AGENDA OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority (WPRTA) Board of Directors Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
Greenway Conference Room, 1459 Robinwood Rd, Newton, NC 28658

Members Present: Alan Glines (Burke County) - Paul Murray (Catawba County) – Tom Hart (Conover) – Ben Faulkenberry (Alexander County) – Karen Dickerson (Chair)

Others Present: Terry Taylor (Attorney) - Michael Bowman (Executive Dir.) - Casey Fullbright (Clerk) - Scott Cook (Finance Dir.), Patti Nelson (Operations Dir.) – Amanda Safrit (Funding & Grants Mgr.) – Patrick Nelson (HR Dir.) – Kaylan Kelly (Mobility Mgr.) – Randy Bown (Logistics Mgr.) – Jesse Allan (Fleet & Maintenance Dir.) – Averi Ritchie (WPCOG)

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Dickerson called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM and announced a quorum was present.

2. **Additions/Deletions/Changes to Agenda:** Addition of 6a. Amendment to Alexander FY26 Medicid Contract. Addition of 6.b Approval of Burke County Medicaid Contract.

3. **Public Comment:** None

4. **Public Hearing for NCDOT FY27 UGA:** A public notice was published in the newspaper regarding the grant application, and a public hearing was conducted as required, despite no members of the public attending or submitting comments. The hearing was officially opened by a motion from Mr. Glines, and seconded by Mr. Hart. As there were no comments, a motion to close the hearing was made by Mr. Hart and seconded by Mr. Glines. Upon a Motion made by Mr. Glines and seconded by Mr. Murray the Board unanimously approved the UGA grant application totaling $780,991, attached hereto.

5. **FY26 ROAP Application**: Mr. Bowman presented the FY2026 Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) funding request for the counties of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba, totaling **$449,054**. The requested funds include **$286,718** for the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program, **$45,834** for the Employment Transportation Assistance Program, and **$116,502** for the Rural General Public Program. He explained that the counties used a documented process involving community input to determine fund distribution. All services funded through ROAP will be accessible, non-discriminatory, and closely monitored during the July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 performance period. Upon a motion made by Mr. Hart and seconded by Mr. Glines, the Board unanimously approved the FY26 ROAP Application.

6. **FY26 SMAP Application:** Mr. Bowman presented the **FY2026 State Maintenance Assistance Program (SMAP)** funding details, highlighting that **$167,210** in state funds will be used to support WPRTA's Urban Fixed Route Service. This service operates in the cities of **Hickory, Newton, and Conover**, providing essential public transportation to urban residents. He confirmed that the **FY2025 allocation of $167,210** was fully spent by June 30, 2025, and that the required local share for FY2026 will match the state allocation. The FY2026 funds will again support operating expenses, and all expenditures will comply with federal and state guidelines, with full use expected by June 30, 2026. Upon a motion made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Hart, the Board unanimously approved the FY26 SMAP Application.

a. Alexander FY26 Medicaid Amendment: Mr. Bowman presented the Alexander FY26 Medicaid Amendment, noting that DHHS and the State have reduced reimbursement rates due to statewide Medicaid contract changes. Greenway is adjusting its billing rate to reflect a 3% reduction, retroactive to October 1, 2025. A motion was made by Alan Glines and seconded by Paul Murray to amend the rate from $3.02 to $2.93 per shared mile, with similar amendments to

be made for Catawba and Caldwell counties. Upon a motion made by Mr. Glines and seconded by Mr. Murray, the board unanimously approved the Alexander FY26 Medicaid Amendment.

b. Burke FY26 Medicaid Contract: Mr. Bowman clarified that the Burke FY26 Medicaid Contract is not an amended agreement but a replacement contract. Although the board approved the original contract during the July meeting, Burke raised concerns about certain language changes and ultimately did not sign that version. The updated document now incorporates the requested revisions and will serve as Burke's official FY26 Medicaid contract. As part of the agreement, Burke will reduce its reimbursement rate by 3% on its end while continuing to submit a request for 100% of eligible Medicaid funds. Upon a motion made by Mr. Hart and seconded by Mr. Murray, the board unanimously approved the Burke FY26 Medicaid Contract.

7. **Annual Update of PTASP Safety Target:** Mrs. Nelson presented the FY25 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Safety Targets annual update. She explained that staff is required to annually review and update performance targets based on safety performance measures established under the National Public Transportation Safety Plan and reported through the National Transit Database. The updated targets reflect revised projections and performance data for both fixed-route motor bus and demand response services for Calendar Year 2025. For fixed-route motor bus service, the updated targets include zero fatalities, an injury rate of 2.67 with one injury per 100,000 vehicle revenue miles, a safety event rate of 1.33 with 0.50 safety events per 100,000 vehicle revenue miles, and a system reliability measure of 16,944.55 miles between major failures. For demand response service, the targets include zero fatalities, one injury with a rate of 0.18 per 100,000 vehicle revenue miles, 1.33 safety events with a rate of 0.24 per 100,000 vehicle revenue miles, and a system reliability measure of 36,689.10 miles between major failures. Upon a motion made by Mr. Glines and seconded by Mr. Murray, the board unanimously approved the FY25 PTASP Safety Targets annual update.

8. **Finance Report:** Mr. Cook presented the FY26 Finance Report covering financial activity from July through the end of September 2025, representing the first quarter of the fiscal year. He noted that the goal is to have expended approximately 25% of the annual budget by this point, and current expenditures are at 25.3%, which is in line with expectations. He explained that the slightly elevated percentage reflects upfront costs, such as annual property insurance payments, which are typically incurred early in the fiscal year. Cash balances have significantly increased due to the receipt of grant funds in September, with the total bank statement balance reaching $5,602,473.14—an increase of $2,701,074.77 from the August closing balance. Additional funds are expected to come in around November and December. Regarding revenues, local matching funds from Conover are billed quarterly and are based on receivables. Upon a motion made by Mr. Glines and seconded by Mr. Murray, the board unanimously accepted the FY26 Finance Report through the end of September 2025.

   a. **NC Health Plan Discussion:** Mr. Bowman presented an overview of the recent developments related to the NC State Health Plan, noting significant changes that may affect local governments participating in the plan. A healthcare directive issued by the State Treasurer's office proposes new funding responsibilities for local governments tied to pensionable payroll, which could shift a portion of healthcare cost burdens from the state to individual agencies. While the directive was developed earlier in the year and released more recently, its full implications are still being assessed. Mr. Hart noted that the proposed changes could result in substantial cost increases for municipalities, including Conover, and that staff is continuing to evaluate the potential budgetary impact. The situation remains fluid, with additional guidance and adjustments expected in the coming months. The board discussed the importance of ongoing monitoring and coordination with local partners to ensure readiness as the policy framework continues to evolve.

9. Authority Update: Review Packet

   a. **Executive Director/Department Updates:** Mr. Bowman reported the completion of FY26 ROAP and SMAP applications and the submission of the FY27 UGA application, which is pending public hearing documents. FY25 state claims have been finalized, and initial work on FY26 claims has begun. Discussions with Burke County on FY27 local match budgeting are also underway.

   b. **Finance:** Mr. Cook noted routine financial operations continued, with audit preparations in progress and a new payroll accountant onboarded. A retroactive increase in health insurance costs may require a budget amendment. Staff are also monitoring potential Medicaid funding changes that could impact billing and contracts.

   c. **Operations:** Mr. Nelson reported that operations continue to track and analyze data across Flex, Microtransit, and Fixed Route services. Staff are working with NCDOT on vehicle and camera

contracts and exploring scheduling and micro transit software. Safety data and PTASP targets have been submitted, with low incident and mechanical failure rates reported.

d. **HR:** Mr. Nelson reported that HR completed several hiring processes and is preparing for open enrollment and the upcoming leadership retreat. Staff morale efforts and cleanup of internal reports are ongoing. Recruitment and job fair participation continue, alongside compliance work for ACA reporting.
e. **Fleet:** Mr. Allen reported that Fleet operations remain above 70% preventative maintenance compliance, with continued training of new staff. Security system installations and internet upgrades at the Transit Center have been completed. Work on the Newton Maintenance Facility and ADA improvements is ongoing.
f. **Mobility:** Mrs. Kelly reported that mobility efforts included community outreach, travel training, and participation in local events and meetings. Staff continue to work with Long View on transportation strategies. Upcoming activities focus on engagement at resource fairs and expanding public outreach across the service area. Upon a motion made by Mr. Hart and seconded by Mr. Murray, the Board unanimously approved the Burke FY26 Medicaid Contract.

10. **Consent Agenda:** Chair Dickerson presented the Consent Agenda for board consideration. Upon a motion made by Mr. Glines and seconded by Chair Dickerson, the board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

a. Board Meeting Minutes, September 18, 2025

11. **Discussion of Items removed from the Consent Agenda:** None

12. **Other Business:** The Board discussed the current status of Medicaid subcontractors MTM and MotivCare, noting that while trip volumes have increased, no-shows continue to be a challenge. MTM is currently handling a limited number of trips, but this may change soon as United Healthcare plans to switch from MotivCare to MTM, while AmeriHealth will remain with MotivCare. Overall costs have stabilized compared to previous years, and revenue is improving. The board also briefly reviewed the ADA plan as part of ongoing service considerations.

13. **Adjournment:** Upon a motion made by Mr. Glines and seconded by Mr. Hart, Chair Dickerson adjourned the meeting at 11:01 AM.

Next board meeting: Thursday, November 20 , 2025 at 10:00 AM. WPRTA Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

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Clerk Karen Dickerson , Chairman