

The Board of Trustees of the Sangamon Mass Transit District met in a regular session on April 27, 2026, in the Training Room of the Sangamon Mass Transit District located at 928 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois. The Meeting called to order at 4:28 PM by Brian Brewer, Chairperson.

**I. ROLL CALL**     Present:

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Brian Brewer     | Chairperson      |
| Leslie McCarthy  | Secretary        |
| Charlie Stratton | Trustee          |
| Sue Davsko       | Vice Chairperson |
| Karen Hasara     | Treasurer        |
| Sandra Douglas   | Trustee          |
| Jerry Doss       | Trustee          |

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee McCarthy made a motion to approve the minutes of March 23, 2026, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, and Trustee Davsko seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. DIRECTORS REPORTS**

Managing Director Steve Schoeffel reported that the Transfer Hub on 9<sup>th</sup> street is under construction and the walkway will be placed over the rail this summer in June. Workforce training continued this month in 8 sessions with Memorial Behavioral Health for SMTD Mental Health De-escalation training. It was received well and some of the resources provided to front line staff in those sessions have already been utilized. He also provided two reminders that Economic Interest statements are due, and the SMTD Board of Trustees Meeting next month in May will be early due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

Director of Finance and Administration, Michelle Alexander advised that the Application for Downstate Operating Assistance Plan was submitted March 26, 2026, and the Capital Needs assessment for the TAM Plan was also completed in April. SMTD will re-bid for the Bus Vac replacement project to get more prospects as only one bid was received back for the project. Additionally, Director of Finance and Administration, Michelle Alexander advised that the current TIP from 2026-2029 will stand this year and it will not be changed this spring, due to late adoption last year. There are other projects waiting on concurrence from the state that are in process.

Director of Operations, Melissa Ashford, shared that on the Access/Paratransit ridership report in the Board packet this month there was a formula error that will be edited next month in the packet, as the monthly average ridership is not 11,000. The new bus "Buddy" which has been wrapped and decorated as a Vintage Route 66 Bus, is in the SMTD garage and currently being scheduled for events this summer. ADA service changes were implemented, and we are seeing improvements in service parameters in that department. Operation will continue to explore routes and scheduling in areas of large growth for the best fit for future service.

Chairperson Brewer asked what SMTD attributes to the increase of ridership in Access/Paratransit. Director of Operations Melissa Ashford advised that we have seen an increase from word of mouth from passengers and local agencies. We also can attribute a portion of ridership increase from Yellow Cab company's closure in Springfield, upon which some riders still used.

**IV. REPORTS**

- A. Approval of February 2026 Financial Statements and Cash Disbursements** Trustee McCarthy made a motion to approve the February 2026 Financial Statements and Accounts Payable Disbursements, seconded by Trustee Doss and the motion passed unanimously.

**B. Board Committee Reports**

**Finance:** No report.

**Operations:** No report.

**Administration:** Trustee Stratton provided feedback that he attended one of the SMTD De-escalation training sessions this month and complimented the staff. He mentioned it was successful and worthwhile to learn about specific challenges that SMTD operators face and was encouraged that participants were engaged.

**IT Steering:** Trustee Stratton and Trustee Douglas reported continued work on Server updates and reviewing the SMTD cyber security Policy.

**Planning Commission Report:** Jason Sass, of SSCRPC advised continued work on the "Connect" active transportation plan continues. Collecting feedback from surveys, updating, and analyzing that data is occurring before finalization and adoption. The Safety plan completion is slated for early summer. He thanked all the participants in these 2 projects.

**SMTD ADA Advisory Committee Report:** No report

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Proposed 2027 Corporate Operating & Capital Budget**

Director of Finance Michelle Alexander advised that annually we complete budget proposal and it is placed on display for the public to view. Michelle Alexander advised that notable changes are the state split will increase from 65% to 80% effective with FY 2027 which makes a 15% increase in revenue from the state. The capital budget is larger and has increased 400% as SMTD prepares to purchase 18 new Gillig and New Flyer busses, which will be reimbursed through a grant we budgeted for. Increases in staffing and liability claims and computer maintenance were noted as was an overall 4% increase in operating expenses.

Trustee Davsko asked a question on how SMTD determines what buses get replaced, and Director of Operations, Melissa Ashford explained that IDOT advises replacement based on Years of Service and Miles, SMTD will be replacing 2013 and 2014 models as they are beyond their useful life.

Managing Director Steve Schoeffel also advised that once these are replaced that SMTD will be considered "in a state of good repair" and that puts SMTD in a really good spot for an agency our SMTD's size.

Trustee Doss made a motion to place the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Corporate Budget on file for public inspection. Trustee Douglas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. AUTHORIZE RESOLUTION TO ADD MELISSA PETERSON AS A BOS SIGNER**

Director of Finance and Administration, Michelle Alexander presented Melissa Peterson as the new controller at SMTD, and this is a normal process to add her as a signer on the Bank of Springfield accounts.

Trustee Douglas made a motion to pass a resolution to authorize and afford all access and permissions outlined in the custodial agreement entered on June 1, 2015, between Bank of Springfield and Springfield Mass Transit District. Trustee Hasara seconded. This motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED MEETING**

Seeing no further business to come before the board, Trustee Douglas made a motion to close the open meeting and open a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing 5ILCS 120/2(c) (1) Settlement of Claims. The open meeting closed at 4:50pm and was re-opened at 5:11pm. Roll Call for the re-opened meeting is included.

**ROLL CALL FOR REOPENED MEETING**

Present:

Brian Brewer – Chairperson  
Sue Davsko – Vice Chairperson  
Leslie McCarthy – Secretary  
Karen Hasara – Treasurer  
Sandra Douglas – Trustee  
Jerry Doss – Trustee  
Charlie Stratton – Trustee

**VIII. ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Settlement of Claims**

Based on detailed discussions held during closed session, Trustee Davsko made a motion that payment in the agreed amount be made to Essence Bland as final settlement of her claim from January 28, 2025, SMTD bus accident. Seconded by Trustee McCarthy. This motion passed unanimously on a Roll Call Vote.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business coming before the Board, Trustee McCarthy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Davsko, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:15PM.

Approved:  
  
Brian Brewer, Chairperson

  
Leslie McCarthy, Secretary