street, Traverse City, MI 49684
Thursday, March 26, 2026

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
3. Roll Call
4. First Public Comment*
5. Approval of Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest
6. Consent Calendar
The purpose of the consent calendar is to expedite business by grouping noncontroversial 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 the parentheses on the agenda is approved by a single Board action adopting the consent calendar.

Consideration of Approving the following Minutes
 - a. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2026
Consideration of Accepting the following Reports
 - b. Monthly Income Statement
 - c. Correspondence – Staff Compliments
 - d. BATA Board Tracker
7. Any items removed from the Consent Calendar
8. Executive Director’s Report – Chris Davis
9. Chairperson’s Report
10. Governance Report
 - a. HR Partners Proposed Timeline

11. Old Business
No old business at this time.
12. New Business
 - a. New Fare System Update – Eric Lingaur
 - b. Millage Discussion
 - c. GMV
13. Second Public Comment*
14. Directors’ Comments and Announcement/Open Floor
15. Adjournment

*Public Comment:

Any interested party or person may address the board on any matter of BATA concern during public comment. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes, and a one-minute warning will be given when needed. Any public comment that becomes disruptive, unduly repetitive, or impedes the orderly progress of the meeting may be terminated by the presiding officer. Once you have completed your public comments the board may ask any clarifying questions. If needed, you will be assigned a member of BATA’s staff to follow up directly on any open concerns.

* The next BATA Board of Directors meeting is April 23, 2026

BATA Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date/Time: Thursday, February 26, 2026

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Schmidt at 1:01 PM.

2. Roll Call

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

3. First Public Comment*

Debra Laney introduced herself to the Board. Debra did tell the Board that she applied for the executive director position and was still waiting to hear back.

4. Approval of Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Fern Spence to approve the Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest as presented.

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

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. Organizational Board Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2026
- b. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2026

Consideration of Accepting the Following Reports

- c. Governance Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2026
- d. Monthly Income Statement
- e. Correspondence – Staff Compliments
- f. BATA Board Tracker

Moved by Gwenne Allgaier and supported by Fern Spence to approve the February 26, 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 the Governor's budget has been released. With additional funds being added to the Local Bus Operation Fund, that could result in a 2% increased reimbursement rate, which would be approximately \$270,000 for BATA next year. BATA is piloting a cloud-based camera system on one of the buses. This will be able to provide cloud-based storage and help improve accident avoidance and reporting. Chris reported the design phase of the new fare system has started. Some of the items that BATA is working through are elements like, fare pass type, transfers and fare capping. A formal update will be provided at the March 26th meeting. BATA has been working with Saginaw Transit and has set up an informational session at BATA headquarters on March 6th, to assist Saginaw Transit with obtaining a new facility. Chris informed the Board that she was to meet with Nate Alger and the Commission on Aging on collaboration of services, but unfortunately that meeting will need to be rescheduled. Chris received notification from BATA's insurance carrier that BATA's 2024/2025 auto audit from Travelers resulted in an \$8,307 return premium. Chris met with Catholic Human Services for expanded and improved employee assistance program for staff. Chris reported that Eric Lingaur and Bill Clark have been super busy out in the community, attending the TC West Mental Health Summit, sharing information with students on why transportation is an essential service for good mental health and well-being. Eric and Bill also attended NMC winter/spring semester new student orientations. They shared BATA information and worked with NMC's web team to update BATA info on their website.

8. Chairperson's Report

No report given at this time.

9. Governance Committee Update

- a. HR Partners Executive Director Search Proposal

Key Points Include:

- John Sommovilla reported that the Governance Committee met with Kate Greene of HR Partners, and the committee was able to ask questions in regard to her process and the proposal that was submitted.

- The Governance Committee made a recommendation to the full Board to hire Kate Greene's firm, HR Partners.

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Gwenne Allgaier to approve the hiring of HR Partners to perform the duties of the Executive Director, search as outlined in their proposal and for their work to begin immediately.

Roll Call Vote

- **Ayes: John Somnavilla, Lance Boehmer, Fern Spence, Gwenne Allgaier**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Abstain: Wayne Schmidt**
- **Motion Carries: 4-0**

b. Executive Director Qualities Discussion

The Board expressed interest in entering into closed session to discuss the qualities each member is seeking in the next Executive Director. However, it was noted that the Michigan Open Meetings Act does not permit closed sessions for this purpose. The Board agreed that members would instead submit their completed qualities worksheets to Tracy Melville, who will forward them to HR Partners.

10. Old Business

No old business at this time.

11. New Business

a. Cyber Security Training Update

Key Points Include:

- BATA implemented security awareness training in May 2025
- At the end of 2025 BATA educated and reduced our compromised rate from 9% to 1%
- Different types of cyber-attacks were discussed, such as phishing and smishing.

12. Second Public Comment

No public comment was made at this time.

13. Director's Comments and Announcements/ Open Floor

Fern Spence mentioned to the Board that county road commission is planning to opt out of the TIF at the Grand Traverse County Road Commission meeting this evening. TIF was scheduled to present to the road commission on May 19th. Fern asked if you are able to attend tonight's meeting and show your support for the TIF. Chris Davis mentioned that Bill Clark from BATA would be in attendance to show support.

Lance Boehmer mentioned that at the city commission meeting a discussion was held about State Street and whether to keep it as a two-way street or revert it back to a one-way street. At this time, there is not enough data to determine which would be more beneficial. More updates to follow.

14. Adjournment

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

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: _____

Meeting Minutes Approved on: _____

Gwenne Allgaier, Secretary: _____

BATA Income Statement February 2026

	February 2026		\$ Over (Under)	February 2025
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual
Income				
Fare Box Revenue	\$ 268,144	\$ 239,583	\$ 28,561	\$ 238,833
Local Service Contracts	148,493 1	232,680	(84,187)	173,020
Auxiliary Trans Revenue	190,345 2	99,417	90,928	94,316
Non-Trans Revenue	35	2,500	(2,465)	152,739
Local Revenue	1,360,730	1,656,529	(295,799)	1,212,556
State Formula & Contracts	1,941,031 3	1,754,360	186,672	2,033,683
Federal Operating Grants	1,066,094 4	1,045,400	20,694	1,016,548
Other Revenue	282,660 5	104,167	178,494	339,496
Refunds and Credits	53,190	20,833	32,356	4,555
Total Income	\$ 5,310,723	\$ 5,155,468	\$ 155,254	\$ 5,265,746
Expense				
Salaries & Wages	\$ 2,917,544	\$ 3,019,892	\$ (102,347)	\$ 2,934,103
Paid Leave	280,050	280,045	5	214,955
Fringe Benefits	945,983 6	901,586	44,398	865,580
Services	424,953 7	439,854	(14,900)	307,115
Fuel & Lubricants	205,374 8	247,417	(42,043)	248,459
Materials & Supplies	208,007 9	178,870	29,137	202,955
Utilities	94,497 10	142,945	(48,448)	117,859
Insurance	335,444	331,669	3,776	355,277
Misc Expense	39,584 11	26,670	12,914	37,123
Operating Leases & Rentals	600	750	(150)	2,083
Total Expense	\$ 5,452,037	\$ 5,569,697	\$ (117,660)	\$ 5,285,508
Net Income before Depreciation	\$ (141,315)	\$ (414,229)	\$ 272,914	\$ (19,762)
Depreciation	1,494,456	793,848	700,608	483,139
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (1,635,771)	\$ (1,208,077)	\$ (427,694)	\$ (502,901)

BATA Income Statement Notes
February 2026

	<u>Account(s)</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
	Revenue	Revenue
<u>1</u>	Local Service Contracts	Billing actual hours, revenues are one month later than in previous years.
<u>2</u>	Auxiliary Trans Revenue	Big advertising contracts executed
<u>3</u>	Local Revenues	Continue to receive millage funds, lower than expected as payments continue to come in later than normal from the municipalities
<u>4</u>	State Formula & Contracts	Actual based on eligible expenses thru February 2026, reimbursement rate of 34.8467% for FY26
<u>5</u>	Federal Operating	Based on current year expenses, requesting funds from FTA quarterly. Reimbursement rate of 18%.
<u>6</u>	Other Revenue	Interest Revenue from investments, averaging 3.7864%
	Expenses	Expenses
<u>7</u>	Fringe Benefits	5% higher identified in healthcare costs, capturing more costs in Admin group than budgeted. Varies throughout the year based on new enrollments or changes in enrollment
<u>8</u>	Fuel & Lubricants	Budget reflects new propane contract pricing, \$0.29 less per gallon for FY26. New Contract starts December 2025.
<u>9</u>	Materials & Supplies	Custodial/Vehicle parts trending higher than average, will continue to monitor with departments
<u>10</u>	Utilities	Billing is a month behind, budget is a 12 month average
<u>11</u>	Misc Expense	MPTA Invoice paid in October, budget based on 12 month average

Date Received	Employee	Route #	Comment
	Drivers		A regular passenger called to say how much she loves BATA and how easy it is to use the app and get a ride. She said the drivers are so nice and they are so clean that everyone is awesome. They are so patient and BATA is the only way she has to get home from work at night. She said BATA is like her family.
2/13/2026	Drivers		A passenger wrote to say that BATA drivers are so friendly, she feels safe, the bus is clean, the stops are clean, shoveled and salted, and the app is very user friendly.
2/19/2026	LaDell Erby	Link	A passenger called to say thank you to LaDell. There was a lot of black ice and LaDell got out of the bus and walked her to the bus to make sure she got on safely. She said that he went above and beyond.
2/26/2026	Cheryl Treadwell	Link	A passenger called to say how very friendly Cheryl is and that it is contagious how friendly she is and she's a great driver too.

BATA Board Tracker

Board Meeting Date Discussed	Board/Staff Member	Topic	Status
6/27/2024	Adam BeVier	Link Service	Will revisit again at a later date. TBD.
2/27/2025	Eric Lingaur Bill Clark	Year over year ridership report	Presented at the April 2025 meeting. COMPLETED
5/22/2025	Eric Lingaur Kurt Braun	Location of BATA bus stops.	Will revisit again at a later date. Discussion being held at the 10/23/25 meeting. COMPLETED

MARCH INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

INTERNAL:

Held bus driver recruiting follow-up meeting.

Met with new bus drivers.

Finalizing revisions to Employee Handbook.

Met with Employee Wellness Team.

Met internally regarding potentially providing Commission on Aging Non-Emergency Medical Transportation services.

Met with Ops Team at weekly Ops meeting.

Approved the back-end design elements and working on install specifications for EZ Fare Setup.

Met several times to discuss and plan for suspension of services during extreme weather conditions.

The six Level II chargers are now commissioned and in use.

Contracted with MaintainX for software to automate work orders and build out capital planning.

EXTERNAL:

Met with Executive leaders from Garfield Twp., Networks Northwest, Traverse City Tourism, Long Lake Twp., etc.

Attended the 2026 Urban Transit informational virtual session presented by Valerie Shultz, MDOT.

Met one-on-one with Representative Roth in his office in Lansing as part of the 2026 Michigan Transit Legislative Day at the Capitol.

Held initial meeting at Headquarters as Chair of the 20th Annual Traverse Area Human Resource Association (TAHRA) Golf Outing Fundraiser.

Attended the FTA & BATA monthly virtual meeting.

Met with Teamsters Business Agent Tony Pletscher.

Hosted the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation Community Development Steering Committee meeting at Headquarters.

Hosted Saginaw Transit Authority representatives and gave a tour of BATA Headquarters.

Attended the weekly Rotary meetings.

Attended the Michigan Negotiators Association (MNA) Spring Conference in Lansing for which I am a Board Member.

Met virtually with representatives from HUB International regarding workers' compensation and accidents.

Attended photo op for release of bus wrap for Big Give Back Give Away to Food Rescue at Image 360.

Attended monthly TAHRA Board meeting.

Hosted a BATA 101 session for Leelanau County Seniors.

Met with Cherry Festival leadership and started planning for the summer's transportation support.

Working on site layout and content for BATA.net Redesign.

Attended TC Tourism Annual Meeting and Awards.

3/26/26

Key Dates, BATA Executive Director Search (*Proposed 3.9.26*)

Search Committee – John Sommavilla (Governance Chair), Wayne Schmidt (Board Chair), Lance Boehmer (Board Vice Chair), Fern Spence (Director)

Full Board – all or as many of the Board of Directors as possible

Staff- Direct reports to the Executive Director

Complete Search Timeline (12 weeks)

Week of March 9	Board and staff input interviews
Week of March 16	Summarize inputs, identify key traits, finalize ad copy & outreach plan
March 20	Finalize job posting, approval from Search Committee
March 23	Posting “go live”; applications accepted through April 22. Contact recent applicants, begin candidate sourcing, invitations and outreach
April 23, 12pm	Search Committee meets before regular BATA Board meeting to review & rank applicants for phone interview
Friday, May 1	Search Committee meets (Zoom?) to review phone interviews, choose interviewees
Week of May 11	Interviews with Search Committee – reserve 2 days, 2 hours/candidate
Week of May 25	Staff meetings, reference checks (completed prior to final interview) Full Board Meet & Greet (option), Final presentation & Interviews (in-person see below)
By May 29	Extend offer (Chair or Board designee)

Relevant dates for Full Board:

<u>May 27</u> (5:30-8pm)	Meet and greet with finalists (recommended) (2.5 hours, in-person)
<u>May 28</u> (1pm- 5pm)	Final interviews (2) and presentation, board debrief, top candidate selected (4-hour meeting)

Project target dates:

- Written offer accepted by Monday, June 1
- Projected start date by July 13, 2026 (six weeks from offer)



3/13 Weekly Meeting

Key Project Dates - Phase 1*

- **March 9** : Design - Completed
- **March 13** : Handover to Configuration Team - Completed
- **March 24 - 26** : Site Survey
- **March 16 - May 25** : Configuration and QA
- **May 25 - 27** : Training
- **May 27 - June 16** : User Accessibility Testing 1
- **July 1 - 14** : User Accessibility Testing 2
- **July 14 - July 23** : JRV Installation
- **August 19** : Launch to Production
- **Fall 2026**: Phase 2 Scope – Open Fare Payment (Apple Pay, Credit Cards, etc.)

***Phase 1 Scope - Mobile Tickets, Account Based Ticketing, Smart Cards, EZFare app, Validator Install**

Next Steps

- Smart Card Design Proofs
- Site Survey

BATA Local Millage Ballot Proposal Dates and Discussion Items

General Election Cadence

November General Elections – Michigan	BATA Millage Timing – 20 year max request
2026 – Gubernatorial 2028 – Presidential 2030 – Gubernatorial 2032 – Presidential 2034 – Gubernatorial 2036 – Presidential 2038 – Gubernatorial 2040 – Presidential 2042 - Gubernatorial	2026 – 5-year request starting 2028 and expires 2032 2026 – 10 year request starting in 2028 expires in 2037

Insights:

- BATA’s current 5-year millage expires December 31, 2027. BATA’s current roll back millage rate is .4655 mills generating roughly \$5.5 million of our \$14 million FY2026 budget.
- The maximum length of a public transit millage request is now up to 20 years:
<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2024-HB-6088>
- BATA is only allowed one election per calendar year per PA 196, 124.468, section 3.
[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(0eqa0czqw03pd0o4jutobfen\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-124-468](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(0eqa0czqw03pd0o4jutobfen))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-124-468)
- Tuesday, July 28, 2026: Deadline for petitions to place county or local ballot question on the November 2026 ballot to be filed with the applicable local or county clerk.
<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/Election-Administrators/Election-Dates.pdf>

BATA Ballot History:

- November 3, 1998 - Countywide millage for up to .18 mills **passes** for 5 years (1998 - 2002)
- November 5, 2002 - Countywide millage for up to .35 mills (increase) **fails** for 5 years (2003 – 2007)
- July 29, 2003 - Countywide millage for up to .25 mills (increase) for continued services and up to .10 mills (increase) for new services **passes** for 5 years (2003 - 2007)
- November 6, 2007 - Countywide millage for up to .35 mills (renewal) **passes** for 5 years (2008 - 2012)
- November 8, 2011 – Countywide millage for up to .3454 mills (renewal) **passes** for 5 years (2013 – 2017)
- May 2, 2017 – Countywide millage for up to .5 mills (.1553 increase) **passes** for 5 years (2018 – 2022) combined passing rate of 55%
- Nov. 8, 2022 – Countywide millage for up to .4788 mills (renewal) **passes** for 5 years (2023 – 2027 at combined 61%. (Current millage rate .4655 mills roll back)

GMV Renewal – Fixed Route Technology

Meet
GMV Sync

The screenshot displays the GMV Sync web application interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with tabs for DISPATCH, OPS, PLAN, RIDE, MAINTENANCE, and ADMIN. Below this, there are sub-tabs for Map, List, and Assignments. The main content area features a table with columns for Vehicle, Run, Trip, Driver, Route, Load, and Status. A notification bar at the top right indicates 3 Unread Messages, 1 Not Signed In, and 4 Early. On the right side, there is a 'Vehicles' sidebar with a filter and a list of vehicle IDs: MB-1901, MB-1901 - SPARE 4, and MB-1902.

Vehicle	Run	Trip	Driver	Route	Load	Status
MB-2203	01-AM	3508002 8:30 am	HM Helen Manini	Waiuku Loop	20 18%	-2
MB-2204	01-AM	3508017	DM Dennis		25%	

GMV Fixed Route Technology Renewal

- **BATA's original 3-year agreement ends May 31, 2026**
- **The renewal includes a 1-year agreement for:**
- **CAD/AVL** – Computer-Aided Dispatch and Automatic Vehicle Location hardware and software support and licensing
- **APC** – Automatic Passenger Counters for required Federal Transit Administration (FTA) National Transit Database (NTD) reporting
- **AVA** – Automated Vehicle Announcements for onboard audio bus stop notifications and PSA info needed to meet ADA requirements
- **Cost: \$66,291** (already built into the current FY2026 Budget)



700 S Flower Street, Suite 470, Los Angeles, CA 90017
 310-728-6997, sales-na@gmv.com

Person Eric Linguar
Client BATA
Email lingaure@bata.net
Phone 231-933-5534
Tax Rate Applied at invoice, as applicable

Quote

Date January 16, 2025
Quote # 2025 011621
Valid 365 days
Expires January 16, 2026
Account Manager Jeff Hunter
Phone 213-328-5471
Email jhunter@gmv.com

LN	Note	Item	Qty	Price Ea	Tax	Subtotal	
						Capital	Annual
		<u>Annual Service Fees - 2026</u>					
		Annual Service Fee, CAD/AVL/RTPI	57	\$ 861		\$ -	\$ 49,077
		Annual Service Fee, Automated Voice Annunciator	57	\$ 143		\$ -	\$ 8,151
		Annual Service Fee, Automatic Passenger Counting	57	\$ 159		\$ -	\$ 9,063

Total Capital Cost \$ -
 Total Annual Cost \$ 66,291

Prices adjusted using actual CPI inflation data December 2022 - December 2024
 Inflation adjustment for Jan 2025 - May 2026 assumed at 3%
 If incorporated into a multi-year agreement, annual increase can be fixed at 3% per year
 Prices will remain constant if and as total vehicles available for service changes