



**Topeka Metro
Board of Director's Minutes
July 20, 2026
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
Tamika Terry	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Michaela Saunders	Topeka Metro	Absent
Staff/Visitors	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT / ABSENT / EXCUSED
Bob Nugent, General Manager	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Richard Appelhantz, Chief Financial Officer	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Keri Renner, Director of Marketing & Comm.	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
John Cassidy, General Counsel	Topeka Metro	Via Zoom
Jared Culbertson, Director of IT	Topeka Metro	Via Zoom
Terri Miller, Director of Human Resources	Topeka Metro	Via Zoom
Alan Parrish, Director of Maintenance & Facilities	Topeka Metro	Via Zoom
Shawn Auten, Scheduler	Topeka Metro	Via Zoom
Jessica Moberly, Director of Planning	Topeka Metro	Absent

TOPIC	KEY DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDED ACTION / STATUS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Call to Order	Candis Stiles, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.	3 of 4 members present.	Candis Stiles
Approval of Board Minutes	Minutes from June 15, 2026, Board meeting were reviewed.	MOTION: Fátima Pérez-Luthi moved, and Tamika Terry seconded, to accept the June 15, 2026, TMTA BOD meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 4-0 (Candis Stiles was a proxy for Michaela Saunders).	Candis Stiles
Public Comment	N/A		Candis Stiles
Department Reports	Planning – Jessica is in Arizona as a facilitator for a conference. Operations – Denise didn’t have anything further to report. Maintenance – Candis asked Alan when the last time we purchased fuel, and Alan said July 10th. Finance – Candis asked if there are any questions for Richard?		Candis Stiles
Action Items	Candis asked for a motion to approve the June finance report. Candis asked for a motion to award the RFB to Joe Schreiner for the Bus Stop Connecting Sidewalks for three sites. Candis asked the timeline, and Richard said that we would like to have it completed by November 1, 2026.	MOTION: Tamika Terry moved to accept finance report as submitted, and Fátima Pérez-Luthi seconded. The motion passed, 4-0. (Candis Stiles was a proxy for Michaela Saunders). MOTION: Fátima Pérez-Luthi moved to award the Bus Stop Connecting Sidewalks RFB to Joe Schreiner in the amount of \$121,452 and Tamika Terry seconded. The motion passed, 4-0. (Candis Stiles was a proxy for Michaela Saunders).	Candis Stiles

New Business	City Council Update – Candis, Bob & Candis went to the City Council meeting on July 7, 2026. It was an opportunity to present our budget to the City Council. Candis gave a speech and gave a few slides showing our budget, showing what the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) would be, showing how much it would cost us if they did not approve us, going up to above the RNR, and we also asked them to bring us up to our old mill levy rate of 4.2. Right now, we are at 3.999. So, the City Council has two questions before them: 1) Letting us exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate; 2) Then also taking us back up to our previous mill levy rate from 2012, so we’ve been at 4.2 mills. Councilman Brett Kell raised the issue of Topeka Metro advertising on our benches and shelters. It’s not financially viable for Topeka Metro. There is a city ordinance against signs. We switched out the wooden benches several years back and our benches are now made of metal and have holes on the backside. When the sign ordinance was put in place in 2019, we asked to allow advertising at our bus stops and we were told no. We recently talked to our advertising vendor, and it is just going to cost a lot to retrofit benches and shelters and we’d spend more money. The most we would get out of it would maybe be \$10,000 a year and we’d have to replace all our 150 benches with ad benches, which would cost \$1,000 a piece, which is \$150,000. It’s not financially feasible. Richard said at the July 7th meeting when he, Bob and Candis were there for the Topeka Metro budget, Councilman Kell’s questions about benches & shelter advertising was the only one we received; then we came back on July 14th to vote to hold a vote and what that means the city council holds a vote to decide if they will even hold a vote on increasing us above the Revenue Neutral Rate and back to 4.2 mills. They took the vote and one person voted against allowing them to hold a vote and that was Marcus Miller. So then on July 14th Councilman Kell was the only one to comment regarding		Bob Nugent
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	Topeka Metro. He didn't bring up the advertising, and he defended us about how last year the City Council may have been mistaken when they voted to not allow us to exceed the RNR, that Topeka Metro is just trying to get back to the 4.2 mill levy and he was supportive of that. If we were to get the 4.2 back, it would add up to \$328,000 in revenue that we receive from the mill levy. Our FY 2027 budget, we're currently budgeted a shortfall of \$475,000 but if we regain the money from the city council, it will be more like \$150,000. Candis said that if the city council would restore us, she would like to talk about the MOD money that we don't have to spend anymore. Richard said that Topeka Metro will come before the City Council on September 1, 2026. The next week the City of Topeka votes to exceed the RNR for the city. Candis posed the question if we need to change the dates and times of the study sessions and board meetings. She said Michaela is not here and sometimes her class schedule changes and then when Glenda Washington comes on board and what availability she would have. Fátima said she has to get her child on the bus at 8:45 a.m. She asked if it could be 15 or 30 minutes later, and that would be better for her. Candis asked if 9 a.m. is better? She asked Tamika if she could do morning meetings with her schedule. She helps with transportation of her grandkids, and she has to be at work at 10:30 a.m. Bob asked if we needed to poll everyone for 9:00 a.m. time. Candis said that she couldn't do the board meeting on Monday mornings because she has a Monday morning meeting. Fátima said she could do anything in the afternoon except for Tuesdays. Candis asked Tamika and Tamika said she just takes her lunchtime for the board meetings. Candis said we could push the Study Session to 9		
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	a.m. Bob asked if we could have both meetings on a Friday. Candis said that she has a lot of staff take leave on Friday afternoon. Candis said she could have meetings on Friday at 9 a.m. Bob proposed meetings on Mondays at 3 p.m. or 4 p.m. for both study session and board meetings. So, every two weeks, we would either have a study session or board meeting on a Monday. We just need to check with Michaela and Glenda. Bob said after Glenda's appointment to Topeka Metro board on July 21st, he could reach out to her. Michaela had stated several months ago that her class schedule for September, October, and November lasts until 3:45 p.m. and she may be late. The next study session is Friday, August 7th. Fátima said that she would be driving back from Wyoming. She said she would join in virtually if she can. Candis said she would be on virtually on Aug. 7th as well.		
Executive Session	N/A	N/A	
Adjourn		MOTION: Fátima Pérez-Luthi moved to adjourn the meeting and Tamika Terry seconded. The motion passed, 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.	Candis Stiles

Respectfully Submitted,
Keri L. Renner, Board Secretary