



**Topeka Metro
Board of Director's Minutes
October 20, 2025
Quincy Street Station boardroom**

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

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	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Jessica Moberly, Director of Planning	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Denise Ensley, Chief Operations Officer	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Alan Parrish, Director of Maintenance & Facilities	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
John Cassidy, General Counsel	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Terri Miller, Director of Human Resources	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Jared Culbertson, Director of IT	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Shawn Auten, Scheduler	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom

TOPIC	KEY DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDED ACTION / STATUS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Call to Order	Candis Stiles, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.	4 out of 5 members present. Scott Tummons voted by proxy via Rodd Miller.	Candis Stiles
Meeting Minutes	Minutes from the September 15, 2025, board meeting were reviewed.	MOTION: Fátima Pérez-Luthi moved, and Rodd Miller seconded, to accept the September 15, 2025, TMTA Board of Directors meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed 4-0.	Candis Stiles
Public Comment	N/A		Candis Stiles
Department Reports			
Planning Report	Jessica Moberly – Ridership same as last year; MOD continuing to drop off after the August price increase from \$2 to \$6. Candis asked about the increase in registrations for MOD but there is less users riding. Could there be bots or AI? Jessica said that's been a mystery and she would try to investigate it. One specific passenger works at Walmart and books trips in the mornings, and cancels afternoon trips. This passenger receives help from family and friends for return trips home.		
Operations Report	Denise Ensley – Nothing to add. Wanted to mention that as of today, we have a new trainee, and we have forty-two full-time operators and one part-time operator, which is one away from meeting our allotted amount, which is a first time in a long time. Rodd asked about the moral and dress code discussions with the union. Denise said that they held a hard line with the union. We asked that they partner with us and to enforce the policy. They gave Bob and I assurances that they would work with us regarding the dress code in a		

	meeting with the union. Some of the things we thought they would have problems with, they didn't. Hopefully, that will start a good trend moving forward with our morale issues. Bob said that we've had two morale issue meetings and he does think they're in a good place. We're asking "why?" We've gone through two meetings and nobody's walked out yet. So, things are good right now. Fatima asked about The Ticker. Bob said we're still trying to perfect it and we're still having some issues with it over the last week. We're trying to fill the information void so they know and won't put whatever they want to put in that void. So, we're getting somewhere, and I think we have the right players at the right time to accomplish something. The question in our minds is will we come to some accord and we have a better working relationship and then all of the sudden they elect new officers. Candis said that the officers come from their ranks, so if you can get the ranks happy, it shouldn't be so much of a task. Bob said that therein lies the problem with the last contract negotiation. It got so stressed on their side and they ended up electing new officers. That's created this divide in their ranks. You now have two factions; one is the senior officers, and the second one is the more junior members that do not feel represented. So, for us in management, we're dealing with two different factions. They don't like each other and they're both taking shots at us. That's why we really want to fix the morale problem – we can't be fighting everybody over there.		
Maintenance Report	Alan Parrish – Nothing to add to report. Bob added an update. We are having the big chargers		

	commissioned tomorrow in the building so when we get the Gilligs in January, February or March, we'll be able to plug them in and be able to use them. Bob mentioned that Camber, who is commissioning this, is bringing a bus in. Bob is thinking it may be a Proterra Phoenix bus, and he hasn't asked Gillig to do it. Richard Appelhanz – Nothing to add to the finance report.		
Finance Report			
Action Items	Finance Report accepted as presented. Bukaty & Companies presenting the employee benefit options for January 2026.	MOTION: Rodd Miller moved to accept the finance report as presented, and Fátima Pérez-Luthi seconded. Motion passed 5-0 (Scott Tummons by proxy). MOTION: Fátima Pérez-Luthi moved to accept the renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas health insurance and Beverly Hall seconded. Motion passed 4-0 (Scott Tummons by proxy). Candis Stiles abstained from voting due to conflict of interest. MOTION: Rodd Miller moved to accept the renewal of Delta Dental; Eye Med; Guardian and Trustmark, and Beverly Hall seconded. Motion passed 4-0 (Scott Tummons by proxy). Candis Stiles abstained.	Candis Stiles
Executive Session	N/A		Candis Stiles
Adjourn	Candis Stiles motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:19 p.m.	MOTION: Candis Stiles moved to adjourn the meeting. Beverly Hall seconded. Motion passed 4-0.	Candis Stiles

Respectfully submitted,
Keri L. Renner, Board Secretary