



Topeka Metro
Board of Director's Minutes
March 16, 2026
Quincy Street Station boardroom

MEMBER'S NAME	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT / ABSENT / EXCUSED
Candis Stiles, Chair	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Rodd Miller	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Michaela Saunders	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Fátima Pérez-Luthi, Vice Chair	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Beverly Hall	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Scott Tummons	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
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 & Comm.	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Jessica Moberly, Director of Planning	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Denise Ensley, Chief Operations Officer	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Alan Parrish, Director of Maintenance & Facilities	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Terri Miller, Director of Human Resources	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
John Cassidy, General Counsel	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Jared Culbertson, Director of IT	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Shawn Auten, Scheduler	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Austin Christ, Staff; volunteers Bob Resnick, Rita Burns, Robert Lewis, Ran Larsen, Jay Freund	Topeka JUMP (Food Access Committee)	Present QSS

TOPIC	KEY DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDED ACTION / STATUS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Call to Order	Candis Stiles, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.	5 of 5 members present.	Candis Stiles
Approval of Board Minutes	Minutes from February 17, 2026, Board meeting were reviewed.	MOTION: Rodd Miller moved, and Scott Tummons seconded, to accept the February 17, 2026, TMTA BOD meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed 6-0.	Candis Stiles
Public Comment	<p>Presentation from Topeka JUMP (Food Access Committee)</p> <p>Jay Freund, presenter – Mr. Freund briefly shared that there are 36 different congregations centered around community organizing through JUMP that affect people in Topeka & Shawnee County. He is part of the Food Access Committee which was selected as one of their newest campaigns. Through their research, they heard that transportation can be a major obstacle to people trying to collect or have access to food. Because of this, we are considering focusing on having public transit and accessibility for those who need food.</p> <p>The primary questions were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are in your view the most significant barriers to securing more funding from the city or otherwise. 2. Is the TMTA board interested, potentially partnering with us to help make things happen & then is it ok for us to visit with your staff to collect information to see what we can do to help. We don't want to do that without your permission. 3. The Nehemiah Action Network gathers in large numbers to call for the change in community. At this time, we're not sure whether this committee will pursue the transportation route. We're still interested in looking at that. We also would like you to attend that. We'd meet Topeka Metro ahead of the date of April 30th at 6:30 p.m. at Washburn's Lee Arena. We ask political & city community leaders to attend, and we will present to them our ideas and ask for commitment from political leaders. We encourage you all to attend to see how it 	<p>Candis Stiles told Mr. Floyd that the board was not prepared to have a questions & answers-type of presentation, but the board would be willing to listen to the presentation.</p> <p>Rodd Miller, board member, explained to the JUMP group that there was confusion last year pertaining to our Revenue Neutral Rate, which is capped at 4.2 mills. We lost some funding because of the vote, but we got some of our money back. Not all our funding is with the city. We also get federal and state funding and fares.</p>	Candis Stiles

	<p>works.</p> <p>Austin Christ apologized for the confusion on the Q&A. He did ask if TMTA would be willing to share thoughts or if they could send further questions.</p>		
Department Reports	<p>Planning – Fixed route ridership is up even though we experienced warmer temperatures.</p> <p>Operations – Denise had nothing to add to her report.</p> <p>Maintenance – Alan stated we do have three electric buses on our property right now.</p> <p>Finance – Richard had nothing to add to his report.</p>		<p>Jessica Moberly</p> <p>Denise Ensley</p> <p>Alan Parrish</p> <p>Richard Appelhanz</p>
Action Items	<p>Richard Appelhanz submitted the Finance Report to be approved.</p> <p>John Cassidy, Topeka Metro Legal counsel, has a board policy that needs to be approved. The Topeka Police Department suggested that Topeka Metro have a policy of having signage on the property to reflect that authorization.</p> <p>Richard & Jessica worked together to put together Transit Supportive Principles Mobility Design Manual RFP TM-26- 01. There were two bidders for this project. The purpose is assisting us in updating our 2018 bus stop guidelines and then expanding them to illustrate transit supported development principles and best practices in mobility design. Topeka Metro recommended WSP USA, Inc., to be the best choice, responsive, and low bidder. The amount awarded of \$189,881.50 (was about \$10,000 lower than other bidder).</p>	<p>MOTION: Rodd Miller moved, and Fátima Pérez-Luthi seconded the motion to accept the February 28, 2026, financial report as presented. The motion passed 6-0.</p> <p>MOTION: Rodd Miller moved, and Scott Tummons seconded. The motion passed 6-0.</p> <p>MOTION: Rodd Miller moved, and Scott Tummons seconded. The motion passed 6-0.</p>	<p>Candis Stiles</p> <p>John Cassidy</p> <p>Richard Appelhanz</p>

	<p>Bob proposed discontinuing the MOD (Metro On-Demand) Microtransit service. The service has been expensive to operate. After an initial price point of \$2 per ride (Premium service), in August the board voted to raise the price to \$6 per ride. Ridership dramatically went down. The actual cost is between \$50 - \$70 – nearly triple what the Lift costs.</p> <p>We are entering spring/summer with the I-70 viaduct and the California Bridge closing on the east side of town and streets being worked on – 6th Street, 10th Street, and I-70 being problematic. This will result in traffic congestion throughout our streets. These issues will have negative impacts on our service. With all that is going on in Topeka streets, it will be challenging.</p> <p>We have a choose-up for operators on March 25th, so we will take MOD out of the mix. We can plan for public hearing process in April. The final meeting could be the May 18, 2026, board meeting.</p>	<p>MOTION: Rodd Miller moved to suspend the MOD Microtransit service, ending May 11th, Fátima Pérez-Luthi seconded. Motion passed 6-0.</p>	<p>Bob Nugent</p>
	<p>The Five-Year plan for the TMTA Board of Directors Goals & Objectives Timeline. Bob will come back to the next Study Session in April. It will have Mission statement, etc.</p> <p>Presentation to City Council on Tuesday, April 7th – Candis and Bob will present.</p> <p>Subjects in the past – 2023: Service levels, rethinking service, MOD, electric vehicles, accessibility, technology, return on investment. 2024: Service adjustment, ridership F/R, Lift, battery/fleet replacement. 2025: Fixed route, Lift, MOD/Cost, state of transit in long run, uncertainty, recruitment/retention. 2026: MOD, viaduct, Revenue Neutral Rate, Ridership improve service, high schools.</p>		<p>Bob Nugent</p> <p>Bob Nugent</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

Executive Session	N/A	N/A	
Adjourn		MOTION: Rodd Miller moved to adjourn the meeting and Scott Tummons seconded. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.	Candis Stiles

Respectfully Submitted,

Keri L. Renner, Board Secretary

