**COMMISSIONER PRESENT**: Chairman Fred Neal, Jr, Commissioner Walter Tillery, Commissioner Laura Bryan, and Commissioner Sharon Wegner

**COMMISSIONER ABSENT:** None.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. **Roll Call:** A quorum was confirmed
3. **Consideration: Minutes September 10, 2020**

Commissioner Tillery moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting. Motion was adopted unanimously.

1. **Consideration: Committee Chairman’s Report**

Commissioner Neil stated that staff has done a lot of work around Emergency Preparedness and communicating with the public and the RTA works very closely with the City of New Orleans with its Emergency Preparedness Plans.

1. **Consideration: RTA’s Chief Executive Officer’s Report**

Alex Wiggins stated that the City of New Orleans has moved into Phase 3 and the RTA will continue to social distancing and staff encourages staff to continue to wear masks by all employees and the RTA was going to open the building to the public and continue to make sure that the public is safe so the Paratransit applicants can start coming into the building to process their ADA applications.

Alex Wiggins stated that the Hazard Pay has been finalized for all the front line employees and staff was going to double down on training for employees regarding COVID-19.

Alex Wiggins stated that this was the sixth weather event and staff has done a great job with each event and based on the information that’s received the RTA would begin to make decision on the service and if the New Orleans receives sustained winds over 35 miles per hour that creates a situation where the RTA can’t operate safely and staff was going to go out to the riding public to let them know the RTA plans regarding service.

Alex Wiggins stated that the Smooth King was going to be a polling place and the RTA will added the necessary service for the public.

Alex Wiggins stated that the RTA received the certificate from the Coast Guard for RTA 2 and the RTA will provide a Riders Appreciation Day on Saturday and give out great things to the public.

Commission Neil stated that the RTA will allow free Transportation on Election Day and please spread the word.

Commissioner Bryan thanks Alex Wiggins and his staff for all the updates regarding the service and the Mayor came to the RTA to visit the facilities. and was very impressed with the RTA.

Commissioner Bryan stated that the RTA was awarded a grant in the amount of $550,000 for Bus Rapid Transit Study.

1. **Consideration: Chief Operations Officer’s Report**

Thomas Stringer gave the Monthly Status Report presenting information on ridership and on time performance. Although ridership is slightly up, boarding’s per hour 9 for bus and streetcar 7 per hour. He stated that they were an increase from prior month of approximately 222,327 trips. On-time performance, bus 65%, streetcar 72% and paratransit 93%.

In response to Commissioner Wegner, Thomas Stringer stated that staff does receive further complaints for the streetcar and the complaints are early and late arrivals and operator’s conduct and maintenance road calls also contributes to late arrivals.

1. **Consideration: Security Report**

Alex Wiggins stated that the RTA new website was up and running and the Security Report information would be on the website for the publics review.

Robert Hickman stated that there are felony crimes and misdemeanor crimes this is called the Uniform Crime Report. There was one aggravated assault on the bus the operator refused to answer the subject question and the subject missed his stop and pulled a knife on the operator and he was arrested by the Transit Police.

Robert Hickman stated that the next was a simple robber the subject snatch a passenger cell phone which had money and credit cards and both these incidents occurred on the bus The other incidents were passengers refusing to wear masks on the bus and the subjects were removed from the buses and were issued summons. There was an incident with an operator and juveniles kick the bus and fled.

Robert Hickman stated that there were 58 calls for service 8 citations and 4 summons and wrote 29 reports.

Commissioner Wegner stated that it was very disturbing that the operators had to deal with this type of behavior on the buses and the streetcars.

Alex Wiggins stated that these were the things that staff was starting to look at in the 2021 budget and this type of behavior was going on around other transit agencies and the RTA was going to start working with Transit Ambassadors that would help to answer questions and are visible.

Commissioner Neil stated that the RTA’s goal was to have a safe environment for our operators and passengers and connect with the public making sure that the passengers are aware of the bus stops and shelters around the City and the RTA want to have a new downtown hub and have a safe environment for the passengers and the operators.

Commissioner Bryan stated that this data was new to the Commissioners this was the first time they were receiving this information and it sounds that staff has a great handle on things.

Alex Wiggins stated that the RTA just received a $600,000 grant for the barriers on the buses.

Commissioner Neil stated that he would like to incorporate the Ferry Statists into the Operations report.

Thomas Stringer stated that extra trippers had been added on certain route to support the extra ridership.

1. **Consideration: Ferry Operations Update**

Jose Ruiz stated that ridership was picking up on the ferries and staff may need to discuss adjusting the schedules and the Arctic was scheduled to go into schedule on Saturday weather permitting. The Thomas Jefferson in the primary service vessel

Jose Ruiz stated that a thorough root case report was submitted to the Coast Guard concerning the blackouts of the levy and staff was working with the Coast Guard and they mentioned that they were very happy with the thoroughness of the records that were r submitted.

Jose Ruiz stated that RTA One was at Metal Shark for modifications and repairs and Metal Shark was making a lot of progress.

In response to Commissioner Neil, Jose Ruiz stated that it was running 30-minutes headways and the new boats could do a higher speed and try to maintain 15-minutes headways out of each terminal.

Commissioner Neil, Wegner, Bryan and Tiller congratulated Jose Ruiz for doing a great job.

1. **Infrastructure and Planning Report**

Lona Hankins stated that in the Commissioners Packets they received a written report on the active grants as it relates to the original funding source and the amount of any potential changes that my happen to the contract and the total contract amount as of the reporting date.

Lona Hankins stated that staff has completed the Solar Panels at the Carrollton Barn and the project to protect the elevator at the Canal Facility and the air compress was installed at the Carrollton Barn.

Lona Hankins stated that there are several projects that are in the construction phase and all the projects have been release from the permitting department at the City.

Lona Hankins stated that regarding the ADA St. Charles Project staff has to make sure that all the operators are trained and have awareness training of where the steps are and how to communicate with the public and the Clever Devices are working correctly for the passengers.

Lona Hankins stated that the Canal Street Terminal Projects the contractor was issued the Notice To Proceed and the contract has been ordering all the long lead items.

Commissioner Wegner stated that this was a great report and it’s a lot that need to be done.

Commissioner Neil stated that this was a great report and he was glad to hear about the use of the Napoleon Facility and would like to have a discussion on the project because he knows that there is still FEMA money available for that project.

Alex Wiggins stated that the St. Charles Streetcar should be fully accessible.

Commissioner Bryan stated that this was a great report and Lona Hankins stated that staff has been dealing with Ride and the Riders Advisory Committee has applied for a formula grant and would use some form of matrix that is rooted in an equity that is based on transportation similar to the Transit Propensity Index.

1. **Consideration: New Business**

None

1. **Consideration: Audience Questions & 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** [**Marcomm@rtaforward.org**](mailto:Marcomm@rtaforward.org) **to have your comments read aloud at the meeting.**

Commissioner Neil stated that staff has answered the questions that the Commissioner had from the previous meetings.

In response to Commissioner Bryan, Lona Hankins stated that the Napoleon Center would be used as a Skater and the Emergency Application Center. The Skater is a place used to track where the buses and streetcars are at all times.

1. **Consideration: Adjournment**

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Bryan seconded to adjourn the Operations and Administration Meeting of October 8, 2020. The motion was approved unanimously.