

**DTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES HELD  
ON MAY 21, 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  
Hon. James Tate

**BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT:**

Mr. John Paul Rea

**DETROIT TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION:**

Ms. Melia Howard, General Manager  
Mr. Ernest Latham, Deputy Gen. Mgr.  
Ms. Ericka Alexander  
Mr. Kevin Burwell  
Ms. Ophelia Crawford  
Ms. Pamela Day  
Ms. Jacqueline DeGrande  
Ms. Jela Ellefson  
Ms. Karen Foster  
Ms. Sarah Gryniewicz  
Mr. Cornelius Henry  
Mr. Curt Knudsen  
Ms. LaTrinda Perry  
Ms. Michele Pollock  
Mr. Cliff Powell  
Mr. Desmond Simmons  
Mr. Christopher Thomas  
Ms. Madonna Van Fossen  
Mr. Tony Vinson  
Ms. Gwen Wallace  
Mr. James Zills

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Mr. Matt Webb (TransPro)  
Ms. Jill Barnett (TransPro)  
Mr. Khalil Davis, WSP  
Mr. Tyler Phillips (APEX Law)  
Mr. Joshua Saladar  
Mr. Dan Swiontonski

**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 4:04 p.m.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Robert Cramer requested a motion to amend the agenda by removing Item #5, Resolution to approve Detroit Transportation Corporation Fiscal Year Operating Budget and Capital Projects, and move it to the next meeting.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein and supported by Mr. Brandon Lockhart to remove Item #5 from the agenda until the next meeting and adopt the amended agenda.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted to approve the agenda.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of April 23, 2026**

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. Brandon Lockhart and supported by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein to adopt the Minutes for the Board of Directors meeting held on March 26, 2026.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

**3. Closed Session:**

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein and supported by Mr. John Naglick to convene a Closed Session to discuss a proposed settlement for pending litigation at approximately 4:06 p.m.

| <b>DTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ROLL CALL</b> | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Robert Cramer, Chairperson              | X          |           |
| Samuel Krassenstein, Vice-Chairperson   | X          |           |
| John Naglick, Secretary/Treasurer       | X          |           |
| Brandon Lockhart, Member                | X          |           |
| Hon. James Tate, Member                 | X          |           |
| John Paul Rea, Member                   |            | Absent    |

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

The DTC Board of Directors entered into a Closed Session at approximately 4:07 p.m.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein and supported by Mr. Brandon Lockhart to adjourn the Closed Session and return to the public meeting at approximately 5:04 p.m.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

The DTC Board of Directors reconvened the public meeting at approximately 5:06 p.m.

Mr. Robert Cramer offered to accept a motion to approve the closed session discussion.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein and supported by Mr. John Naglick to ratify the action taken in closed session regarding the approval of the settlement as proposed.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

#### 4. **General Manager / Staff Reports**

- *Restoration of Service (Ms. Melia Howard)*

Ms. Melia Howard stated that we currently have two trains out: Central Michigan and University of Michigan.

She stated that the Movement Festival is this weekend, and the Grand Prix is the following weekend.

Ms. Melia Howard thanked TransPro for guiding us and giving us a way forward with our organization in how we look at our mission and vision and how we are cultivating our space with our team. She stated that most importantly, TransPro helped us to see that we had many priorities, and some first and foremost are our fiscal responsibility and our fiscal stability as an organization. She stated that through this lens, between fiscal stability and making sure that our team has the necessary tools to continue to grow and thrive, which are the things we will be focusing on as an organization moving forward.

- *Strategic Plan (TransPro Representative)*

Mr. Matt Webb and Ms. Jill Barnett of TransPro presented the Strategic Plan for DTC to the Board of Directors.

Mr. Matt Webb stated that the strategic planning process allowed the team to think about where the organization wants to go, what it hopes to achieve, and the priorities that it will use in its decision-making over the course of the next three years. He stated that beyond identifying goals and priorities, actions and project lists, it shapes and provides the strategy, actions, and behaviors that create the culture DTC wants to emulate and ultimately defines what success looks like. Mr. Webb stated that the plan serves as a living document to help inform not only the internal team, but also customers and community about the value that DTC brings to Detroit.

Mr. Matt Webb stated that we landed on a mission statement of "Elevating Detroit" and a vision statement, "To be the leading mobility partner in Detroit's forward movement." He said that this is a statement and a reflection of both the history and legacy that DTC and the People Mover provide and also an acknowledgement of the role that DTC wants to play moving forward.

Ms. Jill Barnett spoke about developing key performance indicators (KPIs) and tactics to help DTC achieve success. She stated that the best practice for DTC to bring the strategic plan to life is to continue rolling out the revised mission, vision, and values across the organization and integrate them into agency culture so that everyone knows what the mission, vision, and values are. She mentioned developing a quarterly reporting process, ensuring that the information systems are in place, and then publishing the metrics related to community value so that DTC is demonstrating the value to the community and to the city of Detroit.

- *TTC Update (Ms. Sarah Gryniewicz)*

Ms. Sarah Gryniewicz stated that we are finishing up phase one, acquiring the vehicles and doing initial program setups. She stated that we are now entering phase two. She stated that there has been a lot of technical scope confirmation, contacting vendors, etc. She stated that we are recommending taking a pause in the form of a retreat to study and dig into the numbers that are coming in and the different options ahead of us.

Ms. Gryniewicz stated that three resolutions would be presented to the Board regarding TTC or car projects for approval, some of which are for high dollar amounts. She mentioned WSP as one of the contractors we need to continue to pay for the services that have been completed.

Mr. John Naglick asked if there is an overall project budget for TTC and if there is a budget gap that we will need to solve for. Ms. Melia Howard answered in the affirmative. Mr. John Naglick inquired about the timeline for being able to share what the total budget of TTC would look like. Ms. Melia Howard answered that the information would be presented at the next Board meeting so that a sound decision can be made as to how we move forward.

- *MCMF Update (Ms. Melia Howard / Ms. Jela Ellefson)*

Ms. Melia Howard stated that we had our first executive advisory meeting yesterday regarding the Michigan Multimodal Facility, which some of the Board members attended. She stated that community stakeholders and community leaders also attended the meeting. Ms. Howard said that we are now moving into the next phase of this project, where we are going to start the procurement process this summer for a design and engineering firm to move this project along.

Ms. Howard stated that we will provide the Board monthly with exciting updates about all the great things that are happening on the Michigan Central Campus.

Mr. Robert Cramer acknowledged yesterday's event, stating that bringing the group together was a great way to kick off turning that into a project that could be as impactful as he believes we all hope that it will be.

### **Action Items**

#### **5. Resolution to Approve Detroit Transportation Corporation Fiscal Year Operating Budget and Capital Projects**

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein, supported by Mr. John Naglick, that the resolution be tabled until the next meeting.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

#### **6. Resolution Authorization for Approval of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan**

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. Brandon Lockhart and supported by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein that the DTC Board of Directors approve the PTASP and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the required signature page.

*Discussion:* Mr. James Zills stated that it is a requirement to review, update, and approve our PTASP. He stated that the Plan has been given conditional approval by MDOT and the Joint Labor and Management Safety Committee (JLMSC) voted to approve the Plan yesterday.

Mr. Zills stated that some of the minor changes that were FTA-mandated with going more in depth of the JLMSC were the layout of the membership and how meeting materials are distributed before the meetings. He said that the mandatory de-escalation training and the safety performance measure table total injury rate were added to the chart.

He stated that the Plan was 111 pages and is now down to 55 pages due to the removal of redundant material and grammatical errors.

Mr. John Naglick asked what makes the Plan a full approval. Mr. James Zills answered that the JLMSC and Board approval make it a full approval and signatures.

Mr. Robert Cramer asked if the State has to sign off on the Plan. Mr. James Zills answered in the negative, stating that they receive a copy once it is approved by the Board.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

## **7. Resolution Authorization to amend the Purchase Order for Apex Law**

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. John Naglick and supported by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein that the General Manager shall be and is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed by the DTC Board of Directors on behalf of the Corporation to amend the Purchase Agreement with APEX Law LLC for Sixty Thousand Dollars. (\$60,00.00).

*Discussion:* Mr. Ernest Latham stated that this is a request for a one-year purchase order for legal services with Apex Law. He stated that Apex Law worked on major legal issues for us, the BVR negotiations, Delta Rail negotiations, and also the ongoing matters with TKE and our escalators. Mr. Latham stated that they're handling the MIOSHA side of the complaint for us as well.

Mr. Latham stated that we won't use the entire \$60,000.00 because two issues have dropped off and the rest should get us through the year.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein asked if the \$60,000 was for the services in the resolution or for future work. Mr. Ernest Latham stated that the funds are for the services listed in the resolution only.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

## **8. Resolution Authorization to establish a Purchase Order with Spectrum Wireless for Radio Communication Service**

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. John Naglick and supported by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein that the General Manager shall be and is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed by the DTC Board of Directors on behalf of the Corporation to amend the Purchase Agreement with Spectrum Wireless for the provision of communication and monitoring services supporting the Detroit People Mover system for an annual total of approximately Fifty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$56,450.00).

*Discussion:* Mr. Ernest Latham stated that the resolution is for the annual radio absence licensing and frequency fees that we hold with Spectrum Wireless. He stated that included are the emergency call boxes for your two-way palms for the comms, the repeater fee for the two-way comms, health monitoring, and also the airtime for the maintenance radio.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein asked if this was the company we sold the frequency to. Mr. Ernest Latham answered in the negative, stating that the company we sold the frequency to was Anterix. Mr. Krassenstein asked whether it's separate from the use we had when we had our own frequency. Or, if this is an added cost as a result of getting rid of the frequency. Mr. Ernest Latham answered that we still use half of that for the old 900-megahertz frequency for all the train monitoring on it.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

**9. Resolution Authorization to approve a Warehouse Rental Service Contract with Luthern Brothers Commerce Center**

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein and supported by Mr. Brandon Lockhart that the General Manager is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed by the DTC Board of Directors to approve a warehouse rental service contract with Luthern Brothers Commerce Center for an amount not to exceed One Hundred Forty-Five Thousand and Four Hundred Forty Dollars and 00/100 (\$145,440.00) for three (3) years.

*Discussion:* Ms. Michele Pollock stated that DTC has reached the capacity for storing the TTC parts, so we require additional storage. She stated that we checked out various warehouses in the area, and we found Luthern Brothers to be the most feasible. She said that they are approximately half a mile away from here.

Ms. Pollock stated that we are requesting the Board to approve a three-year contract with Luthern Brothers for One Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars and 80/100 (\$167,656.80). She stated that we will be renting 9,000 square feet on the third floor and 1690 square feet on the 1st floor to hold our oversized parts.

Mr. John Naglick asked for the location of the warehouse. Ms. Michele Pollock answered that the warehouse is located at 2030 Howard Street.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein asked for clarification of the rates. He noted that the clerical error in the summary stated \$0.40 a square foot instead of \$0.44.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein inquired about the elevators. Ms. Michele Pollock stated that there are elevators at the facility and that we would be able to use the pallet jacks. She added that the oversized items will be kept on the first floor because the elevator capacity is 5,000.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein asked what's driving at the lowest rate. Ms. Michele Pollock answered that it's a family business.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein asked if DTC explored any potential city warehousing or other space. Ms. Melia Howard stated that we looked at the Gilbert terminal as a possibility, but due to a lack of security protocols in place, we needed to make a lot of modifications in order to secure our items properly.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

**10. Resolution Authorization to approve a Contract with ORX for Inspection, Repair and Reprofile Eleven (11) Wheel Sets**

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. John Naglick and supported by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein that the General Manager is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed by the DTC Board of Directors to approve a contract with ORX to inspect, repair, and reprofile eleven (11) wheel sets for an amount not to exceed One Hundred Fifteen Thousand and Three Hundred Eighty-Two 00/100 Dollars (\$115,382.00).

*Discussion:* Ms. Michele Pollock stated that we sent 11 wheel sets to ORX. She stated that they were able to reprofile two of them and add 10-pound plates so that the wheels are able to fit on our guideway rail. She stated that we are asking the Board to approve One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-two Dollars (\$115,382.00) to inspect and repair the wheel sets.

Mr. John Naglick asked if these are the wheel sets that would be put on the cars if we are successful at bringing the TTC cars on to our tracks. Mr. Ernest Latham answered that these are for the current DPM fleet. He stated that the TTC wheel is a different profile, so we gave them two wheels to see if they could true it to the DTC profile. He stated that they were able to do it. Ms. Michele Pollock added that in the future, we will be sending the wheels through ORX.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein noted that the resolution is asking for authorization to do 11 wheel sets, but in the text, it says that 48 wheel sets would be sets to the vendor. He asked if this was the pilot. Ms. Michele Pollock answered that the two are the pilot. Mr. Ernest Latham explained that the 11 sets already have the current DPM profile that they are re-truing. He stated that there are two extra wheels that are TTC wheels with the TTC profile, which are going to get re-profiled to the DTC profile.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein asked if the pilot is successful, then we would enter into a separate contract to send the additional wheel sets. Mr. Latham answered in the affirmative. Mr. Krassenstein asked if it makes sense to seek a contract for all 48 wheel sets right now. Or, if it would impact our timing to have to come back and do a second contract to add the 48 wheel sets. Mr. Ernest Latham answered that it would be part of phase two work, and we're going through the trucks and the overhauls because the wheels will already be on the trucks when ORX receives them. He said that it'll be part of that process; they will just remove the wheels. Then, you will need a profiling of the new wheels when they enter that portion. Mr. Latham stated that it's a separate contract.

Mr. Brandon Lockhart asked about the lifespan of the wheels. Mr. Ernest Latham answered that the typical lifespan on a wheel is probably five to seven years per set. He added that it depends on how much grinding we do, if there are any anomalies with the truck, and the wheel wear.

Mr. John Naglick asked if rail grinding leads to a better life for the wheels. Mr. Ernest Latham answered in the affirmative. He stated that the grinding was three years ago and that we are setting up a new cycle for grinding again. He further explained that if the grinding is not performed, the wheels, truck components, and secondary suspensions on the vehicles will wear out. Mr. Latham stated that the better we can keep the wheels profiled, the better the car rides and customer engagement and satisfaction.

Mr. Ernest Latham stated that one of the key things is that we acquired about 150 wheels from Toronto, which really helps us. We don't have to purchase wheels for a while.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein asked if it includes the wheels that are installed on the vehicles today or if it is additional. Mr. Ernest Latham answered that those are additional. Mr. Samuel Krassenstein asked about the number of wheel sets per car. Mr. Ernest Latham answered that there are four wheel sets per car.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

#### **11. Resolution Authorization to approve a Contract with Easton Railcar Service for Removal of Parts, Test (where possible), Package for Shipment and Reinstallation upon return**

Discussion: Mr. Robert Cramer commented that the process is costly and continues our process moving forward. He stated that if the Board is so inclined to approve the resolution, we ensure that the final contract and purchase order would only oblige us to pay for services we perform. He said that if we decide to change courses here, we pay for the work performed. He also stated that if we delay this, we risk falling out of the queue to have this work and resources teed up for us. Mr. Cramer stated that he believes that by continuing to approve this, we are still leaving the window open to be able to analyze what proceeding with the project looks like without obligating us for work we wouldn't have done.

Mr. Ernest Latham stated that this is the starting point of phase number two. He stated that this is the removal of all the equipment that has to be safety certified and meet FTA, MDOT, and our safety standards as part of our safety plan. He stated that ERS will remove the parts. The part will go to a vendor that we have refurbish, recertify, come back to ERS, and get reinstalled.

Mr. Ernest Latham stated that a part of the process is to start maintaining the federally mandated history books and car certification books, which will then lead us into getting the cars here for safety certification and finding a test in the future. He stated that all testing and work will be done per OEM standards.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein asked if this would also be stored at the warehouse, or would we need to procure additional warehouse space as vehicles are finished and shipped back to us. Mr. Ernest Latham answered that all of the work would be handled in Pennsylvania. These will be physically bolted back on the vehicles in a vehicle as the vehicles are being made ready to come to Detroit for final testing and commissioning. He added that any spare parts we may have left, because we have the four extras, will be certified and sent back to Detroit as spares. Mr. Latham stated that the bulk of this equipment will be bolted on the train and will be part of the testing and commissioning.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein noted that the shipping responsibilities appear not to be clear whether ERS is responsible for shipping or if they are preparing to ship and we have to cover shipment separately. Mr. Krassenstein asked if the shipping is the vendor's part of our contractual cost. Ms. Michele Pollock answered in the negative, stating that DTC is responsible for making the arrangements for the shipment.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein asked if we have a cost estimate on what the transportation freight cost would be. Ms. Michele Pollock answered in the negative but stated that we will present it to the Board as part of the overall project budget.

Mr. Samuel Krassenstein suggested that the Board be presented with a package that contains all contracts related to TTC.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

## **12. Resolution Authorization to enter into an agreement with WSP Michigan with Services to support the TTC Vehicle Conversion**

*Discussion:* Mr. Ernest Latham stated that this is for the final invoice amounts for Task Order #51, the TTC Task Order, phase one, which has gotten us to this point. He explained that moving into the next year, we will secure a new purchase order. He also stated that we are going to close out the last six months of purchase orders, then start fresh with phase two moving forward.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

## **13. Public Participation**

Ms. Melia Howard took a moment to wish DTC's PR & Communications Manager, Ericka Alexander, a Happy Birthday.

## **14. Board Member Comments**

There were no comments from the Board of Directors members.

## 15. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Moved by Mr. Samuel Krassenstein and supported by Mr. Robert Cramer to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:55 p.m.

**VOTE:** All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**John Naglick, Corporation Secretary**