



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

10:00 AM

RTA Board Room

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 June 27, 2023, 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@rtaforward.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: Commissioner Raymond, Commissioner Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner DeFrancesch, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner LeBeouf, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Sams

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to approve the May 23, 2023 Board Meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

approved

[Board Minutes- May 23, 2023]

[23-110](#)

4. Reports

A. RTA Chairman's Report

Commissioner Timolynn "Tim" Sams was sworn in by Judge Tracey Flemings-Davillier, Deputy Chief Judge of the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court.

Commissioner Sams is an entrepreneur, social innovator, and game changer with 20 plus years of significant, measurable results in community engagement and education and as a lifelong servant leader, Commissioner Sams has been recognized for her outstanding service in civic processes by three New Orleans Mayors.

(i) Introduction and swearing of Timolynn Sams as RTA Commissioner

(ii) Committee Assignments:

Commissioner Raymond assigned Commissioner Sams to the Operations Committee moving Commissioner LeBeouf to the Finance Committee and Commissioner Neal will no longer serve on the Finance Committee.

- Operations & Administration Committee

Commissioner Sams

- Finance Committee

Commissioner LeBeouf

B. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report

Commissioner Neal stated that the Operations Committee looked deeper into the Chief Asset Manager Officer's Report and the RAC Meeting was going to take place on July 12, 2023.

C. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

No Report.

D. Jefferson Parish Report

Commissioner DeFrancesch gave the Jefferson Parish Report. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, June 27, 2023, under the Jefferson Parish Report.

E. RTA General Counsel's Report

Sundiata Haley stated that he will address his report in Executive Session.

F. RTA Chief Executive Officer's Report

Lona Hankins reported on the State Budget Appropriation for the RTA:
\$10M Ferry Operating Funds
\$500K Capital Outlay
\$3M Outstanding Gap

Lona Hankins reported that the RTA received \$71.1M from the FTA for the Lo-No

Grant this funding will be allocated as follows:

- 20 Electric Buses
- 2 En route Chargers
- 6 Depot Chargers
- 1 Microgrid (\$30M)
- \$3.5M Training

Lona Hankins stated that the RTA Safety Team received the APTA 2023 Rail Emergency Management Certificate of Merit for our commitment to improve the safety and security of transit employees, customers, and communities through effective safety and/or security initiatives.

Lona Hankins reported that she participated in the LADOTD Strategic Planning Workshop in Baton Rouge, LA on June 22, 2023.

Lona Hankins reported that Joseph Gains was the Operator of the month and Trey Krieger was the Maintenance Employee of the Month and Wayne Webb was the Operator of the month for Paratransit.

Lona Hankins reported on her 60 Day, 90 Day and 6 Month Plan.

Commissioner Neal asked that the Operators be included in the design of the Downtown Center and all new transit technology should be included in the new Downtown Center.

In response to Commissioner Walton, Lona Hankins reported that the RTA has received the RAISED Grant and issued an RFI for the work to begin.

Commissioner LeBeouf congratulated staff on the award of the FTA Grant Monies and also to Mr. Webb assisting the elderly passenger that was wandering the City streets and she would also like to meet the interns that are working with the RTA for the summer.

In response to Commissioner LeBeouf, Lona Hankins reported that all the temporary signs are up and the real-time on the app staff is currently testing.

Commissioner DeFrancesch and Commissioner Raymond also commended Mr. Webb on assisting with the elderly lady roaming the street.

G. Chief of Staff Legislative Update

Katherine Felton, Chief of Staff gave the Legislative Report. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, June 27, 2023, under the Chief of Staff Legislative Update Report.

H. Operations Update

Christopher Clark presented the RTA's Chief Transit Officer's Report. This report can

be found in the Chief Transit Officer's PowerPoint Report dated, June 27, 2023, under the Chief Transit Officer's Report.

In response to Commissioner Walton, Christopher Clark reported that the gap between the farebox and the APC, the new technology will close the gap between the two and FTA and other transit properties recognizes the APC.

I. RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report

Gizelle Banks presented the RTA's Chief Financial Officer's Report. This report can be found in the Chief Financial Officer's PowerPoint Report dated, June 27, 2023, under the Chief Financial Officer's Report.

In response to Commissioner Walton, Gizelle Banks reported that the RTA met the date to drawdown the necessary COVID funds.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Mark Major reported in reference to the Bonds the RTA must maintain a Coverage Ratio where the RTA has pledged to the Bond Department a half of the penny, and there is no prepayment penalty.

Commissioner Neal would like a Pre-COVID slide comparing current ridership to COVID ridership.

5. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to move to adopt the Consent Agenda. Resolution No. 23-038 was adopted unanimously.

adopted

Purchase of Non-Revenue Support Vehicles (Ram 1500 Trucks) [23-070](#)

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to adopt the Purchase of Non-Revenue Support Vehicles (Ram 1500 Trucks). Resolution No. 23-039 was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Drake stated that he would like the RTA to consider Electric Vehicles when purchasing new vehicles and instead of buying new vehicles the RTA should look into lease back vehicles.

Commissioner DeFrancesch stated that agencies are purchasing hybrids.

In response to Commissioner LeBeouf, Lona Hankins reported that the RTA follows the State Process when disposing old vehicles.

Enactment No: 23-039

McPherson Oil Contract Extension [23-079](#)

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to adopt McPherson Oil Contract Extension. Resolution No. 23-040 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-040

Change Order for Fuel Card Services

[23-080](#)

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to adopt the Change Order for Fuel Card Services. Resolution 23-041 was adopted unanimously.

In response to Commissioner LeBeouf, Lona Hankins reported that the Retiff Contract was going to fill the gap until the new contract begins.

Enactment No: 23-041

New State Contract for Fuel Card Services

[23-081](#)

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to adopt the Change Order for Fuel Card Services. Resolution No. 23-041 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-042

Purchase Canal and Riverfront Streetcar Inverter Upgrades

[23-087](#)

Commissioner Neal move and Commissioner Ewell seconded to adopt the Purchase Canal and Riverfront Streetcar Inverter Upgrades. Resolution No. 23-043 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-043

Change Order for Transit Security Services

[23-089](#)

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to adopt the Change Order for Transit Security Services. Resolution 23-044 was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Walton stated that this contract was month to month until RTA award a permit security company.

Enactment No: 23-044

6. Consideration of CY2022 Single Audit Acceptance

Becky Hammond reported that on the CY2022 Financial Audit and the CY2022 Single Audit will make the June 30, 2023 deadline to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor and there were no Material Weakness and Significant Findings to report, and the RTA should expect a Clean Opinion on all the Reports, and 94% of the Federal Grants were look at during this audit. Becky Hammond reported that she would like to thank the Accounting Department for making this audit process an easy one and the Commissioners will receive a copy of the audit.

CY 2022 Single Audit Acceptance

[23-068](#)

7. Consideration of CY 2022 Financial Audit Acceptance

CY 2022 Financial Audit Acceptance

[23-069](#)

presented

8. Consideration of the Internal Audit Charter

Adoption of the Internal Audit Charter

[23-088](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to adopt the Internal Audit Charter. Resolution No. 23-045 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-045

9. RTA's Compensation Schedule

Lona Hankins reported that the RTA's Compensation Schedule has been simplified by going from Grades 1-11 and some adjustments were made to certain Grades to 90% of the midpoint and 85% of the max point because of some of the questions that the Commissioners asked.

Commissioner Ewell stated that the RTA needed to keep the talent that it currently has by increasing their pay and the Board would like to make sure that everyone was being treated fairly.

Lona Hankins reported that Gizelle Banks was aware of the compressing factor, and she was going to make sure that the employees that needed the increase and their bosses were treated fairly.

Commissioner DeFrancesch stated that many people will be impacted in a positive way and some in a negative way and how will those impacted negatively be addressed.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Gizelle Banks stated that there were some preliminary numbers in the Compensation Study that did address the cost of the compression but to bring people to the midpoint there is not a final number. He also stated the RTA gives Annual Raises, but there is no language that states that the raises would only be administered "If the money is available in the Budget" He also has an issue when certain raises that can go above the maximum, and currently the attorney is a Claims Analyst why is his job title not an attorney.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Lona Hankins reported that the Board approves the headcount of 890 positions and as long as she is within the 890 positions that is budgeted, she can fill all these positions as she see fit and this is the difference between a policy Board and a Managing Board.

Commissioner Coulon stated that the Board can approve a smaller number of positions.

A motion was made by Fred Neal to approve the Compensation Study but failed for lack of a seconded.

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner LeBeouf seconded to Defer this item until the next Finance Committee Meeting.

RTA Compensation Schedule

[23-086](#)

10. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)

None.

11. Audience Questions and Comments

Alan Drake - The COVID Money will dried up and how will that affect the RTA - The RTA can go to the City and get Signal Light Priority - The RTA need to get a Fare Increase - Provide a low fare card for people receiving Snap.

Kory Dupre - RTA was receiving all this money and some of this money should be used for Operators Safety and the Operators would like to start carrying guns.

Courtney Jackson - June 4, 2023 - The new frequency reduction is not helping riders, and riders are always late. The riding public would like to know when will full service be restored - When will the RTA hire new mechanics and procure new buses - the RTA was unable to deliver service now - Glad that the real time was being tested - The app stated that a bus would be arriving in 15 minutes bus still never arrived - how many buses are the RTA pulling out every day on the average and On-Time Performance was poor for June.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Lona Hankins reported that the RTA was going to launch a new Marketing Campaign advertising for Mechanics.

Commissioner Neal would like one slide on the effects of the June pick.

Commissioner DeFrancesch suggested that the RTA need to go to High Schools to recruit for Mechanics.

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

Commissioner LeBeouf moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss

Personnel Matters

IBEW Contract Update

The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner LeBeouf seconded to come out of Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

go into Executive Session

- Personnel Matters
- IBEW Contract Update

13. Request for Approval of the IBEW 1700-4 Contract

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner seconded to adopt the Approval of the IBEW-4 Contract. Resolution No. 23-046 was adopted unanimously.

RTA Labor Agreement with IBEW Local 1700-4

[23-109](#)

Enactment No: 23-046

14. Adjournment

Commissioner LeBeouf moved, and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adjourn the Board Meeting of June 27, 2023. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.

[06.27.23 PowerPoint Presentation]

[23-112](#)