



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

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, July 25, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Please be advised that mask wearing inside the boardroom is not mandatory.

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 Raymond, Commissioner Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner DeFrancesch, Commissioner Ewell and Commissioner Neal

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf and Commissioner Sams

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes from June 27, 2023

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to approved the board Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

[Board Meeting Minutes - June 27, 2023]

[23-127](#)

4. Reports

A. RTA Chairman's Report

B. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report

No Audio - No Report

C. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

No Audio - No Report

D. Jefferson Parish Report

Commissioner Ewell gave the Jefferson Parish Report. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, July 25, 2023, under the Jefferson Parish Report.

E. RTA General Counsel's Report

Sundiata Haley stated that he will address his report in Executive Session. He also stated that the new contract for security services be deferred due to the Protest received from Security Expert and Leaders.

F. RTA Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO reported that LEADS Program participants graduated from the program this month. The CEO further reported that she and 3 additional employees attended the COMTO Conference in Los Angeles.

Three employees were recognized this month. They were Operations - Myrtis Rochon; Maintenance - Luis Garcia-Dominguez and Administration - Meka Temple

Commissioner Coulon stated that the Jefferson Parish LePass was so successful because of the help of the RTA.

G. Chief of Staff Legislative Update

Katherine Felton gave the Chief of Staff Legislative Update. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, July 25, 2023, under the Chief of Staff Legislative Update.

H. Operations Update

Christopher Clark gave the Operations Update. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, July 25, 2023, under the Operations Update. After the report, there was a question about the coordination of long-term detours. Mr. Clark reported that they are working with the City of New Orleans to obtain the necessary information for the detours.

I. RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report

Gizelle Banks gave the RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, July 25, 2023, under the

RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report.

Commissioner Raymond stated that he has been a chairman for the year and the RTA has made a lot of changes toward the goal of providing a Work Class Transit Experience for the RTA Riders. This work is very impactful, and the RTA see the commitment to excellence and customer service and he stated that it starts from the Board Priorities and trickles down and it also trickles up and seeing these things make me very grateful and would like to extend my gratitude for everyone that does this work.

[May 2023 Financials]

[23-116](#)

5. CY 2022 Single & Financial Audit Acceptance Report

Becky Hammond and Sean Bruno gave the CY 2022 Financial and Single Audit. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, July 25, 2023, under the RTA's Audit Presentation Report. Ms. Hammond stated that the RTA has a book of claims and that entire book is \$40M of claims, however that is a conservative number and \$22.1M is reasonable about that will be paid out and this estimate was done by an actuary and covers that number of claims.

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

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, and Commissioner DeFrancesch

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf

CY 2022 Single Audit Acceptance

[23-068](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved, and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the CY2022 Single Audit. Resolution No. 23-047 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-047

CY 2022 Financial Audit Acceptance

[23-069](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved, and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adopt the CY2022 Financial Audit. Resolution No. 23-048 was adopted unanimously.

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

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, and Commissioner DeFrancesch

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf

6. Procurements

A. Authorizations:

RTA Compensation Schedule

[23-086](#)

Commissioner Coulon stated that he has spoken to Lona Hankins, and she has assured him that every employee that would be negatively impacted would be analyzed and the CEO has great latitude of starting salaries and would like to have a discussion on that issue.

Commissioner Walton stated that there has been no actions or policies before this Board that would not be in the best interest of the RTA and/or its employees.

Commissioner Coulon moved, and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the RTA Compensation Schedule. Resolution No. 23-049 was adopted unanimously.

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

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, and Commissioner DeFrancesch

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf
Enactment No: 23-049

Contract to Purchase 21 New Flyer Transit Buses

[23-107](#)

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to adopt the Contract to Purchase 21 New Flyer Transit Buses. Resolution No. 23-050 was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Neal asked that staff give a progress report on the delivery of the buses.

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

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, and Commissioner DeFrancesch

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf
Enactment No: 23-050

New Contract for Emergency Onsite Fleet Service

[23-108](#)

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to adopt the New Contract for Emergency Onsite Fleet Service. Resolution No. 23-050 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-051

New Contract for Transit Security Services

[23-111](#)

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to defer the New Contract for Transit Security Services. This item was deferred unanimously.

Renewal of Excess Liability and Automobile Physical Damage Insurance [2023-2024]

[23-115](#)

Mark Major gave the Renewal of Excess Liability and Automobile Damage Insurance 23-24. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, July 25, 2023, under this report. Mark Major also reported that the RTA has one case on the books from 2019 that may hit the \$1Million mark that some insurance markets had concerns.

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adopt the Renewal of Excess Liability and Automobile Physical damage Insurance (23-24). Resolution 23-053 was adopted unanimously.

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

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, and Commissioner DeFrancesch

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf
Enactment No: 23-053

B. Amendments:

Mobile Ticketing Application Contract Extension

[23-043](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adopt the Mobile Ticketing Application Contract Extension. Resolution No. 23-054 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-054

Rampart Streetcar Restoration Phase 2: Amendment Request to Barnes Electric's Contract

[23-125](#)

Dwight Norton reported that this contract was not to exceed contract of \$250,000. He also reported that the RTA was still working with the Engineer and doing coordination with the City of New Orleans and this contract will cover all

the extra work and that the contractor stated that it was more cost efficient to relocate the poles. He concluded by stating that staff will come back before the Board to let them know the total cost of this Change Order.

Commissioner Neal stated that this contract was built a decade ago and this project could be contributed to bad engineering and the concept of not understanding how a streetcar would fit in that corridor and this would be very important when coordinating with the City of New Orleans.

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adopt the Rampart Streetcar Restoration Phase 2: Amendment Request to Barnes Electric's Contract. Resolution No. 23-055 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Walton, seconded by Commissioner DeFrancesch and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Commissioner LeBeouf, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, and Commissioner Ewell

Absent: Commissioner DeFrancesch
Enactment No: 23-055

7. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to add Edman vs. RTA to Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Audience Questions and Comments

PLEASE NOTE: Persons wishing to submit public comments must either enter their full name in the chat sections of the Zoom meeting to provide comments during the meeting or email your comments to rtaboard@rtaforward.org to have your comments read aloud at the meeting.

Tango Sam - RTA Operator - speaking on behalf of 200 Operators - lack of working equipment on the buses - buses are not ADA ready - if the operators call the defects in they will get written-up - no type of advancement for the operators so work morale is very low - good old boy club - no one is following the contract and hiring people that has been terminated and hiring them back into the system and promoting them - when qualified operators are being looked over with no opportunity - that is why operators are not coming to work - If the operators go to Ms. Kentrella Crawford to make a formal complaint she states that she is not going to do anything, so the operators have no where to go with a complaint - so the union picked her to come before the Board.

Tango Sam also reported that the Operators went through the grievance process, but none of them have been answered - or scheduled to be heard by the appropriate staff and that the Operators were told by their Service Delivery Manager that if they report anything twice, they will be written-up.

Commissioner Raymond stated that the CEO will handle these issues.

Courtney Jackson - In June RAC asked for the bus pull out performance have not been received -riders are stating that the buses are not showing up - The #61 5:12 a.m. bus does not show up. RAC would like to know when the buses are going back to its regular schedule before the June pick. The #9 passes up riders because the buses are always full during pick hours.

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

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to go into Executive Session in the matter of

Gerard Guter, Robert Hickman, and Darwyn Anderson

The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner DeFrancesch moved, and Commissioner Walton seconded to come out of Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Walton, seconded by Commissioner Neal and approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, and Commissioner DeFrancesch

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf

Gerard Guter, Robert Hickman, and Darwyn Anderson

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adjourn the Board Meeting of July 25, 2023. The motion was adjourned unanimously.

[07.25.23 Board Meeting Slide Deck]

[23-138](#)

Contract to Purchase 21 New Flyer Transit Buses

[23-107](#)

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Walton, seconded by Commissioner Coulon and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, and Commissioner DeFrancesch

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf
Enactment No: 23-050

A motion was made by Commissioner Neal, seconded by Vice-Chairman Walton and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, and Commissioner DeFrancesch

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf
Enactment No: 23-050

Renewal of Excess Liability and Automobile Physical Damage Insurance [2023-2024]

[23-115](#)

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

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, and Commissioner DeFrancesch

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf
Enactment No: 23-053