The Board of Trustees of the Sangamon Mass Transit District met in a regular session on October 26, 2026, 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
Leslie McCarthy	Secretary
Karen Hasara	Treasurer
Sandra Douglas	Trustee
Charlie Stratton	Trustee

Absent:

Sue Davsko	Vice Chairperson
Jerry Doss	Trustee

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Douglas made a motion to approve the minutes of September 28, 2026, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, and Trustee Hasara seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. DIRECTORS REPORTS

Managing Director Steve Schoeffel said that the first of eleven New Flyer buses arrived. SMTD expects all buses to arrive by the end of the year. SMTD attended the APTA Transform Conference in Chicago, IL. Twelve staff members attended the conference.

Director of Finance and Administration, Michelle Alexander, shared that the Finance department has applied for three competitive grants in the past month; 5339 Federal, State Call for Projects, and Reduced Fare Grant Opportunity. Finance department is expecting a draft audit report for FY26 soon. The NTD Report is due on October 30, 2026.

Director of Operations, Melissa Ashford, shared that there was a recent server issue with Clever on outputs for passengers. Ridership is slightly lower than this month last year, but overall ridership is steady.

IV. REPORTS

A. Approval of August 2026 Financial Statements and Cash Disbursements

Trustee McCarthy made a motion to approve the August 2026 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: No report.

Planning Commission Report: Jason Sass reported work on the unincorporated area comprehensive plan for Sangamon County, provided background data for the Reduced Fare Grant and a letter of support for recent grant applications.

SMTD ADA Advisory Committee Report: No report.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Medical, Dental, and Vision Renewal

Troxell Insurance Consultant, Joe Ludtke, presented the renewal rates for FY27 Medical, Dental, and Vision premiums, as well as Medicare renewal. Health market continues to be a challenge nationally, seeing averages of 19% increases. Mr. Ludtke presented a 10.2% Medical renewal for SMTD, with rates locked in for Dental and Vision. Mr. Ludtke recommended considering self-funded insurance as an option in the future. Pharmacy is the number one driver of costs.

Rusty Reed asked if our usage reflects in being below the national average, and if this lower usage is prompting the self-funded recommendation. Mr. Ludtke confirmed that SMTD's loss ratio was good, as well as utilization on prescriptions. Trustee Stratton shared that Troxell has done well advocating for Sangamon County for self-insurance plans. Trustee Douglas asked whether most agencies stay as self-insured once they switch to that model, and Mr. Ludtke confirmed that typically agencies will stay self-insured once they switch and that stop loss insurance would be needed. Chairperson Brewer shared that open dialogue, fresh ideas, and communication will be helpful going forward. Trustee McCarthy made a motion to accept Blue Cross Blue Shield's (BCBS) rate renewal proposal for calendar year 2027. Trustee Stratton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. 2027 Holiday Schedule

Finance Director Alexander presented the CY2027 Holiday Schedule. Trustee Douglas made a motion to approve the 2027 holiday calendar. Trustee McCarthy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. East Yard Improvements Project Change Order

Grants and Procurement Manager Markiewicz presented a change order for the East Yard related to adding an independent power break, which makes the project safer now and allows for future expansion. The contractor will also run camera power to the shed. The shed will require climate control HVAC system, as well as adding additional electrical outlets internally and externally. The change order also addresses extending concrete to the area between SMTD and Mervis. Brewer agreed that concrete was best, and the climate control is important. Trustee Hasara made a motion to authorize Managing Director to execute the change order for the East Yard Development, and Trustee McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Veterans Day Waiver

Managing Director Schoeffel requested to suspend fare on Veteran's Day for all riders. Trustee McCarthy made a motion to approve a fare waiver for all SMTD fixed route bus passengers on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2026. Trustee Hasara seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to come before the board, Trustee McCarthy made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Douglass. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Approved:

Brian Brewer, Chairperson

Leslie McCarthy, Secretary