

Marquette County Transit Authority
1325 Commerce Dr Marquette, MI 4855
Board Meeting Minutes June 18, 2026

Call to Order:

6:00pm by Chairperson Sean Hobbins

Present: Ed Anderson, Kevin Flohe, Sean Hobbins, Jamie Glenn, Tim Overmyer, Barb Owdziej, Dawn Schuhknecht, Jo Ellen Yeadon, Bill Geller - Executive Director, Kristine McDonnell- Finance Officer, Mike Richer- Operations Manager, Janet Cobb- Administrative Assistant

Excuse or Absent: Matt Barnhart, Taylor Klipp and Jim Nankervis

Geller reports had heard from Nankervis and Klipp about missing tonight's meeting
Motion by Hobbins, supported by Flohe to excuse Nankervis and Klipp, motion carried.

Minutes from May 21st meeting:

Motion by Glenn and supported by Anderson to approve minutes from May 2026, motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Schuhknecht supported by Yeadon to approve Consent Agenda which contained the following items:

1. Approve Accounts Payable for May 2026 in the amount of \$476,821.11 and payroll in the amount of \$115,246.75
2. Monthly Operating Report
3. Monthly Fleet Incident Report

Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Owdziej and supported by Overmyer to approve amended agenda to include a report from the audit (adds item #20), and a discussion around the website (item #3). Motion carried.

Opportunity for Citizens to Address the Authority:

Ruby Miller from "We the People" reported on an event on June 9th with "Transit Riders United", attended by 29 individuals including three from Marq-tran (Glenn, Owdziej and Geller).

She emphasized the need to advocate for funding from a variety of levels, including the County. She specifically noted Marquette County's Reserve Funds, suggesting using funds for

improving the website or route signs as well as pressuring the State to meet their transit match. Miller states they had a successful booth at Pride Fest, where they displayed a rainbow themed “bus” and solicited community members that were interested in supporting mass transit. They also distributed information about the Authority in an attempt to educate and encourage voters to pass the upcoming millage.

Katelyn Jensen spoke about the same event, indicated that there was a great amount of support and sharing among the group.

Action Items:

1. Finance Committee; given by Schuhknecht who reports the committee met since the last Board meeting, and that “everything looks good”.
2. Audit Report: given by Danielle from Anderson Hooper and Pavlik for the years ending in September of 2024 and 2025. She reports that the financial statements reflect steady expense and good budget control.
3. Website discussion: Owdziej inquired about updating the website so it’s easier for the public to access route information pointing out that websites are a primary source of information for many customers who have come to expect simple and fast information. Glenn reports that accessibility requirements have changed and need to be updated on the website. Yeadon states that images are important to a certain demographic. Hobbins points out that ADA requirements are coming, and notes image driven route maps are not in compliance.

Old or New Business:

Yeadon said she continues to receive complaints from residents of the High Rise in Ishpeming who identify her as a Marq-tran Board Member. Many of these concerns are around location of fixed routes. Considerable discussion followed with Richer and Geller both describing how routes are chosen, ride time, as well as the demand on door to door services. Richer states that Marq-tran has been modifying routes “for years” while door to door demand has increased tremendously. They are also willing to make changes when it benefits the entire transit system, as even small changes affect timing and bus availability for other routes. Management is available to address these complaints and available to talk to individuals, and have visited organizations; the High Rise, as well as the Senior Center to educate the residents on the routes. Yeadon agrees that these complaints seem unreasonable and will encourage calls directly to management.

The convenience of “Flag Stop” was discussed, and that making sure customers understand that they could flag down a bus on any fixed route might help clear up some confusion around timing.

Executive Directors Report:

Geller reported a trainer was here the last couple of days, still working of statistical information.

He states there is a link to the routes, but work is still being done, and there will be a link on the website to access this information.

An RFP has been submitted for cameras and the bid was accepted from GS Tech

Cement replacement: RFP's submitted, waiting for bids

"Let's talk transit meeting": Geller felt it was worthwhile

Health Fair: represented and discussed the mileage and passed out information packets

Little Trout Lake Opening: Went well, Geller attended and Marq-tran provided transportation to that event, which was well utilized.

Geller points out that Sail has an event on July 30th at Mattson Park and Marq-tran will be represented.

Board Member Comments:

Anderson thanked Geller and the staff with the audit, citing the good report from the auditor

Glenn thanks Geller for the data

Owdziej thanked We the People for their involvement, support of Marq-tran and positive PR for the organization

Hobbins states he is pleased that Marq-tran is offering the free rides to students, and appreciates the advocacy work for the mileage. He asked about the timing of negotiations for the labor contract. Geller states he has been in contact, but hasn't heard back from labor.

Opportunity for Citizens to Address the Authority:

Katelyn Jensen states she understands that door to door is used but wonders if individuals are aware of the availability of fixed route services and thinks that people might benefit from clearer

directions on the website. She mentioned that the school transit uses a system called "Here Comes the Bus" which allows riders access to their bus's location.

Geller points out that by shutting down fixed routes during the middle of the day, it allows 1000 more door to door rides a month, many more rides than a fixed route would provide. Richer points out that they direct as much door to door traffic during those peak 2 hours.

Miller again encouraged advocating for part of the County's Reserve Funds specifically pointing out that 1.1 million dollars has been slated for air conditioning on one floor of the courthouse, as opposed to funding Marq-tran in order to improve the website or signage. She will also forward millage flyers to dispatch as well as the pictures of the bus from Pride Fest.

Adjournment: 7:15 by Sean Hobbins

Respectfully Submitted:

Barb Owdziej

Secretary