**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 Neal stated that staff has done a lot of work for Emergency Preparedness and communicating with the public regarding schedule changes and the RTA also 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 regarding COVID-19 and the RTA will continue social distancing and all employees will continue to wear masks and the building was going to be open to the public and staff will continue to make sure that the public is safe. This would allow the Paratransit applicants to come into the building and this should make the ADA process easier.

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

Alex Wiggins stated that this was the sixth weather event that staff has prepared for and staff has done a great job with each event based on the information that the RTA received 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 operations staff was going to go out to the major transfer points and let the riding public know RTA’s plans regarding service.

Alex Wiggins stated that the Smoothie King Arena was going to be a polling place for early voting and the RTA will add the necessary service for the public.

Alex Wiggins stated that the RTA received the certificate from the Coast Guard for RTA 2 and planned a Riders Appreciation Day on Saturday for the riding public.

Commissioner Neal stated that the RTA will allow free Transportation on Election Day and please spread the word to the riding public.

Commissioner Bryan thanked Alex Wiggins and his staff for all the updates and the Mayor came to the RTA to visit the Canal Facility and was very impressed with the RTA.

Commissioner Bryan stated that the RTA was awarded a grant in the amount of $550,000 for a 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 there was 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 complaints for the streetcar and the complaints consisted of early and late arrivals and operator’s conduct.

1. **Consideration: Security Report**

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

Robert Hickman reported incidents committed on buses and reported under the Uniform Crime Report.

Robert Hickman reported one aggravated assault committed on the bus that led to an arrest, and one simple robbery involving a theft of a passenger’s cell phone. Other incidents cited involved passengers refusing to wear masks on the bus they were issued a summons and juveniles kicked the door of the bus and fled.

Robert Hickman reported that there were a total of 58 calls for service, 8 citations were issued, 4 summons were issued transit police wrote 29 reports.

Commissioner Wegner stated that it was very disturbing to see what the operators deal with on the buses and the streetcars.

Alex Wiggins stated that these were the things that staff would like to help to prevent and has included in the 2021 budget and unfortunately this type of behavior was going on around other transit agencies.

Commissioner Neal 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 bus stops around the City and the RTA was working on a new downtown hub to have a safe environment for the passengers and the operators.

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

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

Commissioner Neal stated that he would like to incorporate the Ferry Statics into the Operations report.

Thomas Stringer stated that staff has put extra trippers on certain lines to help with the extra.

1. **Consideration: Ferry Operations Update**

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

Jose Ruiz reported that a thorough root case report was submitted to the Coast Guard concerning the blackouts of the Levy and the Coast Guard mentioned that they were very happy with the thoroughness of the records that were submitted.

Jose Ruiz reported that the RTA 1 was at Metal Shark for modifications and repairs and Metal Shark was making a lot of progress.

In response to Commissioner Neal, Jose Ruiz reported that currently the ferries were running 30-minutes headways and the new boats could do a higher speed and try to maintain 15-minute headways out of each terminal.

Commissioners Neal, Wegner, Bryan and Tillery congratulated Jose Ruiz for doing a great job.

1. **Infrastructure and Planning Report**

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

Lona Hankins reported that staff has completed the following projects: Solar Panels at the Carrollton Barn, the project to protect the elevator at the Canal Facility and the air compressor was installed at the Carrollton Barn.

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

Lona Hankins reported that regarding the ADA St. Charles Project staff has to make sure that all the operators 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 reported that the Canal Street Terminal Project contractor was issued the Notice To Proceed and the contractor was ordering all the long lead items.

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

Commissioner Neal 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 with staff regarding the project because there is still FEMA money available to use for this project.

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

In response to Commissioner Bryan, Lona Hankins stated that staff has been dealing with Ride and the Riders Advisory Committee and staff has applied for a formula grant and some form of matrix that is rooted in an equity that is based on transportation similar to the Transit Propensity Index will be used for the remaining placement of the shelters.

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** **to have your comments read aloud at the meeting.**

There were no speakers or comments from the public.

Commissioner Neal stated that staff has answered the necessary questions that the Commissioners had from previous meetings.

In response to Commissioner Bryan, Lona Hankins stated that the Napoleon Facility would be used as a Skater and Emergency Application Center. A 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.