



Regional Transit Authority  
2817 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119-6301

504.827.8300

[www.norta.com](http://www.norta.com)

RESOLUTION NO. 23-082

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF ORLEANS

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**AUTHORIZATION TO REDUCE FIXED ROUTE BUS FREQUENCY TO IMPROVE  
SEVICE RELAILBITY AND TO REDUCE FERRY SERVICE HOURS TO MEET  
AVAILABLE 2024 FUNDING**

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Introduced by Commissioner Neal,  
seconded by Commissioner Ewell.

**WHEREAS**, due to a confluence of major events resulting in a large portion of the bus fleet past its useful life, global supply chain disruption of parts and vehicle production, and industry-wide shortage of mechanics; RTA has been unable to provide vehicles needed to meet scheduled service consistently, even after reducing service in June 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the RTA will reduce the total fixed-route bus active fleet from approximately 126 to 108 vehicles through a combination of retiring and “sleeping” vehicles for contingency use to lower mechanic-to-bus ratio from approximately 5.1 to 3.8. Sleeping buses will still get repaired on a schedule but at a much lower demand allowing for prioritization of the approximate 108 active buses for higher reliability; and

**WHEREAS**, the reduction in fixed-route bus schedule to reduce the number of vehicles required for pullout from current weekday peak of 87 and weekend peak of 78 down to 7-day peak of approximately 70 vehicles. The routes reduced is based on directive to: 1) maintain all current coverage; no routes eliminated; 2) will avoid reductions to routes that would result in 90+ minute frequency; 3) avoid reductions to critical connection routes with high transfers ; and 4) minimize total impact based on ridership and passengers per revenue hour; and



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**WHEREAS**, there the cost to implement this plan will be a modest reduction of operating expenses related to reduced bus frequency, but not require any layoffs.

**WHEREAS**, Prior to the fiscal year (FY) 2023 state budget cycle, the RTA projected a \$19.8M ferry operations budget shortfall for FY 2024. As a cost saving measure, the agency removed the second Chalmette ferry vessel from service to avoid \$6M in repair costs which were scheduled in 2024. The agency also received \$10M from the state legislature in House Bill 1 to partially cover the cost of Canal Street-Algiers Point Ferry and Lower Algiers-Chalmette ferry service, leaving a \$3M shortfall.

**WHEREAS**, the RTA's local sales tax funding was established by public referendum with the intent purpose to fund streetcar and bus service, our so that revenue source funds cannot be used to support ferry operations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) to authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or her designee, to reduce total active bus fleet and reduce fixed-route bus service frequency to provide reliable fixed-route service; to reduce ferry service to meet projected revenue levels; and to complete any additional approvals as required by local, state and federal regulations.



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**THE FOREGOING WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:**

<b>YEAS:</b>	<u>7</u>
<b>NAYS:</b>	<u>0</u>
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	<u>0</u>
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<u>1</u>

**AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED ON THE 28th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Raymond".

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**MARK RAYMOND  
CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**