



2817 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119

## **New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Finance Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

---

**Thursday, July 8, 2021**

**11:00 AM**

**Virtual**

---

The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority does hereby certify that it is unable to hold a committee meeting under regular quorum requirements due to COVID-19. On authority of the Governor under Section 2 of Proclamation Number 84 JBE 2020, the next committee meeting will be held via telephone and/or video conference on Thursday, July 08, 2021 at 11:00 am. All efforts will be made to provide for observation and input by members of the public.

#### **1. Call To Order**

#### **2. Roll Call**

approved

#### **3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes**

##### **3a. [Finance Committee Minutes - June 10, 2021]**

**[21-104](#)**

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve the Committee Meeting Minutes - June 10, 2021. The motion was adopted unanimously.

#### **4. Committee Chairman's Report**

Commissioner Raymond stated that last month the RTA reached its 6 month mark at becoming a public organization and accomplished prioritizing passengers and he wanted to commend staff for overcoming adversity and being flexible to meet the needs of the riding public.

#### **5. Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Alex Wiggins reported that it was a team effort to provide great public service for the region and on June 20, 2021 the RTA implemented full service and staff has to deal with the lack of operators to meet the schedule and management was working very closely with the union to accommodate schedule.

Alex Wiggins reported that the RTA was pushing the GoMobile App as the primary platform and the RTA's retail partner Walgreens was coming online to sell passes and staff was making sure they have the necessary supplies available to generate additional ridership and revenue.

## 6. Chief Financial Officer's Report

### 6a. Overview of 2020 Audit Document

Deferred

[2020 Audit Documents]

[21-105](#)

Deferred

### 6b. CY 2021 Budget Update

Gizelle Banks reported that Operating Revenue for 2020 ended the year with \$74.1 Million and the approved budget for 2021 was \$82.3 Million and staff was proposing a revised budget for 2021 of \$90.1 Million.

Gizelle Banks reported that Operating Expenses was \$110 Million for 2020 and \$101 Million for 2021 with a 2021 approved vs. 2021 revised variance of \$9,211,721. This Line Item is being driven by Labor and Fringes and fuel costs.

Gizelle Banks reported that biggest changes took place on Government Operating Assistance. The RTA was awarded \$26.8 Million for round two of the CARES Act Funding and the RTA has increased its Capital Budget that comes with the Federal Dollars.

Gizelle Banks reported that the projection for Operating Revenues was \$90.1 Million and Sales Tax has increased from \$72 Million to \$79 Million.

Gizelle Banks reported that there was a 12.5% increase on the budget.

Gizelle Banks reported that Operating Expenses the largest expense was Labor and Fringes at \$56.7 Million, Materials and Supplies was \$10.5 Million, Services was \$11 Million and Fringe Benefits was \$21.9 Million.

Gizelle Banks reported that for Material and Supplies there was a need for Revenue Vehicle Parts Stock on hand so the system can operate effectively.

Gizelle Banks reported that the Board approved a total of 890 positions but with this budget staff was increased to the full authorized total of 889.5.

Government Assistance:

Actual Funding for Preventive Maintenance was \$600,000 less than projected.

CARES Act proceeds exceeded expectations at a total of \$39.5 million

CY2022- Awarded \$59 million under ARP (Exp 2024)

**Non-Operating Revenue and Expenses:**

The receipt of all 22 new buses in March and April and the anticipated arrival of an additional 21 new buses by December were the primary reasons for the increase in the Capital Budget.

In response to Commissioner Walton, Gizelle Banks stated that the RTA have not received the ARP funding and was not sure how the ARP funding will be disbursed but the RTA has received the first round of the CARES Act funding.

Alex Wiggins reported that the RTA will have to drawdown the ARP funding in multiple drawdown and the FTA has allowed this funding can be converted to capital dollars and this would help with some of the bus shelters.

In response to Commissioner Raymond, Gizelle Banks reported that she will find out when the new Paratransit Vehicles will be delivered and report back to the Board.

Gizelle Banks reported that the Labmar Contract was included in the revision of the Maritime Budget, the dry dock cost for the Levy Ferry and the ferry technology grant was included in the Capital Expenditures for the ferry.

Commissioner Daniels stated that the RTA was making sure that the RTA has a strategy to fund the ferry.

Alex Wiggins stated that the RTA has had conversation with the New Orleans State Delegation regarding the funding for the ferry.

## **7. Overview of RTA's Organization Chart**

This report was included in the CY 2021 Budget Update.

## **8. Infrastructure & Planning Report**

### **8a. July Capital Projects Report**

[21-102](#)

Lona Hankins reported that the RTA has \$35.9 Million in open contracts.

Lona Hankins reported that it was high river season and the high water will cause delays in the Ferry Project and the Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction over the river and when the river hits height of 11 feet all work must stop but the RTA has a waiver and the Army Corps of Engineers will stop the RTA work at 13 feet and high river occurs five-months a year and the RTA was contemplating stopping service for 30 days.

Lona Hankins reported that RTA was looking at alternative landing destinations for the ferry to mitigate the risk and this would advance some of the work that's needed and put the contractor in a position to start driving the pilings in December and the temporary landing needs to be in place to demolish the permanent landing and if service is suspended during that period of time it would allow the RTA to do the work at the same time.

Alex Wiggins reported that if the high river conditions cause the suspension of Ferry service staff will let the Board know immediately.

In response to Commissioner Daniels, Lona Hankins reported that If there is a delay in the project due to the river height this grant has an expiration date of August 2022 and to ask for additional time the RTA has to demonstrate that it has done its due diligence to meet the deadline.

Lona Hankins reported that the contractor was starting the work for the Canal Streetcar Line in the next two weeks and the project was expected to last about four to five weeks to complete.

Lona Hankins reported that the staff received the bids on the Downtown Loop Pavement Replacement and this contract will be a Not To Exceed contract.

Lona Hankins reported that the RTA was making sure that the shelters will be installed by considering cost and equity and once the RTA create a Transit Propensity Index the same Index was created for the New Links Project and this plan would be grounded in equity and would be presented to the RTA's stakeholders for public comment and review.

Lona Hankins reported that the Katrina Rita D-CDBG - do not have any available funds, Low-No 5339 - received \$5.1 Million the infrastructure was the most expensive part of this project. If the RTA was awarded the RAISE Grant the RTA would use the money to build out some really nice regional neighborhood transfer points. The Persistent Poverty Program which is the replacement of the HOPE Grant, staff was brainstorming ideas on how to use the grant and this grant was a planning grant so the RTA can use the grant for surveys for bus stops and shelter needs. Staff was waiting for the award of the Bus and Bus Facility Grant.

In response to Commissioner Walton, Lona Hankins stated that the conversation with Entergy has not taken place and staff was waiting on the obligation of funds to hire the technical resources but Entergy was on board with the project.

## **9. DBE Report**

Adonis Expose reported that \$8,879,731 in contracts were awarded, \$2,920,305 was awarded to DBE firms and of the DBE contracts \$2,999,207 was awarded to DBE/SBE Prime Contractors and the total DBE participation (commitment) was 33%.

Adonis Expose reported that DBE Participation for Security Services went from 3% to 8% and Disaster Recovery Grants Management and Administration went for 10% DBE Participation to 19%.

Adonis Expose reported that two new projects were added to the DBE list one was East New

Orleans Maintenance Building and the second was the Transit Ferry Services that had a DBE Participation of 3.5%.

Adonis Expose reported that the SBE Participation for the A&E Services went from \$119,718 to \$599,000 and the Board awarded 10 SBE Firms for On Call A&E Services.

Adonis Expose reported that there are five projects that are going to be awarded in the next 60 days to DBE/SBE Firms.

Adonis Expose reported that the next RTA Outreach Event was going to take place on Thursday, August 5, 2021.

## **10. Procurements**

**10a.** Overhead Catenary System (OCS) Hardware Fabrication and Replacement Award Fabrication Contract [21-099](#)

In response to Commissioner Walton, Lona Hankins stated that all cost associated with the project will be submitted for reimbursement.

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve the Overhead Catenary System (OCS) Hardware Fabrication and Replacement Award Fabrication Contract. The Motion was approved unanimously.

referred to Consent Agenda

Enactment No: 21-055

**10b.** Rampart Streetcar Line Emergency Recovery Project Award Construction Project [21-100](#)

In response to Commissioner Walton, Yolanda Rodriguez reported that the original authorization was not to exceed \$270,000 and the bid came back at \$289,000 and the Board needs to ratify.

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to ratify the Rampart Streetcar Line Emergency Recovery Project Award Construction Project. The motion was adopted unanimously.

referred to Consent Agenda

Enactment No: 21-056

**10c.** St. Charles Streetcar Line Downtown Loop Pavement Replacement [21-101](#)

In response to Commissioner Walton, Lona Hankins reported that this item has nothing to do with the Hardrock.

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve the St. Charles Streetcar Line Downtown Loop Pavement Replacement. The Motion was approved unanimously.

referred to Consent Agenda

## **11. New Business**

None

## **12. Audience Questions & Comments**

None.

## **13. Adjournment**

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting of July 8, 2021. The motion was approved unanimously.

adjourned