

**Tri-County Council**  
For the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland  
Serving Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties  
Location: Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center  
Date: September 15, 2021  
Time: 6:00 p.m.

**Minutes**

At 6:06 pm, the Tri-County council was called to order by Ted Elder, Second Vice Chair.

Mr. Gregory Padgham, Executive Director of the Tri-County Council, conducted roll call and the following attended:

**Somerset County Commissioners**

Charles Laird – Proxy held by Eldon Willing or Randy Laird  
Randy Laird  
Craig Mathies – Proxy held by Eldon Willing or Randy Laird  
Rex Simpkins – Proxy held by Eldon Willing or Randy Laird  
Eldon Willing

**Wicomico County Council**

John Cannon – Proxy held by Laura Hurley  
Josh Hastings – Proxy held by Laura Hurley

**Worcester County Commissioners**

Ted Elder  
Joe Mitrecic  
Diana Purnell

**At-Large Member**

Senator Mary Beth Carozza

**General Assembly**

Delegate Wayne Hartman  
Delegate Charles Otto

**Municipalities**

Muir Boda

### **TCC Non-Voting Members**

Mindie Burgoyne – Maryland Department of Commerce  
Weston Young – Worcester County Administrator  
Laura Hurley – Wicomico County Administrator

### **TCC Guests**

Grayson Middleton – Representative Governor Hogan  
Charlotte Davis – Rural Maryland Council  
Melissa Kelly – Senator Van Hollen Representative  
Bill Reddish – Congressman Harris Representative

### **TCC Staff**

Gregory Padgham – Executive Director of Tri-County Council  
Brad Bellacicco – Director of Shore Transit  
John Donegan – Director of Administrative Services  
Shelly Brown – Deputy Director of Lower Shore Workforce Alliance  
Monique Snyder – Regional Communications Developer  
Stephanie Wilkins – Economic Development Coordinator

A quorum was established and Second Vice Chair, Ted Elder, continued the meeting by requesting a motion to approve June 17, 2021 board meeting minutes. Mr. Muir Boda made the first motion and Commissioner Joe Mitrecic second the motion. Voting members unanimously approved the minutes of June 17, 2021 as written.

### **Old Business**

- A. Shore Transit Update – Brad Bellacicco
  1. Ridership & Routes
    - a. Department of Homeland Security extended mask requirement on buses until January 18, 2022
    - b. Fixed Route ridership is up with the end of the summer riders to Ocean City Jobs & SU routes. Still running an extra run to Ocean City to support employers
    - c. As of Monday, 694 riders. Pre-COVID averaged 632 per day, Monday to Friday.
    - d. Greyhound ridership has rebounded with J-1 workers increasing, 334 in August
    - e. Eliminated the last loop on the 115 route in Salisbury to free up a driver.
    - f. Origin to Destination ridership is picking up. MTA gave permission to expand the use of contractors to meet the high demand of transportation to Go Getters, MAC senior center, and Dialysis.
  2. Vehicles: Revenue Fleet at 33, normally over 40
    - a. Two medium buses that arrived in June has helped
    - b. FY2021 ATP granted Shore Transit two small buses still not here.
    - c. Fall delivery of seven 2019 & 2020 F650s medium buses.
    - d. Waiting for MTA grants to order two Medium Buses and three small buses.
  3. Staffing: 84 employees currently with 52 drivers
    - a. Loss of drivers is limiting capability

- b. Recruiting using National CDL driver search company, Salisbury Area Chamber Job Fair, and word of mouth
  - 4. Funding: FY2022 FTA Transportation Plan budget submission was approved at flat funding. Still waiting on grant paperwork.
- B. Administrative Services Update – John Donegan
  - 1. Driver Shortage: Increased base line pay for the drivers
  - 2. The Finance Department is starting the FY2021 Federal program Single Audit and is expecting it to be completed by early to mid-December.
  - 3. Shore Transit/Tech Services Management System: By utilizing CARES Capital funds, TCC will be procuring a software package designed to manage its fixed-route transit operations.
  - 4. Maintenance Facility: The facility has two boilers that need to be replaced. There is a plan to replace one boiler this year and one boiler next year.
- C. Lower Shore Workforce Development Update – Gregory Padgham and Shelly Brown, Deputy Director of Lower Shore Workforce Alliance
  - 1. Workforce Development Board Update
    - a. Appointment of Ivy Wells to be moved from business category to Government/Economic Development. Commissioner Mitrecic made the first motion followed by a second motion by Muir Boda. The vote was unanimous.
    - b. Tri-County Council submitted a formal appointment request to the Worcester County Commissioners to appoint Jim Brannon, Director of Human Relations at Atlantic General Hospital.
  - 2. New Lower Shore Youth Program Manager – Sherri Sigrist
  - 3. Workforce Director Update: 60 resumes have been received and they are currently being reviewed.
  - 4. American Rescue Plan Act – Shelly Brown, Deputy Director
    - a. The Lower Shore Workforce Alliance has been in communication with Tidal Health, MAC, Wor-Wic Community College, Worcester Technical High School is developing a Waste Water Treatment Apprenticeship, and there is interest in opening an Adults Trades Training at Somerset Technical High School. They are planning to reopen the free computer lab in the American Job Center to assist clients with Microsoft Office Skills.
    - b. “Worcester Goes Purple” – They would like to create a peer support program in schools and in the community.
    - c. Metrics Learning Platform: Must go through 20 hours of soft skills training before an entire catalog opens that has 6,000 classes. It is free for anyone who is registered in the three counties

### **New Business**

- A. Unemployment Insurance: Salisbury has been selected to participate in an unemployment kiosk program and it is now available in the Maryland Workforce Exchange. There are currently two kiosks available.
- B. LESMD.net Presentation – Monique Snyder
  - 1. Ms. Snyder presented the website to the board highlighting the four primary tools; In Session, Economic Engines, Emphasis on Education, and Projects in Perspective.

2. Marketing the brand: t-shirts, water bottles, hats, pens, brochures, and billboards which will be going up on September 20, 2021.

**Other Business**

Delegate Otto requested an update in regards to the ACLU/PETA lawsuit. After Mr. Padgham provided the update, Delegate Otto made a motion of the approval of the response and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Ted Elder called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mitrecic made the motioned followed by Muir Boda with a second. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.