

The Board of Trustees of the Sangamon Mass Transit District met in a regular session on October 27, 2025, in the Training Room of the Sangamon Mass Transit District located at 928 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois. The Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM by Brian Brewer, Chairperson.

I. ROLL CALL Present:

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

Absent:

Leslie McCarthy	Secretary
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II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Doss made a motion to approve the minutes of September 22, 2025, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, and Trustee Davsko seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. DIRECTORS REPORTS

Managing Director Steve Schoeffel explained that several administrative staff attended the 50th Annual IPTA conference in Champaign/Urbana last month. Staff attended breakout sessions and networked with colleagues. Managing Director Steve Schoeffel toured transit facilities at that location. In valuable sessions, SMTD administrative staff met directly with FTA advisors regarding transit items such as triennial review, processes, and property acquisitions, among other SMTD related items. In personnel matters, Tim Wenthe has announced his retirement, and his last day will be November 14. Also, as a part of SMTD community involvement, a group of 10-12 SMTD employees met at Washington Park last weekend to walk and raise awareness for Susan Komen Pink Walk to Cure Breast Cancer. The SMTD group walked about a mile together as a part of SMTD community engagement.

Director of Finance and Administration, Michelle Alexander, shared that SMTD finance has been working closely with operations to finalize the past fiscal year for NTD. Also, SMTD received a draft copy of audit report for fiscal year 2025 and that is scheduled to be presented at the November 2025 Board of Trustees meeting. Director of Finance and Administration, Michelle Alexander, shared that IPTA was a great opportunity for all staff to gain valuable information, network with others in transit, and attend important breakout sessions such as risk assessment, how to address change management in the workplace, and the evolving role AI in the workplace. There were also a lot of opportunities to receive direct updates from IDOT regarding future grants, funding, and applications available for SMTD.

Director of Operations Melissa Ashford shared that Operation is gearing up for the season of Holly, our SMTD Holiday bus that is active in many community events. We are

currently getting her decorated, dressed, and scheduled for events in the months ahead. Access employees are also decorating a bus for the holidays, which would be a new project for that department. Also, Operations provided a free shuttle for the Zhoulie Ghoulie event at the Henson Robinson Zoo last weekend. Final numbers are not in yet, but at least 40 passengers were able to take the shuttle from the downtown transfer center to the zoo for this popular community event. In closing the month, Operations has been working to close out NTD audits for the previous year and plans for the project to be completed this week.

IV. REPORTS

A. Approval of August 2025 Financial Statements and Cash Disbursements

Trustee Hasara made a motion to approve the August 2025 Financial Statements and Accounts Payable Disbursements, seconded by Trustee Douglas and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Board Committee Reports

Finance: No report.

Operations: No report

Administration: No report.

IT Steering: Trustee Stratton advised the committee did meet regarding cyber security, computer replacement scheduling, and disaster recovery planning.

Planning Commission Report: Jason Sass provided updates on various planning commission projects. He advised that parking spaces survey project results are posted on their website. The total number of spaces reported was 25,416 throughout the central downtown area. The West loop/ South Loop growth project continues with CMT and Hanson and an open house event was hosted at Cherry Hills Church and this helped gain interest from the public and community on that project. Another project is putting the draft version of the 5-year TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) on display for public response in November. The urban grant program is moving forward. The program provides a competitive application program where smaller communities can gain funds for small roads programs. Positive responses have already been received from the local villages of Grandview and Southern View. Chairman Brewer asked when the last time was the organization took application for this grant program, and it was back in 2007.

SMTD ADA Advisory Committee Report: No Report.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consider Proposed Rates for CY26 Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Contract

Director of Finance Michelle Alexander explained that it would be beneficial for SMTD to move benefits renewal from Fiscal Year to Calendar year and that SMTD would prefer to align the contract year for medical, dental, and vision to a calendar year term. SMTD

requested an 18-month quote before the start of FY25; however, Troxell wasn't able to provide an 18-month quote. Instead, Troxell prepared the 12-month, FY25 quote which was presented to the BOT in May 2025 and presented a 12-month quote to SMTD in October 2025, which would lock in rates for CY26. Although SMTD has rates secured through June 30 of CY26, Troxell feels this is the best option for SMTD to instead increase rates by 7.3% for medical and dental, but lock in the rates through Dec 31, 2026. This is the second year of the vision rates, so there is no change for vision. The plan presented, although with an increase to premiums, offers the same level of deductibles as the plans offered at the May 2025 board meeting. Fringe benefits is one of the largest areas of costs for the district, after Salary Total health insurance costs projected for fiscal year 2026 are roughly \$2.9 million, which includes funding for the District's OPEB Trust. This change would add an estimated additional \$16,000 per month in premium costs. SMTD also provides related services such as an FSA and an HSA for qualifying plans, which are calendar year plans.

Trustee Davsko made a motion to accept BCBS's rate renewal proposal for calendar year 2026 and Trustee Stratton seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

B. Holidays Observed: Calendar Year 2026

Director of Finance Michelle Alexander presented the Holiday Schedule for 2026. SMTD pays an additional 6-8 hours for all who work a working holiday. Costs for wages, holidays, vacations, and overtime are fluid throughout the year. Traditionally, a working holiday costs roughly ~\$33,000, with about 145 employees receiving working holiday pay. SMTD budgets what was spent in the prior year and makes applicable adjustments. There is a balance between costs incurred versus costs budgeted.

Trustee Douglas made a motion to set the calendar year 2026 Holiday Schedule for SMTD. Trustee Davsko seconded and it passed unanimously.

C. Consider Veterans Day Fare Waiver

Managing Director Steve Schoeffel advised that SMTD started giving free fares to all passengers riding on Veterans Day a few years ago. Due to it being a holiday, in general the ridership is lower overall, so it doesn't generate a lot of extra ridership and the effect of free fare on that day is negligible.

Trustee Stratton asked how the event is promoted, and managing director Steve Schoeffel advised we post flyers and post on social media.

Trustee Doss made a motion to approve a fare waiver for all SMTD fixed route bus passengers on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2025. Trustee Hasara seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

D. Adopt the General Tax Levy Ordinance

Director of Finance Michelle Alexander presented the proposed property tax levy. Which was first presented to the Board of Trustees in August 2025. This is the next step to adopting the levy. SMTD follows CPI rules when computing which proposes a 2.90%

increase for Sangamon County. SMTD's property tax is a combination of five separate "levies": a general levy, and one for Social Security, IMRF, liability, and audit. For 2025 payable 2026, staff proposes an increase of 2.90%, or total levy of \$3,280,307, from the final extension amount of \$3,208,476. Overall, SMTD's operating expenses have increased at a higher rate of 2.9%, which means an increased use of federal funds to provide operating assistance to match SMTD's FY26 DOAP funding.

Director of Finance, Michelle Alexander, noted that due to Trustee McCarthy's scheduled absence, Trustee Hasara will sign the tax levy.

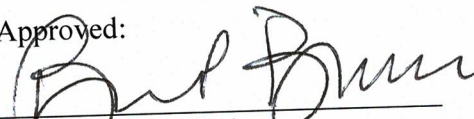
Trustee Davsko made a motion to adopt the General Tax Levy Ordinance Trustee Douglas seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

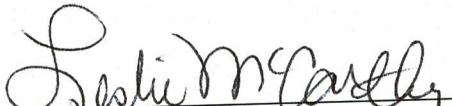
VI. PUBLIC COMMENT
NONE.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business coming before the Board, Trustee Doss made a motion to adjourn the open meeting, seconded by Trustee Douglas. The meeting adjourned at 4:51 PM.

Approved:


Brian Brewer, Chairperson


Leslie McCarthy, Secretary