



Jeremy Peterson  
Chief Executive Officer

Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority  
127 East 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503

**Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority  
Board Meeting  
April 27, 2026  
MINUTES**

**Attendance via TEAMS & hybrid meeting:**

<b>Board members</b>	<b>EMTA Staff</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Ashley Lawson (V)	Jeremy Peterson (V)	
George Willis (V)	Dave Robinson	
Lyn Twillie-Darby	Ed Torres	
Ron Jones	Dani Duran (V)	
Shantell Hilliard (V)	Vicky Takach	
Dr. Ben Wilson (V)	Sarah Morrison	
Jill Nagy (V)	Sara Little	
John Trucilla (V)		
Dave Cannon (absent)		
Chelcie Alcorn (V)		

The board meeting was called to order at 4:01PM.

Ben Wilson asked for approval of the March 23, 2026, meeting agenda. George Willis moved to approve the agenda. Lyn Twillie-Darby seconded. Motion passed.

**SOLICITORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none

**CEO ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** none

**CEO REPORT:**

- Introduced new county-appointed board member Chelcie Alcorn; met with her to discuss EMTA operations, initiatives, and future planning
- Held draft Transit Development Plan meeting with staff and consultants to review routes, discuss adjustments to low-performing routes, and explore microtransit opportunities and county route expansions
- Met with union leadership; both parties signed the fixed-route collective bargaining agreement previously approved by the board and ratified by the union
- Reported resolution of more than 30 pending grievances prior to arbitration through collaborative discussions with union leadership
- Stated negotiations for the next fixed-route contract are expected to begin in mid-May ahead of the June 30 expiration
- Began FY2027 budget discussions with Finance staff in preparation for the upcoming fiscal year



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- Highlighted in the Erie News Now “Giving You the Business” feature showcasing EMTA operations, including maintenance and headquarters functions
- Hosted Erie Ambassadors through the Chamber for a facility tour and presentation highlighting EMTA services and operations
- Attended PPTA Spring Conference in Lancaster; recognized staff participation and marketing presentation efforts
- Will travel to Harrisburg for Erie Day and meetings with legislative consultant, PennDOT, Port Authority representatives, and state legislators regarding transportation and intermodal initiatives

**SOLICITOR REPORT: none**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

- Committee did not meet due to travel and office absences
- Discussion reiterated promotion of upcoming 14th Fest and ribbon cutting event; board encouraged to support and promote communitywide
- Primary executive focus remains the completion and approval of CEO employment contract
- Formal welcome extended to new board member Chelcie Alcorn
- General discussion on public communications and social media engagement, noting positive community feedback and ongoing importance of public outreach and transparency regarding EMTA services

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- Vicky reviewed March financials. Ron Jones made a motion to approve. Shantell Hilliard seconded. Motion passed.
- Reminder provided to board members to complete and return Statements of Financial Interest
- PennDOT Local Match Resolution for the state operating assistance grant was presented for approval using preliminary funding figures pending final PennDOT allocation; updated amounts will return to the board once received. Ashley Lawson motioned to adopt the resolution. George Willis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

- Fixed route hiring update – 30 total applicants, 16 qualified, 5 interviews scheduled, 3 applicants in the hiring process, 1 applicant started April 6th, and 1 applicant started April 13th
- LIFT hiring update – 131 total applicants, 73 qualified, and 10 interviews scheduled
- Mechanic B position – 28 applicants received, 22 qualified, no interviews scheduled at this time
- Utility position – 107 applicants received, 69 qualified, interviews pending
- Building and grounds position – 2 applicants received, 1 qualified, 1 interview completed, and 1 applicant in the hiring process
- Personnel Committee recommended approval of a new five-year CEO employment contract. Shantell Hilliard seconded. Motion passed.
- Committee will work with the Executive Committee to revamp the CEO performance evaluation process and framework going forward.

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### **MARKETING COMMITTEE:**

- Successfully launched new Token Transit validators and tap-to-pay on fixed route buses; rollout reported as seamless
- Ongoing outreach includes travel trainings with special education classes, SCI Albion re-entry program, Gannon wellness fair, and Chamber facility tours
- Planning continues for 14th Fest scheduled for June 11th outside EMTA facility, including recognition of six employees with 20 years of service
- PPTA conference attended in Lancaster; statewide Rider Appreciation Days discontinued in favor of a Tri-Transit Day focused on ridership growth (date TBD)
- Reviewing proposals from three vendors for updated marketing/media production; filming planned for summer
- Upcoming statewide ADA awareness and etiquette campaign to increase visibility for aging population

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:**

- March ridership stats: 118,400 rides for fixed route and 11,352 rides for LIFT, with 3,269 of them being ADA rides

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

- Reported continued progress on Otis 12 construction, with ribbon cutting planned for June 11 in conjunction with 14th Fest and employee recognition activities
- Discussed and requested approval for the purchase of property on East 16th Street from the Erie County Redevelopment Authority for \$150,000 to support future expansion and community planning efforts, including potential neighborhood improvements and public use considerations. Ashley Lawson made a motion to approve. Shantel Hilliard seconded. Motion passes.

### **NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:**

- Fixed route labor contract negotiations to resume, as current agreement expires at the end of June.
- EMTA leadership and union representatives scheduled to meet mid-May to continue discussions.
- Potential four to five year successor agreement under consideration to support long-term stability and improve labor relations moving forward.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** none

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** none

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**ADJOURNMENT:** Ben Wilson asked for approval to adjourn the meeting. Lyn Twillie-Darby made a motion to approve. Shantell Hilliard seconded. Motion passed.



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The meeting adjourned at 4:36PM.

The next meeting will be **May 18, 2026** via TEAMS and In-person @ 4:00 p.m.