

BATA Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date/Time: 1:00PM, Thursday, September 25, 2025

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairperson Joe Underwood at 1:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

3. Roll Call

- John Sommavilla - PRESENT
- Lance Boehmer – PRESENT
- Gwenne Allgaier – PRESENT
- Joe Underwood – PRESENT
- Fern Spence - PRESENT
- Wayne Schmidt – ABSENT

4. Oath of Office

Sarah Bye took her official oath of office, as a new BATA Board member.

5. First Public Comment*

No public comment was made at this time.

6. Approval of Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

- **Ayes: 6**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 6-0**

7. 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 August 14, 2025

Consideration of Accepting the Following Reports

- b. August Income Statement
- c. Correspondence – Staff Compliments
- d. BATA Board Tracker

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Fern Spence to approve the September 25, 2025, Consent Calendar as presented.

- **Ayes:6**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 6-0**

8. Any items removed from the consent calendar.

No items were removed from the Consent Calendar.

9. Executive Director's Report – Chris Davis

Chris Davis reported that the recent BATA blood drive was a success. BATA participated in a friendly competition with other local transit agencies and had the highest number of volunteer donors.

She shared that BATA leadership recently met with the local Teamsters for contract negotiations. Agreements were successfully reached for the mechanics, drivers, and dispatchers.

Chris and Justin met with representatives from HUB International to discuss general liability insurance; an update will be provided to the Board soon.

BATA will continue using Priority Health for employee health insurance coverage this year.

Several BATA employees participated in local school open houses to assist with transportation-related questions, sell bus passes, and connect with parents.

Chris, along with Eric and Kurt, attended the MPTA Conference, where BATA received two awards.

Finally, Chris noted that she and members of BATA staff attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new TC Housing development, located adjacent to the LaFranier Transfer Station.

10. Chairperson's Report

No report was given at this time.

11. Old Business

a. Early AM Airport Shuttle

BATA's early airport shuttle pilot was launched in March and ran through September 2025. The pilot ran Monday through Friday, from 4:00-7:00AM. The pilot performed 35 completed trips, which comes out to about 1 ride a week. With the added cost to run the pilot program and only averaging 1 ride per week, it was recommended to not move forward with the airport shuttle at this time.

b. Neo Ride Membership Resolution

Key Points Include:

- No RFP needed. Neo Ride has already completed the work.
- Annual cost to join is \$4000 and BATA would be a member of the Co Op.
- Also uses current technology systems that BATA uses.

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Fern Spence to approve joining Neo Ride as presented.

- **Ayes: 6**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 6-0**

c. Fare System Replacement Project

Key Points include:

- BATA's current fare system is no longer supported by the vendor.
- EZfare (Masabi) is the vendor that BATA would like to use.
- Cheaper than purchasing from Masabi directly.
- 3 year agreement
- Purchase of ticket/kiosk to help streamline ticket purchase
- Potential kiosk locations, Meijer, Hall St, and LaFranier transfer.

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Fern Spence to proceed with the procurement of a New Fare System, EZFare not to exceed a cost of \$600,000 without additional Board approval and that staff will bring the agreement to the Board once finalized.

Roll Call Vote:

- **Ayes:** Lance Boehmer, Fern Spence, John Somnavilla, Gwenne Allgaier, Sarah Bye, and Joe Underwood.
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 6-0**

12. New Business

a. BATA/Teamsters Local 214 Bus Drivers and Mechanics Unit Tentative Agreement

Key Points Include:

- 3-year contract
- Increase to 3% instead of 2.5%, still based on revenue and expenses. The highest it can go is 3%
- Uniform allowance increased to \$200/year
- Language definition of what a CAT 1 and CAT 2 driver is.
- Meet three times a year to look at shifts/schedules for discussions.
- Insurance discussions once a year, for reevaluation.
- Bereavement leave increases to 5 days for the loss of spouse or children.
- If revenue and expenses are better than expected at the time of the tentative agreement, an off schedule stipend of say \$500 would be given in December or January.

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by John Sommovilla to approve the Agreement between BATA and Teamsters Local 214 Driver/Mechanics Unit as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

- **Ayes:** Lance Boehmer, Fern Spence, John Sommovilla, Gwenne Allgaier, Sarah Bye, and Joe Underwood.
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 6-0**

b. BATA/ Teamsters Local 214 Dispatcher Unit Tentative Agreement

Key Points Include:

- 3-year contract
- Increase to 3% instead of 2.5%, still based on revenue and expenses. The highest it can go is 3%
- Uniform allowance increased to \$200/year
- Meet three times a year to look at shifts/schedules for discussions.
- Insurance discussions once a year, for reevaluation.
- Bereavement leave increases to 5 days for the loss of spouse or children.
- If revenue and expenses are better than expected at the time of the tentative agreement, an off schedule stipend of say \$500 would be given in December or January.

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Fern Spence to approve the Agreement between BATA and the Teamsters Local 214 Dispatcher Unit as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

- **Ayes:** Lance Boehmer, Fern Spence, John Sommovilla, Gwenne Allgaier, Sarah Bye, and Joe Underwood.
- **Nays: 0**

- **Motion Carries: 6-0**

13. Second Public Comment

No public comment was made.

14. Director's Comments and Announcements/ Open Floor

Director Joe Underwood inquired about the frequency of BATA's situational awareness and personal safety training. Chris Davis responded that an active assailant training is in development, which will cover scenarios on buses, at the Hammond location, and at the Hall Street Transfer Center.

Director Lance Boehmer reported on a meeting with Hannah from Jubilee House regarding transportation needs within the homeless community. He noted that the new crisis center does not currently have a bus stop nearby and asked if there were ways to supplement bus passes. Chris Davis stated that the BATA Administrative Team can reach out to Jubilee House to discuss options.

Director Gwenne Allgaier suggested reaching out to the local Rotary Club for potential grant funding. Chris Davis, a member of Rotary, noted that she would explore how to get this item placed on the agenda.

15. Adjournment

Moved by Gwenne Allgaier to adjourn the September 25, 2025, Regular Meeting of the BATA Board of Directors at 2:01 PM.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: _____

Meeting Minutes Approved on: _____

Lance Boehmer, Secretary:  _____