

**DTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES HELD
ON JANUARY 22, 2026, AT 4:00 P.M.**

BOARD PRESENT:

Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson
Secretary/Treasurer

Mr. Robert Cramer
Mr. Samuel Krassenstein
Mr. John Naglick
Mr. Brandon Lockhart
Mr. John Paul Rea

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT:

Hon. James Tate

DETROIT TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION:

Ms. Melia Howard, General Manager
Mr. Ernest Latham, Deputy Gen. Mgr.
Ms. Ericka Alexander
Ms. Ophelia Crawford
Ms. Pamela Day
Ms. Karen Foster
Ms. Sarah Gryniewicz
Mr. Cornelius Henry
Mr. Curt Knudsen
Mr. Rodrick McCartha
Mr. Henry McLaurin
Ms. Michele Pollock
Mr. Cliffawn Powell
Mr. Alphonso Ruiz
Ms. Leeya Sutter
Mr. Christopher Thomas
Ms. Madonna VanFossen
Ms. Gwen Wallace
Mr. Michael Walter
Mr. James Zills

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Mr. Terry Cramer
Mr. Michael Cunningham
Mr. Khalil Davis, WSP
Ms. Farai Gundan (Bhadaza)
Mr. Lucas Lasecki
Mr. Robert Pawlowski
Mr. David Roush

Meeting Called to Order/Opening Remarks

Chairperson Mr. Robert Cramer called the meeting of the Detroit Transportation Corporation Board of Directors to order at approximately 4:03 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea and supported by Mr. John Naglick to adopt the agenda.

VOTE: All in attendance voted to approve the agenda.

2. Approval of the Minutes of October 23, 2025

MOTION: Moved by Mr. John Naglick and supported by Mr. John Paul Rea to adopt the Minutes for the Board of Directors meeting held on December 18, 2025.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

Action Items

3. Resolution: Updating the Authorized Signers to the DTC Bank Accounts

MOTION: Moved by Mr. John Naglick and supported by Mr. John Paul Rea that the DTC requests that the Board of Directors approve the Resolution to reconfirm: Robert Cramer, Chairperson of the Board, Samuel Krassenstein, Vice-Chairperson of the Board, John Naglick, Board Secretary/Treasurer, and add Melia Howard, DTC General Manager as authorized signers to the DTC's Deposit of Accounts.

Discussion: Mr. Robert Cramer stated that the resolution is to update the signers on the accounts to reflect the current Board Secretary, the Board Chairperson, and the General Manager, Melia Howard.

Mr. John Naglick stated that Comerica will be merging with Fifth Third Bank and that there will be no Comerica accounts. He stated that the City has gone to either Huntington or JPMorgan Chase for its operating accounts. He asked if there is thought on the transition or the thought of changing banks. Ms. Melia Howard asked what the remedy would be to switch banks. Ms. Karen Foster answered that we would be looking into getting information from other banks to see what is offered before the change occurs. Ms. Melia Howard stated that she, Ms. Foster, and Ms. Gryniewicz will review area banks, making sure that they have the same rates as Comerica, so that we can have a smooth transition.

Mr. John Naglick suggested a meeting with the City Treasurer to discuss the process of switching banks, including the products and pricing offered.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

4. Resolution: Authorization to purchase Rail Wall Mount Insulators

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein and supported by Mr. John Paul Rea that the General Manager is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed by the DTC Board of Directors to purchase rail wall mount insulators from Protectolite for an amount not-to-exceed Ninety Thousand Eighty and 00/100 Dollars (\$90,080.00).

Discussion: Mr. Ernest Latham stated that this is a request to purchase 200 isolators from Protectorlite who is the OEM that owns all of the molds. He stated that they are our system provider. Mr. Latham stated that the isolator clamps and holds the power rail securely to the parapet wall.

Mr. Ernest Latham stated that we have a burn rate of approximately 30 to 35 a year on these, so this procurement will hold us for about 3 years, unless something unforeseen happens.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein inquired about the two types of insulators, ramped and unramped. He noted that we use 10 ramped insulators a year, but are ordering 100 of each. He stated that we will have three years of runway for the unramped, but 10 years of runway for the ramped. Mr. Krassenstein asked if we should be ordering the same amount so that we're looking at a three-year time horizon for both. Mr. Ernest Latham answered that a major concern is the age of the ramp; some of them are very old, and some have never been changed. He stated that we have a problem with quick expansion due to temperature changes. Mr. Latham gave the example of the 20 – 30-degree temperature span in Michigan, which may cause some of the old isolators to fail. He stated that this will keep us ahead of the curve for the ramp section.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein asked for the meaning of the ramp section. Mr. Ernest Latham explained that when going around the guideway, the power rail switches from left to right on the guideway, so for an entrance, you can't have it out; therefore, it's a ramp section for a smooth transition for the collector shoot on and off as you do in transition.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

5. Resolution: Authorization to purchase Laserfiche Cloud SaaS Business Tier System

MOTION: Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea and supported by Mr. Brandon Lockhart that the General Manager is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed by the DTC Board of Directors to purchase Laserfiche Cloud SaaS Business Tier System from Global Solutions for an amount not-to-exceed Twenty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty and 00/100 Dollars (\$24,950.00).

Discussion: Mr. Ernest Latham stated that we currently use Laserfiche on our servers for all of our documents, blueprints, technical documents, and the onboarding of the new TTC documents that are housed within Laserfiche. He stated that in its current capacity, they're switching to a cloud-based system, plus it will be backed up on our servers. Mr. Latham said that with the new system, we will receive more new features that we just don't have today. He stated that we will get better management, and that they can remote in and assist our Data Archivist. He also stated that we can use larger file names and that it's scalable. Mr. Latham made note that we will receive five additional licenses, bringing the total to 25.

Mr. Ernest Latham stated that this will help us bring on more technical staff and can help us with some of our other projects as we bring them on.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

6. Resolution: Authorization to approve a Purchase Order Change Action (POCA) for Plumbing Services

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein and supported by Mr. John Paul Rea that the General Manager is hereby authorized, empowered and directed by the DTC Board of Directors to approve a purchase order change action (POCA) to the Benkari contract for plumbing services in the amount not to exceed Forty-

One Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$41,000.00) bringing the total contract amount to Two Hundred and Forty-One Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$241,000.00) for three (3) years with two (2) 1-year renewal options.

Discussion: Mr. Ernest Latham stated we are near our award rate for Benkari Plumbing, and we have a few things that we need to tie up that will exceed our current rate. He stated that we are asking to add Forty-One Thousand Dollars (\$41,000.00) to the current contract, where we recently finished an emergency project with them on some guideway plumbing that was Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000.00), which leaves us about Twenty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$23,000.00) to get through January to the end of September 2026.

Mr. John Naglick asked whether this is time-and-materials at the contract rate when there is an emergency service, such as unclogging a guideway drain. He also questioned whether this is how the money gets spent. Mr. Ernest Latham answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein asked if adding the money continues to allow us to go all the way to the end of the contract or just get us to September 2026. Mr. Ernest Latham answered that this is through September 2026. Mr. Krassenstein noted we had anticipated \$40,000 a year for five years and asked if we had actually spent effectively \$200,000 over the course of 2 1/2 years. Ms. Pollock answered that we are spending \$40,000 here and that this addition will bring us into September 2030. She explained that because we had the emergency, I think we're asking to spend \$21,000, which leaves us about \$20,000. for unanticipated services that we need to make. She stated that we are going to stick with the \$40,000 for the option.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein added that the existing contract authority that you have left gets us through the two options. Ms. Michele Pollock agreed, stating \$200,000 for five years.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

7. Resolution: Authorization to enter into a Contract Agreement to provide SCADA systems Preventative Maintenance, and Repair Services

MOTION: Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea and supported by Mr. Samuel Krassensetein that the General Manager is hereby authorized, empowered and directed by the DTC Board of Directors to enter into an agreement for a Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition (SCADA) System preventative maintenance and repair services with Johnson Controls, Inc (JCI) for a three-year contract with no renewal options for an amount not-to-exceed One Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Eight and 35/100 Dollars (\$194,248.35) for three (3) years.

Discussion: Mr. Curt Knudsen stated that this agenda item is to renew the contract with our vendor JCI, who is the proprietary OEM for our system, which includes the C-Cure software housed in Control. He stated that we are adding approximately Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000.00) of repair costs per year.

Motion to approve the authorization to get assistant PM and repair services. Motion and support. All those in favor say aye. Motion passes.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

8. Resolution: Authorization to enter into a Contract Agreement to provide Fire Alarm Panel Preventative Maintenance and Repair Services

MOTION: Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea and supported by Mr. John Naglick that the General Manager is hereby authorized, empowered and directed by the DTC Board of Directors to enter into an agreement for Fire Alarm Panels preventative maintenance and repair services with Johnson Controls, Inc. or a three-year contract with no renewal options for an amount not-to-exceed Seventy-Nine Thousand Seventy-Five and 23/100 Dollars (\$79,075.41).

Discussion: Mr. Knudsen stated that this is for our fire alarm panels, which are in each station and at the Maintenance and Control Facility. He stated that Johnson Controls, Inc. is our OEM technical expert and has the software capabilities that are needed if repairs are necessary. Mr. Knudsen stated that this is a renewal of a contract that we've had before. He stated that we are asking for Forty-Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$43,500.00) for three years and that we have also added a Twelve Thousand Dollar (\$12,000.00) repair blanket per year.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein asked if we should be looking to replace the fire panels so that we are not tied to one specific company. Mr. Curt Knudsen answered in the affirmative.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

9. Resolution: Authorization to Pay Invoices for SolarWinds Subscription, Video Wall Panel Displays, and Servers

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein and supported by Mr. John Paul Rea that the General Manager is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed by the DTC Board of Directors to pay Accurate Networks invoices, SolarWinds subscription services, and video wall mount panel displays for an amount not-to-exceed Six Thousand Three Hundred Three and 09/100 Dollars (\$60,303.09).

Discussion: Ms. Michele Pollock stated that the SolarWinds subscription services ended in 2025, so there was a need to buy three years of subscriptions. She stated that we are asking the Board to approve the payment of the invoice. She stated that there were needs for the video wall screens and that Accurate Networks is the expert in configuring the wall screens and the new servers for security reasons. She also stated that there is a small invoice for them to hook up the Genetec security system to the new servers.

Mr. John Naglick asked if these are the screens that show where the train is. Mr. Michele Pollock answered in the affirmative, adding that four new screens were purchased.

Mr. Robert Cramer asked if the work had already been done. Ms. Michele Pollock answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Cramer asked if this was separate from the station technology upgrade project. Mr. Ernest Latham answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Robert Cramer asked if we anticipate any other upgrades or major repairs, or if this has us set for two more years. Ms. Michele Pollock stated that we are working on setting a new contract for PM and repairs.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

10. General Manager / Staff Reports

- **Anniversary Recognition in January**
- **Celebrate & Elevate Award Winners**
- **Q1 & Q2 Financial Report**

Moved by Mr. John Paul Rea and supported by John Naglick to receive and file the Q1 and Q2 financial reports.

Q1 & Q2 Financial Report

Ms. Karen Foster stated that this is a financial report through December 2025, halfway through fiscal year 2026. She stated that the annual budget is just over \$20 million for the year, in both revenues and expenses, for a balanced budget. She stated that year to date, we've collected \$6.9 million in revenues for approximately 43% collected year to date of our annual budget. Ms. Foster stated that our expenses for payroll are slightly under the half-year-to-date figure at about \$3.5 million, and the departmental expenses are at \$5.1 million, which is also just under the 50% amount, getting us to a total of just under \$1.2 million spent of our annual expenses year to date. She stated that to date, we are at about 44% of our full annual budget spent, with 56% remaining for expenditures, and that we're a little slower in revenues, with about 35% collected.

Some things to note are that cash flow continues to be of concern. We have a project where multiple departments are engaged in assisting in creating an improvement in that area, one of them being the grants division, and tapping into some of the grants that have already been awarded to us for preventive maintenance through measures of billing cost or maintenance performed by our internal staff versus vendors.

Ms. Karen Foster stated that we are working on our fiscal year 2027 budget, getting some implementation of corrective action plans in response to audits, and a lot of work related to strategic planning.

Mr. John Naglick asked about the amount of the City's subsidy to DTC each year. Ms. Foster answered that it is approximately \$7.45 million. Mr. Naglick asked if any amount received is in revenue, and if it is the line it goes on. Ms. Foster answered in the affirmative, adding that we've collected roughly \$3.2 million to date.

Mr. John Naglick explained the process of the City's subsidy process for receiving funding.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein asked about the amount of sponsorship revenue. Ms. Karen Foster stated that the current amount is \$0.

Celebrate and Elevate Award Winners

Ms. Leeya Sutter stated that on January 7th, DTC hosted its first employee conference to celebrate our successes in 2025 and to also present all the great things that we look forward to for 2026. Ms. Sutter stated that it was also a great time to introduce our General Manager, Melia Howard.

Ms. Sutter announced the award winners.

Mr. Rodrick McCartha, Mechanical Technician, received the Service Award. Ms. Sutter stated that on November 13, 2025, he achieved 25 years of service.

Mr. Henry McLaurin, Facility Maintenance Technician, received the award for Rock of Reliability, who is an individual who consistently is dependable, delivers quality work, and provides regular support. The reliability anchors the team and ensures everything runs smoothly.

Mr. Malcolm Mayes, Electronic Technician, received the award for Innovative Problem Solver, which is someone who thinks outside the box, finds innovative ways to overcome obstacles, and transforms challenges into effective solutions.

Ms. Michele Pollock, Strategic Sourcing & Procurement Director, received the award for Multitasking Maestro, who is someone who effortlessly balances multiple tasks, stays organized under pressure, and keeps everything running smoothly. They make even the busiest day look easy, and they do it with a positive attitude every step of the way.

Ms. Delana Holt, System Control Operator, received the award for 2025 Sunshine on a Cloudy Day, which is someone who is positive and positively brightens every room. Their uplifting attitude, encouragement, and steady optimism make even the toughest days feel lighter for everyone around them.

Mr. Cornelius Henry, Technical Planning Specialist, received our Living Legends award, which is someone who has a deep understanding of the organization's history, helps ground our work, and guides our progress. Their insight preserves our past, informs our present, and strengthens our future.

Officer Alphonso Ruiz, Transit Police Officer, received the Together We Thrive award, which is someone who strengthens team spirit and builds connection, inspiring collaboration, creating an environment where everyone can succeed together.

Ms. Melia Howard announced Ms. Jela Ellefson as the new Deputy Director of Special Projects. She stated that Ms. Ellefson would be coming from Michigan Central and that her role would be to advance several high-priority initiatives that we are working on with the Ford Motor Company and Michigan Central project, the system study, as well as many other initiatives that we are currently moving forward with. She stated that Ms. Ellefson also has a wealth of experience, not just in the community and with community engagement, but also in grants and finance.

Mr. Robert Cramer commended Ms. Leeya Sutter, Ms. Sarah Gryniewicz, and the participating staff for bringing the conference together. He stated that there were two separate sessions so that everyone could participate.

11. Public Participation

Mr. Michael Cunningham began by stating his phone number: 313-444-9114. Mr. Cunningham stated that he had been homeless for 10 years and offered the suggestion of the People Mover having portable chargers at the bottom of the staircases or at the entrance of the area.

Mr. Robert Cramer stated that we are going to pilot a charging station in each of the transit centers, too, so we will share how those work with the People Mover as well.

Mr. Robert Pawlowski welcomed Ms. Melia Howard and stated that he looks forward to bringing insights and ideas. He also gave recognition to Mr. Robert Cramer for his outstanding service commitment, new vision ideas that really changed the People Mover to what it is today. Mr. Pawlowski stated that he appreciates all the collective partnership that has been going on to advance the system, thinking into the future on how we could advance new ways of opportunities for accessibility and mobility with the system study, and being able to work with AECOM to be able to advance the system. He stated that there are many things that we could look at, potentially partnerships with different parking lots to provide service to different access points within the People Mover and QLine, but most of all, being able to connect to certain businesses and partners like

SMART, DDOT, and other agencies that provide critical service across our region.

Ms. Farai Gundan introduced herself as the founder of Fadala, who is innovating at the intersection of Fintech and mobility as a service, and is also located at Michigan Central. Ms. Gundan congratulated Ms. Howard on her position as the new General Manager.

Ms. Gundan, Treasurer of the Transportation Riders United (TRU), invited the Board and staff to the State of Transit next week, scheduled to be held on Tuesday.

Mr. Lucas Lasecki congratulated the award recipients. He stated that there are people behind the scenes who make the People Mover work, and he was glad that they were getting recognized.

Ms. Madonna Van Fossen informed Mr. Michael Cunningham that he would be receiving a box of hand warmers from Ms. Ericka Alexander to hand out to the community.

Ms. Melia Howard stated that this was her first Auto Show and thanked Chief Cliff Powell for his diligence in ensuring the safety of our riders and Mr. Tony Vinson, who organized the volunteers who were out on the platforms in the cold, making sure that all of our guests who were on the train -residents, and just regular visitors - were safe. She also thanked Mr. Mike Walter, our Facilities Manager, and Mr. Ernest Latham, Deputy General Manager, for always being responsive, keeping the trains going and clean.

12. Board Member Comments

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein congratulated those who were recognized and formally welcomed Ms. Melia Howard to the organization.

13. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein and supported by Mr. John Paul Rea to adjourn the meeting at approximately 4:58 p.m.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

DocuSigned by:

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John Naglick, Corporation Secretary