



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

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, January 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Meetings start at the scheduled time, but may be delayed until a quorum of the Commissioners is present. The agency's website will stream the in-person meeting live, and wearing masks in the boardroom is optional.

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.

This meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. To help assure availability, modifications or accommodations linked to a disability must be requested 72 hours before the meeting or hearing. Please direct requests for public meeting accommodations to the Office of Board Affairs, 2817 Canal Street, NOLA 70119, or call 504-827-8341 or by email (rtaboard@rtaforward.org).

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Colin, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Neal, Commissioner Sams and Commissioner Walton

Present: Chairperson Fred Neal, Vice-Chairman Art Walton, Commissioner Timolyn Sams, Commissioner Timolyn Sams, Commissioner Flozell Daniels, Commissioner Louis Colin, and Commissioner Mitchell Guidry

Absent:

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to approve the Board

Meeting of December 17, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Daniels, seconded by Vice-Chairman Walton and approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Sams, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin, and Commissioner Guidry

Absent:

[Board Meeting Minutes 12.17.24] [25-010](#)

Enactment No: N/A

[Special Board Meeting] [25-011](#)

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Daniels seconded to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Enactment No: N/A

4. Reports

A. RTA Chairman’s Report

Commissioner Neal stated that he was grateful for staff being able to adjust and assist the City of New Orleans with all the different issues taking place in the City.

B. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report

No Report.

C. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

No Report.

D. RTA General Counsel’s Report

No Report.

E. RTA Chief Executive Officer's Report

The monthly Chief Executive Officer's Report was given and can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation for the Board Meeting along with the Super Bowl Report.

The CEO stated that during the snow storm the RTA staff adjusted bus service and the operators were very safe during this event. She stated that New Orleans saved the region by procuring snow plows. Commissioner Walton added that this snowstorm was a major event and the City of New Orleans handled this storm with great pride. Commissioner Colin agreed and stated that when major events affect the City of New Orleans the RTA employees become first responders.

The CEO mentioned that the signal box for the streetcars was damaged when the copper was stolen. In response to Commissioner Guidry, the streetcars was currently operating but very cautiously with the signals not working. The RTA has a CEA with the railroad that will cover the repair of the signal box. The City of New Orleans contractor is responsible for the signal repairs for Rampart and Canal Streetcars.

The CEO stated that the RTA was communicating the changes to bus routes on the LePass App and the website during the Super Bowl. It was reported that flyers were placed on the buses and at bus stops to inform riders of changes. The flyers have a QR Code that can be scanned for bus route information. Commissioner Guidry and Commissioner Daniels want to make sure that the Ride Line was properly trained to handle all the calls that they were going to receive during the Super Bowl. It was also mentioned that the RTA will run two ferries during the Super Bowl event. Commissioner Guidry asked about paratransit services to Super Bowl visitors. The CEO responded by saying that paratransit riders from other states would have to make a reservation for services.

Regarding advertising, the CEO reported that the RTA was going to look into trade marking the RTA and taking any opportunity to make money off the streetcars. Commissioner Sams cautioned staff to be aware of the image of the RTA and the City of New Orleans when selling advertisements for streetcar wrapping purposes. The CEO also reported that the RTA has entered an CEA with Ashe Art to create murals at the ferry terminal and RTA's 'contribution to this project is \$25,000 grant funds.

Regarding bus service, Commissioner Guidry stated that the Westbank commuters have to stop at the UPT to transfer to another route that is a long walk for the passengers. He suggested staff revisit this transfer hub, and stated Tulane and Claiborne would be a better location for passengers to transfer.

The CEO also reported that the City of New Orleans was working with the private sector to run a Park-N-Ride Shuttle from New Orleans East and the RTA was working with the City of New Orleans and Ride to make sure that all RTA information will reach the riders.

F. Chief Transit Officer's Report

The monthly Chief Transit Officer's Report was given. This report can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation for the Board Meeting.

Commissioner Sams suggested that the different trends in ridership should be presented to the Board on a Quarterly Basis with an explanation. She also asked how does the RTA reward operators of the month. The CEO stated that the agency does honor employees and they may be given something from the RTA store. Commissioner Neal added that management needs to get with the Union and come up with some type of reward for the operators.

G. RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report

The monthly Chief Financial Officer's Report was given. This report can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation for the Board Meeting.

[Financial Statement]

[25-004](#)

Enactment No: N/A

5. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda Item. Resolution No. 25-002 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Daniels, seconded by Colin and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Sams, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin, and Commissioner Guidry

Absent:

Swiftly Contract Award for Software Services

[24-116](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Swiftly Contract Award for Software Services. Resolution No. 25-003 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-003

Settlement Authorization Policy

[24-133](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Settlement Authorization Policy. Resolution No. 25-004 was adopted unanimously.

FY25 PROTECT Grant Resilience Improvement Application/Bus Shelter Installations

[24-143](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the FY25 Protect Grant Resilience Improvement Application/Bus Shelter Installations. Resolution No. 25-005 was adopted.

Enactment No: 25-005

Third-Party Administrator of Automobile/General Liability and Workers' Compensation Claims

[24-147](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Third-Party Administrator of Automobile/General Liability and Workers' Compensation Claims. Resolution No. 25-006 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-006

Approval of the 2025 RTA Agency Safety Plan

[24-148](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the 2025 RTA Agency Safety Plan. Resolution No. 25-007 was adopted unanimously.

Changes to the Office of Internal Audit and Compliance's Internal Audit Charter [24-150](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Colin adopted the Changes to the Office of Internal Audit and Compliance's Internal Audit Charter. Resolution No. 25-008 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-008

6. Authorizations

CEA Agreement with Ashe' Cultural Arts Center and the RTA [25-008](#)

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Daniels seconded to adopt the CEA Agreement with Ashe' Cultural Arts Center and the RTA. Resolution No. 25-009 was adopted unanimously.

Aye: Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Sams, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin, and Commissioner Guidry

Absent:

Enactment No: 25-009

Ratification of Payment of CY 2024 Louisiana Second Injury Fund Assessment [25-009](#)

Commissioner Colin moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Ratification of Payment of CY 2024 Louisiana Second Injury Fund Assessment. Resolution No. 25-009 was adopted unanimously.

Aye: Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Sams, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin, and Commissioner Guidry

Absent:

Enactment No: 25-010

7. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)

None.

8. Audience Questions and Comments

Courtney Jackson - RIDE - Asked the RTA for its Communication Policy approved by the Board. The riders need to have more communications from the RTA when unprecedented events occur on the routes. RIDE thanked the RTA for putting transit back on the street that Friday after the Snow Event. Courtney Jackson also mentioned that in the RTA's press release it reference "major routes would be put back on the streets" the riding public was not aware of what were "major routes" and was referred to the website and the RTA's website

crashed. The riding public did not receive the necessary information regarding major routes until noon on Friday.

Commissioner Daniels stated that the Board has concerns about the communications that the passengers are receiving. The riding public should be able to sign up to receive text messages from the RTA. Courtney Jackson indicated that the RTA needs to establish a focus group of riders to help them better understand the riding public needs. Courtney Jackson further stated that RIDE has a great relationship with the RTA and is willing to work with the RTA to fill the gaps when needed to communicate to the riding public. Commissioner Sams stated that community engagement is very important to the Board, the agency need to understand that everyone is not on social media and staff need to figure out a way to reach all passengers

Ronald Horn - President of ATU 1560 - State that during the snowstorm there was great communications between management and the Union and he wanted to thank the operators that showed up to work on that Friday. Commissioner Daniels stated that the Board has a great partnership with the Union.

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

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to approve to go into Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams approve to come out of Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting Reconvened

A motion was made by Daniels, seconded by Colin and approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Sams, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin, and Commissioner Guidry

Absent:

- O.E. By and Through His Parents versus New Orleans Regional Transit Authority

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to approve the Ratification of the Execution of the Agreement. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Katherine Felton, Former RTA Chief of Staff - Demand/Prospective Litigation.

Commissioner Daniels stated that since Jefferson Parish was no longer a part of the RTA Board the 66% majority does not apply and the votes are equal and the vote passed by a simple majority. The Board agreed to let the vote stand and get a legal opinion on this vote.

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Daniels seconded to proceed as recommended by the attorney. The motion was passed by 3 yeas and 2 nays. A Roll Call Vote was taken as follows:

Sams	Yes
Daniels	Yes
Neal	Yes
Walton	Nay
Guidry	Nay

Commissioner Daniels stated that since Jefferson Parish was no longer a part of the RTA Board the 66% majority does not apply and the votes are equal and the vote passed by a simple majority. The Board agreed to let the vote stand and get a legal opinion on this vote.

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adjourn the Board Meeting of Tuesday, January 28, 2025. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.