

**STATELINE MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, April 1, 2026 -- 10:30am
11722 Main Street, Roscoe, IL 61073**

- I. **WELCOME Chairman** Gus Larson called the meeting to order at 10:31am welcoming the new SMTD board member, Happy Welch. Chairman Larson shared a brief background of SMTD and its mission to assist area residents in maintaining a quality of life. Larson spoke of overcoming the stigma surrounding public transportation and importance of providing the service to those individuals who choose to give up their car for whatever reason, who may be without a license, or are disabled and rely on SMTD to provide an important service. Larson said SMTD has grown from six rides in the first days to serving thousands per month under the motto '*SMTD is here to get you there!*' Present in addition to the Chairman and Trustee Welch were Trustees Mari Mattocks, Dick Adams, Pam Clifton, and Jack Cook. Also present were SMTD Executive Director Sharon Hecox and Joseph Kurlinkus, Village of Roscoe Administrator. Kurlinkus arrived late to the meeting at 10:40am.

- II. **WELCOME TO NEW SMTD TRUSTEE** Following the amendment to add II. Welcome to New Trustee to the April 1, 2026 agenda (approved under III. Approval of Agenda), Chairman Larson formally and warmly welcomed to the SMTD Board Happy Welch. Happy gave a brief background of self, including sharing his appointment as the Rockton Village Administrator since September 2025. Happy briefly shared his background experience and how he came to Rockton. He noted he had past experience with the start-up of Jefferson City Transit (Missouri) and looked forward to working on the SMTD board.

- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Chairman Larson entertained a motion for approval of the April 1, 2026 Agenda with the addition of Item II being amended to welcome to new SMTD Trustee. Trustee Adams motioned, as amended; Trustee Clifton seconded. All ayes. No discussion. Motion carried 6 – 0, with none opposing or abstaining, and the April 1, 2026 agenda, as amended to include II. Welcome to New SMTD Trustee, was approved.

- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT** No public comment.

- V. **ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL of Meeting Minutes February 26, 2026** No action. The February 26, 2026 Minutes were set over for approval at the next meeting.

- VI. **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**
 - a. **Update and discussion as necessary on local, state, and federal grant programs.** Chairman Larson requested Executive Director provide the updated Financial Reports. Executive Director Hecox reported the annual requests for matching funds had been received from all three of the municipalities. Hecox said verification of deposit of funds was included in the board packet that had been provided electronically prior to the meeting with the exception of South Beloit, which had been received the prior day after the board packet had been sent. Hecox said Rockton and Roscoe Township annual fees were pending IGA and receipt.
 - i. **Update and discussion on FY26 DOAP monthly reporting** Hecox reported the December 2026 DOAP request in the amount of \$104,072.64 had been deposited on 3/3/2026. Hecox reported the January 2026 DOAP request in the amount of \$119,804.80

had been submitted, approved, and was pending issue per the (State of Illinois) Comptroller website.

Hecox reported the FY27 DOAP application required to be submitted by April 1, 2026 had been submitted based on the proposed tentative budget.

Hecox reported the annual CNA/TAMS report kickout was underway beginning with a webinar to review changes for 2026 reporting. Hecox shared the TAMS report is federally mandatory and the CNA (Capital Needs Assessment) tracks transit assets to assist with determining capital needs across the state and at the federal level.

ii. **Update, discussion and action on federal grants reporting and application FY27**

Hecox reported Operating Expense Worksheet for January had been included electronically in the board packet for review prior to the meeting. Hecox said \$58,127.48 would be included in the 3rd QTR (Jan – Mar) ECHO draw when processed at the end of the quarter. Hecox reported the FY26 Federal Transit Apportionments were available with FFY26 SMTD apportionment to be \$468,825, which includes \$407,577 (Section 5307 Beloit, WI-IL) and \$55,248 (Section 5307 Dubuque, IA-IL). Hecox said the FFY26 funds must be obligated in grants by September 30, 2031. Hecox shared she had attended an FTA Recipient Management Plan quarterly update meeting remotely with Jonathan Dixon, FTA Program Manager, to review the status of open grants, future closeout of grants, and review options for proceeding with new application or amendment in the Fall.

iii. **Discussion and action on approval 2026 Certifications & Assurances:** Certifications and Assurances not yet available. No action.

iv. **Discussion and action on approval of 2026 tentative Budget & Appropriations Ordinance 2026-O-01.** Hecox reviewed the proposed FY27 Budget & Appropriations, including the FY27 Projected Activity Funding and individual line items reports. Hecox reviewed each line item and noted increases, decreases, and additions to line items and provided justification for each. Hecox reminded the board that the tentative budget required approval, a thirty-day public review, and a public hearing before final approval of the Ordinance. Hecox said no changes can be made to the tentative budget once approved, but after the public hearing any changes that may be needed could be made prior to formal approval of the Ordinance. Hecox said the Public Hearing would be held on May 27, 2026 at 9:30am before the regular board meeting. Chairman Larson entertained a motion for approval of the tentative Budget & Appropriations Ordinance. Trustee Mattocks motioned; Trustee Adams seconded. All ayes. No discussion. Motion carried 6 – 0, with none opposing or abstaining.

(Trustee Cook left the meeting at 10:50am)

v. **Discussion and update on disposal of SMTD buses at Beloit Auction and activity on Transit Hub.** Hecox reported the sale of the four SMTD buses at the Beloit Auction had been completed with a check in the amount of \$9,264.75 received. Hecox said documentation had been provided electronically for review prior to the meeting, including deposit of funds. Hecox said the funds would be reserved for future purchase of bus and bus equipment.

vi. **Discussion and action on agreement for preparation of Single Audit of financial statements.** Hecox provided an update on the status of proposals received from solicitations for auditor to perform the FY25 Single Audit. Hecox said two proposals were received with BakerTilly being the low bidder. Hecox said BakerTilly had indicated it would be available in April for fieldwork and May to complete the audit. Sikuch, the higher bid, indicated the audit would not be completed until December 2026.

Hecox stated that Sassetti declined submitting a proposal and Benning had not responded. Hecox said the proposals from BakerTilly and Sikuch quoted three audit years. Hecox requested the board, who had previously provided approval to enter into agreement for audit services under \$30,000 for the audit of the FY25 financials, including Single Audit, to approve Hecox to sign with BakerTilly for three audit years (FY25, FY26, FY27), as the rate was determined to be fair and reasonable based on past audit services and included future Single Audit, if needed. Hecox reviewed BakerTilly proposed rate of FY25 audit (\$17,000) and Single Audit (\$9,000), totaled \$26,000; FY26 audit (\$17,500) and Single Audit (\$9,250), totaled \$26,750; and FY27 audit (\$18,000) and Single Audit (\$9,500), totaled \$27,500. Hecox reviewed Sikuch proposal for three years, which was higher. Chairman Larson entertained a motion to award to BakerTilly. Trustee Mattocks motioned; Trustee Adams seconded. All ayes. No discussion. Motion carried 5 – 0, with none opposing or abstaining.

- vii. **Discussion and action on adoption of Resolution 2026-R-04 Authorizing IGA between SMTD and Roscoe Township for transportation services.** Hecox stated an error had been made with the prior Resolution requiring an amendment. Hecox shared that the FY26 IGA's for Rockton and Roscoe Townships should have been a part of the IGA approved for the amount of \$3,000 and the increase for FY27 at \$3,250 would not be approved until January 2027. As the Resolutions approved at the prior board meeting were approving IGAs that needed correction an amending resolution was needed for both townships to allow the IGA for FY26 to be changed to the corrected amount of \$3,000. Hecox said the Resolutions and corrected IGA's were provided electronically in the board packet for review prior to the meeting. Chairman Larson entertained a separate motion for each Resolution. Trustee Clifton motioned for approval; Trustee Welch seconded. All ayes. No discussion. Motion carried 5 – 0, with none opposing or abstaining, and Resolution 2026-R-04 was adopted.
- viii. **Discussion and action on adoption of Resolution 2026-R-05 Authorizing IGA between SMTD and Rockton Township for transportation services** Trustee Adams motioned for adoption of Resolution 2026-R-05; Trustee Clifton seconded. All ayes. No discussion. Motion carried 5 – 0, with none opposing or abstaining, and Resolution 2026-R-05 was adopted.

VII. MARKETING

- a. **Update and discussion February 2026 ridership.** Hecox reported 2,503 rides, including (28) Center of Hope (COH) and (151) Veteran Free rides were provided in February 2026. Hecox reported (8) No Shows were provided for a total of 2,511 trips provided. Hecox said a correction had been requested and was anticipated in the "Green Sheet" that was thought to be off due to an entry error.
- b. **Update and discussion on *Ticket to Ride* and *Token Transit* programs.** Hecox reported (290) Full Fare and (306) Half Fare Token Transit coupons and (5) Full Fare and (374) Half Fare Ticket to Ride advance sale tickets were redeemed in February 2026. Hecox said advanced sales in the amount of 1,004 represented approximately 43% of advance sale tickets redeemed in February 2026.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **Other business as may come before the board.**
 - i. **Next board meeting April 22, 2026.** Hecox requested the next regularly scheduled board meeting scheduled for April 22, 2026 be changed to April 29, 2026. Hecox said it was a "five-week month" and would allow for four weeks before the next meeting.

Open discussion concluded a quorum would be available and by mutual agreement the meeting was changed. Hecox stated she would provide appropriate Change of Meeting Notices.

- ii. **Update, discussion and action as needed on merge Rebuild I & III capital grants and Resolution Authorizing purchasing off 2022 CVP contract** Hecox reported that the Purchase Order for purchase of three buses had included installation of bike racks; however, she had been contacted by Midwest Transit Equipment and advised the bike racks would not work with the new buses without disabling safety features for stopping and tire pressure. Hecox stated the initial reaction from Benito Perez (IDOT Capital) was to Midwest who had included in their quote. Hecox said SMTD had concerns for warranty and insurance issues if the regulating modules were disabled to accommodate the bike racks and SMTD was not inclined to disable safety equipment for the benefit of a few to the detriment of many. Hecox said any SMTD action is pending IDOT final decision, as they have provided concurrence to purchase, but Hecox did not believe “*as much as we had hoped to add this benefit*” SMTD would be able at this time to include the addition of bike racks on the buses.
- iii. **Update and discussion on FOIA request.** Hecox provided a brief update on a FOIA request that had been requested from the *Judiciocracy LLC*. Hecox said she had requested the attorney provide the response to ensure proper redactions. The request was related to attorney services and related billing statements. Trustee Welch said local municipalities had been receiving the requests, although the Village of Rockton had not received a request. Hecox said copies of the response had been provided electronically in the board packet for trustee review prior to the meeting. No action needed.
- iv. **Update and discussion on shuttle service for Pelican Fest 2026.** Hecox reported she had received a letter requesting SMTD provide transportation services to accommodate the public event in downtown Rockton. Hecox stated, as in the past, SMTD would provide shuttle service from downtown to the Overlook during the all-day event. Open discussion regarding features of the event and benefit of shuttle service.
- v. **Reminder: Economic Interest Statements** Hecox provided a reminder to Trustees to complete Economic Interest Statements, if they have not already done so. Hecox said proof of filing should be provided to SMTD. Hecox said filing of statements are due by May 1, 2026 deadline to avoid a fine.

Hecox reported she had provided notice to Alpine Investment Group of intent to exercise option to renew lease for an additional four years for the SMTD administration office (11722 Main Street). Mickey Bennett had responded he would provide renewal.

Hecox shared that Happy Welch replaces Amanda McMahon by appointment at the March 16, 2026 Village Board meeting.

Hecox reported that although she had not been available to attend, SMTD was anticipated to receive an award, so Dominic Eterno—long time driver for SMTD—was invited to attend the event. Chairman Larson, shared that Dominic accepted the award on behalf of SMTD. Chairman Larson received two awards—one Stately Award for Best Leader and the Stately Summit Award, the program’s highest recognition of an individual whose impact reaches across the entire region.

IX. APPROVAL OF BILLS

The bills were presented and reviewed, as follows:

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$	135.00
EVENTBRITE		217.10
COMED		65.53
SHARON K HECOX		4,937.67
STEPHANY M CORNELLIER		228.44
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD		210.72
INTUIT		14.00
NORTHFIELD INN & SUITES		376.20
APG of WISCONSIN		26.07
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS		145.91
CHRIS DOERING		80.00
ROCK VALLEY PUBLISHING		320.92
SHARON K. HECOX		319.50
STATELINE SPORTS GROUP		395.00
STEPHANY M. CORNELLIER		131.87
NICOR GAS		121.78
HOSTWAY.COM		3.96
ALPINE INVESTMENT GROUP		1,100.00
BALSLEY PRINTING, INC.		531.00
BLUEFIRE MEDIA		40.00
CHRIS DOERING		392.00
COUSIN COMMUNICATIONS		1,392.00
FISH WINDOW CLEANING		20.00
GENERATION 3		245.00
GUS LARSON		50.00
JACK R. COOK, JR.		50.00
MARIETTA L. MATTOCKS		50.00
RICHARD ADAMS		50.00
ROCK VALLEY PUBLISHING		204.62
ROCKFORD MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT		166,402.04
SHARON K. HECOX		375.02
SOSNOWSKI & SZETO		946.00
COMED		57.15
SHARON K. HECOX		4,937.67
STEPHANY M. CORNELLIER		146.71
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD		252.46
TOTAL:	\$	<u>185,295.03</u>

Chairman Larson entertained a motion for approval of the bills, as presented. Trustee Welch motioned; Trustee Adams seconded. All ayes. No discussion. Motion carried 5 – 0, with none opposing or abstaining, and the bills totaling \$185,295.03 were approved.

- X. **ADJOURNMENT** There being no further business to come before the board, Chairman Larson closed the meeting at 11:40am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon K. Hecox
Executive Director