



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 6, 2022

11:00 AM

RTA Boardroom, 2nd Floor

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, October 6, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. Please be advised that all meeting participants will be required to wear masks 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 Walton, Commissioner Coulon and Commissioner Neal

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Ewell

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

[THERE WAS NO QUORUM FOR THE AUGUST 11, 2022
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING]

[22-155](#)

No Finance Committee Meeting on August 11 2022.

4. Committee Chairman's Report

No Report.

5. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mark Major reported that New Links was rolled out on September 25, 2022 and this was an all

out effort for all of RTA's staff.

Mark Major reported that the RAC Meeting held on October 5, 2022 the riding public gave RTA's staff a lot of information regarding the New Links Routes and staff was taking each complaint seriously and was going to identify the necessary changes.

Mark Major reported that staff was dealing with the Union President regarding the Operators attendance.

Mark Major reported that RTA has relaxed wearing a mask inside the building.

Commissioner Walton stated that staff was going to consider all the complaints that was received from the riders

6. Chief Financial Officer's Report

Gizelle Banks reported on - Ridership - As COVID wanes, ridership gradually recovers while service levels remain steady. However, the number of public transit trips taken by riders in August 2022, 744K, shows a slight decrease of 48K from the previous month of July 2022. Compared to the prior years, ridership was 544K in August 2021 and 362K in August 2020; this shows ridership continues to make a slow but steady recovery.

Gizelle Banks reported on - Farebox Recovery Rates 2022 vs. 2019 (Pre-COVID) - Fare revenue continues to offset a slightly higher percentage of operating expenses as ridership continues to rebound. August's farebox recovery rate increased slightly from 7.27% in the prior month to 8.28%; a total increase of 1%. The farebox recovery rate for August 2019 (Pre-COVID) was 23.81%.

Gizelle Banks reported on - FERRY - Farebox Recovery Rates 2022 vs. 2019 (Pre-COVID) - The increase in farebox recovery to 9.78% in August from 8.24% in July is a result of decrease in passenger revenue and a decrease in operating expenses from the prior month.

Gizelle Banks reported on - Operating Revenues (Budget, Actual & Prior Year) - The increase in farebox recovery to 9.78% in August from 8.24% in July is a result of decrease in passenger revenue and a decrease in operating expenses from the prior month.

Gizelle Banks reported on - Net Revenue (Before and After Government Assistance) - Net Revenue (Before Government Assistance) is -\$2.1M for the month of August. After applying the month's \$2.9M in Government Operating Assistance, Net Revenue ended with a -\$437K or 53% negative variance for the month of August (when compared to the budget of \$1.6M).

Gizelle Banks reported on Operating Expenses - Operating Expenses for the month of August are roughly \$9.3M. Labor and Fringe Benefits, the largest expenditure at \$6.5M, comprised 69% of this month's actual expenses. In total, Operating Expenses for the month of August show a slight decrease of 9% from \$10.5M in July.

Gizelle Banks reported on Operating Reserve - The strong positive variance that resulted from Net Revenue (After Government Assistance of approximately \$2.9M) added \$953K to

Restricted Operating/Capital Reserve after the offset of \$567K in Debt Service.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Gizelle Banks reported that staff should have a Draft Budget by the end of October and will start setting-up one-on-one meetings with the Board for the Board review. The budget will be presented at the November Finance Committee Meeting and at the November Board Meeting for more Board review and in December the Budget will be presented to the Board for approval.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Gizelle Banks reported that there was no special meeting with the Board to review the Budget.

Commissioner Neal stated that he would like the Board to start having their one-on-one meetings with staff regarding the Budget the first week of November.

[August 2022 Financials]

[22-156](#)

7. DBE Report

Adonis Expose' reported that the RTA awarded a total of \$10,087,302 in contracts and \$6,719,611 was awarded to DBE Prime Contractors. The DBE participation was 67%.

Current DBE Projects:

CMAR - Canal Street Ferry Terminal (Construction) - 9%
Disaster Recovery Grants Management and Administration - 38%
Riverfront Track Work & Overhead Catenary - 10%
Transit Ferry Services - 22%
East New Orleans Maintenance Building - 19%
St. Charles Streetcar Line Downtown Loop Pavement Replacement - 67%
Business Intelligence & Data Management Reporting System - 0%
On Call Technical Safety Support - 22%
Napoleon Facility Renovation & Upgrade - 0%
Rampart Streetcar Line: Emergency Repair Project- 0%

Current SBE Projects:

DBE Consulting Services - 63%
Construction Cost Audits - 87%
Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study - 49%
On Call A&E Services for Design of Interim Downtown Transit Hub - 89%
Facility Maintenance & Construction Support Services - 3%
Classification and Compensation Study - 37%
Leadership & Change Management Training - 27%
Temporary Janitorial Services 34%

Adonis Expose' reported that DBE/SBE BUSINESS Development Trainings
Business Development Training for Certified Disadvantaged and Small Business

Tuesday, October 25, 2022
RTA Boardroom

6:00pm - 7:30pm

Topics:

Small Business Resources for Success

Responding to Bids and RFPs

Building Business Credit

How to Write a Clear, Concise and Powerful Capability Statement

Entrepreneurial Leadership and Influence

Commissioner Neal stated that he would like to attend some of the DBE/SBE Training.

8. Infrastructure & Planning Report

Commissioner Neal Left the Meeting

Lona Hankins reported on the following:

Close-Out:

Riverfront Streetcar - Service was restored, working on contract close-out; added repair of Poydras St. Station now underway.

St. Charles Streetcar: Downtown Loop Pavement Replacement - Waiting on Contractor Clear Lien Certificate to pay final retainage.

ENO Maintenance Bldg. Exterior Envelope - Waiting on Contractor Clear Lien Certificate to pay final retainage

Construction:

Canal Ferry Terminal -Building: 82% complete, work is on-going on the Bathroom tile, installation started on trim related to HVAC, Electrical and Plumbing, Painting of sheetrock started. External panels on both stair towers to start in the next 2 weeks

Napoleon Facility Rehabilitation -Contractor has mobilized, abatement work to start soon

Rampart Streetcar Restoration Recovery from Hard Rock Hotel Collapse - Contractor is securing Long Lead Items

Interim Downtown Transfer Center - Tulane started, Loyola starts 10/6, Shelter delivery by before the end of October

Engineering:

2021 Non-Advertising Shelter - Waiting on final design deliverable to advertise in October

Algiers Point Ferry Terminal Rehabilitation and Modernization - On hold waiting for the results of the 2022 Ferry Application

Lower Algiers Car Ferry Landing Barge Replacement - Working on Project Execution Plan

Algiers Point Landing Barge Replacement - Working on Project Execution Plan

No Emission Vehicle Pilot - Held kick off meeting with Fleet Vendor

Planning:

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Feasibility Study - Draft of BRT Standards completed Analysis

Community responses of route alternatives underway

RAISE: Fare Technology Replacement - Working with internal team and FTA Region

RAISE: Transit Hub Design and Build - Working with internal team and FTA Region

2021 Carryover Applications:

Areas of Persistent Poverty Program (Replaces HOPE) - Develop safe, fast and comfortable transit corridors along the high frequency bus and streetcar routes

5307 Passenger Ferry - New landing barge for Algiers Point, drydock Armiger and Levy Ferry Boats

5339 Bus and Bus Facilities - Design and construct Downtown Transit Center

State Capital Outlay - Replace Maintenance Barges at Lower Algiers

New Applications:

State DOTD 5339 - Purchase non-revenue vehicles to support maintenance crews and administrative staff

Katrina Rita D-CDBG - Purchase (3) 40' and (5) 23' fixed route and (8) 23' para transit vehicles, right sizing the fleet for New Links Implementation OCD granted extension on project completion until June 2023.

2022 Bus and Bus Facility - Denied

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) - City of New Orleans is the applicant

Passenger Ferry - Algiers Point Ferry Terminal: eliminate 2-story volume ceiling by adding a 2nd floor. Lower Algiers Maintenance Facility: Repair deferred maintenance items.

All Stations Accessibility Program - St. Charles Line: develop a program of improvements to have all stops and immediately connecting infrastructure fully accessible. Study will also evaluate possible stop consolidation, to improve travel speed and reduce total program cost. Deadline is 10/7/2022

Lona Hankins reported that she was working with the contractors to secure the shelters and the installation dates for New Orleans East.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Lona Hankins reported that the RTA does coordinate grant applications with the City of New Orleans.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Lona Hankins reported that the consultants name could be added to the Infrastructure & Planning Report.

9. Procurements

A. Authorizations:

An Amendment to Correct Original Resolution for RTA
Website Services

[22-136](#)

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS INAUDIBLE

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to approve the Amendment to Correct Original Resolution for RTA Website. The motion was approved unanimously.

approved

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the Port
of New Orleans (PONO) and Regional Transit Authority

[22-145](#)

SOME COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS INAUDIBLE

In response to Commissioner Neal, Lona Hankins reported that this projects should be finished no later than January.

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to approve the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the Port of New Orleans (PONO) and Regional Transit Authority. The motion was approved unanimously

approved

Canal Street Ferry Terminal Project: Amendment Request to Infinity Contract

[22-147](#)

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS INAUDIBLE

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to approve the Canal Street Ferry Terminal Project: Amendment Request. The motion was approved unanimously.

approved

Canal Street Ferry Terminal Project: Amendment Request to Woodward-APC's Contract

[22-148](#)

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS INAUDIBLE

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to approve the Canal Street Ferry Terminal Project Amendment Request to Woodward APC's Contract. The motion was approved unanimously.
approved

Transit Security Services - SEAL Security Services

[22-149](#)

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS INAUDIBLE

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to approve the Transit Security Services - SEAL Security Services. The motion was approved unanimously.
approved

Portable Radios

[22-150](#)

SOME COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS INAUDIBLE

In response to Commissioner Neal, Lona Hankins stated that these are Handheld Radios that are used in-house.

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to approve the Portable Radios. The motion was approved unanimously.
approved

B. Grants:

FY 2023-2024 State Capital Outlay Request: Vehicle Ferry Replacement Study

[22-151](#)

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS INAUDIBLE

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to approve the FY2023-2024 State Capital Outlay Request Vehicle Ferry Replacement Study. The motion was approved unanimously.

FY 2023-2024 State Capital Outlay Request: Ferry Maintenance Barge Replacement

[22-152](#)

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS INAUDIBLE

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to approve the FY2023-2024 State Capital Outlay Request: Ferry Maintenance Barge Replacement. The motion was approved unanimously.
approved

5339 Bus and Bus Facilities: Large Urban Areas

[22-153](#)

SOME COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS INAUDIBLE

In response to Commissioner Walton, Lona Hankins reported that this grant does not have to go through the Appropriations Committee.

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to approve the 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities: Large Urban Areas. The motion was passed unanimously.
approved

10. New Business

None

11. Audience Questions & Comments

None

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Neal left the meeting No Quorum to adjourn the meeting.