



GREENVILLE TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, November 20, 2025

GTA Operations & Maintenance Facility

205 Arcadia Drive - Board & Community Room

Greenville, SC 29609

Members Present: Mr. Stephen Astemborski, Mr. David Mitchell, Mr. John Slipke (Treasurer)
Ms. Walker Smith, Mr. Barry Strohl, Ms. Amanda Warren (Chair)
Absent Member(s): Mr. Sean Rusnak (Vice Chair)
Greenlink Staff: James Keel (Director)

Amanda Warren, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance (led by Mr. Barry Strohl).

Quorum Established.

Mr. David Mitchell made a motion to approve the October 23, 2025, GTA Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. John Slipke seconded the motion. There is no opposition. The motion carries.

No Public comments related to items on the agenda.

Presentation by Greenville Connects (Erin Predmore):

- Overview of Greenville Connects and what they do. Greenville Connects (GC) is a partnership of local businesses, nonprofits and others seeking to increase investments in our transit system. Greenville Connects began in 2019. GC believes transit options support economic development and mobility, workforce development, equity, health, quality of life, traffic easement and much more.
- Their goal is to have more buses going to more places more often. Transit is essential for economic development.
- Current population in Greenville County is over half a million. Initially, expected to have 736,000 by year 2040, but this has been revised to year 2036 (a 30% population increase in 10 years). Current land use is 270 square miles. By 2040 trending 476 square miles + 206 square miles. If transit is utilized, could potentially be at 287 + 17 square miles.
- Last spring Greenville Connects began a "Let's Fund That" Campaign mobilizing transit advocates. Many persons expressed a desire for transit to run every 30 minutes. As part of Community outreach, GC had ride and register events. GC also reached out to County Council and City Council. They worked with local lawmakers (met with SC House SCDOT Modernization Ad Hoc Committee and introduced Senate bill 0399 which protects Greenlink drivers and riders). Worked to amend transportation penny sales tax measures to allow groceries to be exempted. Reached out to areas like Fountain Inn and Greer. Advocated on a state level, working to increase state mass transit funds.
- Greenville Connects staffs and funds a Bus Operator Recruiter, Karen Anderson, to find, screen and begin the onboarding process for new Greenlink drivers. Since recruiter began in January 2024, over 25 drivers have been recruited. Once vacancies are filled, 30-minute service can begin on select routes during peak ridership.
- GC is using data to tell the story of how transit can transform Greenville. GC commissioned an Impact Study of Transit Development by USC research economist Joseph Van Nesen to evaluate the service. Also developing a Transit Data Dashboard through Furman University.
- What's next: 1) Publishing data dashboard in collaboration with Furman Shi Institute 2) Continue to work with SC House Ad Hoc Modernization Committee as their new budget recommendation will be coming soon. 3) Prepare for 30-minute service rollout once vacancies are filled and 4) Work with elected officials to move toward a fully realized TDP.

Director's Report (Presented by Director James Keel):

- Recruitment is ongoing for Safety & Training Manager.
- Relative to Bus stop improvements, concrete is being poured.
- Budget amendment being presented today.
- Working on decorations for terminal and Arcadia. Holiday bus will be revealed in December. We will likely suspend service early on Christmas Eve.
- Relative to later hours implementation, Fixed Route has 6 opening with 5 in hiring phase. One mechanic has been tentatively hired. Mechanic interviews have been scheduled.

- GTA awarded \$3.3 million dollars in Low and No Emission funding. This will be used to purchase CNG buses to operate service to Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport. We are looking at 2027 for this service. Other cities in SC also received funding.
- No new procurement updates.
- Fleet is in state of good repair. Working on replacing number 5 of 7 engines. Still have some radios to install. Bus wraps should be completed by Thanksgiving. Parts for Proterra buses arrived.
- Five Gillig Battery Electric buses were inspected by Mr. Keel in Livermore, CA. Funding for buses date back to 2020 federal fiscal year award with funding provided through Michelin Foundation, Hollingsworth Funds and Prisma. Expect buses to arrive before the end of the year.
- Kicking off TDP internally. Stakeholder meetings will be scheduled.
- Mr. Astemborski questioned whether we expected most riders on the GSP service to be workers or travelers. Director expects ridership to be mainly people coming into Greenville. Ms. Smith questioned whether GSP service will get us ready for 30-minute service. Mr. Keel stated it will put us in good position for it.
- With addition of the 5 Gillig electric buses, we will have total of 9 electric buses, 6 CNG buses, 12 diesel buses and 1 gas bus. Paratransit vehicles all use gasoline.

Bus Stop Design Guide Update (Presented by Transit Projects Coordinator William Flake): Began working on this document with WSP in June to update bus stop design guides and create a manual. Expanded from 18-page document to 53-page document. Guidelines were developed based on local context and standards, the best practices of transit agencies with a lot of local contexts. This manual is designed to help staff, local jurisdictions, contractors and developers incorporate transit needs into development plans. Contains detailed explanations of the needs and design of bus stops with pros and cons of each of the locations. This helps the DOT decide which side it makes sense to put a stop. Manual provides guides for stop spacing looks at existing service and operational needs. Provides guidance on what type of bus stop infrastructure should be installed at locations. Recommendations based on density levels, ridership and other factors. Extensive research done into each of the jurisdictions that we currently serve and will serve in the future according to the TDP. Checklists provided with the permitting process for each jurisdiction.

Quarter 1 KPI Review (Presented by Transit Finance and Compliance Administrator Katerina Moreland):

Quantity of Service: Fixed Route Ridership increased over the last quarter. Routes 507, 502 and 509 had the highest ridership. Route 501 has slipped considerably in the lineup. Trolley Ridership decreased over the last quarter. GAP ridership increased slightly over last quarter. GAP service down one driver.

Quality of Service: On Time Performance holding at 79%. The percentage for scheduled trips delivered for first quarter was 98.8%. Any missed time points count against the OTP. We are missing a third of time points on Clarke Street. Greenlink 75 Minutes in Sync started in July, 70 Minutes in Sync will start in December. Service delivery target is 98%.

Accident Rate (All Operations): Target is 0.84 accidents per 100,000 miles. For the first quarter, the accident rate was 0.82 accidents per 100,000 - exceeding our goal.

Paratransit Trip length: The spike in trip length in July resulted from a change in calculation methodology in conjunction with the in change from Via to Ecolane. Ecolane takes boarding and alighting time into consideration.

Comment Rate: For first quarter FY2026, we experienced a 32% increase in part due to requests for comments on 75 Minutes in Sync. Common topics are Delays from AIS75, Missed Passengers and Driver interactions.

Reliability of Service: Rate for 100,000 miles has gone up. This is the reason for doing overhauls. One CNG bus was in an accident and had to be repaired, which negatively impacted numbers.

Technology Usage: Transit APP usage increased substantially with active user and Go trip users. Go trip is when they enter origin and destination and tracks the bus. We are tracking cash vs. cashless and hoping to see more people go cashless.

KPI revamp coming in 2026. Board asked to provide any matrix they would like to see in revamped KPI.

City's Monthly Financial Report for September 2025 (Presented by City Budget Administrator Kristina Junker):

- This will be the last report with parking revenue since land has been sold.
- Passenger fares are currently 1% less than the prior year.
- Salaries wages and fringe benefits 18% higher than prior year due to salary and health insurance increases.
- Insurance lower due to receiving last invoice for the first quarter late.
- Federal grants higher by 6% due to a higher percentage of reimbursable operating expenses.
- State grant funding has not been received for 2025-2026. Mr. Keel stated that there are two pieces of state funding (Greenville piece and Mauldin/Simpsonville piece). Contract for the Mauldin piece was received last week. No mass transit funds will be received this year or next year. Greenlink gave up this money and instead received double the amount that would have been received though federal funds instead. Which helped pay for a lot of the capital items.

- The City of Greenville contribution is now being recognized.
- Accounts Receivable at end of September \$639,593.01. As of 11-14-25, the outstanding balance was \$54,744.96.
- Accounts Payable at end of September \$913,533.61. Everything has been paid.

GTA Board Invoices (Presented by City Budget Administrator Kristina Junker):

Date	Vendor	Description	Invoice #	Amount
10/24/25	Campbell-Brown, Inc.	Grill lights & brackets for Chevy Tahoe	774005	4,835.11
11/1/25	Capstone Landscape Management LLC	Monthly landscaping services	103745	4,532.00
11/2/25	Carolina Lawn & Tractor	Salt spreader	01-168258	1,919.97
11/5/25	Carolina Lawn & Tractor	Hitch attachment & display	01-177592	1,246.49
10/30/25	Carolina Specialty Fitness	Gym equipment	4706	5,140.50
10/31/25	City of Greenville	October expenses	92841	799,783.81
10/29/25	Cummins Sales & Service	7 Cummins engines	L6-251078497	345,735.11
11/1/25	EnviroAwning	Awning repair at Washington Street Parking Garage	2777	1,200.00
11/4/25	Greenville Chamber	2026 membership	20415	3,000.00
11/18/25	INEO Equans	Solar powered digital signage	9532701070	17,610.13
11/3/25	McGriff Insurance	Property renewal (1/1/26 thru 3/31/26)	5626907	35,288.75
11/3/25	McGriff Insurance	Automobile renewal (1/1/26 thru 3/31/26)	5626908	148,959.75
11/3/25	McGriff Insurance	Umbrella renewal (1/1/26 thru 3/31/26)	5626909	12,809.25
11/3/25	McGriff Insurance	PEM renewal (1/1/26 thru 3/31/26)	5626910	876.75
10/31/25	Parks Ford	2026 Ford Escape	12858	27,236.61
11/10/25	TD Card Services	Travelers Liability Policy/Magnetic Barrier Arm	11062025-Board	2,727.59
10/31/25	Travelers	Insurance deductibles	667999	10,096.91
10/30/25	Turbo Images	Decals & graphics installed on buses	134027	5,947.00
11/14/25	Turbo Images	Decals & graphics installed on buses	134309	29,735.00
11/3/25	Uline	Traffic barrier	200089686	1,098.90
10/14/25	United Chemical	Upholstery & floor tool kits	736367-1	693.28
10/15/25	WSP USA Inc.	Bus stop design guidelines	40261482-01	19,683.96
11/18/25	Yarder Manufacturing	22" advertising frame for bus	81774	90.85
Total				\$1,480,247.72

Mr. Stephen Astemborski made a motion to pay invoices totaling \$1,480,247.72 subject to the availability of funds.

M. John Slipke seconded the motion. There is no opposition. The motion carries.

Resolution 2025-23 – FY26 Budget Amendment #3 & Authorization for RAISE Bus Stop Improvement Program Expenses, Equans Integration for TSP and Purchase of Tire Alignment Machine (Presented by Director James Keel):

Total budget amendment is \$7,953,877.03 for four (4) items. Of this mount \$7,953,877.03 is federal and \$464,218.63 is local.

- 1) Bus stop construction amount is \$5,845,300.00. Being paid 100% through federal funds. One million dollars of work has been ordered.
- 2) Bus Stop Design and Engineering. Completed the first three phases of engineering. Seven phases remain. GPATS appropriated funding from Guide Share. SCDOT providing \$404,200 matching funds to be used for design and engineering.
- 3) Equans Integration for Transit Signal Priority: The City of Greenville Traffic and Engineering is doing significant amount of work. Ready to start piloting intersections after first of the year. Working primarily with Emergency Response. Our

equipment has arrived and needs integration with Equans.

4) Alignment machine cost \$53,129.03. Proceeds come from the sale of the Augusta Street property.

Mr. Stephen Astemborski made a motion to approve and adopt the fiscal year 2025-2026 Capital Budget Amendment No. 3 and authorize expenses related to the RAISE Bus Stop Improvement Program, authorize Equans Integration, and purchase of alignment machine. Total amount is \$7,953,877.03. Mr. John Slipke seconded the motion. There is no opposition. The motion carries.

Resolution 2025-24 – Authorization to enter into a contract with Eflyn for digital signage in the Transit Center (Presented by Director James Keel): Amendment included replacing digital signage in terminal which notifies passenger of arrival of buses and provides alerts. Unable to resolve price with first vendor and moved on to second vendor. Cost of work estimated at \$184,858.10.

Mr. David Mitchell made a motion to authorize and direct the Board Chair to execute and deliver a contract for Digital Signage in the Transit Center with Eflyn for amount estimated to be \$184,858.10. Mr. Stephen Astemborski seconded the motion. There is no opposition. The motion carries.

Recommendation of Public and Relevant Organizations to the TDP Stakeholder Committee for Chair Appointment (Presented by Director James Keel): Proposed 2026 Stakeholder Committee list reviewed. The groups on list have not agreed to serve. There will still be focus groups and public hearings. Proposed Organizations to add to the list: 1) Safe Harbor, 2) Shepards Gate, 3) New Hospital, 4) GADC and 5) Bike/Walk Greenville.

Appointment of Board Member(s) to serve on the TDP Stakeholder/Steering Committee (Presented by Chairwoman Ms. Amanda Warren):

Four Board Members will serve on the TDP Stakeholder/Steering Committee: 1) Ms. Amanda Warren, Board Chair
2) Mr. Barry Strohl, 3) Mr. John Slipke, Board Treasurer and 4) Mr. Sean Rusnak, Vice Chair

No GTA/Staff Member Reports.

No Public Comments related to items not on the agenda:

Mr. John Slipke made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Stephen Astemborski seconded the motion. There is no opposition. The motion carries. The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by: Lorrie Brown Date: 12/18/25
Lorrie Brown, Board Secretary

Approved by: Amanda Warren Date: 12/18/25
Amanda Warren, Chair