



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, February 25, 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, February 25, 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. RTA Chairman's Report

Commissioner Neal welcomed Commissioner Moore to the RTA Board of Commissioners and acknowledge Walter Tillery a former Jefferson Parish Commissioner that passed away. Commissioner Neal concluded his remarks by stating this was a very busy month and was grateful to the entire staff for doing a great job getting the passengers safely around the City.

A. Swearing in of Commissioner

Judge Chase swore in Mariah Moore as the new RTA Commissioner.

B. Assignment of Committees

Committee Assignments:

Operations and Administration

Commissioner Sams, Chair
Commissioner Daniels
Commissioner Guidry

Finance Committee

Commissioner Walton, Chair
Commissioner Colin
Commissioner Moore

3. Roll Call

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

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

4. Consideration of Meeting Minutes (January 28, 2025)

[Board Meeting Minutes - January 28, 2025] [25-019](#)

Commissioner Colin moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for January 28, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.

Enactment No: N/A

5. Reports

A. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report

No Report.

B. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

No Report.

[December 2024 Financials] [25-020](#)

Enactment No: N/A

C. RTA General Counsel's Report

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to add Sheila Jones to the Agenda under Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. RTA Chief Executive Officer's Report

Commissioner Daniels came to the meeting.

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

The CEO introduced the Employees of the Q4 2024.

Ken Von Dullen - Streetcar Operator

Susan Lyons - Administration

Paul Becnel - Maintenance

Employees of the Month - January 2025

Wadrina Thomas - Bus Operator

Teron Lewis - Maintenance

The CEO reported that the Super Bowl Mural in Algiers was completed, the agency wrapped a streetcar advertising the Super Bowl and the Mardi Guide was posted on the website. The CEO stated that staff was watching very closing the events happening in Washington, DC.

E. Chief Transit Officer's Report

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

In response to a question from Commissioner Guidry, the CEO stated that the Riverfront Streetcar will run to John Churchill Chase during the month of June. As it relates to the Riverfront Streetcar running to the Convention Center a lot of Capital Improvements Project need to be completed before the this can take place. The Rampart Streetcar is waiting for the contractor to complete the grouting process.

A decision was made to take some streetcars off the line to run more bus service. Commissioner Neal stated that he would like to discuss with staff putting more streetcar back on the line. Commissioner Guidry added that there are signalizations issues at the UPT.

F. RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report

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

The CFO stated that the sales tax numbers are under performing and the RTA is 6% under by what was projected by staff and that sales taxes from the Super Bowl will not be realized until the end of March or beginning of April. It was reported that there was 2 1/2% Cost of Living Increase for staff was put in the budget for 2025.

In response to question from Commissioner Sams regarding audits, the CFO stated

that the RTA does has a scheduled as to when certain Financial Audits take place . Regarding the reserves, there is a draft policy the board will review, but staff tries to keep at least 25%-30% of reserves. Commissioner Daniels asked staff to show the reserve on the slides.

6. Informational Report on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

The Chief Planning & Capital Projects Officer presented an informational report on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation for the Board Meeting.

Commissioner Daniels stated that the RTA has to compete for federal dollars and he posed the question of what would happen if the RTA does not receive the necessary funding for these projects. The Board is very concerned with On-Time Performance and the monies for these projects are going to be hard to obtain.

The discussion moved to fare collections, where the Chief Planning Officer stated that Tap-N-Go would be a part of the Fare Modernization Initiative and staff will define what type of technology that will be used. The RTA has been awarded the necessary money needed to implement this initiative.

Commissioner Neal asked that the Board receive a copy of the CIP report before the March Board Meeting and also asked that staff present this report at the March RAC Meeting.

7. Report by the LA DOTD - Mr. Kevin Lawson

Kevin Lawson gave the LA DOTD Report this report can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation for the Board Meeting.

[DOTD Kevin Lawson]

[25-036](#)

Enactment No: N/A

8. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Colin moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda. Resolution No. 25-011 was adopted.

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

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

Absent:

Authorization Resolution to file applications with the Federal Transit Administration

[25-012](#)

Commissioner Colin moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Authorization Resolution to file an Application with the Federal Transit Administration. Resolution No. 25-012 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-012

9. Authorization

Internal Audit 2025 Annual Report and Audit Plan

[25-013](#)

The Manager of Audit Compliance gave the Internal Audit 2025 Annual Report and the plan can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation for the Board Meeting.

It was reported that each year OIAC conducts a Risk Assessment and each Audit Plan is based on the Risk Assessment and staff has to be factored into the Assessment and the items that are canceled will be done at a later date and time. These cancellations were addressed in the Audit Plan.

The CEO stated that staff was putting the process in place with out the Audit to solve the risk. Commissioner Daniels would like to make sure that the baseline measurement is matching what the Board need to understand .

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Internal Audit Annual Report and Audit Plan. Resolution No. 25-013 was adopted unanimously.

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

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

Absent:

Enactment No: 25-013

10 New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)

None

11. Audience Questions and Comments

Courtney Jackson - RIDE - Presented to the Board the comments they have received from riders. These comments are included in the Board Report. The riders would like the RTA to provide Policies and Procedures to the transit riders. RIDE understands that staff was working on the communications. This communications will address the barriers hampering the riders. The riders has a lack of trust for the RTA and the riders encourages the Board and staff to ride the transit system.

Commissioner Moore stated that she was aware of RIDE and the work they do with the riding public and he is aware of the barriers and changelings that the riders face on a daily basis .

Mary Proch - She stated that Paratransit needs better Customer Service for the passengers .

Alan Drake - He has asked the City Council to give the RTA Stop Light Priority - A recession was going to happen and there were going to be a drop in Federal Funding and the RTA need to start preparing. - The RTA needs to look into a fare increase by routes.

[Ride Customer Complaints]

[25-037](#)

Enactment No: N/A

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

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

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

A motion was made by Commissioner 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, Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioner Moore

Absent:

A. Kentrell Leggins v. Transdev Services

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams to accept the recommendation from Counsel. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Keith Morris v. Ernest Skidmore

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Sams to accept the recommendation from Counsel. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Travis Anthony Peters v. Transdev

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Daniels seconded to accept the recommendation from Counsel. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. Stanley Jenkins v. RTA

No action taken.

G. Sheila Jones

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Guidry seconded to accept the recommendation from Counsel. The motion was approved unanimously.

E. Brandon Gillam v. RTA

No action taken.

[02.25.25 Board Meeting PowerPoint Presentation]

[25-026](#)

Enactment No: N/A

F. Personnel Matters

No action taken.

13. Adjournment

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adjourn the meeting of Tuesday, February 25, 2025. The motion was adjourned unanimously.