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

**COMMISSIONER ABSENT:** Chairman Flozell Daniels

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am.
2. **Roll Call:** A quorum was confirmed.
3. **Consideration: Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were presented and adopted for October 27 2020. Commissioner Sarwar moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve the motion. The motion approved unanimously.

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

No Report

1. **Consideration: Jefferson Parish Report**

No Report

1. **Consideration: RTA BOARD 2021 Meeting Schedule**

Yolanda Rodriquez reported that changes were being made to the Board calendar and needed Board approval. Such as having Board Items due 30 days prior to the agenda distribution and the Committee and Board Meetings will start an hour early at 9:00 a.m. and not 10:00 a.m. and the Finance Committee Meeting will start at 11:00 a.m. and not 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Tillery 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 staff was on track with the transition between the RTA and Transdev and the effective date is December 7, 2020 and the ATU has concerns with the pension plan and staff has been meeting with the union to work out all the details.

The CEO reported on the new bus design. He stated that the public felt very strong about keeping the Mardi Gras colors and the bus design carries on the traditional purple color that we celebrate here in New Orleans and the lower part of the bus would be silver which would hide the grime and the buses would come from the factory already complete.

Commissioner Raymond stated that he would like to know the impact on the new bus designs would have on the DBE’s.

The CEO reported that the RTA entered into a partnership with the Ashe’ Cultural Arts Center and Studio Be and unveiled its public art bus highlighting artwork with local artists Brandan “B” Mike Odum’s to create a piece of art on the bus that could be enjoyed by the City of New Orleans.

1. **Human Resources Policy Discussion**

The CEO reported that the RTA was a new organization and HR staff was putting together policies and procedures that will be reviewed by General Counsel and then go before the Executive Committee for consideration.

Regarding COVID, the CEO reported that Louisiana has been experiencing an uptick in the virus and staff is working to keep everything clean and monitoring this day-by-day.

Commissioner Bryan stated that the bus art was beautiful she saw it in service on the street. She further stated that Art on the Bus was beautiful and everybody that sees that bus will feel inspired and the RTA need to pursue more projects like this for the community.

Commissioner Neal stated that there was going to be a new administration in Washington, DC to be at the head of the table in DC and he talk to Commissioner Bryan and the Chairman regarding electrical buses and the technology was getting better for those type of buses.

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 $11.6 million went to DBE’s firms and $4.3 Million of the DBE Contracts was awarded to DBE/SBE Prime Contractors. The RTA has a total 33% and the DBE commitment was 30% for the year.

1. **Consideration of Consent Agenda**

**Consideration of Contract Assignments from Transdev to RTA**:

1. **Swifty, Inc. – Transit Data Platform Services**

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve the contract assignment of **Swiftly, Inc. – Transit Data Platform Services Resolution No. 20-084 was adopted unanimously**.

1. **Procurement Item to Award A New Clever Device – Maintenance Contract**

Deferred

1. **Procurement of Excess Workers’ Compensation Insurance**

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve **Excess Workers’ Compensation Insurance**. **Resolution No. 20-085 was adopted unanimously.**

1. **Consideration 2021 Proposed Budget Presentation**

The CFO presented the 2021 Proposed Budget and reported that the Strategic Mobility Plan Goals were as follows:

* Earn Trust
* Be Equitable
* Prioritize the Rider Experience
* Be Reliable
* Connect to Opportunities
* Support a Sustainable, Healthy Region

The CFO stated that the 2021 budget does not reflect any major cuts to service or personnel for the first quarter. Projections for next year are as follow:

* Passenger Fares is projected at $9.5 Million for 2021 and expected to end 2020 with $7 Million in Passenger Fares which was less than have of what staff projected.
* General Use Sales Tax is projected at $61.8 Million and this was based on the City of New Orleans projected collections for next year and the RTA has collected about 35% of General Use Sales Tax from the City of New Orleans.
* Hotel Motel Sales Tax – is an estimate based upon the projection from the City of New Orleans was $3.3 Million.
* Motor Vehicles Sales Tax – is projected at $6 Million.

Overall, the CFO reported that the –Operating Revenue projection of $82.3 Million for 2021 and the RTA is expected to end the year with a projected $731 Million which is about an 23% decrease from the proposed budget of $107 Million.

The CFO reported that the 64% was from Operating Revenues, Government Operating Assistant was 22%, Non-Operating Federal Sources was 10%, Other Local Sources was 3% and FEMA Funded Project Worksheets was 1%.

The CFO reported that the Capital Expenditures include projects that are on-going or anticipated to begin 2021 at a percentage of revenue and expenditure and that align with the estimated project completion of the year and most projects are partially funded (approx. 80%) with federal and/or state government grants, but there is a local match required - $2.2 Million in CY21. The Maritime Operations was maintained at a level of State funding allocated for CY21, with the exception of local match on ferry terminal projects

The CFO reported that the Government Assistance for Preventative Maintenance and Cares Act Rollover - $28 Million, leaving net revenue of $4.4 Million before debt service and the Debt Service Expenditures $8.1 Million in CY21 and savings of $4 Million was due to the bond refinancing in CY202. The Net Deficit after debt service of $3.1 Million to be filled with operating reserves.

Commissioner Raymond stated that the RTA was going to make the best decision possible to continue to provide the level of service that the community deserves.

1. **Consideration of Title VI and Environmental Justice Policy Manual**

Detrich Hebert-Johnson gave the Title VI report and the report can be found in the Meeting File Folder.

Commissioner Tiller moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to approve the **Title VI and Environmental Justice Policy Manual.** Resolution No. 20-086 was adopted unanimously.

1. **Consideration of New Business**

None

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

Mary Mysing-Gubala stated that she was in support of the New Link Project because it gives riders want, they want and what they need and this would be true regional connections. Mary further stated that the Cemetery Streetcar was slower than the rest of the streetcars and she hope that the RTA find the funding for the bus hub.

Sebrina Bush Hillard stated that she was in favor of the New Link Project and having the frequency increase was a great thing.

In response to Sebrina Bush Hillard, Commissioner Neal stated that the final plan would be put together and would be clear in communicating the next steps of the plan.

Brook Randolph stated that the New Link Project was its simply re-arranging what already exist and making everything equitable to people riding the system.

Anthony Burrell stated that he works at New Harmony High School and that he was in support of the New Links Project that would create a safe, reliable well connected and dynamic transit system which was focusing on equity and an access vulnerable people and will also so help the students for after school activities.

Ben Johnson stated that he was also in support of the New Link Project and this project supports regionalization and he has participated in the surveys and this was an impressive inclusive process and the equity in the report.

Jim Goodwin stated that the Ferry Schedule was update on GoMobile and the Algiers Point Community was pleased with the Ferry new schedule.

In response to Jim Goodwin, Alex Wiggins stated that the State Funding does cover the current level of service the issue is the preventable maintenance down the road for some of the vessels and some of the problems may exceed the funding that the RTA receive from the State.

In response to Jim Goodwin, Alex Wiggins stated that there were no issues with the Armature some of the crew had to quarantine due to the exposure of COVID-19 and the RTA wanted to give everyone involved time to quarantine.

Maxwell Cirdullo Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center stated that he was excited about the New Links Project was going to make the service equitable and this was a huge improvement and hope this was implemented as soon as possible.

Commissioner Neil thanked everyone for the comments regarding the New Links Project and at the December 3 2020 Operations meeting the public is invited to attend the meeting to hear a detail report on the New Links Project.

Valerie Jefferson stated that she supports the New Links Project and have kept the operators informed.

1. **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wegner, 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 November 17, 2020. The motion was approved unanimously.