**COMMISSIONER PRESENT**: Chairman Flozell Daniels, Commissioner Fred Neal, Jr, Commissioner Mark Raymond, Commissioner Walter Tillery, Commissioner Mostofa Sarwar, Commissioner Laura Bryan, Commissioner Art Walton, and Commissioner Sharon Wegner

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:16 am.
2. **Roll Call:** A quorum was confirmed.
3. **Consideration: Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were presented and adopted for September 22, 2020. Commissioner Sarwar moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve the motion. The motion approved unanimously.

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

No Audio

1. **Consideration: Jefferson Parish Report**

No Audio

1. **Consideration: Committee Composition Discussion**

The Chairman appointed Commissioner Wegner to the Finance Committee. Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to approve the motion. The motion approved unanimously.

1. **Consideration: RTA General Counsel’s Report**

Sundiata Haley stated that there is an Executive Session.

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

The CEO reported that COVID-19 has picked -up around the country and the RTA was disinfecting the vehicles every 24 hours killing the virus on contact and staff was going to keep on top of things.

The CEO reported that the National Weather Service issued a Hurricane Warning for the New Orleans Area and staff will keep the Board informed of all decisions and once the winds are going to approach 35 miles per hour the RTA has to take service off the street and staff was working with the media to inform the public when the RTA will shut-down service.

The CEO reported that ridership was still being impacted by COVID-19 and the RTA was still running limited service and the majority of the passengers were wearing masks and staff was still cleaning and disinfecting the buses and streetcars.

The CEO reported that Senate Bill 26 was signed by Gov. Edwards. Transdev operations and maintenance staff will officially transition to the RTA payroll on Dec. 7, 2020. The CEO thanked everyone who work hard on getting the RTA Legislation passed and the RTA will honor all union contracts as agreed upon

The CEO reported that the groundbreaking for the Canal Ferry would be rescheduled due to the weather.

The CEO reported that the RTA received $550,000from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to study and develop design standards for a proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor initially between East New Orleans to downtown. He also stated that the RTA received $600,000 from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to study the implementation of adding shields and barriers on its bus fleet to protect its bus operators.

In response to Chairman Daniels, Alex Wiggins stated that staff was now looking at a four to six-hour window when pulling service off the streets and staff would be sent to major transfer points to inform the passengers when the buses will be pulled off the street.

Commissioner Neal thanked the team for all of its hard work with the ferries, streetcars and buses and the transition and all of the things that the RTA was able to accomplish and reminded Alex Wiggins about the year-end report that he will present to the Board.

Commissioner Bryan stated how she appreciated all the work that staff was doing and for getting the word out to the public regarding the service during the hurricane.

1. **Consideration of DBE Report**

Ms. Keziah Cawthorne gave a report to the Commissioners. She stated that this year the RTA awarded $35.5 million dollars of which $4.3 million went to DBE’s and Small Business as prime contractors. The RTA has a total 30% DBE commitment for the year.

Keziah Cawthorne stated that below were the ongoing DBE Projects Participation:

* CMAR – Canal Street Ferry Terminal (Construction)
* Canal Street Ferry Terminal Project
* DBE Consulting Services
* Financial Management Service Project
* Website Enhancement Project
* Security Services

Keziah Cawthorne stated that below were the ongoing Small Business Projects:

* On Call Architectural and Engineering Project
* Temporary Staffing Surveyors Project
* Replacement of the Air Compressor Project

In response to Chairman Daniels, Keziah Cawthorne stated that the RTA does on site visits and monthly compliance reports that has to be submitted by the prime contractors and we also use the B2G Now system to track the payments to the subs.

Chairman Daniels stated that staff has to hold the contractors accountable when they are spending public money to make sure there are racial equity.

1. **Consideration of Contract Assignments from Transdev to RTA**:
2. **EGLE LLC**

Commissioner Tillery moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to approve the contract assignment of **Egle LLC**. **Resolution No. 20-075 was adopted unanimously**.

1. **ADT COMMERCIAL**

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve the contract assignment of **ADT Commercial. Resolution No. 20-076 was adopted unanimously.**

1. **AL’S PEST CONTROL SERVICE, INC.**

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve the contract assignment of **Al’s Pest Control Service, Inc. Resolution No. 20-077 was adopted unanimously.**

1. **THYSSEN KRUUPP ELEVATOR CORPORATION**

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve the contract assignment of **Thyssen Kruupp Elevator Corporation. Resolution No. 20-078 was adopted unanimously.**

1. **GH MECHANICAL SERVICES LLC**

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve the contract assignment of **GH Mechanical Services, LLC. Resolution No. 20-079 was adopted unanimously.**

1. **ABT – PRODUCTS & SERVICES LTD FOR CLEVER DEVICE HARDWARE MAINTENANCE**

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve the contract assignment of **ABT-Products Services LTD for Clever Device Hardware Maintenance. Resolution No. 20-080 was adopted unanimously.**

1. **GOODYEAR TIRE SERVICE & RUBBER COMPANY**

Commissioner Sarwar moved and Commissioner Raymond seconded to approve the contract assignment of **Goodyear Tire Service & Rubber Company. Resolution No. 20-081 was adopted unanimously.**

1. **Consideration of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Downtown Development District (DDD) – Shelter Cleaning**

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Raymond seconded to approve **the CEA with Downtown Development District (DDD) – Shelter Cleaning. Resolution No. 20-082 was adopted unanimously**.

1. **Consideration of Financial Statements**

The CFO presented the September 2020 Financial Statements. Passenger Revenue – The pandemic and, to a lesser extent, the Hard Rock Hotel collapse caused ridership to drop by 59.7% below budget through September. As the area remained in Phase 2` of COVID restrictions, passenger fares decreased by 3.2% while ridership increased by 74.6% when compared to August’s performance. Similarly, actual CNO sales tax collections, which have been received through August, fell short of projections by 27.6% for the first eight months of the year and dropped by 26.7% compared to August 2019 year-to-date results.

The CFO Presented Services –Services remain in positive standing due to reduced service from the COVID-19 pandemic. Management Service Fees were under budget $246k (0.4%) through September. That result along with lower than projected Professional/Technical Services (i.e., Consultants, Data Processing Services, Other Outside Services, etc.) created the positive variance for this expense category through September 2020.

The CFO Materials and Supplies – Diesel fuel prices dipped to $1.20/gallon in September. Prices remained under budget by an average of $1.10/gallon for the month and $0.97/gallon year-to-date. Diesel fuel consumption for September was 30,500 gallons under budget and 386,000 gallons under budget YTD.

Total year-to-date expenses are approximately $4.0m under budget as a result of maintaining an 80% service level due to depressed ridership as a result of the pandemic.

In response to Chairman Daniels, Alex Wiggins stated that transit agencies normally try to stay under a total debt service ratio of about 20%.

Chairman Daniels stated that he would like staff to consider how the RTA is managing debt over the next 18 months so when the pandemic is over the RTA would have the necessary money available for some other projects.

Alex Wiggins stated that the RTA was going to be in the positive at the end of the year and was not looking to lay-off any personnel. The CARES Act was very critical to the RTA’s budget.

1. **Consideration: Procurement Items**
2. **To award the purchase of 22 (qty) New 35’ Flyer Buses**

Commissioner Tillery moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to approved the purchase of the **22 (qty) New 35’ Flyer Buses. Resolution 20-083 was adopted unanimously.**

In response to Commissioner Daniels, Lona Hankins stated that earlier this year there was 17 shelters that needed and out of the 17 5 shelters has been installed and the permits were picked up for the remaining of the shelters and they should be installed by the end of November.

1. **Consideration of New Business**

None

1. **Consideration of Audience Questions and Comments**

David Shepard, Director of Policy for Youth Sports stated that he has been working with the RPC and Ride New Orleans to make sure that the voices of young people are represented in the New Links Project and the proposal would give the young people the access they need in the City of New Orleans particularly as it relates to getting young people access to technical training.

Ann Byerly stated that she was very happy with the New Links Project and its hard taking transit from the westbank because the buses are crowded and it is hard to distance yourself when the buses are crowded and the westbank needs more service to downtown.

Chairman Daniels stated that he was glad that the public was receptive to the New Links Project and a lot of work went into engaging thousands of riders and the public will help the RTA make the decision regarding the project.

Tara Tolford, University of New Orleans Transportation Institute would like to congratulate the RTA for completing the Draft New Links Network Redesign Plan which reflects the transportation and economic needs of the region.

In response to Valerie Jefferson, Alex Wiggins stated that an offer of employment was made to a candidate and as soon as that person accepts the positon we will communicate that publicly.

In response to Jim Goodwin, Lona Hankins reported that staff was still waiting for the report from the contractor regarding the barge and as it relates to the contract schedule the RTA is not sure if full schedule would be released but will share the key milestones of the project and the project was scheduled to be completed in June, 2022.

Lona Hankins reported that the first activity you will see is the demolition of the hammerhead. The hammerhead is the old ferry terminal and it looks like a hammerhead fish and staff was waiting on the report from the contractor regarding the edges landing.

1. **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Raymond, seconded by Commissioner Tillery to go into Executive Session.

1. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Tillery moved and Commissioner Raymond seconded to return to the regular Session and adjourn the Board Meeting of October 27, 2020. The motion was approved unanimously.