



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

10:00 AM

RTA Board Room

The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Board of Commissioners will hold an in-person public meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 10:00 am. The meeting will begin at the scheduled time but may be delayed until a quorum is present. Agenda related material is accessible on the agency's website, along with recordings of previous meetings. Written public comments on agenda items may be submitted by 1) completing a speaker card on the day of the meeting; 2) email to rtaoard@rtaforward.org prior to the meeting; 3) U.S. mail to RTA, Office of Board Affairs, 2817 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70119. This meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities, and accommodation requests must be made at least 72 hours in advance by contacting the Office of Board Affairs at 504-827-8341 or rtaoard@rtaforward.org.

1. Call to Order

Present: Chairperson Fred Neal, Commissioner Flozell Daniels, Commissioner Louis Colin, Commissioner Mitchell Guidry, Commissioner Mariah Moore, and Commissioner Timolyn Sams

Absent: Vice-Chairman Art Walton

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Colin, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Moore, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Sams

Commissioner Absent: Commissioner Walton

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Colin to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from December 6, 2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton

[Board of Commissioners Meeting - December 16, 2025]

[26-019](#)

4. Informational Reports

A. RTA Chairman's Report

Commissioner Neal stated that on the agenda is the agreement with the two unions ULU Local 100 and ATU Local 1560. He stated that he took the bus to a parade on Saturday and it was a great experience. He thanked staff and the Board for doing great work.

B. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report

Commissioner Sams stated that at the Operations and Administration Meeting on October 8, 2026, there were reports that focused on the riders' experience and the day-to-day operations of the organization. There was also a report on the RTA's Service Disruption Plan to show how disruptions will be communicated to riders and a update on the Service Improvements in Algiers.

C. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

Commissioner Colin stated that the Finance Committee recommended that Paratransit Software Services be brought before the full Board for approval and he thanked staff again for the 2026 Budget.

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:

The Employees of the month for December were presented to the Board, and staff hosted the Transportation Safety Institute (TSI Training) workshop in the Boardroom on January 21-23, 2026.

2026 Mardi Gras Guide

Links to the 2026 Parade Schedule and Detour Information available at Norta.com/mardi-gras-2026.

Online version of our Guide available at Norta.com/Mardi-Gras-2026.

Printed versions are available at our regular locations.

Five Year Report

This Report was mailed out to staff and will be included in different trade magazines.

Intergovernmental Affairs

Staff met with Senator Cassidy team and give them an update on the Downtown Transit Project and use the piggyback system for the RTA to purchase more buses.

The Electric Buses will be put into service in the later part of the year and used in New Orleans East.

The extra buses needed during Mardi Gras will be pulled from the contingency fleet.

Commissioner Colin stated that the Mardi Gras Brochure was great information for the riding public.

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.

Early trips are being proactively negotiated with customers
Dispatchers are actively monitoring trips, will add drivers/ runs as needed
Supervisors and Managers are doing route checks
Manifests are being checked daily by the Manager and Director

This new software will solve a lot of the issues that the RTA is having with the riders. This software will make the necessary changes needed to get the operators to the riders on time.

Commissioner Colin would like to know the agencies that are benefiting from this new software.

The total ridership is between 17,000 to 18,000 rider and the subscription riders are between 25-30%.

The elderly that can use the app will and the rest of the community will continue to call into the agency and staff will go out to different agencies and train the elderly on the new application.

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.

[November 2025 Financials]

[26-016](#)

5. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda. Resolution No. 26-001 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Sams to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton

Extension of CEA for Janitorial Services

[25-175](#)

This Resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 26-002

Enactment No: 26-002

6. Board Action Items

A. Authorizations

Authorization to Negotiate and Execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) Between the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and the City of New Orleans for the provision of transit services for Mardi Gras 2026-2027 seasons

[25-148](#)

Commissioner Colin move and Commissioner Moore seconded to adopt the CEA between RTA and the City of New Orleans for the provision of Transit Services for Mardi Gras 2026-2027 seasons. Resolution No. 26-003 was adopted unanimously.

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

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

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton

Enactment No: 26-003

RTA Labor Agreement with ULU Local 100

[25-169](#)

This is a 3 1/2 year contract and currently there are 105 Administrative Employees who are eligible to join this union and there are less than 10 paid members.

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the

RTA Labor Agreement with ULU Local 100. Resolution No. 26-004 was adopted unanimously.

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

Resolution No. 26-006

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

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton
Enactment No: 26-004

RTA Labor Agreement with ATU Local 1560

[26-015](#)

This is a 3-year contract and currently there are over 500 members.

Commissioner Colin moved and Commissioner Daniels seconded to adopt the RTA Labor Agreement with ATU Local 1560. Resolution No. 26-005 was adopted unanimously.

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

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

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton
Enactment No: 26-005

B. Procurements

Contract Award for Paratransit Software Services

[25-165](#)

This item was brought before the Finance Committee and the Committee decided not to include it on the Consent Agenda and instead bring this Item before the Full Board.

Commissioner Guidry stated that currently Paratransit was using the Trapeze Software and the maps are outdated and these maps are for fixed route not Paratransit and the new maps will give you turn by turn directions and the maintenance agreement for this new contract is \$262,000 for the first year and \$218,000 for the following years and the maintenance agreement with Trapeze is free and Trapeze would be far less than the \$1.3Million for this new software contract.

Commissioner Guidry stated that with this new software everyone in the department will need to be trained and this will take approximately 6 months.

Commissioner Guidry stated that it is his fiduciary responsibility to the transit agency, the riding public and the tax-payers that the issues with Paratransit can be fixed at a much lower cost and the vendors headquarters was raised by the Federal Authority for questionable procurement activities with Governmental Entities.

Commissioner Guidry asked for a full cost analysis be conducted and that General Counsel provide clarity on the Federal allegations on this vendor he will not be supporting this procurement item for approval.

Commissioner Daniels stated that the RTA has a great Procurement Department.

The Director of Mobility & Alternative Modes for Paratransit stated that he has put in many help desk tickets for Trapeze with no help. The system has not been updated or automated since it was implemented in 1986. The settings for Trapeze is very complicated and not user friendly.

Commissioner Moore stated that you get what you pay for and she would like staff to give the pros and cons of each software.

Commissioner Neal stated that this would be a 3-year contract and after 3 years the agency can opt to put the contract back on the street.

Commissioner Moore stated that she was willing to take the chance on the new software and if it doesn't work to end the contract.

Commissioner Sams would like to see an annual evaluation to show if the agency is getting what it is paying for.

Commissioner Colin would like to know if this item could be tabled.

Lona Hankins stated that the community does not have the time nor patience to delay this item.

Commissioner Guidry stated that Trapeze maintenance agreement needs to be finalized by the month of March and is still free.

Commissioner Neal stated that there may be better options, but he feels that the Procurement Department did its due diligence and vetted this vendor.

Commissioner Moore thanked Commissioner Guidry for raising the concerns that he had.

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Contract Award for Paratransit Software Services.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Commissioner Neal	Yea
Commissioner Walton	Absent
Commissioner Daniels	Yea
Commissioner Colin	Yea
Commissioner Guidry	Nay
Commissioner Moore	Yea
Commissioner Sams	Yea

Resolution No. 26-006 was adopted with 5 Yeas, 1 Absent and 1 Nay.

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

Aye: Chairperson Neal, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin, Commissioner Moore, and Commissioner Sams

Nay: Commissioner Guidry

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton
Enactment No: 26-006

Contract Award for Single, Financial Audit Services

[26-014](#)

The Board was informed that the existing vendor (CRI) did not respond to this RFP.

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Contract Award for Single, Financial Audit Services. Resolution No. 26-007 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 26-007

C. Ratifications

Ratification of Payment of CY 2025 Louisiana Second Injury Fund Assessment

[26-001](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Moore seconded to adopt the Ratification of Payment of CY2025 Louisiana Second Injury Fund Assessment. Resolution No. 26-008 was adopted unanimously.

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

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

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton
Enactment No: 26-008

7. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)

8. Audience Questions and Comments

No speakers. Information regarding Mardi Gras and service alerts were provided to riders.

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

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

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Daniels and seconded by Commissioner Moore to go into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Daniels and seconded by Commissioner Sams to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Colin was absent when the Board returned to regular session.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairperson Neal, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Moore, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton, and Commissioner Colin

- David King vs. RTA et al; CDC 2024-4244

A motion was made by Commissioner Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Moore to accept the recommendation from General Counsel. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairperson Neal, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Moore, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton, and Commissioner Colin

- Chantel Bailliet vs. RTA CDC 2023-11587

A motion was made by Commissioner Sams, seconded by Commissioner Moore to accept the recommendation from General Counsel. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairperson Neal, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Moore, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton, and Commissioner Colin

- Craig Jacobs vs. RTA CDC 2023-12404

A motion was made by Commissioner Sams, seconded by Commissioner Daniels to accept the recommendation from General Counsel. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairperson Neal, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Moore, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton, and Commissioner Colin

- Phillip Lawrence Cowen vs. RTA CDC 95-8646

A motion was made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Sams to accept the recommendation of General Counsel. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairperson Neal, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Moore, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Vice-Chairman Walton, and Commissioner Colin

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Daniel moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adjourn the Board Meeting of January 27, 2026. The motion was approved unanimously.

[01.27.26 Board Meeting PowerPoint]

26-031