



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

10:00 AM

RTA Board Room

The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Board of Commissioners will hold an in-person public meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 10:00 am. The meeting will begin at the scheduled time but may be delayed until a quorum is present and will be live streamed on the RTA website; masks are optional. Written public comments on agenda items may be submitted by 1) completing a speaker card on the day of the meeting; 2) email to rtaboard@rtaforward.org prior to the meeting; 3) U.S. mail to RTA, Office of Board Affairs, 2817 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70119. This meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities, and accommodation requests must be made at least 72 hours in advance by contacting the Office of Board Affairs at 504-827-8341 or rtaboard@rtaforward.org.

1. Call to Order

Present: Commissioner Mitchell Guidry, Commissioner Ann Duplessis, Commissioner Erika Mann, Commissioner Nelita Manego Ramey, Commissioner Tyrone Casby, and Commissioner Barbara Major

Excused: Commissioner Louis Colin

Absent:

2. Roll Call

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes (Public Comment will be taken prior to Board vote in accordance with La. R.S. 42:14 (D))

[Special Board Meeting 05.09.26]

[26-070](#)

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Mann seconded to approve the Special Board Meeting dated May 9, 2026. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Major, seconded by Commissioner Mann

and approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Duplessis,
Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Manego Ramey,
Commissioner Casby, and Commissioner Major

Absent: Commissioner Colin

[Board Meeting - 04.28.26]

[26-071](#)

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Casby seconded to approve the Board Meeting of April 28, 2026. The motion was approved unanimously.

This Minutes were approved.

4. Informational Reports

A. Board Chair Report

The Board has continued strengthening governance, support agency continuity and maintains focus on the long-term success of this organization. This agenda reflects several important priorities such as oversight of the agency finances, operational updates, infrastructure investments. This Board will consider important personnel matters related to agency leadership and the path forward to this organization. This Board remains committed to stable governance, transparency, accountability and will support the agency through this transition period. Leadership transition can bring change they also can create opportunities to reflect, to improve, and position the organization for further success.

The Chair thanked her fellow Commissioners, agency leadership and employees for professionalism during this time.

B. Operations & Administration Committee Report

The Chair stated that the committee met on May 14, 2026, addressed matters related to operations and administration, service delivery and administration functions in support of safe reliable transit service.

C. Finance Committee Report

The Chair stated that the committee met on May 14, 2026, to review matters related to the agency financial conditions, expenditures and overall fiscal stewardship as part of the committee's work members received updates and discuss the agency's financial performance and oversight responsibilities to help ensure responsible management and public resources. Financial oversight remains this Board's most important responsibilities as the agency continues to balance operation's needs, long-term investment and fiscal sustainability.

D. Executive Committee Report

No report.

E. RTA General Counsel's Report

No report.

F. 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:

The Employees of the month for January were presented to the Board.

Staff participated in Hurricane Preparedness with the City of New Orleans. The RTA's role in Hurricane Evacuation is to bring the riders to the Smoothie King Center. The Tabletop Exercise that staff conduct is different scenarios that may be presented during a hurricane.

G. 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.

The Chief Transit Officer reported that several routes with lower On-Time Performance (OTP) continue to be affected by long-term detours and a shortage of available vehicles, which remain the primary drivers of service reliability challenges. Staff emphasized that if additional buses are needed to improve service, the Board should be made aware so it can consider and prioritize future fleet purchases as part of its capital planning responsibilities. Riders are informed of route interruptions and detours through the RTA website and the agency's mobile app. In an effort to improve overnight service reliability, a dedicated night manager has been assigned to monitor and support the performance of all Owl routes.

Staff also provided an update on Paratransit operations, noting that the department is currently short four operators and plans to address the vacancies by hiring part-time personnel. Given continued capacity constraints and growing demand, staff anticipates bringing forward a proposal for Board approval of a one-year taxi-bridge service contract with an outsourced transportation provider to supplement Paratransit service. Staff acknowledged that the RTA does not currently have sufficient capacity to meet all Paratransit needs and emphasized the importance of engaging riders in identifying workable solutions. As part of those outreach efforts, RTA representatives attended the New Orleans Senior Fest and met with RIDE to discuss ongoing Paratransit concerns and potential service improvements.

H. RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report

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

The Chief Financial Officer reported that staff are conducting a comprehensive review of the agency's fare collection technology in response to ongoing issues with broken fareboxes. The study includes an evaluation of peer transit agencies and national trends to determine the most appropriate long-term fare technology solution for the RTA. Staff are also attempting to quantify the amount of fare revenue potentially lost due to malfunctioning fareboxes; however, this analysis is complex because the agency's automatic passenger counters only capture boardings and the RTA utilizes multiple fare products and pricing structures. The consultant leading the study will ultimately provide recommendations to staff regarding future fare collection options .

Staff also noted that the RTA's average fare remains comparatively low when measured against transit agencies nationwide. As the agency considers future revenue strategies, targeted fare adjustments-such as an increase to the Airport Express fare-could be evaluated. In addition, staff acknowledged the need to develop and present to the Board a prioritized list of the agency's operational and capital needs to support future decision-making and resource allocation.

Finally, the CFO provided an overview of the TMSEL Pension Plan, explaining that the plan's assets are managed by multiple investment managers under the oversight of the TMSEL Pension Board. The TMSEL Legacy line item reflects obligations related to retiree insurance and death benefits. The Pension Board itself consists of representatives appointed by the ATU and IBEW unions, along with members appointed by the RTA Board of Commissioners, and is responsible for the governance and administration of the pension plan.

[Financial Statements March 2026]

[26-067](#)

5. Consent Agenda (Public Comment will be taken prior to Board vote on each item in accordance with La. R.S. 42:14 (D))

Commissioner Mann moved and Commissioner Guidry seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda. Resolution No. 26-035 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mann, seconded by Commissioner Guidry and approved the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Duplessis, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Manego Ramey, Commissioner Casby, and Commissioner Major

Absent: Commissioner Colin

Replacement Modems for Fixed Route

[26-038](#)

Commissioner Mann moved and Commissioner Guidry seconded to adopt the Replacement Modems for Fixed Route. Resolution No. 26--036 was adopted unanimously.

This Resolution was adopted.

Enactment No: 26-028

Oracle Cloud Solution Annual Subscription

[26-050](#)

Commissioner Mann moved and Commissioner Guidry seconded to adopt the Oracle Cloud Solution Annual Subscription. Resolution No. 26-037 was adopted unanimously.

This Resolution was adopted.

Enactment No: 26-029

CY 2025 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire

[26-054](#)

Commissioner Mann moved and Commissioner Guidry seconded to adopt the CY2025 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire. Resolution 26-030 was adopted unanimously.

This Resolution was adopted.

Enactment No: 26-030

6. Items Requiring Board Action (Public Comment will be taken prior to Board vote on each item in accordance with La. R.S. 42:14 (D))

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with City of New Orleans for Installation and Maintenance of Battery Electric Bus Charging Infrastructure at East New Orleans Regional Library

[26-041](#)

Commissioner Mann moved and Commissioner Major seconded to adopt the CEA with the City of New Orleans for Installation and Maintenance of Battery Electric Bus Charging Infrastructure at East New Orleans Regional Library. Resolution No. 26-031 was adopted unanimously.

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

Aye: Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Duplessis, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Manego Ramey, Commissioner Casby, and Commissioner Major

Absent: Commissioner Colin
Enactment No: 26-031

Various RTA insurance Coverages 2026-2027

[26-060](#)

Commissioner Ramey moved and Commissioner Major seconded to adopt the Various RTA Insurance Coverages 2026-2027. Resolution No. 26-032 was adopted unanimously.

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

Aye: Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Duplessis, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Manego Ramey, Commissioner Casby, and Commissioner Major

Absent: Commissioner Colin
Enactment No: 26-032

7. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)

None

8. General Public Comments (Informational Items)

Flozell Daniels, Jr. stated that he was speaking in support of Lona Hankins. There was a vicious campaign against Lona Hankins along with a corruptive media campaign. This was a political attack against the good work Ms. Hankins performed. She has rebuilt public schools for the children of New Orleans without a scandal. Mr. Daniels stated that there are a lot of people that notice her accomplishments and he thanked her for the work she has done for the community. The RTA needs more buses to deliver the necessary service needed for the public.

Wilson Patterson stated that Route 27 had a bus stop at Carrollton Avenue and Tulane Avenue and why was that stop removed. The ink on the 31 Day Passes comes off the passes and the operators can't validate the passes for the passengers getting on the buses. The Paratransit System should have a special number for riders to make suggestions concerning Paratransit service.

Alan Drake stated that with the new Mayor and all her new projects the RTA need to ask for Stop Light Prioritization which will speed up transit and allow the RTA to carry more riders per hour. The RTA should meet with Public Works to make sure this project is implemented. The RTA can save money by doing streetcar maintenance in-house. The cost of diesel will continue to rise for the rest of the year.

The FTA states that the RTA assembles streetcars and does not build streetcars.

Earl Verrett asked why the RTA does not have seating on Canal and Broad for the disability. Unfortunately, the State did street work in that area, and the RTA is going through the permit process to get the shelters back in that location. The RTA has a Road Crew to clean up around the bus stops and shelters.

Alicia Powell stated that she rides Paratransit and she asked for a 11:15am pickup for church, which was not a problem. After church she went to a relative and wanted to be picked up at 9:00pm but was told she could not be picked up at the time she had requested and had to be picked up at 4:00pm. Why is it that Paratransit can't give you the times you request for pickup or drop off. She can't get her requested time for pickup and/or drop-off.

Wanda Parker wanted to know why they are doing electric buses in New Orleans East. The electric buses will be charged in New Orleans East. The survey conducted for Westbank riders was for better service. The RTA is fully aware that the agencies need more buses, and the Federal Government needs to give the RTA the necessary funding for the new buses. Staff need to assess the bus stops around the system. Currently, staff are applying for Federal Funding to keep up with the bus stops and shelters.

Ronnie Williams stated that the RTA need to invest in Bus Shelters that has the necessary amenities for the riders to make their wait time better. The streetcar operators are not waiting for the passengers to sit before taking off and the passengers can fall and he has fallen a couple of times. The streetcar stops along St. Charles, and the French Quarter does not have adequate seating for the passengers.

9. Personnel Matters (Public Comment will be taken prior to Board vote on each item in accordance with La. R.S. 42:14 (D))

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

Aye: Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Duplessis, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Manego Ramey, Commissioner Casby, and Commissioner Major

Absent: Commissioner Colin

A. Consideration of and action on the resignation of Lona Hankins, Chief Executive Officer

The Board recognized the transition period for the agency of the leadership of Lona Hankins and the Board wishes her well and ensures continuity of leadership and operations while advancing the agencies priorities and continuing the import work of serving the employees, the riders and communities.

The Board would like to thank Ronald Baptiste for stepping into the role of Interim Chief Executive Officer and the Board is continuing the national search of a Chief Executive Officer and this is an opportunity to build on lesson learn. The Board would like to thank the RTA employees for showing up and serving the community every day.

Betty DiMarco stated that she is very frustrated regarding the resignation of Lona Hankins and the things that were said about Ms. Hankins in the press and she was encouraged to apply for the Chief Executive Officer and people were saying that she was not qualified for this position. Ms. Hankins reached out to the community when she first took the position to see what the community needed.

Ms. DiMarco stated that an operator stated that he loves his job and was glad to come to work and not every employee was part of the lawsuit that was being filed against her.

Valerie Jefferson stated that she is the Labor Chair of the NAACP and she understands what Ms. Hankins was going through and justice is fare. The person that is taking the interim position has history at the RTA and the community.

This was adopted.

Resignation of Lona Hankins

26-080

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Mann seconded to adopt

the Consideration of and Action on the Resignation of Lona Hankins, Chief Executive Officer. Resolution 26-033 was adopted unanimously.

This Resolution was adopted.

Enactment No: 26-033

B. Consideration of and action on the appointment of Ronald Baptiste, as interim Chief Executive Officer

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

Aye: Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Duplessis, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Manego Ramey, Commissioner Casby, and Commissioner Major

Absent: Commissioner Colin

Consideration of and Action on the Appointment of Ronald Baptiste as Interim Chief Executive Officer **26-081**

Commissioner Ramey moved and Commissioner Guidry seconded to adopt the Consideration of the Appointment of Ronald Baptiste, As Interim Chief Executive Officer. Resolution No. 26-034 was adopted unanimously

This Resolution was adopted.

Enactment No: 26-034

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

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Mann seconded to go into Executive Session on RTA Legal Cases.

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Mann seconded to come out of Executive Session on RTA Legal Cases.

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

Aye: Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Duplessis, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Manego Ramey, Commissioner Casby, and Commissioner Major

Absent: Commissioner Colin

A. Shandrell Privott vs. RTA EDLA 2:23-cv-01848-CJB-MBN

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Mann seconded to approve the recommendation of General Counsel. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Aye: Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Duplessis, Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Manego Ramey, Commissioner Casby, and Commissioner Major

Absent: Commissioner Colin

B. Judy Long v. RTA CDC #24-3287

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Mann seconded to approve the recommendation of General Counsel. The motion was approved unanimously.

This was approved.

C. Argenal Zuniga v. Transdev, et al; CDC #22-3271

Commissioner Mann moved and Commissioner Casby seconded to approve the recommendation of General Counsel. The motion was approved unanimously.

This was approved.

D. Margarita Rounds et al vs. RTA CDC No. 2024-7194

Commissioner Mann moved and Commissioner Major seconded to approve the recommendation of General Counsel. The motion was approved unanimously.

This was approved.

E. Keyton Francois vs. RTA et al CDC 2024-3987

Commissioner Casby moved and Commissioner Major seconded to approve the recommendation of General Counsel. The motion was approved unanimously.

This was approved.

F. Sherrika Bell vs. RTA CDC 2023-7711

Commissioner Casby moved and Commissioner Major seconded to approve the recommendation of General Counsel. The motion was approved unanimously.

This was approved.

G. Gotti Dawson v RTA CDC 2022-8840

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Ramey seconded to approve the recommendation of General Counsel. The motion was approved unanimously.

This was approved.

H. Yolanda Sanford vs. RTA CDC 2024-08572

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Ramey seconded to approve the recommendation of General Counsel. The motion was approved unanimously.

This was approved.

I. Yolanda Sanford vs. RTA CDC 2025-3720

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Ramey seconded to approve the recommendation of General Counsel. The motion was approved unanimously.

This was approved.

J. Zuniga Argenal vs. RTA CDC 2022-3271

[26-079](#)

This Resolution was approved.

11. Adjournment

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Mann seconded to adjourn the Board of Commissioners Meeting for May 26, 2026. The motion was approved unanimously.

This was approved.

[05.26.26 Board Meeting Presentation]

26-077