



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, November 18, 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, November 18, 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 and Commissioner Sams

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Moore and Commissioner Walton

Present: Chairperson Fred Neal, Commissioner Louis Colin, Commissioner Mitchell Guidry, and Commissioner Timolyn Sams

Absent: Vice-Chairman Art Walton, Commissioner Flozell Daniels, and Commissioner Mariah Moore

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Colin moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to approve the Board Meeting of October 28, 2025. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

Aye: Chairperson Neal, Commissioner Colin, Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Daniels, and Commissioner Moore

[Board Meeting Minutes - October 28, 2025]

[25-157](#)

4. Reports

A. RTA Chairman’s Report

Commissioner Neal stated that last Sunday was the 65th Anniversary of the New Orleans Public School System being integrated by Three (3) Little Black girls.

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 November were recognized.

Employee Meeting

The CEO stated that the Employee Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2025.

Algiers Service Improvement Plan

The CEO stated that staff have held several meetings regarding the Algiers Service Improvement Plan and listen to the community concerns and the public is encouraged

to attend the remaining meeting on December 4, 2025.

Commissioner Colin stated that staff should consider having a meeting on the Algiers Service Improvement Plan in the Cut-Off.

Swiftly Tools

The CEO stated that this is the first time the Supervisors can manage the buses in real time.

Service Disruption

The CEO stated that staff have come up with an internal matrix to handle route disruptions.

The General Counsel told Commissioner Guidry that he could not speak on issues such as the St. Charles Streetcars because this item is not on the agenda and he has to adhere to the agenda. Commissioner Neal stated that questions addressed to the CEO should be brought to her before the Board Meetings to give her the necessary time needed to review the questions with staff and have the correct answers at the Board Meetings.

Commissioner Guidry proceeded to ask his question. He stated that many of the streetcars are broken, tracks are not being maintained, and the agency does not have enough operators to run the streetcars. The RTA has a total of 66 streetcars and currently there is only 1 operator in training to drive the streetcars. Staff need to maintain the streetcars and the tracks. He would also like to know if there is a workforce development program for the streetcars.

Commissioner Neal stated that Commissioners' Guidry questions were acknowledged by the Board but will not be answered until the Committee Meetings. He stated that the information Commissioner Guidry has given regarding the streetcars was bias and Commissioner Guidry did not present all the facts and Commissioner Guidry information need to be verified.

Commissioner Colin stated that he was glad that staff were working on a Disruption Plan and staff were doing a great job.

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.

The Low Performance Algiers Routes will be included in the Algiers Service Improvement Plan.

The Chief Transit Officer stated that currently there are 10 operators in Training to operate the streetcars. The target number of operators needed to operate the buses is 306 and there are 14 operators short of that number. The target number of operators needed for Paratransit is 75 operators.

Commissioner Colin would like to get more information on the Bus Bridges that are currently being run by staff.

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.

[September 2025 Financials]

[25-153](#)

5. CY 2026 Operating & Capital Budget Report

The CY 2026 Operating and Capital Budget Report was given and can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation for the Board Meeting

Commissioner Neal stated that the CY2026 Budget will be adopted at the December Board Meeting.

The Operating Expenditures are as follows:

Total Operating Expenses- \$142.2 Million
871 Full Time Equivalents (occupied and vacant)
Casualty and Liability insurance and claims reserves increase
TMSEL Retirement costs- \$1.3 Million
Maritime deficit of \$5.5M after applying to the State Subsidy of \$5.1M

Government Assistance and Debt Service

Government Assistance for Preventative Maintenance \$22.9M, State funding of \$1.8M, for a total of \$24.7M, leaving net deficit of \$12.7M before debt service.
CY26 Debt Service is \$8.1M (principal and interest).

6. CY 2024 Single & Financial Audit Acceptance Report

The CY 2024 Single and Financial Audit Acceptance Report was given and can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation for the Board Meeting.

Summary of Auditor's Results - Opinion

Independent Auditor's Report - **Unmodified Opinion ("clean")** on the financial statements.
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in *Accordance with Government Auditing Standards* - **Several deficiencies in internal control and compliance findings noted.**

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for the Major Program and on Internal Controls Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance - **No deficiencies in internal control or compliance findings noted.**

Findings

2024-001 - Material Weakness: Material Adjustments

2024-002 - Significant Deficiency: Internal Control Over Self-Insurance Case Reserves and Structured Settlements

2024-003 - Noncompliance: Timely Submission of Audit Report to Legislative auditor

Commissioner Guidry asked the Board to receive a copy of the Audit before it is presented to the State.

Commissioner Sams and Commissioner Colin thanked the CFO and her staff for doing a great job with Audit and the agency was progressing and going in the right direction.

The CFO thanked the Commissioners for acknowledging the work of the Accounting Team.

Commissioner Neal would like to see the audit notes from the previous Audit.

7. Update: A Post-Launch Assessment of the Network Redesign

Deferred

8. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda. Resolution No. 25-065 was adopted unanimously.

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

Aye: Chairperson Neal, Commissioner Colin, Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Daniels, and Commissioner Moore

Award Contract for East-West Bank Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) [25-131](#)
30% Preliminary Engineering and NEPA Clearance

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Coin seconded to adopt the Contract award for the East-West Bank Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) 20% Preliminary Engineering and NEPA Clearance. Resolution No. 25-064 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-064

Resolution to Adopt Records Policy (GEN 6) [25-133](#)

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Policy (GEN 6). Resolution No 25-066 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-066

Warranty Extension of Hybrid Transmissions

[25-140](#)

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Warranty Extension of Hybrid Transmissions. Resolution No. 25-067 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-067

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with Audubon Nature Institute, Inc (ANII) for French Market Streetcar Station Improvements

[25-144](#)

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the CEA with Audubon Nature Institute, Inc. (ANII) for French Market Streetcar Station Improvements. Resolution No. 25-068 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 25-068

9. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)

10. Audience Questions and Comments

None

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

None

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adjourn the Board of Commissioners Meeting on November 18, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

- Aye:** Chairperson Neal, Commissioner Colin, Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioner Sams
- Absent:** Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Daniels, and Commissioner Moore