



**Topeka Metro
Board of Directors Minutes
July 21, 2025**

MEMBER'S NAME	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT / ABSENT / EXCUSED
Fátima Pérez-Luthi, Vice Chair	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Scott Tummons	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Rodd Miller	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Beverly Hall	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Alan Bearman	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Candis Stiles, Chair	Topeka Metro	Absent

Staff/Visitors	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT / ABSENT / EXCUSED
Bob Nugent, General Manager	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Richard Appelhanz, Chief Financial Officer	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Keri Renner, Director of Marketing & Communications/Board Secretary	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Denise Ensley, Chief Operations Officer	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Jessica Moberly, Director of Planning	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Jared Culbertson, Director of Information Technology	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Alan Parrish, Director of Maintenance & Facilities	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Shawn Auten, Transit Route Scheduler	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
John Cassidy, Legal Counsel	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Terri Miller, Director of Human Resources	Topeka Metro	Absent
Kevin Holland, CFS Engineers	Chair Elect for Topeka Riverfront	Present QSS
Greg Schwerdt, Schwerdt Design Group	Chair for Topeka Riverfront	Present QSS

TOPIC	KEY DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDED ACTION / STATUS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.	5 of 6 members present	Fátima Pérez-Luthi
Meeting Minutes		MOTION: Scott Tummons moved, and Rodd Miller seconded, to accept the June 23, 2025, TMTA BOD meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed 5-0.	Fátima Pérez-Luthi
Public Comment	No public in attendance	N/A	Fatima Perez-Luthi
Presentation	<p>Greg Schwerdt, current chair of the Riverfront Advisory Committee and Kevin Holland, incoming chair next year of the Topeka Riverfront Advisory Committee shared the latest update for the Riverfront project and inquired about Topeka Metro's involvement.</p> <p>It was noted that right now this is the strongest support and interest for riverfront development in over 20 years.</p> <p><u>Context & Vision</u> - The Topeka Riverfront Authority is engaging with Topeka Metro since its property is a key piece of future riverfront development. Riverfront development is part of Momentum 2027 action items; Topeka is the only U.S. state capital without a developed riverfront.</p> <p>A plan and vision have been created with Bolton & Menk, incorporating residential, commercial, and park uses.</p> <p><u>Topeka Metro's Role</u> - Topeka Metro's current south-side riverfront property is significant but costly to relocate with equal facilities elsewhere. Kevin Holland acknowledged the</p>		Greg Scherdt/Kevin Holland

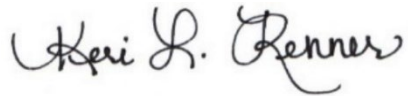
	<p>budgetary and operational constraints Metro faces.</p> <p><u>Broader Community Considerations</u> - The Topeka Rescue Mission is a major factor on the north side. They're open to moving but face challenges since their facility is already paid for. Federal grant money may be available for both transit and homeless-related projects.</p> <p><u>Public Perception & Progress</u> - A visionary study last October sparked public concerns that construction was imminent, which was not the case. Current tangible steps: trail development on the north side and improvements at the boat ramp. Railroad crossings remain a logistical challenge.</p> <p>Kevin asked if Topeka Metro is comfortable with the Riverfront Authority bringing forward property options and continuing discussions.</p> <p><u>Topeka Metro's Position Regarding Facility Location & Operations</u> – The ideal location should be as close as possible to the current site.</p> <p>Prior studies (e.g., Madison area) were not suitable due to small footprint and lack of fit for Metro's needs.</p> <p><u>TMTA Current Investment & Federal Commitments</u> - Existing riverfront facility represents a \$30 million federal investment. Federal investment includes a 40-year commitment tied to property and real estate. TMTA still has significant time left on this</p>		
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	<p>federal obligation. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) must be involved in any facility changes.</p> <p><u>Funding & Grant Considerations</u> - TMTA has not pursued grants since project scope and needs have not been clearly defined. Cannot request federal dollars without a defined project and required studies.</p> <p><u>Required Federal Analyses</u> - Two critical steps under FTA guidelines before any relocation or funding: Feasibility Analysis – ensures property meets operational needs and doesn't jeopardize Metro's work. NEPA Analysis (National Environmental Policy Act review) – required before purchase, pricing, or trade discussions; could take up to two years.</p> <p><u>Planning Considerations</u> - TMTA must clearly define operational needs (turning ranges, lighting, arterial/interstate access, etc.) before evaluating properties.</p> <p><u>Next Steps / Collaboration</u> - Work jointly with Metro on bullet points / key priorities.</p>		
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Department Reports			
Planning Report	<p>Jessica said that MOD dipped down a little bit & be due to the public meetings and being on TV announcing reductions.</p> <p>In June, the fixed route dipped down a little bit & it may be that it's summertime, people may be traveling and things like that.</p>		Jessica Moberly
Operations Report	<p>Two new bus operators hired; training specialist adjusted curriculum and added a Saturday training session to accelerate readiness. We have some open positions and are recruiting for a dispatch clerk and customer service specialist.</p> <p>Scott Tummons asked if we are gaining more operators than we are losing? Denise shared that management meets with the union bi-weekly. Participants include Denise, Bob, John, and occasionally Al or Terri, depending on the issues. Management has been addressing morale concerns during meetings. Management has communicated what actions management has taken and asked the union to identify what they are contributing in return. Bob told the union that they need to fix their internal problems before true teamwork can happen. He emphasized that management is willing to help solve problems if the union is committed to addressing them.</p>		Denise Ensley
Maintenance Report	<p>Alan did not have anything to add to his report.</p>		Alan Parrish
Finance Report	<p>Richard had nothing to add to the finance report.</p>		Richard Appelhanz

Action Items	We recommend a motion to approve to send out a letter to all of the Lift passengers regarding the elimination of the Lift premium service area.	<p>MOTION: Scott Tummons moved, and Rodd Miller seconded to approve the July finance report. Motion passed, 5-0.</p> <p>MOTION: Scott Tummons moved, and Rodd Miller seconded, to eliminate the premium service as proposed and to make that change effective August 3, 2025, and also pending the REVEAL software feature that will grandfather the trips for the current premium service users. Motion passed, 5-0.</p>	Bob Nugent/Denise Ensley
Executive Session	N/A		Fátima Pérez-Luthi
Adjourn	Board meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.		Fátima Pérez-Luthi

Respectfully Submitted –



Keri Renner, Topeka Metro Board Secretary