



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 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, September 23, 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 Guidry, Commissioner Neal, Commissioner Moore, Commissioner Sams and Commissioner Walton

Commissioner Absent: Commissioner Daniels

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Sams move and Commissioner Walton seconded to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.

approved

[Board Meeting Minutes - August 26, 2025]

[25-129](#)

4. Informational Reports

A. RTA Chairman's Report

Commissioner Neal reported that the APTA Annual Conference was attended by 3 Commissioners and the agency was moving forward in the right direction when it comes to Capital Projects.

B. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report

None

C. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

None

D. RTA General Counsel's Report

None

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.

Report Highlights - CEO:

Employees of the Month for September were recognized.

Universal Accessibility Study

The CEO stated that the community can take part in the survey for the Universal Accessibility Study by going to the RTA's Website or clicking on the UR Codes on the vehicles. The consultants will make a presentation on the Study at the October RAC Meeting.

Ferry Funding

The CEO stated that the RTA can apply for a federal grant to conduct a study to see if there can be a regional ferry service and the agency also welcomes all suggestions from the community. The RTA currently does not have a permanent funding source for the current ferry service.

Commissioner Guidry stated that he would like to see the pilot program for the ferry extended to the end of October. The CEO stated that the ferry could not sustain itself during the slower months so the busier months would not make a big difference in the numbers.

Commissioner Sams suggested that the agency meet with the Lieutenant Governor

and see if there is any money in the Historical Fund to help preserve the ferry. Commissioner Neal stated that he was glad that the agency was having an open conversation regarding ferry funding with the public before the budget is finalized.

The CEO stated that the comments from the community regarding the Algiers Service Improvements have been received by staff and she was willing to get with the Budget Team to see if the ferry pilot could be extended for another 30 days. The ferry schedule is adjusted for special events.

F. 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.

Report Highlights - Operations:

Paratransit

Commissioner Guidry stated that he went and visited the Paratransit Department, and the Director and Manager were both out of the office. He also stated that paratransit maps are outdated and the parameters that the operators are using to drop off passengers need to be corrected. Passengers should not have to ride around the city for hours to reach their destinations. The RTA does not want to go back to the Consent Decree.

The CEO stated that a solicitation went out to the public for new software for Paratransit. It would cost too much to update the current software, so the decision was made to purchase new software. Staff are working on a plan to let the riders know that Paratransit will no longer be serving the entire city. In response to a question from Commissioner Guidry, the CEO stated that the implementation of the new software may cause some staff members to lose their jobs.

Commissioner Neal stated that On-Time Performance and the current software being used should be addressed by staff. Commissioner Moore expressed the need to prioritize paratransit passengers' trips. In response to a question from Commissioner Colin, the Chief Transit Officer stated that staff was doing better in operators' attendance which help with On-Time Performance. Commissioner Walton stated that there was a decrease in streetcar ridership and staff should be focusing on ways to collect data to help with the budget.

G. 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.

Report Highlights -Finance:

Fares

The last time the RTA adjusted the fares was in the 1990's and the RTA is going to look at adjusting fares in 2027. Staff were looking at creative ways to bring in more

revenue.

[July Financials]

[25-124](#)

5. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda. Resolution No. 25-051 was adopted unanimously.

adopted

Change Order for Transit Security Services - SEAL

[25-101](#)

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Change Order for Transit Security Services - SEAL. Resolution No. 25-052 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-051

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) Between the RTA and the following entities: Sunstar Gate, Treme for Treme, and New Orleans Four LLC

[25-114](#)

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) Between the RTA and Sunstar Gate, Treme for Treme and New Orleans Four LLC. Resolution No. 25-053 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-053

Contract Award to Vector Media Holding, Corp for Exclusive Advertising Rights

[25-115](#)

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Contract Award to Vector Media Holding, Corp for Exclusive Advertising Rights. Resolution No. 25-054 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-054

6. Action Items

A. Authorizations

Award contract for Renovation of the Algiers Ferry Terminal

[25-084](#)

There was a revision to the resolution on Page 2 that stated there would be a *CEA with the City of New Orleans* this information was deleted from the resolution.

The CEO stated that the Scope of the Work includes renovations to the Ferry Maintenance Building.

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Moore seconded to adopt the Award of a Contract for Renovation of the Algiers Ferry Terminal as amended. Resolution No. 25-055 was adopted unanimously.

amended

Enactment No: 25-055

Sole Source Request To Purchase Proprietary Bus Parts
from New Flyer

[25-119](#)

This is a new one-year contract.

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to adopt the Purchase Proprietary Bus Parts from New Flyer. Resolution No. 25-056 was adopted unanimously.

adopted

Enactment No: 25-056

B. Amendments

Change Order to Fund RTA's Drug and Alcohol Program

[25-127](#)

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Moore seconded to adopt the Change Order for the Drug and Alcohol Program. Resolution No. 25-057 was adopted unanimously.

adopted

Enactment No: 25-057

7. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)

None

8. Audience Questions and Comments

There were several individuals who were in attendance and spoke in support of retaining extend ferry service.

Lealea Van Winkla-Gisler stated that the pilot period for the extension of ferry hours should have taken place during the months when ridership would have been heavier and she would appreciate it if the pilot program is extended.

Jim Goodwin read a prepared statement to the Board asking to extend the ferry pilot period. He also stated that the RTA should look into different funding sources for the ferry.

Fay Faron with Friends of the Ferry would like the ferry pilot to be extended.

Connie Burks with Friends of the Ferry would like the ferry pilot program to be extended. The

hospitality workers depend on the ferry to get to and from work.

Tigh Kirkland stated that the RTA can rearrange the budget and move money around to extend the ferry pilot program. Commissioner Moore stated that management needs to invest in staff and there are other creative ways to find money for the ferry.

Valerie Jefferson with the NAACP presented numerous questions to the Board. Commissioner Neal asked Ms. Jefferson to submit her question in an email to the Board's Office and her questions will be answered (see attachment).

Shirani Jayasuriya with RIDE presented the Board with riders feedback from surveys they conducted. The LePass App shows *No Service* when buses are running, fails to update in real time and does not give accurate arrival times, which makes trip planning difficult. Paratransit riders report being stranded and being dropped off at the wrong places and riding over 3 hours to get to their destinations. RIDE has scheduled a meeting with Paratransit and the consultants conducting the Mobility Study. The Transit Rider Feedback Forms are on RIDE's website and RIDE presents the surveys to the Board on a quarterly basis.

Bob Danton with RIDE stated he would like to see a comprehensive presentation of the data collected from the Ferry Pilot Program. The RTA should be very transparent doing this process.

Cyril Saulny was very instrumental in getting the RTA the one cent Sales Tax. He was at today's meeting to support the approval of the CEA that was on the Board Agenda for the bus wrap for the New Orleans Four that segregated the public schools. The wrap will stay on the buses for a minimum of 3 years.

Kelsey Foster stated she is an advocate for the ferries and the buses in Algiers.

Stephon Nadisovac stated that the ferry is a lifeline for him. Transit is vital for affordable housing. The ferry gets people to work and children to school and helps passengers transfer to buses. He can take the ferry to dinner but can't take the ferry back home and hospitality workers have a hard time using the ferry due to the time constraints. If the time was extended in the fall and spring the numbers would be much better.

Larry Sceau stated that the lack of communication between the Operators and the public is not good. He stated that the RTA does not communicate with the riding public when there are changes to the routes. He spoke to Mr. Clark regarding the issues he has had with the operators on the buses and the operators need training on how to handle the passengers.

Ronald Horn with the ATU 1650 stated that Transit Officer Report is for the month of July, currently the operators are reporting to work on time and getting the buses on the street and that the September numbers are significantly better than the July numbers. The paratransit problem needs to be addressed.

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

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss:

• **Sherry Cowart v. Darryl Moon, Regional Transit Authority, Veolia Case No.: 202-04034 Division "J", Section 15.**

The motion was approved unanimously.

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

approved

- Sherry Cowart v. Darryl Moon, Regional Transit Authority, Veolia Case No.: 2020-04034 Division "J", Section 15

approved

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Moore seconded to adjourn the Board Meeting of September 23, 2025. The motion was adjourned unanimously.