



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Operations & Administration Committee

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, May 9, 2024

9:00 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 Thursday, May 9, 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 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 Neal, Commissioner Cisco, Commissioner Richard and Commissioner Sams

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

[O&A Meeting Minutes - January 11, 2024]

[24-012](#)

Commissioner Richard moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to approve the O&A Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Committee Chairman's Report

Commissioner Neal welcomed Commissioner Cisco and Commissioner Richard to the Operations and Administration Committee Meeting.

5. Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO reported that New Orleans was hosting Women in Transit, and approximately 12,000 members are in New Orleans for the conference and some conference members went on a tour of the streetcars. It was also reported that the festival session was coming to an end and the City was starting the planning process for the Super Bowl being held in the City in 2025. There are major construction projects taking place all over the City preparing for the Super Bowl and some of these projects will impact the RTA routes, but staff is working very closely with the City.

Commissioner Neal asked that staff keep the Board abreast of any changes the Super Bowl may have on the routes and the Board is willing to help in any way possible. The CEO reported that some road construction will impact the RTA bus routes and staff will have this information on the app and on social media. Commissioner Sams stated that the RTA also needs to use the media outlets to get information out to the public.

6. Chief Transit Officer's Report

Justin Cayless gave the March Chief Transit Officer's Report. This report can be found in the Operations and Administration Committee PowerPoint dated May 9, 2024.

Commissioner Neal stated that he attended APTA's Mobility Conference and at the conference there was a session on ADA that he attended. He would like staff to give a more detailed presentation on the Paratransit System and the effects of the "High Demand" on the system. Commissioner Neal requested that the cross-town routes should be looked at separately and have its own slides. And he noted the need for more buses on the Airport Express Route.

Commissioner Neal asked how the protest on Tulane Campus affected RTA's transit service. The CEO reported that the staff has a contact with Tulane Security and has been abreast of the situation. In response to question from Commissioner Richard, the CEO reported that staff has been working on a Disruption Communication Plan to help tighten up the timeline when riders receive information regarding service disruption. The Rideline Department should always have the most accurate information regarding service interruptions.

The CEO also reported that RTA has submitted a draft MOU to Jefferson Parish regarding Paratransit. This was one of the recommendations from the Report RPC, to clarify the boundaries of RTA and Jefferson Parish Paratransit and the RTA boundaries were based on residence rather than one-way trips.

7. Chief Asset Manager Officer's Report

Ryan Moser gave the Chief Asset Manager Officer's Report . This report can be found in the Operations and Administration Committee PowerPoint presentation dated May 9, 2024.

Commissioner Neal stated that the agency is planning to increase service by the end of the year and that the Board was invited to go to the bus manufacturer to see the progress of the new buses.

As a point of information, the CEO stated that the fleet situation was a result of Hurricane Katrina, new fleet was purchased in 2008 and 2012, and no vehicles were purchased again until 2018.

After the Chief Asset Manager's report, Commissioner Sams, commented that staff should make sure that the Preteckt Pilot Program is working correctly and that staff is moving forward with a solicitation to procure these services. Currently, the program ends in 2 months and it will take a total of 6 months to implement the program.

In response to a question from Commissioner Sams, Ryan Moser reported that staff were still working on a partnership with Delgado and some mechanics that were hired did not have CDL's so staff was working with those mechanics to obtain their CDL from Costal Training. RTA currently has a tuition reimbursement program, and some of the mechanics can get their certification on their own.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cisco, Ryan Moser reported that the Preteckt Pilot Program is related to anything with a Cummins Engines and that the data collected from Preteckt Pilot Program will be used for Preventive Maintenance.

SUPPLEMENT REPORT TO THE CHIEF ASSET MANAGER OFFICER'S REPORT

Dwight Norton gave the **Transit Stop Signage Install Plan and the Summer 2024 Service Change: May 19th, 2024**. Both these reports can be found in the Finance Committee PowerPoint, dated May 9, 2024.

In response to a question form Commissioner Neal, Dwight Norton reported that an award for the Bus Stop Signs was not coming before the Board this month staff was still evaluating the work product. Commissioner Neal ask that staff present the Transit Stop Signage Install Plan at the next RAC Meeting and also present this same report at the Operations and Administration Committee at the July Meeting.

8. Chief Safety/Security Officer's Report

Mike Smith presented the Chief Safety/Security Officer's Report. This report can be found in the Operations and Administration Committee PowerPorint Report, dated May 9, 2024.

In response to a question from Commissioner Sams, Mike Smith reported that the RTA has communicated with DPW, the City Traffic Team and the City Traffic Engineering and he stated that he was a part of the New Orleans Regional Traffic Safety Coalition which is in

contact with the Office of Motor Vehicles that can suggest that the new drivers be made aware of the streetcars.

The CEO commented that the RTA received a grant for streetcar safety, and she has challenged the staff to get the message to the riding public to be aware of the streetcars on the tracks.

Commissioner Neal stated that maybe in the app they should have a way for the public to report misconduct on the transit system. Mike Smith reported that staff will release an integrated app that would allow real-time reporting for incidents on the transit system.

9. Authorizations

10. Audience Questions & Comments

None

11. New Business

None

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Richard seconded to adjourn the Operation and Administration Committee Meeting dated May 9, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.