GTA
DRIVING GREENVILLE

GREENVILLE TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, March 26, 2026
GTA Operations & Maintenance Facility
205 Arcadia Drive - Board & Community Room
Greenville, SC 29609

Members Present: Mr. Stephen Astemborski, Mr. David Mitchell, Mr. Sean Rusnak (Chair), Mr. John Slipke (Vice Chair), Ms. Walker Smith - attended virtually, Mr. Barry Strohl, Ms. Amanda Warren (Treasurer)

Greenlink Staff: James Keel (Director)

Sean Rusnak (Chair) called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

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

Quorum Established.

Ms. Amanda Warren made a motion to approve the February 26, GTA Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. David Mitchell seconded the motion. There is no opposition. The motion carries.

No Public comments related to items on the agenda.

Presentations:

50 Years of Service Recognition of Bus Operator, Eddie Berry – Presented by Deputy Director Jasmin Curtis:
On March 15, 2026, Eddie Berry celebrated 50 years of service to Greenlink/GTA. His commitment led to being awarded the President's Award in 2025 from the Transportation Association of SC (TASC). Ms. Curtis read the nomination which led to the TASC award. For five decades, Eddie has been a driving force literally and figuratively behind Greenlink's commitment for safe, reliable and compassionate transit service. For 50 years behind the wheel, he exemplified the heart and history of our agency. Riders don't just know Mr. Berry by name, they know him. He greets passengers by name and asks about their families and brightens their day with a warm smile and a kind word. His deep roots in the community make him more than a driver. He is a trusted neighbor and familiar face who has inspired and influenced generations of riders. Among his peers, Mr. Berry is a source of wisdom and encouragement. He takes the time to mentor Bus Operators, offering not just technical guidance, but lessons learned over a long and successful career that helped shape competent compassionate operators. His positive attitude uplifts everyone around him and his presence is a reminder of the pride and purpose of public service. From the early days of Greenlink to now, Mr. Berry has witnessed and contributed to the evolution of public transit in Greenville. His dedication, reliability and service-oriented mindset embody the very best of our profession. He is a symbol of longevity, leadership and love for the community. His impact is immeasurable and his legacy will roll on for years to come. A video created by the City Communication Department showcasing Eddie is shown. Ms. Curtis thanked Mr. Berry again for his hard work, support and dedication. You are a legend. Thanks for the many years you have already dedicated and continue to dedicate to ensure the people in our community have safe and reliable transportation. GTA Board Chair, Sean Rusnak, presented Mr. Berry with a plaque thanking him for his dedication and service. GTA Board Member, David Mitchell, also thanked Mr. Berry for his service and dedication to GTA/Greenlink.

FY2024-2025 Audit Summary – Presented by Andrew Coleman, Greene Finney Cauley:

- The 2025 audit is finished.
- Auditors provide opinion which state what GTA is responsible for and what they are responsible for.
- The first responsibility of GTA is to maintain effective internal controls. Having good effective internal controls (proper reviews, proper approvals, ensuring monthly information is correct) helps make good decisions throughout the year and helps to mitigate risk of fraud. GTA is responsible for financial statements and for all balances and disclosures.
- Auditors provide reasonable assurance that financial statements are materially correct. but do not look at all transactions. The Auditor does not address the financial condition of the Authority. The Authority is issued an Unmodified opinion, which is the best outcome of an audit.

- The net position for 2025 is $66.5 million which is an increase of $7.6 million (12.9%). The bulk increase was primarily due to capital grants received for the new building. The restricted amount is $1.6 million for capital/insurance purposes.
- The Unrestricted Net Position for 2025 is $3.9 million (amount left that can be used for any purpose). There was an increase of $129,000 from 2024. Ending balance represents 28% of operating expenses on June 30, 2025. The GFOA (government finance office) recommends a minimum of $16.7% (2 months).
- Operating revenue was relatively flat. Biggest portion was passenger fares of $696,000.
- Operating expenses increased by around $2 million (17% from 2024). This increase is mostly driven by salaries and benefits and depreciation.
- Non-operating revenues (primarily federal grants) had a 6% increase ($0.6 million). Increase primarily due to higher federal grants.
- The capital grants received had a huge decrease. This was expected, since a big grant was received the prior year to fund the new building. This is a $15.9 million (61%) decrease.
- The City of Greenville advanced some of their contributions (around $2.1 million). Going forward the City will withhold some funds until the money is paid down.
- In looking at Compliance, a single audit also had to be done by Auditor due to more than $750,000 being received in federal money by the Authority. No issues were noted.
- GTA received a separate management letter from the Auditor. Letter contained no additional comments.
- Looking forward, GTA needs to keep in mind when preparing budget: 1) Retirement and health benefit costs increase 2) CDL wages increase and 3) With the 2025 completion of new maintenance facility, consider how costs for annual upkeep will impact future budgets.

Q&A:

Ms. Warren asked for explanation of how in-kind cost rate is determined. Mr. Coleman stated that there is an approved method for in-kind rate with one year lag for expenditures vs. revenue which kicks out the allowable in-kind rate. A spreadsheet is available that shows how the money is pulled out. The FTA has a set maximum amount allowed for in-kind. Indirect rate checked to ensure correct.

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

- 2026 Transportation Development Plan ongoing. Next Steering Committee Meeting will be in April. Next round of engagements will be in May.
- For Bus Stop improvements, an application has been completed in TRAMS to access funding. We are waiting for the agreement with SCDOT.
- Staff is Working on the FY-27 budget. We are looking good.
- Working on Low No Grant. Staff is waiting on the SCDOT to meet in May.
- Staff met with Michelin on the media for the Michelin Foundation Grant that helped fund BEBs.
- Three of the 4 Proterra buses are up and running.
- Recruitment is ongoing for the Transit Safety & Training Mgr. and Onboarding and Risk Programs Coordinator.

City's Monthly Financial Report for January 2026 (Presented by City Budget Administrator Kristina Junker):

- Passenger fares reflect a 2% decrease.
- Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits are 14% higher.
- Fuel reflects a 4% decrease.
- Temporary personnel costs are down 32%.
- Parts reflect a 28% decrease from the prior year.
- Federal non-operating grants are higher by 17% than the prior year.
- State grants had a 100% decrease due not have receiving signed agreement.
- Federal capital grants reflect 21% decrease from prior year.
- Accounts Payables at the end of January $2,820,983.88.
- Accounts Receivable at the end of January $2,797,334.16. Everything has been paid.

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

Date	Vendor	Description	Invoice #	Amount ($)
2/19/26	AOS Specialty Contractors Inc.	Construction of Bus Stop Improvement Plan NR1 & NR1A	APP01	369,184.94
2/28/26	Burr Forman	General Counsel/Disposition of Real Property	1636832	40.00
3/1/26	Capstone Landscape Management LLC	Monthly Landscaping Services	104540	4,532.00
2/28/26	City of Greenville	February Expenses	93149	827,042.00
2/28/26	Exult Engineering	Engineering Services for RAISE Phase NR-2 & 3; Project Management Year 2, Construction Phase N-1 & 1A	3564	33,712.09
2/27/26	Greene Finney Cauley	FY25 Audit Services	19750	5,000.00
3/12/26	HRP Associates	2025 EPCRA Tier Reports	152019	2,775.00
2/13/26	Jericho Palm, Inc.	Bus Stop Benches & Trash Cans	18130	65,482.00
2/27/26	Penney Wilbon	Refund of pre-paid GAP fare	PWilbon-022726	59.00
2/27/26	Piedmont Natural Gas	Hoses for Fill Testing	41838-003	2,213.78
2/27/26	Reeves Young	O&M Construction Services through 2-27-26	APP034	407,790.86
3/10/26	SCDMV	Replacement Tag for Bus 401	SCDMV03102026	6.00
2/27/26	Snap-on Industrial	Toolboxes	ARV/67295193	13,755.00
3/10/26	TD Card Services	John Slipke CU Engineering Retreat/Hotel	03062026-Board	225.85
3/10/26	TD Card Services	Safety Training Manikin	03062026JC-Board	2,628.08
2/27/26	Travelers	Insurance Deductibles	673305	7,000.00
2/23/26	WSP USA, Inc.	Transit Development Plan	40320339-01	70,772.68
2/28/26	Young Office	Office Whiteboard	234683	438.11
		Total		**$1,812,657.39**

Ms. Amanda Warren made a motion to pay invoices totaling $1,812,657.39 subject to the availability of funds. Mr. John Slipke seconded the motion. There is no opposition. The motion carries.

Unfinished Business:
Trolley Findings – Presented by Transit Finance and Compliance Administrator Kat Moreland:

- Currently Run 909 About Town route and 907 Game Day.
- Previously presented proposal to run Route 921 and 910. Staff recommends not moving forward with 921 since there is no published parking agreement.
- Staff is recommending new combo of 908 and 910. Staff is seeking flexibility to adjust stops. Route 910 traveling up Main Street cuts out West Greenville, Unity Park and Heritage Green. Two trolleys will be operated. Route creates Bidirectional travel on Main Street. It is tourist focused.
- Staff believe it is important to set a ridership target if 910 is to be implemented. Baseline riders from June 1 to December 31, 2026 presented.

Summary of Staff requests:

- Staff is withdrawing request for proposed 921 Route since there is no agreement made with County and the Drive for use of parking deck at the County for Game Day parking.
- Cancel 907: Game Day North, following established procedures.
- 908: Game Day South operate Game Day service as is with the ability to adjust stops based on secured parking locations.
- Cancel 909: About Town and replace it with 910: Main Street, following established procedures.
- Establish Ridership Targets for 910, if approved.

Mr. Keel stated that the expectation for new trolley program proposed is that ridership will go from 8,000 riders over 7 months to 9,500 on Main Street. Mr. Slipke feels there should be good communication with the public about the changes being made.

Ms. Amanda Warren made a motion to withdraw 921 route proposed by staff, Cancel 907: Game Day North, following established procedures, operate 908: Game Day South service as is with the ability to adjust stops based on secured parking locations. Cancel 909: About Town and replace it with 910: Main Street, following established procedures and establish a 20% increase ridership targets for 910, if approved. Board asked that Staff to do a performance presentation next January. Mr. David Mitchell seconded the motion. There is no opposition. The motion carries.

GTA/Staff Members Reports:

- Board Chair Rusnak was impressed by TDP consultants. There is a lot of excitement for Travelers Rest and GSP airport service.
- Mr. Mitchell would like a brief on how TDP is going. Mr. Keel will pull the info and send it to Board.
- Bus parked out front. GTA Board members asked to join Mr. Berry for photo opp.

No Public Comments Related to Items not on Agenda:

Mr. John Slipke made a motion to adjourn. Mr. David Mitchell seconded the motion. There is no opposition. The motion carries.

Prepared by: Lorrie Brown Date: 4/23/26

Lorrie Brown, Board Secretary

Approved by: Sean Rusnak Date: 4/23/26

Sean Rusnak, Chair