MEETING MINUTES

CARTS Board of Directors
July 30, 2026, 9:30 a.m.
CARTS Board of Directors
Lee Dildy Operations Center, 5300 Tucker Hill Lane, Cedar Creek, Texas 78612

Board Members Present		Staff Present	
	Present	Present	
X	Commissioner Glass, Bastrop County	X	Dave Marsh, General Manager
X	Commissioner Riley, Blanco County	X	Pearl Jackson, Assistant General Manager
	Commissioner Collier, Burnet County	X	Ed Collins, CARTS Planning
X	Commissioner Berckenhoff, Fayette County	X	Dana Platt, Community Outreach Director
	Commissioner Cohen, Hays County	X	Rachid Breir, Director of Operations
X	Commissioner Knobloch, Lee County	X	Jo Tucker, Finance Director
	Commissioner Gomez, Travis County		Adrian Elliott, Director IT Services
X	Commissioner Horne, Caldwell County		
	Commissioner Boles, Williamson County		
	David Salazar, Travis County (Proxy)		
	Amalia Puentes-ZuaZua Williamson County (Proxy)	Guests	
X	Peter Jones, Llano County Commissioner	Jaqueline Ipina, TxDOT	

Call to Order

Chair Steven Knobloch confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Commissioners Horne, Berckenhoff, Riley, and Glass attended in person at CARTS HQ, while other members attended via TEAMS remote connection.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes as presented for May 28, 2026, meeting of the CARTS Board of Directors. (Moved by Riley, Berckenhoff unanimously approved)

Financial Reports

Jo Tucker, Finance Director, presented the Agency Financial Report.

Motion: To approve the financial reports as presented. (Moved by Glass, second by Riley, unanimously approved)

Contracts and Grants Summary Review

Jo Tucker provided an overview of all open contracts and grants.

Pre-authorized Bus Procurements, Consideration/Action

Mr. Marsh stated CARTS has four (4) capital grants to-date to administer totaling $1,138, 947.

CARTS is using the Oklahoma Cooperative Purchasing program with Model One to quickly order 12 vehicles, three VMC lifts, and replacement IT equipment. Funding includes $59,869 in capital reserves from previous bus sales.

Motion: To approve the FY27 Capital Acquisition program as presented for the pre-authorized procurement of twelve (12) units and for shop equipment and the replacement of IT assets in the projected amount of $1,138, 947 in grant funds and $59,869 in capital reserve funds. (Moved by Glass, second by Berckenhoff, unanimously approved)

Reports and Updates

A. Updates from Dana Platt, Director of Community Engagement

Dana Platt provided the Community Engagement update. Updates included recent outreach, marketing, and communications activities; reports are included in the background materials.

B. Operations

Mr. Breir provided updates on service performance and expansion efforts; supporting reports are included in the background materials.

1. CARTS San Marcos Urban Operations
2. CARTS NOW Services

C. Special Projects

Mr. Collins provided updates on the following projects; related exhibits were included in the background materials.

1. Bastrop Station Park-and-Ride Expansion

Mr. Collins reported that the Bastrop Station Park and Ride Expansion Project will extend paved parking to Loop 150, adding approximately 40 spaces alongside two proposed mobility hubs. TxDOT and FTA environmental reviews are underway, with construction funding pending approval by the Texas Transportation Commission on July 30, 2026. Upon approval, CARTS will issue an RFP on September 29, 2026, targeting Board consideration of a contractor recommendation on November 19, 2026.

2. Lockhart Station design and engineering

Mr. Collins reported that CARTS applied for TxDOT funding to design an intermodal transit station in Lockhart, pending Texas Transportation Commission approval on July 30th. If approved, an RFP for design services will be issued September 22nd,

with board consideration set for November 19th. Building on a December 2024 feasibility study, the 18-month design project will create a hub integrating local, regional, and intercity bus routes while providing overnight parking for CARTS vehicles.

3. ***Planning Projects***

Mr. Collins reported updates on two planning projects:

A. Bastrop FM 1209 Business Area Study: Due to limited engagement from area companies (SpaceX, The Boring Company, X), CARTS and the BEDC are scaling back the study's scope to focus on an evaluation of opportunities based on existing data, with completion expected within 30 days.

B. Architectural Engineering Evaluation of Older Stations: After a TxDOT grant application was not funded, CARTS transitioned to TxDOT's Transit Technical Service Program (TTSP) to assess needed rehabilitations for the San Marcos, Taylor, and Georgetown Stations. Staff met with TxDOT's consultant in June 2026 to draft a scope of work for the estimated one-year project.

Update on City of Austin Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) award and CARTS participation in the project.

1. Commuter Routes

Mr. Marsh updated the board that ridership on the two initially funded routes continues to grow, with the 1511X route reaching 108 riders and the 1515X route reaching 271 riders by June 2026.

Additionally, CARTS staff:

- Developed an alternative midday route connecting Elgin and Manor directly to the Eastside Bus Plaza to present to City of Austin staff.
- Prepared data on potential CPRG-funded commuter corridors along I-35 North, US 183 South, and US 290 West for upcoming talks with the City of Austin.
- Is drafting an RFP to secure an operator for a rural vanpool program.

2. Mobility Hub Proposal

Mr. Marsh updated the board on the Mobility Hub proposal, which aims to connect the Bastrop Station and downtown library with electric bike pods, public EV charging, and enhanced passenger amenities. The Bastrop City Council passed a resolution authorizing participation in the project on July 14, 2026, and CARTS staff met with the City of Austin on July 30th to review the proposal's overall status.

Other items as presented for discussion/information

It was discussed that the August CARTS Board of Directors meeting has been rescheduled from Thursday, August 27, to Wednesday, August 26, at 9:30 AM, due to the Texas Association of Counties Legislative Conference.

This annual budget meeting will cover the proposed CARTS FY 2027 budget.

Adjournment and set next meeting date and location. Action Requested

Motion: To adjourn the July 30, 2026, meeting and set the next meeting for August 26, 2026, at the Lee Dildy Operations Complex, Cedar Creek, TX at 9:30 AM. (Moved by Riley, second by Horne, unanimously approved)