



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

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, December 17, 2024 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

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

Commissioner Absent: Commissioner Daniels

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

Absent: Flozell Daniels

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

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

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

Absent: Daniels

[Board of Commissioners Minutes - November 26, 2024]

[24-142](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Guidry seconded to approve the Board Meeting of November 26, 2024. The minutes were approved unanimously

4. Reports

A. RTA Chairman's Report

Commissioner Neal stated that there were great committee meetings and RAC Meeting. He stated that the employees at the RTA are what makes the RTA work.

B. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report

No Report.

C. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

Commissioner Walton stated that the Budget will be considered at this meeting.

D. RTA General Counsel's Report

Sundiata Haley reported that the Board was going to have an Executive Session.

5. Selection of Official Journal

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Official Journal. Resolution No. 24-060 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 Sams, Colin, and Guidry

Absent: Daniels

[Official Journal]

[24-140](#)

Enactment No: 24-060

6. Election of Officers

A. Chairperson

B. Vice Chairperson

Commissioner Colin moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to approve Commissioner Walton as Vice Chairman. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

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

Absent: Daniels

C. Committee Chairs

The following are the Committee Assignments:

Executive Committee:

Commissioner Walton, Chair
Commissioner Daniels
Commissioner Neal

Operations and Administration Committee:

Commissioner Sams, Chair
Commissioner Guidry
Commissioner Daniels

Finance Committee:

Commissioner Walton, Chair
Commissioner Colin
Commissioner Daniels

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to approve the Committee Assignments. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. RTA Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO presented her report. This report can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation for the Board Meeting.

Below are the Employees of the Year:

Myron Hughes - Operations

Emile Fisher - Maintenance - Switch Repair

Tyren Synder - Administrative

CEO Hankins clarified what she stated regarding On-Time Performance for Paratransit. The internal audit stated that the On-Time Performance was based on pick-up time and she stated that it was based on drop-off time. The Board will receive a Report detailing the definition of

On-Time Performance for Paratransit.

In response to a question from Commissioner Guidry, CEO Hankins was not sure how many current employees on the Operations Team has had experience with Super Bowl. Commissioner Guidry stated that staff should start promoting the \$3.00 passes and letting riders know, for that amount the streetcars can give you a tour of the city. Also, he stated that a booth should be setup at the airport to promote the RTA once people arrive in the City. He stated that "Make your day with RTA" will be a great slogan to use for the Super Bowl.

8. RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report

The CFO presented the monthly financial report. This report can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation for the Board Meeting. The CFO stated that the lag time for the Financial Reports was due to the schedule of Committee and Board Meetings. The CFO stated that the Committee Meetings schedule is what determine when the information is received from staff.

[October 2024 Financial Statements]

[24-139](#)

9. CY 2024 Operating & Capital Budget Report

The CFO presented the RTA CY2025 Operating and Capital Budget. This report can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation for the Board Meeting.

The CFO reported that the HARP Funds are obligated and will be drawn down in 2025 and that the RTA's Bond rating is still very good. In response to a question from Commissioner Colin, the CFO reported that the replacement vehicles are factored into the budget.

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the RTA CY2025 Operating and Capital Budget. Resolution 24-074 was adopted unanimously.

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

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

Absent: Daniels

RTA CY2025 Operating and Capital Budget

[24-130](#)

10. Operations Update

Petrina Lewis gave the Chief Transit Officer's Report. This report can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation in the Board Report.

Ms. Lewis responded to an earlier question about Super Bowl operations, stating that some staff were familiar with the Super Bowl and she was reaching out to Detroit Transit System to assist staff with Super Bowl preparations.

The Operations report indicated that detours are long term construction projects by the City of New Orleans Department of Public Works. And that a City contractor currently doing the work at the Hard Rock Hotel knocked out the streetcar signal and the streetcars can't run without the signal. The City contractor has committed to the RTA that the signal will be up and running for the Super Bowl.

In response to a question from Commissioner Colin, CEO Hankins indicated that staff has a Fleet Replacement Strategy for the next 5-7 years. This strategy is part of the CEO Report that she sends to the Board. She was not sure the exact number of buses needed to run full service but will get the information to the Board. Commissioner Neal asked that the Fleet Replacement Strategy be added to the Operations Report.

The CEO also reported that the staff was in the process of hiring operators for streetcars and buses for the added service in January. She reported due to the additional ADA streetcars on St. Charles Streetcar Line she is not sure how many more streetcars can be added due to the power supply.

11. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda. Resolution No. 24-061 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 Sams, Colin, and Guidry

Absent: Daniels

A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between
Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District and the Regional
Transit Authority (RTA) [24-032](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioners Sams seconded to adopt a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District and the RTA. Resolution No. 24-062 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-062

NeoGov Contract Renewal (2025) [24-112](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioners Sams seconded to adopt the NeoGov Contract Renewal (2025). Resolution No. 24-063 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-063

Renaming of the Algiers Ferry Terminal [24-119](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioners Sams seconded to adopt the

Renaming of the Algiers Ferry Terminal. Resolution No. 24-064 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-064

CY 2023 Single Audit Acceptance [24-121](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioners Sams seconded to adopt the CY 2023 Single Audit Acceptance. Resolution No. 24-065 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-065

CY 2023 Financial Audit Acceptance [24-122](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioners Sams seconded to adopt the CY2023 Financial Audit Acceptance. Resolution 24-066 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-066

Rail Tamping Machine Contract [24-123](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioners Sams seconded to adopt the Rail Tamping Machine Contract. Resolution No. 24-067 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-067

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Between the City of New Orleans and the Regional Transit Authority for Algiers Ferry Terminal Funding [24-128](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioners Sams seconded to adopt the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Between the City of New Orleans and the RTA for Algiers Ferry Terminal Funding. Resolution No. 24-068 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-068

Fixed Route: 8 - Cutaway Buses [24-127](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioners Sams seconded to adopt the Fixed Route: 8 - Cutaway Buses. Resolution No. 24-069 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-069

Award Pivotal Engineering Transit Stops Inventory Improvement Project [24-129](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioners Sams seconded to adopt the Pivotal Engineering Transit Stops Inventory Improvement Project. Resolution

No. 24-070 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 24-070

12. Consideration

Clever Devices Contract Award for Software Services

[24-093](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Guidry seconded to adopt Clever Devices Contract Award for Software Services. Resolution No. 24-071 was adopted unanimously.

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

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

Absent: Daniels

Enactment No: 24-071

Swiftly Contract Award for Software Services

[24-116](#)

Commissioner Colin asked that staff only enter into a 1 year contract with Swiftly instead of a 3-year contract.

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Guidry seconded to deferrer Swiftly Contract Award for Software Services back to the Finance Committee for a more comprehensive presentation. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Walton, seconded by Guidry to refer back to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Daniels

13. Reconsideration

Janitorial Services Permanent Contract-EDS

[24-080](#)

Kevin Gray - EDS - The State Use Program was passed in 1984 to provide employment for the disabled community in Louisiana. His office is based in New Orleans and Goodwill Industries of New Orleans will be in charge of the workers. Currently, EDS has janitorial contracts with different businesses in New Orleans.

Scottie LeBlanc - Vice President - Mission Services - Goodwill Industries - The EDS contract would be a great opportunity to help the disabled community. They currently employee 211 individuals.

Commissioner Neal thanked all parties involved with this contract and for all the

information that was presented to the Board.

Commissioner Colin stated that the RTA has been with this temporary Janitorial Contract for 3 years and it is time for the agency to move forward and make the necessary decision regarding its contract and he was ready to proceed with a vote.

Ronald Baptiste reported that this contract is a one- year contract. The CEO added, at the beginning of the contract all necessary goals will be established and that during the one-year period staff will be evaluating the contract and at the 6 month mark staff will report to the Board with a decision.

Commissioner Neal agreed that Board should receive updates regarding the Janitorial Service Contract.

Commissioner Walton stated that he would like the public to know that this contract went out to bid twice and that the Board was moving forward with EDS for a year pilot program, not to avoid the bid process, and normally for service contracts the RTA bid these contracts out. He stated that he also added that he would like staff to come back to the Board in 6 months to evaluate this contract with EDS, so that the Board decide on how to proceed with the Janitorial Service Contract.

The CEO added that buying off the State Procurement List is a tool that RTA uses to be more efficient with procurement. The State process was not a way to avoid the procurement process.

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Janitorial Service Permanent Contract-EDS. Resolution No. 24-072 was adopted unanimously.

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

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

Absent: Daniels
Enactment No: 24-072

14. Ratification

Ratification: Riverfront Substation Track Bond Emergency Repair [24-132](#)

The CEO stated that staff has advised the public that the outage was due to vandalism and the new security measures that were taken to prevent this from happening again will be discussed offline.

Commissioner Colin moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Riverfront Substation Track Bond Emergency Repair. Resolution No. 24-073

was adopted unanimously.

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

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

Absent: Daniels
Enactment No: 24-073

15. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to add New Business to the Agenda. The motion was approved unanimously. BRC Construction, LLC versus New Orleans RTA to Executive Session.

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

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

Absent: Daniels

16. Audience Questions and Comments

Sheila Morris stated that she uses Paratransit about five times a week. She stated that if she has a 11:45 am appointment she must schedule her ride for pick-up between 8:00-9:00am in the morning to make her appointments on time. She was dropped off at a doctor's appointment and when she arrived in the office Paratransit called and told her that her ride was outside for her pickup and she tried to explain to them that she had just arrived for her appointment, they finally told her that for her return ride that they would place her in Will Call. She completed her appointment around noon and when she called Paratransit to let them know she was ready for her pick-up she was told that her ride was canceled and Paratransit did not send a bus to pick her up until 6:00pm. She has stated that she has constantly missed doctors appointments due to no operators. Missing riders are starting to cause issues with her doctors' and Paratransit are putting her as No Shows and this is not the case. She is constantly waiting on Paratransit for hours for a ride and she has had an operator treat her disrespectfully and no one should be treated that way.

CEO Hankins apologized to Ms. Morris on behalf of the RTA on the way she was treated.

Annie Carter stated that she lives on Lake Forest Blvd. and when the RTA changed the #64 Route she now has to leave the hospital and ride in her motorized wheelchair to the Library on Read to catch a bus to go back to Lake Forest Blvd. where she lives. Ms. Carter stated that the Flex Program for New Orleans East was very helpful for her and would like the RTA to consider bringing back the Flex Program.

Commissioner Neal stated that she appreciated that Ms. Morris and Ms. Carter came to the meeting to voice their concerns.

CEO Hankins reported that riders don't have to come to the meetings to make complaints they can call the RTA's Customer Service Ride Line to make a formal complaint that will be tracked and someone from staff will get back to them regarding their complaint.

Commissioner Guidry stated that Route 64 no longer in existence. Ms. Morris stated that to get home she has to catch Route 61 and that bus does not go past the hospital anymore.

Lola Raynard stated that she had an unpleasant experience on the bus. She asked the operator if the bus was going toward the downtown hub and the operator stated yes, halfway through the route the operator made everyone get off the bus because the route was not correct. She and other passengers had to wait for another bus and she was late for work that day and she rely on the bus every day.

Nick French stated that the RTA was focusing on On-Time Performance and this puts the operators in a tough position. If the RTA is worried about On-Time Performance, the operators will start passing-up passengers, when you request a stop, the operators will go pass that stop to meet On-Time Performance.

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

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to go into Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

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

Absent: Daniels

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

18. Adjournment

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adjourned the Board Meeting of December 17, 2024. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.

[12.17.24 Board PowerPoint]

[24-146](#)