

Bus Garage Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday January 15, 2026

Call to Order: 10:04am

Adjourn: 11:14am

Attendees: Mike Moore, Tom Reeder (virtual), Gary McGeen, Doug Bacon, Mark Sampson, Stephanie Moore, Lisa Nagel, Gwen Adams, Tim Beggs *Absent: Jon Bowen*

Agenda

1. Attendance

Attendance was recorded.

2. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order.

3. Introductions

Participants introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds.

4. Phase 1 Discussion

Lisa shared background information leading up to the Bus Garage grant award. OCCOA had previously applied to MDOT for a bus garage but was not awarded funding. The prior denial was due to:

- Site selection process and criteria
- Lack of completed Categorical Exclusions (required to exempt the project from NEPA requirements)

The grant was awarded this time with the caveat that the garage cannot be built on OCCOA-owned property, as the property did not go through the NEPA certification process.

- Discussed whether a consultant should be hired

6. Need for the Bus Garage

The need for a new bus garage was discussed, with key issues including:

- Vandalism
- Construction-related issues
- DTW expanding and taking up additional space
- Although OCCOA owns the building, it does not own the land

7. Facility Considerations

- Discussed what the new facility might look like
- Recommendation to visit the LMTA building in Ludington for design inspiration
- Ideal garage would include room for future office expansion
- Items to consider:
 - Heated floors
 - Pole-barn-style garage design
 - Runoff management
 - Septic systems

8. Potential Locations to Visit

- Identify and prioritize potential sites for in-person visits
- Discussed the need for a NEPA-approved property

9. Potential Partners or Assistance

- West Michigan Regional Development Commission

10. Future Use of the Existing Building

Options discussed:

- Use as storage
- Long-term lease to the city

11. Action Items / To-Do

- Visit other facilities on identified dates
- Contact owners of properties under consideration for purchase

- Connect with Bumstead and/or VanderWall
- Set an early February meeting date

12. Next Meeting Date TBD