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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

To Arthur Walton, Chairman of the Finance Committee
Board of Commissioners
Regional Transit Authority
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Regional Transit Authority ("RTA") management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

Regional Transit Authority has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

Written Policies and Procedures

1. Obtain and inspect the RTA's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories, if applicable, to public funds and the RTA's operations:
 - a) ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.
 - b) ***Purchasing***, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- c) **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.
- d) **Receipts/Collections**, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).
Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.
- e) **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee(s) rate of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.
- f) **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.
- g) **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, P-Cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.
- h) **Travel and Expense Reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.
- i) **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the RTA's ethics policy.
Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.
- j) **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.
- k) **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.
- l) **Prevention of Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.
Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

Board or Finance Committee

2. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:

- a) Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- b) For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- c) For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.

Results: Not applicable. The RTA did not have a negative unassigned fund balance from the prior year.

- d) Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

Results: Exceptions noted. The discussions were held but not noted in the minutes.

Bank Reconciliations

3. Obtain a listing of RTA bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the RTA's main operating account. Select the RTA's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:

- a) Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- b) Bank reconciliations include evidence that a member of management/board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- c) Management has documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

- 4. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- 5. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- a) Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- b) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- c) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- d) The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions, are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- 6. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe the bond or insurance policy for theft was enforced during the fiscal period.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- 7. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for procedure #3 under "Bank Reconciliations" above (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternately, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:

- a) Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- b) Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- c) Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- d) Observe the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- e) Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases/payments, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)

- 8. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- 9. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:

- a) At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- b) At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- c) The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- d) Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- e) Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

10. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain the RTA's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and:

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- a) Observe whether the disbursement matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates deliverables included on the invoice were received by the RTA.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- b) Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under #9, as applicable.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

11. Using RTA's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3, randomly select 5-non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per RTA's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the RTA's policy. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected, the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/P-Cards

12. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and P-cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

13. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement), obtain supporting documentation, and:

- a) Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- b) Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

14. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under #13 above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each

statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (i.e., each card should have 10 transactions subject to testing). For each transaction, observe it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and note whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

Results: Exceptions noted. For 13 of 19 transactions written documentation of a business/public purpose was not found. For 3 of 19 transactions written documentation of individuals participating in meals was not found.

Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)

15. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements, obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- a) If reimbursed using a per diem, observe the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov).

Results: Exceptions noted. For 3 of 5 reimbursements selected, employees were reimbursed at the full per diem for all travel days. The GSA has reduced the amounts for the first and last day of travel.

- b) If reimbursed using actual costs, observe the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- c) Observe each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by written policy (procedure #1h).

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- d) Observe each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

Contracts

16. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternately, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list.* Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and:

- a) Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- b) Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter).

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- c) If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, was approval documented).

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- d) Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

Payroll and Personnel

17. Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

18. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under #17 above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:

- a) Observe all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory).

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- b) Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- c) Observe any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the RTA's cumulative leave records.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

- d) Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agree to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

19. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials, obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the RTA's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee or officials' cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee or officials' authorized pay rates in the employee or officials' personnel files, and agree the termination payment to RTA policy.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

20. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

Ethics

21. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #16 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain ethics documentation from management, and:

- a. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the fiscal period.

Results: Exception noted. One of the five selected employees did not complete the required ethics training in 2022.

- b. Observe whether the RTA maintains documentation which demonstrates each employee and official were notified of any changes to the RTA's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

22. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

Debt Service

23. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

24. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

Fraud Notice

25. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the RTA reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the RTA is domiciled.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

26. Observe the RTA has posted, on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

27. Perform the following procedures, **verbally discuss the results with management, and report "We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management."**

- a) Obtain and inspect the RTA's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if no written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe that such backup occurred within the past week. If backups are stored on a physical medium (e.g., tapes, CDs), observe evidence that backups are encrypted before being transported.

Results: We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- b) Obtain and inspect the RTA's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if no written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.

Results: We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- c) Obtain a listing of the RTA's computers currently in use and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.

Results: We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

28. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #19. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment

29. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #17 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year.

Results: Exceptions noted. One of the five selected employees did not complete the required sexual harassment training in 2022.

30. Observe the RTA has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the RTA's premises if the RTA does not have a website).

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

31. Obtain the RTA's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe it includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

1. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

2. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

3. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

4. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

5. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.

We were engaged by Regional Transit Authority to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an

opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of Regional Transit Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C.

June 30, 2023
Metairie, Louisiana