

## Board of Directors of the Kansas City Streetcar Authority

### April 3, 2025 Meeting Summary Minutes

Zoom <https://kcstreetcar-org.zoom.us/j/81135807419?pwd=dXdauUFREtXUTVsZjFEEd25vZz09>

600 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64106

#### 1. Call to Order

Michael Collins called the meeting to order.

#### 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary Minutes

George Guastello moved to approve the February 27, 2025 meeting summary minutes, Jason Swords seconded and the motion carried.

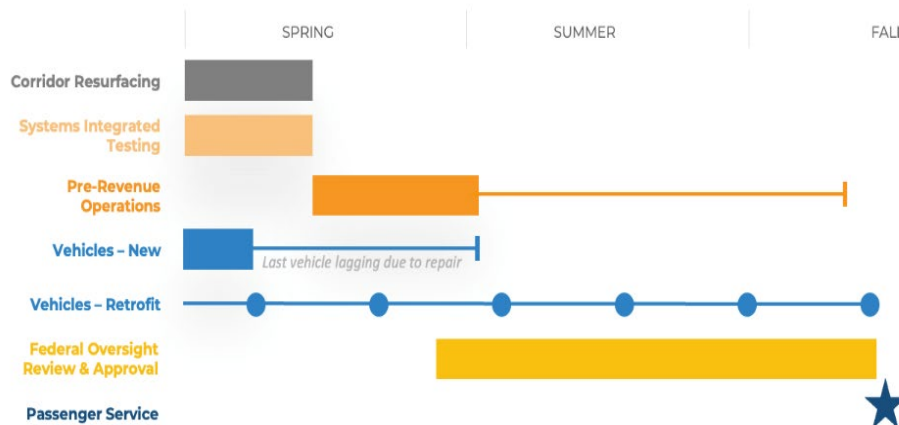
#### 3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

#### 4. Expansion Updates

##### A. Main Street Extension

Jason Waldon reported that the overall Main Street construction is at 97% completion. They are working through punch list items. Resurfacing started Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> and they expect to be done at the end of April. Exclusive lane marking will be completed in June. System Integrated Testing (SITs) testing is continuing and looking to be complete by mid-April. Pre-Revenue Operations are expected to start when it SIT is complete. He walked through the schedule and said if all goes well, they are looking at the fall opening. The project is on budget.



Tom Gerend said that the team is working behind the scenes to ramp up for when the baton is passed. There will be an increased level of activity on the route as staff start training and preparing. fleet capacity is key, which is why the Retrofit of the original fleet is important to the start date.

##### B. Riverfront Extension

Ralph Davis gave the update on the Riverfront Extension. The project is on schedule and on budget. They are tracking well. Grand Blvd at 3<sup>rd</sup> St. was closed on February 24<sup>th</sup>. They have constructed the two-way cycle track on Grand, installed the southbound track on the Grand, Northbound River Market streetcar stop and track switches (turn out and diamond) at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Grand. Next steps are to build and pour tracks on the Grand Blvd bridge with plans to have the bridge reopen by the end of April. He walked through slides of pictures and a drone video that showed the progress.

The Riverfront Extension communication team are doing a great job with engaging with the community. There is a tiny mic series for updates and Riverfront Rally monthly at businesses that have been impacted.

## **5. Letter Agreements**

### **A. Riverfront Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge**

Tom Gerend said a draft amended letter agreement was included in the Board packet, for the advancement of the Riverfront Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge. After the bid came in higher than expected, KCSA and the City of Kansas City developed a funding solution. It includes a redirection of streetcar resources and seeking some federal funds to offset the redirection as well as some City support. The gap will be covered by a continuation of the initial redirection for one additional year (from 3 to 4 years). It will be coupled with a city funding mechanism related to casino lease revenues that will help pay for a share of the debt services. The City Council has acted on the proposed funding plan. This amended letter agreement will have to have a concurrence by all three partners and will go to the Main Street TDD board next.

Jon Stephens thanked Council Bunch for his leadership in getting this over the finish line. Councilman Bunched thanked Tom Gerend for being creative and working on a solution. Michael Collins thank you as well. It is a vital piece to have a successful route to the Riverfront.

Jan Marcason moved to approve the amended Riverfront Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge letter agreement, Jon Stephens seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **B. City of Kansas City Staffing and Main Street Extension Support**

Tom Gerend said every year KCSA has a letter agreement with their partners the City of Kansas City, for related support of Streetcar. Annually they take the opportunity to adjust where needed and have conversations on what capacity is needed and where it is located. As the system grows, there are more needs. This annual letter agreement adds one additional FTE (Full Time Employee) to manage and support Right of Way as well as other coordination activities. This will be in addition to the two current FTE positions. Cost for signal modifications for the downtown line so the technology will be upgraded and on call support of the city's traffic system contractor is included. Lastly, there is \$7m that is for the local share of the Main Street Extension. City Finance is recommending that since there are funds available to not bond it and pay interest on debt, but to pay cash for the back portion of the project.

Alissia Canady moved to approve the 25/26 annual KCMO Letter Agreement, David Johnson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **6. Pedestrian Wayfinding Project Update**

Lauren Krutty said that the contractor, Toole Associates, completed an existing conditions assessment in March. She said for three days of field work, they visited 19 streetcar stops and took 400 photos. They are preparing a draft brief that will be shared with partners and stakeholders to review in mid-April. Next, the concept design is due in May for review. She shared some photos of existing pedestrian wayfinding on the Streetcar line as well as some examples they pulled from peer cities.

Donna Mandelbaum added that this will be in addition to the detailed route maps that are being created that will be at each stop.

Tom Gerend added that the City of Kansas City is advancing a broader citywide wayfinding effort. Their project team is plugged in to our process and vice versa. One of the challenges will be making sure there is a long-term plan. How will they be operated and maintained? KCSA's interest is that whatever is put on the platform, they own and maintain it. Something that must be considered with the concepts.

There was a robust discussion around the need for physical signs vs using your mobile devices.

## **7.KCSA Board By-Laws Review**

Doug Stone said there has been turnover on the Board it was time to review a couple of key things. He reminded the Board of Directors that there was an attendance section and to let the Chair or Executive Director know in advance if you can't make it. Michael Collins said this is a focus to getting back to the By-Laws and where we are lacking. It is

helpful that we are aware who will be here. The By-Laws were included in the Board packets.

Mr. Stone said there are Board term limits. He will look at everyone's terms before the next meeting and let the Board know whose term is available to be renewed.

### Committee Reports

#### A. Budget and Finance Committee

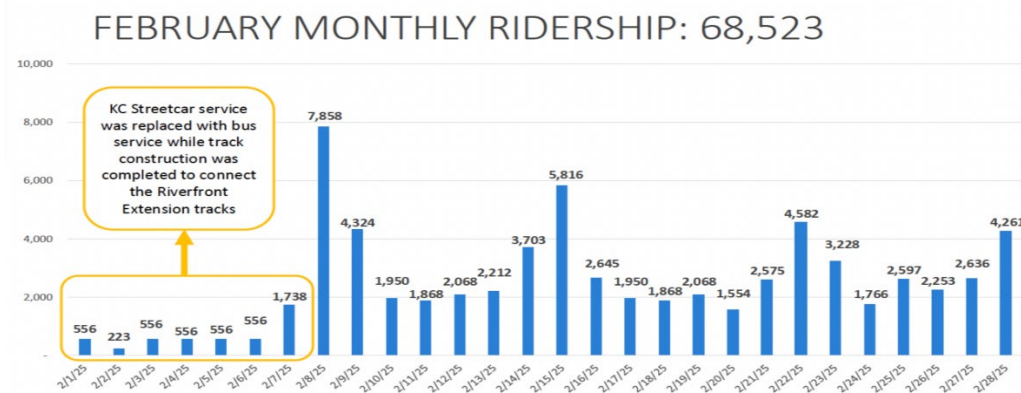
Tom Gerend said the Financials are strong and they have been passed most of the large liabilities. The January and February financial statements were included in the Director's meeting packet. The February financial reports show 83% on the budget and are 10 out of 12 months for the fiscal year.

Jon Stephens moved to accept the January and February financial reports, Eric Bunch seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

#### B. Operations and Planning Policy Committee

Lauren Krutty shared ridership summary.

- 2025 Total Ridership as of 02/28/25- 139,321 (1/27-1/31 Service was replaced with a bus bridge)
- Total Ridership (2016-2025) 15,024,931



Mrs. Krutty discussed Operations near term focus and priorities. She said that the real time arrival signs are not working as intended. She is working continually with the KCATA to get the base schedules corrected. It is difficult to compare the accuracy of prediction if the underlined schedules are not correct. Transit signal priority will be implemented on the Downtown line as well as the Main Street Extension.

Councilman Bunch asked if the signal priority policy can be discussed in detail with him. When he rides the streetcar, he is witnessing things that may contradict. He just wants to understand it more. Mrs. Krutty said she can set up a technical workgroup meeting to discuss and invited any of the Board members who wants to dive deeper into it to join.

Tom Gerend added that when the system first started the KCSA was intentional on being an integrated partner with the KCATA, in order to not have redundancy in areas. As KCSA grows there is a risk of depending on the regional agency for some items that are vital to our day-to-day work and to do it at the level we want to do them. They are having ongoing discussions with the KCATA's staff about where does it still makes sense to be connected. As the KC Streetcar system grow, assurances are needed that they can get what is needed to deliver. They will continue to be partners with KCATA.

#### C. Marketing Committee

Donna Mandelbaum gave the Marketing Committee update. KCSA has an opportunity to partner with KSHB. They have a team of three reporters and the station are committed to making a Streetcar story at least once a week through the Main Street Extension opening. It is called On Track with KC. She meets with them every other week with story ideas.

She is working on the Respect the Rail Safety Campaign for the Main Street Extension. KCSA received a \$20,000 Operation Lifesaver Grant. They will develop 5-6 animated streetcar safety videos, as well as a Streetcar Safety Activity Passport, since we will pass two schools on the Extension. Community outreach will include route stakeholders, schools, neighborhood associations, media, etc. The funds need to be spent, and assets developed before September 1, 2025.

### Sponsorship

- 2025 Sponsorship Contracts to Date: **\$47,625**
  - **University of Kansas:** 3 stops, month of March, \$8,125\*
  - **Truman Library:** 1 stop, 3 months, \$12,000
  - **FNBO:** 2 stops, 3 months each, \$19,500
  - **Kansas City University:** 1 stop, 2 months, \$8,000
  - **Visit KC:** 1 streetcar, 1 stop, Service adjustments
  - **KC Current:** In Process

Art in the Loop program has started. The artists have been selected. Out of the 77 visual art applications received. 5 streetcar shelters, 1 streetcar vehicle, 1 selected for the 13<sup>th</sup> and Grand Art wall and 1 for the Oppenstein Park Mural. 13 performances were selected from 44 applications for performing art. Art installs estimated to be completed by the end of May. The kick-off is on June 5 at 5:30pm at the KC Library's Central Branch.

### 8. Executive Director's report

Tom Gerend said the KCATA is having a regional fare evaluation study. While there is no discussion or interest for the KCSA to start charging a fare, they are participating in the study in order to have a data on when the questions start on why they are not charging.

Momentum for the 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine study is picking up steam on the City's side. KCSA's historical model has been early cost share of the feasibility study and that is what was communicated as the expectation. Councilwoman Patterson-Hazley is spearheading the fundraising on the city side. If there is a path forward, Mr. Gerend will come back to the Board with an ask for contributing to the cost share.

There have been discussions with the Executive Board about restructuring the KCSA Board Committee. The current structure will be similar except the Marketing and Operation committee will become the Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

#### Current Structure

- Executive
- Personnel
- Budget and Finance
- Operations Policy
- Marketing

#### Proposed Structure

- Executive
- Personnel
- Budget and Finance
- Neighborhood Advisory Committee

#### Neighborhood Advisory Committee

- Expanded representation
- 2-way communication
- Operations/ Safety/ Communications/ Etc.
- Special Projects
- Neighborhood, district, and stakeholder reps

- Chaired by KCSA Board appointment

There was a discussion on how studies for expanding Streetcar are chosen.

9. There was not a closed session.

10. The next meeting will be held on May 27, 2025, in person at VMF 600 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Kansas City, MO 64106 with a virtual Zoom option.

**Board Members Attending**

Rueben Alonzo  
Councilman Eric Bunch  
Alissia Canady  
Michael Collins  
Jon Copaken  
George Guastello  
David Johnson  
Jan Marcason  
Robert McCormack  
Stacey Paine  
Jon Stephens  
Jason Swords

**Others attending**

Ralph Davis, KCSA  
Tom Gerend, KCSA  
Capt. William Hewitt, KCPD  
Caroline Hogan, KSHB  
Ebony Jackson, KCSA  
Angie Laurie, KCMO  
Donna Mandelbaum, KCSA  
Gilberto Melgarejo, HTSI  
Doug Stone, Lewis Rice  
Jason Waldron, KCMO