



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Operations & Administration Committee

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, December 7, 2023

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, December 7, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. Please be advised that mask wearing is encouraged inside the boardroom.

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.

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Neal, Commissioner DeFrancesch and Commissioner Sams

Commissioner Absent: Commissioner Ewell

This was approved

Present	Commissioner Maria DeFrancesch, Chairperson Fred Neal, and Commissioner Timolyn Sams
Absent	Commissioner Joseph Ewell

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner DeFrancesch moved, and Commissioner Sams seconded to approve the minutes of November 9, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

[Operations Committee Meeting - November 9, 2023]

[23-204](#)

4. Committee Chairman's Report

Commissioner Neil thanked staff and the Board for the time and effort that they have put into

the RTA this year.

Commissioner DeFrancesch also thanked staff for all their hard work.

5. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Lona Hankins reported that there was no funding source for the Ferry and the Sales Tax Funding can only be legally used for funding of streetcars and buses. The RTA began 2023 with a projected \$19.8M shortfall for 2024 and retired the second Chalmette Ferry Vessel from service to avoid \$6M in repair cost and received \$10M from the State Legislature and the RTA was working with the City to cover the \$3M shortfall.

6. Chief Transit Officer's Report

Chris Clark presented the RTA's Chief Transit Officer's Report. This report can be found in the Chief Transit Officer's PowerPoint Report dated December 7, 2023.

Commissioner Neal asked that the Ridership Service Hours by Route be included in the CEO's report. This information would be great for the Board to have to see the changes that were contributed by New Links.

Lona Hankins stated that staff have planned to conduct a survey with the riding public before the Service Cuts and after the Service Cuts.

In response to a question from Commissioner Sams, Lona Hankins stated that staff works with DPW regarding the work they are performing around the City and flooding around the City will impact service with service delays. She also stated that the Rideline don't receive information in Real Time. So when this happens the Customer Service Representative does call the riding public back with the correct information.

In response to a question from Commissioner DeFrancesch, Chris Clark reported that the line of communication with the City of New Orleans has improved tremendously.

7. Chief Asset Manager Officer's Report

Ryan Moser presented the RTA's Chief Asset Manager Officer's Report. This report can be found in the Chief Asset Manager Officer's PowerPoint Report dated December 7, 2023.

Ryan Moser reported that the Required for Service was the vehicles needed for regular service was 87 vehicles and in January the RTA will need 74 vehicles. Commissioner Neal asked that if any vendors bring new vehicles on site, please inform the Board.

8. Chief Safety/Security Officer's Report

Mike Smith presented the RTA's Chief Safety/Security Officer's Report. This report can be found in the Chief Safety/Security PowerPoint Report dated December 7, 2023.

9. Outreach and Communication Strategy Presentation for the January 14, 2024, Service Changes

David Simmons presented the Outreach and Communication Strategy Presentation for January 14, 2024, Service Changes. This report can be found in the PowerPoint Report dated December 7, 2023.

David Simmons reported that Angele Wilson attends every Neighborhood - Association Meeting along with other staff members. Commissioner DeFrancesch also stated that it was also very important to attend Senior Centers Meeting to make sure they receive the necessary information.

In response to a question from Commissioner Sams, Lona Hankins reported that after staff receive the feedback service will be adjusted to serve the public concerns. David Simmons reported that this presentation will be presented at every community meeting to help those that don't use social media.

Commissioner Neal stated that it would be great to have a one-page document that would highlight the most important issues regarding the Service Changes so that staff, contractors and the Board could be on the same page.

10. Authorizations

Amendment to the Drug and Alcohol Policy (HC23)

[23-175](#)

Shalome Jenkins presented the Amendment to the Drug and Alcohol Policy (HC23). This report can be found in the PowerPoint Report dated December 7, 2023.

Commissioner DeFrancesch moved, and Commissioner Sams seconded to approve the Amendment to the Drug and Alcohol Policy (HC23). The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Aye: Commissioner DeFrancesch, Chairperson Neal, and
Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner Ewell
Enactment No: 23-085

Boardroom and Conference Room Use Policy (GEN5)

[23-196](#)

Commissioner DeFrancesch moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to approve the Boardroom and Conference Room Use Policy (GEN5). The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Aye: Commissioner DeFrancesch, Chairperson Neal, and
Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner Ewell
Enactment No: 23-086

11. Audience Questions & Comments

None.

12. New Business

None.

13. Adjournment

Commissioner DeFrancesch moved, and Commissioner Sams seconded to adjourn the Operations and Administration Committee for December 7, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Aye: Commissioner DeFrancesch, Chairperson Neal, and
Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner Ewell