



2817 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119

## **New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners**

### **Meeting Minutes - Draft**

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**Thursday, August 8, 2024**

**9:00 AM**

**RTA Board Room**

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#### **SPECIAL MEETING: COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE (Operations & Administration Committee and the Finance Committee)**

The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) hereby declares that, in accordance with La. R.S. 42:17.1 (A)(2)(a)-(c), a special meeting will be held in person on Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 9:00 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](mailto: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](mailto:rtaboard@rtaforward.org)).

#### **1. Call to Order**

#### **2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners Present:** Commissioner Raymond, Commissioner Cisco, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Hurley, Commissioner Neal, Commissioner Richard and Commissioner Walton

**Commissioner Absent:** Commissioner Sams

#### **3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes**

#### **4. Reports**

A. RTA Chairman's Report

No Report.

B. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report

No Report.

C. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

No Report.

D. Jefferson Parish Report

No Report.

E. RTA General Counsel's Report

Sundiata Haley report will be discussed in Executive Session.

F. RTA Chief Executive Officer's Report

Lona Hankins reported that there are currently 11 new vehicles on fixed route with another 13 vehicles arriving in October with the remaining vehicles arriving at the end of the quarter. Also on this agenda is a CEA between the City of New Orleans and the RTA that gives the RTA an opportunity to collect \$2.5 Million from the Opportunity Youth Program for ages from 16-24.

G. Chief of Staff Legislative Update

No Report.

H. Chief Transit Officer's Report

Justin Cayless gave the Operations Update. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated August 8, 2024.

Justin Cayless introduced Petrina Lewis as the new Director of Bus Operations.

Justin Cayless reported that staff is going to put out an RFP for new software for the Paratransit Department.

Justin Cayless reported that staff must replace the Paratransit vehicles more often than the fixed route vehicles and the vehicles expected life span was 5 years.

Commissioner Neal stated that adjustments were made to Route 66 and those changes should be reflected in the July Operations Report.

I. RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report

Gizelle Banks gave the RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated August 8, 2024.

## 5. Consent Agenda

Substation Upgrade/Repairs

[24-055](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt Substation Upgrades/Repairs. Resolution No. 24-038 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-038

Replacement of Track Switch Boxes and Cleanouts

[24-057](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Replacement of Track Switch Boxes and Cleanouts. Resolution No. 24-039 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-039

Zero-Emission Fleet Planning

[24-065](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Zero Emission Fleet Planning. Resolution No. 24-040 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-040

## 6. Ratifications

Cyber Insurance Placement and Renewal of Excess Liability and Automobile Physical Damage Insurance [2024-2025]

[24-061](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to adopt the Cyber Insurance Placement and Renewal of Excess Automobile Liability and Automobile Physical Damage Insurance 2024-2025. Resolution No. 24-041 was adopted unanimously.

Change Order Request: Agreement for Ferry Service Operations and Maintenance

[24-063](#)

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Cisco seconded to adopt the Change Order Request: Agreement for Ferry Service Operations. Resolution No. 24-042 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-043

## 7. Authorizations

Award Contract to CTE for Lo/No PM Services

[24-054](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the CTE for Lo/No PM Services. Resolution No. 24-043 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-043

McPherson Oil Extension #2

[24-066](#)

In response to Commissioner Walton, Ronald Baptiste stated that this is Amendment No. 3 for this contract and the last amendment.

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt McPherson Oil Extension. Resolution No. 24-044 was approved unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-044

Amendment the Transit Agreement between the City of Kenner and Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

[24-072](#)

In response to Commissioner Daniels, Lona Hankins reported that Jefferson Transit is taking the lead on communicating to the riders and the RTA will share their communications on RTA's social media outlets.

In response to Commissioner Neal, Lona Hankins reported that the "opt out clause" is the last clause dealing with this agreement and to answer Commissioner Walton, Lona Hankins stated that all are in agreement with the 45 days exist clause.

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Cisco seconded to adopt the Amendment of the Transit Agreement between the City of Kenner and the RTA. Resolution No. 24-045 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-046

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between The University of New Orleans (UNO) and Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

[24-073](#)

Commissioner Daniels and Commissioner Walton seconded to adopt the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the University of New Orleans and the RTA. Resolution No. 24-046 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-046

A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) Between the City of New Orleans and the Regional Transit Authority for the Zero Transit Fare for Opportunity Youth Program

[24-078](#)

In response to Commissioner Daniels, Gizelle Banks reported that applicants have to be a resident of New Orleans. Kortney Jackson stated that applicants between the ages of 16-24 can go to the main library to sign up for the program. If the applicants don't have a State ID, a school ID is sufficient and if the applicant has no ID something that shows an address, a zip code would be acceptable. Ride was also going to do bulk enrollments with Opportunity Youth

Service Organizations to sign applicants up.

Kortney Jackson stated that the passes will be youth passes and adult passes in the system for billing, but the visible pass will state Opportunity Youth Program so the operators can identify the passes.

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) Between the City of New Orleans and the RTA for the Zero Transit Fare for Opportunity Youth Program. Resolution No. 24-047 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-047

[Special Recognition Resolution of Former RTA Commissioner Earline Roth]

**24-079**

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to adopt the Special Recognition Resolution of Former RTA Commissioner Earline Roth. Resolution No. 24-048 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-048

## **8. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)**

None.

## **9. Audience Questions and Comments**

Alan Drake stated that the RTA need to improve the signage at the airport and the RTA need to add another bus on the airport line.

Commissioner Neal stated that in January the Planning Staff was going to look at the airport line.

## **10. Executive Session (2/3RDS VOTE TO Consider)**

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

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

- BRC Construction Group, LLC versus New Orleans Regional Transit Authority, Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans No.: 2024-0335, Div. "F"- 5
- Ernest N. Morial Exhibition Hall Authority versus Regional Transit Authority Civil District Court No. 2021-04470, Division "J-15"

## **11. Adjournment**

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adjourn the Board Meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

[08.08.24 Special Board Meeting PowerPoint Presentation]

**24-084**