

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
9/5/2025

I. Call to Order:

Board Chair, John Waltman, called the September 5, 2025 meeting of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority Board to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call was taken:

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Waltman, Lynda Garlitz, Brandon Wheeler, and Jeff Middlestead
Joe Henne (9:13 a.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

III. Pledge of Allegiance:

Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

IV. Agenda: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Brandon Wheeler	Approve the agenda with the change of time Call to Order
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V. Public Comment:

- None

VI. Minutes: Discussion; It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Brandon Wheeler SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Approve the August 5, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
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VII. Special Meeting Minutes: Discussion; It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Jeff Middlestead	Approve the August 27, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes as presented.
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VIII. Finance Director Report:

- Ms. Gordon fielded questions on the A/P and EFT transfers for July 2025.
- Ms. Gordon discussed FY2026 budgets stating these are based on what we are currently aware of for funding from the state and feds. LBO (Local Bus Operating funds) House version has come through as an additional \$59.8 million to the CTF dedicated to LBO. There are stipulations that the \$59.8 million is proposed but the stipulations state there is a fare box recovery requirement of 6% that would need to be met to be eligible to receive the funding. MTPA does not support this. EUPTA would not meet this. Most of the individuals that utilize public transportation do not have the means for increases. There are currently many unknowns regarding the

budget. MPTA is requesting more definition. If the budget is passed the distribution could be as low as 28% reimbursement or up to 34.5%. We are one of two authorities that do not receive a local millage to subsidize. NEMT is currently carrying us. Discussed millage rules. We will be getting the 18% federal reimbursement. Ferries will receive our normal 50% reimbursement as this is regulated by Act 51. The proposed EUPTA budgets Ms. Gordon presented are for ferries, bussing, and administration. Mobility Manager is grant funded. Overall, the upcoming budget is 5% increase. Discussed payments from MDOT. Discussed cuts.

- FYE 2026 Budgets: Discussion; It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Brandon Wheeler	To pass the budget for FY2026
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- Bussing was great in July due to NEMT. We have had to turning down appointments, due to not enough vehicles. We cannot meet demand at this time. Three (3) of the SUVs have reached their replacement criteria. We are seeking board approval to purchase two (2) SUVs utilizing Local Funds. Each vehicle would cost EUPTA \$2,400.00 per year. Board recommended to bid out as a package and possible better price. Also recommended to request last year's model or at least state "new" in the spec to allow bids on left over model years. Discussion. Request NEW vehicle from dealerships.

Purchase of NEMT Vehicle: Discussion; It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Brandon Wheeler	Approve purchase of two (2) NEMT vehicles with Local Funds.
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- Ferries: There was a 6% increase in fares and overall, 1% for year. Discussed graphs. 2025 had been the highest revenue since 2021. Vehicle counts are down. Collecting more full fares single trips than commuter fares. Chair Waltman discussed monitoring Mackinac and International Bridge Traffic, may show some information regarding traffic number indication.
- Finance Director's Report: Discussion; It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Brandon Wheeler	Approve July A/P and EFT Transfers, July Financial statements, and Finance Director's Report as presented
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IX. Director's Report:

- Drummond V Naval Architect Update: Same as last month. Stuck at commission audit and have requested more information . Information has been submitted.
This is ongoing.
- Drummond III Update: Shipyard update. Weather is always a factor. Fuel tank scrubbing is happening and this is the first time ever completed. It had to be cleaned and pressure washed. USCG took shots on exterior walls of fuel tanks, and there was significant loss of steel wall thickness. They are replacing frames and hull plating near the fuel tank. They are at specs and made decision to replace sheeting on fuel tank and this is currently being worked on, which has

resulted in a delay. They are also replacing hatches and steel work. Blasting and painting hasn't started yet. An estimate of timeframe is the drydock will be completed in one month.

- Mobility Manager/General Office Assistant Update: We held interviews last week and had a number of candidates and chose three individuals for interviews. We had three great candidates. We deliberated and made our selection. We made an offer to Lori Padgett and she has accepted. We plan to have her begin on September 15, 2025. Kathy will move to mobility manager position on October 1, 2025.
- Civil Rights Complaint – Reviewed information for board regarding procedures, discussed internally, and legal. Mr. Paramski gave background of complaint, response, and resolution. Discussed requirements of discounts from ACT 51. We have not heard back from Civil Rights. EUPTA complied with the request.
- October will be busy around the facility with punch work to be completed, both inside and outside of the facility. Many sub-contractors will be on-site.
- Discussed Lease with the Detour Passage Historical Museum regarding the building and restrooms in DeTour. The Museum is interested in renewing for another 25 years. This is a friendly lease with a win-win for both parties. The lease has a provision that both parties can terminate with short notice. An updated lease will be provided for the next board meeting for board approval.
- Discussed Neebish Summer Revenue for the Night Shifts.
- Lynda would like a summary of the meeting of MPTA and legislature that Pete and Akemi are going to this coming week.

X. Old Business

- Policy Review – Cell phone Policy.
Cell Phone Policy: Discussion; It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Brandon Wheeler	Table Cell Phone Policy until October 2025
SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	meetings with any updates.

- Detour – Drummond Restrooms –. Discussed various issues of public restrooms. Board would like to see replaced/updated doors, paint walls inside, and scrub/polish the floors.

XI. New Business:

- None

XII. Board Comment:

- Jeff Middlestead
- John Waltman
- Lynda Garlitz
- Brandon Wheeler
- Joe Henne

XIII. Adjourn: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote to:

MOTION: Brandon Wheeler SECOND: Joe Henne	Adjourn the meeting at 10:15 AM
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Lynda Garlitz, Secretary


Bonnie Kaunisto, Recording Secretary

Board Approved: 10.7.2025