



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

10:00 AM

2817 Canal Street, 2nd Floor
Boardroom

The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) hereby declares that, in accordance with La. R.S. 42:17.1 (A)(2)(a)-(c), a meeting will be held in person on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Please be advised that all meeting participants will be required to wear masks inside the boardroom due to the recent rise of COVID-19 cases in the City of New Orleans and at the RTA.

Written comments on any matter included on the agenda will be accepted in the following ways: 1) Submission of a Speaker Card on meeting day; 2) Electronically by email sent to: rtaboard@rtafoward.org prior to the meeting; or 3) By U.S. Mail send to 2817 Canal Street, Attention: Office of Board Affairs, New Orleans, LA 70119.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Chairman Daniels, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner DeFrancesch, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner Neal, Commissioner Raymond and Commissioner Walton

Commissioner Absent: Commissioner Bryan

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

[Board Meeting Minutes - June 28, 2022]

[22-119](#)

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to approve the Minutes of the June 28, 2022. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Reports

A. RTA Chairman's Report

New Orleans Mayor, Latoya Cantrell presented Chairman Daniels with a Proclamation

from the City of New Orleans.

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to adopt the Resolution of Appreciation for Chairman Daniels. Resolution No. 22-047 was adopted unanimously.

Alex Wiggins and staff presented Chairman Daniels with gifts of appreciation for his time of service on the RTA Board.

B. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report

Commissioner Neal stated that at the Executive Committee Meeting a lot of good information was given on the New Links Project.

Commissioner Neal stated that the next RAC Meeting was going to take place on August 3, 2022.

C. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

Commissioner Raymond stated that he and staff had a great meeting with Jefferson Parish.

D. Jefferson Parish Report

Commissioner Coulon stated that the meeting with Jefferson Parish and the RTA was a great meeting.

The Jefferson Parish Report was included in the Powerpoint presentation.

E. RTA General Counsel's Report

No Report.

F. RTA Chief Executive Officer's Report

Alex Wiggins reported that 53 employees were impacted by COVID and the mandate to wear mask in the building was reinstated.

Alex Wiggins showed an awesome picture collage of the Chairman and himself from the last 3 years.

G. Chief of Staff Legislative Update

Katherine Felton reported on the following;

City Council briefings on New Links and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), including City Council Transportation Committee

Jefferson Parish briefings regarding New Links and BRT

Algiers BRT Community Meeting with Councilmember Freddie King, Thursday 7/28, 5:30 PM, Algiers Regional Library

H. Operations Update

Gerard Guter reported that total Ridership for the month of May 2022 was 853K. On-Time Performance for bus was 75% and streetcar was 77%.

Gerard Guter reported that Route 45-Lakeview had the highest On-Time Performance with 89% and the route with the lowest On-Time Performance was Route 88 Lower Nine-Chalmette 54%.

Gerard Guter reported that 13 of the 34 service routes were affected by Temporary Detours which was 38.2% of the routes and 6 of the 34 service routes were affected by Long Term Detours which was 17.6% of the routes.

Gerard Guter reported that for the month of May RTA delivered 92% of Bus Service and 94% of Streetcar Service.

Gerard Guter reported that On-Time Performance for Paratransit was 86%.

In response to Chairman Daniels, Gerard Guter reported that the system can tell the difference from employees that have COVID and those that are just calling out not to work.

In response to Commissioner Raymond, Gerard Guter stated that on the routes that have the highest On-Time Performance the total ridership could be included.

I. RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report

Gizelle Banks reported that Ridership - As COVID wanes, ridership gradually recovers while service levels remain steady. However, the number of public transit trips taken by riders in May 2022 (853K) shows a slight decrease of (36K) from the previous month of April 2022. Compared to the prior-year May 2021 (731K) and (542K) May 2020, ridership continues to make a slow but steady recovery.

Gizelle Banks reported that Farebox Recovery Rates 2022 vs. 2019 (Pre COVID) - Fare revenue continues to offset a slightly lower percentage of operating expenses as ridership struggles to rebound. May's farebox recovery decreased slightly from 10.9% in the prior month to 10.1%; a total decline of .8%.

Gizelle Banks reported that Ferry - Farebox Recovery Rates 2022 vs 2019 (Pre-COVID) - Fare revenue continues to offset a slightly lower percentage of operating expenses as ridership struggles to rebound. May's farebox recovery decreased slightly from 10.9% in the prior month to 10.1%; a total decline of .8%.

Gizelle Banks reported that Operating Revenues (Budget, Actual & Prior Year) -

Overall, Operating Revenues display positive results \$11.7M for the month of May when compared to the prior year \$7.5M due to strong Sales Tax Revenues. Passenger fares for May, fared favorably by \$93K or 12.6% when compared to the budget.

Gizelle Banks reported that Net Revenue (Before and After Government Assistance) - Net Revenue (Before Government Assistance) is \$3.4M for the month of May. After applying the month's \$4.3M in Government Operating Assistance, Net Revenue ended at \$5.5M or 429% positive variance for the month of May (when compared to the budget \$1.2M).

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Gizelle Banks reported that Operating Expenses - Operating Expenses for the month of April is roughly \$8.3M. Labor and Fringe Benefits, the largest expenditure at \$4.2M, comprised 50.9% of this month's actual expenses. In total, Operating Expenses for the month of May show a slight increase from 7.9M in April or 5%.

Gizelle Banks reported that Operating Reserve - The strong positive variance that resulted from Net Revenue (After Government Assistance of approximately \$4.3M) added \$6.8M to Restricted Operating/Capital Reserve after the offset of \$567K in Debt Service.

In response to Commissioner Ewell, Gizelle Banks reported that staff reported on the Pass Sales Monthly but can breakdown the type of passes that are selling.

In response to Commissioner Ewell, Gizelle Banks reported that the Permanent Fare Reduction was Marketed from July 2021 - December 2021 and it was adopted in January with another Marketing Campaign.

In response to Commissioner Daniels, Alex Wiggins reported that staff was reaching out to the different schools and some schools are purchasing the passes in bulk.

In response to Commissioner Daniels, Gizelle Banks stated that staff has begun working on the 5 Year Projection and the Cares Act Money has to be spent by 2024. There is a \$20M Operating Gap that the agency has, and these funds are helping the agency to keep operating.

[May 2022 Financial Statements]

[22-110](#)

J. DBE Report

Adonis Expose' reported that the RTA awarded a total of \$8,539,530 in contracts and \$6,719,611 was awarded to DBE Prime Contractors. The DBE participation was 79%.

Current DBE Projects:

CMAR - Canal Street Ferry Terminal (Construction) - 8%
Disaster Recovery Grants Management and Administration - 35%
Riverfront Track Work & Overhead Catenary - 10%
Transit Ferry Services - 13%
East New Orleans Maintenance Safety Building - 19%
St. Charles Streetcar Line Downtown Loop Pavement Replacement - 67%
OCS Pole Replacement - 0%
Business Intelligence & Data Management Reporting System - 0%
On Call Technical Support - 13%
Napoleon Facility Renovation & Upgrade - 0%
Transit Security Services - 0%

Current SBE Projects:

DBE Consulting Services - 46%
Construction Cost Audits - 58%
Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study - 45%
On Call A&E Services for Design of Interim Downtown Transit Hub - 18%
Vegetation Control on Streetcar Lines - 100%
Facility Maintenance & Construction Support Services - 0%
Classification and Compensation Study - 25%
Leadership & Change Management Training - 0%
Temporary Janitorial Services 24%

Upcoming - DBE/SBE Projects:

Contractors for Rampart Streetcar Line: Emergency Repair Project - 13.83%

5. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the items on the Consent Agenda. Resolution No. 22-048 was adopted unanimously.

Print Services for RTA printed materials [22-046](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Print Services for RTA Printed Materials. Resolution No 22-049 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 22-049

FY 2022 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Application [22-091](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the FY2022 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Application. Resolution No. 22-050 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 22-050

FY 2022 Section 5307 [22-097](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the

FY2022 Section 5307. Resolution No. 22-051 was adopted unanimously.
Enactment No: 22-051

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal for Fiscal Years 2023-2025 [22-098](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal for Fiscal Years 2023-2025. Resolution 22-052 was adopted unanimously.
Enactment No: 22-052

FY 2022 Section 5337 [22-100](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the FY2022 Section 5337. Resolution 22-053 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 22-053

FY 2022 Section 5339 [22-101](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt FY2022 Section 5339. Resolution No. 22-024 was adopted unanimously.
Enactment No: 22-054

Rampart Streetcar Line Emergency Recovery Project : Award Construction Project [22-103](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Rampart Streetcar Line Emergency Recovery Project: Award Construction Project. Resolution No. 22-054 was adopted unanimously.
Enactment No: 22-055

6. Procurement Items

A. Authorizations:

New Links Implementation Infrastructure Support [22-104](#)

In response to Commissioner Walton, Lona Hankins stated that once the Notice to Proceed is issued the contractor can start the work.

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the New Links Implementation Infrastructure Support. Resolution No. 22-056 was adopted unanimously,
Enactment No: 22-056

Advertising Campaigns and Media Buying Services [22-111](#)

Deferred

RTA CY2021 Single Audit Report [22-112](#)

Becky Hammond reported that the that the Audit Report was filed on time with the Legislative Auditor.

Independent Auditors' Report - **Unmodified Opinion ("clean")** on the financial statements.

Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in *Accordance with Government Auditing Standards* - **One Significant Deficiency Noted**
2021-001 Significant Deficiency: Review of Information Provided to OPEB Actuary

Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance for the Major Program and on Internal Controls Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance - **No deficiencies in internal control or compliance findings noted.**

Memorandum of Advisory Comments

Monitoring of Changes to the Self-Insurance Case Reserves and Structured Settlements.

Statewide Agreed Upon Procedures

No exception noted.

Total Net Position	2021 - 228,120	2020 - 220,153
Dollar Change	7,967	
Total Change	3.6%	
Capital Assets	2021 - \$287,729,156	2020 - \$276,271,863

Tax Revenues are exceeding the RTA expectation
 The RTA's Cash Position has been the highest over the past 5 years
 \$32.5 was RTA's Net Pension Liability

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Becky Hammond stated that Cash Unrestricted Net Position means these funds are not dedicated to Grants, Bond Related Issues and/or Capital. This money is free to be used for Operations.

Commissioner Daniels stated that the \$20M reserves are needed in time of emergencies for the Agency.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Alex Wiggins stated that a policy is being drawn up by staff to state how this Unrestricted Money could be spent.

Becky Hammond stated that this \$20M would only add-up to 2 months of reserves.

Becky Hammond stated that she would like to thank the RTA's staff, they are always very cooperative with the audit.

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to adopt the RTA CY2021 Single Audit Report. Resolution 22-057 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 21-057

CY2021 Financial Audit Report

[22-114](#)

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the CY2021 Financial Audit Report. Resolution 22-058 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 22-058

Renewal of Excess Liability and Automobile Physical Damage Insurance 2022-2023

[22-115](#)

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Raymond seconded to adopt the Renewal of Excess Liability and Automobile Physical Damage Insurance 2022-2023. Resolution No. 22-059 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 22-059

7. Election of Chair

Deferred

8. Assignment of Committees

Deferred

9. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)

None

10. Audience Questions and Comments

PLEASE NOTE: Persons wishing to submit public comments must either enter their full name in the chat sections of the Zoom meeting to provide comments during the meeting or email your comments to [rtboard@rtboard.org](mailto:rtaford@rtboard.org) to have your comments read aloud at the meeting.

In response to Dustin Robertson, Ride New Orleans, Alex Wiggins reported that staff has put a package together for a new app that will be introduced with the implementation of the New Links Projects.

Geneva Coleman stated that she would like to thank Commissioner Daniels for all his hard work with the agency.

11. Executive Session (2/3RDS VOTE TO Consider)

None

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Raymond seconded to adjourn the Board Meeting of July 26 2022. The motion was approved unanimously.