



2817 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119

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

### **Meeting Minutes - Draft**

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**Tuesday, December 16, 2025**

**10:00 AM**

**RTA Board Room**

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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, December 16, 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](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 Colin, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Neal, Commissioner Moore, Commissioner Sams and Commissioner Walton

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Flozell Daniels

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

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Moore seconded to approve the Board of

Commissioners Meeting of November 18, 2025.

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

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Daniels

[Board Meeting Minutes - November 18, 2025]

[25-177](#)

#### 4. Informational Reports

##### A. RTA Chairman's Report

Commissioner Neal stated that 2025 was a great year for the RTA Board. In 2025 the Board had a Retreat to discuss the RTA's Work Plan that was helpful to the agency moving forward. This Board has taken advantage of every opportunity presented to them for training and became familiar with new transit technology. This Board was a very hand-on Board and work very well with staff.

##### B. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report

None.

##### C. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

Commissioner Walton thanked staff for a great detailed Budget presentation and all the hard work put into preparing this Budget.

##### D. RTA General Counsel's Report

None.

#### 5. Selection of Official Journal

[Official Journal 2026]

[25-176](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to select the Advocate as the Official Journal of 2026. Resolution No. 25-080 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-80

#### 6. Election of Officers

##### A. Chairperson

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to approve Fred Neal

as Chairman of the RTA Board of Commissioners. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### B. Vice Chairperson

Commissioner Colin moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to approve Arthur Walton as Vice-Chairman of the RTA Board of Commissioners. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### C. Committee Chairs

Commissioner Moore moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to approve Commissioner Sams as the Chairman of the Operations and Administration Committee and Commissioner Walton as the Chairman of the Finance Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

### 7. 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.

#### **Report Highlights - CEO:**

Employees of the Month for December along with the Employees of the Year, Service Awards 5 years to 45 years, 2025 Retirees, COHORT1 and 2 Graduates and the 1881 Institute Apprentice were recognized.

#### Customer Service Training

Staff created a Paratransit Customer Service Training Template for Operators and successfully held 4 classes.

#### Groundbreaking for the Algiers Ferry Project

This project will take a year to complete. This is a \$27 Million commitment to Algiers.

#### RTA 2025/2026 Agency Work Plan Update

This report can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation for the Board Meeting.

### 8. RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report

#### **THIS ITEM WAS PRESENTED AFTER THE CHIEF TRANSIT OFFICER'S REPORT**

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

[October 2025 Financials]

[25-172](#)

### 9. CY2026 Operating & Capital Budget Report

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Walton, seconded by Commissioner Sams and

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adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Daniels

RTA CY2026 Operating and Capital Budget

[25-158](#)

The RTA CY2026 Operating and Capital Budget was given and can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation for the Board Meeting.

#### Operating Expenditures

Total Operating Expenses- \$142.3 Million

871 Full Time Equivalents (occupied and vacant)

Casualty and Liability insurance and claims reserves

TMSEL Retirement costs- \$1.3 Million

Maritime deficit of \$5.5M after applying the State Subsidy of \$5.1M

#### Government Assistance and Debt Service

Government Assistance for Preventative Maintenance \$22.9M, State funding of \$1.8M, and ARPA funding of \$500K for a total of \$25.2M, leaving net expense of \$12.2M

CY26 Debt Service is \$7.8M (principle and interest).

#### Budget Updates from November to December

Added \$500,000 in ARPA Funding

Increased Hotel/Motel Sales Tax by \$1M

Increased General Use Sales Tax by \$317K

Local Capital Funding increased by \$850K

The ARPA funds are obligated for certain line items and can't be used for anything else.

The Youth Opportunity Passes is a Pilot Program and if it is successful money will be needed to continue the program. The 2026 Budget does not include any Cost of Increase for the Administrative Staff.

These adjustments made to the 2026 Budget was very conservative adjustments.

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the CY2006 Operating and Capital Budget. Resolution 25-081 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-081

## 10. Chief Transit Officer's Report

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## **THIS REPORT WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER AND PRESENTED AFTER THE CEO REPORT**

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

The Streetcar Passenger Counts will be certified during CY 2026. The New Disruption Manager Software would be very helpful, giving real-time detours happening on the transit routes.

The new software for Paratransit will be very helpful managing On-Time Performance on Paratransit Routes. The routers are making sure that the routes are efficient. The RTA will adhere to the three-quarter of a mile rule and if the service goes beyond that rule the passenger will pay a premium fare.

### **11. Presentation: A Post-Launch Assessment of the Network Redesign**

#### **COMMISSIONER DANIELS ARRIVED AT THE MEETING**

The Assessment of the Network Redesign Report was given and can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation for the Board Meeting.

Commissioner Neal stated that this presentation will be done again at the January Board Meeting.

The Commissioners would like to see more interaction with the community regarding the service that is out on the streets. An Action Plan is needed for the riders for this plan to continue to be successful for the riders.

The RTA is currently operating with a third of the buses that it had prior to Hurricane Katrina and have more territory to cover. The RTA needs more revenue and resources to give the riders what they need.

### **12. Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda. Resolution No. 25-071 was approved unanimously.

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

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Sams

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of New Orleans and The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority for

[25-016](#)

### Supporting Unhoused Individuals

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the CEA between the City of New Orleans and the RTA for Supporting Unhoused Individuals. Resolution No. 25-072 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-072

Contract Extension #1 for General Counsel Services with Wright Gray Harris, LLC [25-156](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Contract Extension #1 General Counsel Services with Wright Gray Harris, LLC. Resolution No. 25-073 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-073

Renewal of Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance for RTA Employees [2025-2027] [25-159](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt Renewal of Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance Employees 2025-2027. Resolution No. 25-074 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-074

Advertising Content Policy (COM 2) Amendment #1 [25-161](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Advertising Content Policy (COM 2) Amendment #1. Resolution No. 25-075 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-075

## 13. Authorizations

### A. Procurements

Task Order for St. Charles Streetcar Downtown Loop Track Replacement, Phase IV - Preliminary Engineering and Design Work [25-164](#)

This design will take 6-7 months to complete. The total project may take from 1 - 2 years.

The Preliminary Engineering and Design is enough to procure the necessary materials but does not have all the necessary information to enter into a contract for this project.

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Task Order for St. Charles Streetcar Downtown Loop Track Replacement Phase IV - Preliminary Engineering and Design Work.

Resolution No. 25-076 was adopted unanimously.

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

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

**Absent:** Enactment No: 25-076

B. Amendments

Fare Policy Amendment No.1 (GEN 11) [25-142](#)

Commissioner Neal read a statement into the record regarding Transit Equity Day.

There will also be free riders on Election Day and one day designated for Early Election. This was done so that the RTA can save money.

Commissioner Moore moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to adopt Fare Policy Amendments No. 1 (GEN 11). Resolution No. 25-077 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Vice-Chairman Walton and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Enactment No: 25-077

Amendment #1 to the CEA with the City of New Orleans to provide the Opportunity Pass [25-160](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Amendment with the CEA and the City of New Orleans and the RTA to provide the Opportunity Pass. Resolution No. 25-078 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Walton, seconded by Commissioner Sams and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** Enactment No: 25-078

C. Ratifications

Ratification: Grant Application Submission for FY26 Section 5339 (Bus and Bus Facilities) [25-162](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Moore seconded to adopt the Grant Application Submission for FY26 Section 5339 (Bus and Bus Facilities). Resolution 25-079 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-079

**14. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)**

None.

**15. Audience Questions and Comments**

None.

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

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

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

- Norma Jill Pollock vs. RTA CDC 2022-7267

No action was taken

- Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1560 v. NORTA, CDC No. 2025-07858

No action was taken

[12.16.25 Board PowerPoint Presentation] [25-180](#)

**17. Adjournment**

Commissioner Moore moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adjourn the Board of Commissioners Meeting of December 16, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

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

**Absent:**