



2817 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119

## New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Finance Committee

### Meeting Minutes - Final

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Thursday, June 8, 2023

11:00 AM

RTA Board Room

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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, June 8, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. Please be advised that mask wearing is encouraged 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: [rtaoard@rtaforward.org](mailto:rtaoard@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, Commissioner Ewell and Commissioner Neal

Other Commissioners Present: Commissioner Raymond, Commissioner DeFrancesch and Commissioner LeBeouf

**Present:** Art Walton, Fred Neal, Timothy Coulon and Joseph Ewell

**Absent:**

#### 3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2023

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to approve the Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

**Aye:** Chairperson Walton, Commissioner Neal, Commissioner Coulon and Commissioner Ewell

**Absent:**

[Finance Committee Meeting - May 11, 2023]

[23-096](#)**4. Committee Chairman's Report**

No Report.

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

Lona Hankins reported that the New Service Schedule went into service June 4, 2023, and minimal calls has been received regarding the new schedules, and the RTA was also supporting Jefferson Parish riders since the E1 Line was discontinued. The line servicing Nunez College has been doing well.

Lona Hankins reported an incident where a teenager was trying to get to Job Corp and the operator noticed that the person needed help and the operator assisted the person getting to their destination.

Commissioner Coulon thanked staff for the St. Bernard Bus Line and regarding the BRT - DOTD was having a meeting to discuss the HOV Lanes and the RTA staff was invited to the meeting.

Commissioner Walton stated that this was the last day of the Legislative Session and hopefully the RTA did very well.

**6. Chief Financial Officer's Report**

The Chief Financial Officer, Gizelle Banks gave the RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report. This report can be found in the Finance Committee PowerPoint Report dated, June 8, 2023, under the RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report.

Gizelle Banks reported that the TMSEL Legacy Cost was for a group of TMSEL employees that receive post employee benefits and this cost will start to decrease as the employees age. This cost was an overall credit on the Workers Compensation Side and classify it in the TMSEL Line Item for the Budget.

[April 2023 Financials]

[23-098](#)**7. CY 2022 Single & Financial Audit Acceptance Update**

Mark Major reported that the Single and Finance Audit are currently being performed and the Audits has to be completed by June 30, 2023, and the auditors will make that deadline. The RTA was not informed of any Deficits or Material Weaknesses. Mark Major reported that Becky Hammond will be present at the June 27, 2023, Board Meeting and will give the Board an update status of the Audit it will be submitted by the June 30, 2023 deadline. Board acceptance of the Audit is expected at the July Board Meeting.

## 8. DBE Report

The DBE Officer, Adonis Expose' gave the DBE Report. This report can be found in the Finance Committee PowerPoint Report dated, May 11, 2023, under the DBE Report.

## 9. Chief Planning and Capital Project Officer's Report

Chief Planning and Capital Officer, Dwight Norton gave the Infrastructure & Planning Report. This report can be found in the Finance Committee PowerPoint Report dated, May 11, 2023, under the Infrastructure & Planning Report.

## 10. Procurements

### A. Authorizations:

Purchase of Non-Revenue Support Vehicles (Ram 1500 Trucks) [23-070](#)

### Commissioner Ewell Left the Meeting

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to approve the Purchase of Non-Revenue Support Vehicles (Ram 1500 Trucks). The motion was approved unanimously.

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

**Aye:** Chairperson Walton, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Coulon

**Absent:** Commissioner Ewell  
Enactment No: 23-039

New State Contract for Fuel Card Services [23-081](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved, and Commissioner Neal seconded to approve the New State Contract for Fuel Card Services. Motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coulon, seconded by Commissioner Neal and approved to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 6/27/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairperson Walton, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Coulon

**Absent:** Commissioner Ewell  
Enactment No: 23-042

RTA Compensation Schedule [23-086](#)

**This item was taken out of order and handled first on the Agenda**

Lona Hankins reported that staff was presenting to the Finance Committee the Grade Bands for approval from the Compensation Study.

Darwyn Anderson presented the Update on RTA's Compensation Study with Pay Grades and Pay Bands. This report is in the Finance Committee Power Point under Update on RTA's Compensation Study.

In response to Commissioner Neal, Lona Hankins reported that this report shows all positions that staff feels will be needed now and in the future.

In response to Commissioner Neal, Lona Hankins reported that for Grade 12 Analyst, Analyst was a mistake that title would be Principal Analyst.

Commissioner Coulon stated that each employee should receive this information, and this Study will impact the budget, and if this study deviates from the budget that information needs to be shared with the Board. His concern is that the CEO has the authority to start a position passed the midpoint range and the RTA was spending Public Money.

Commissioner Ewell stated that Darwyn Anderson explained to him that this Compensation Study was not just about hiring but working with the current employees to make sure that their levels are correct.

Lona Hankins reported that she has a lot of talented employees on her staff that she believed was under valued and she would like to make sure that their job was in line with the correct grade band to reward them appropriately based on the work that they perform.

Commissioner Ewell stated that 30 years ago he realized that he was under paid and that he was looking for a transparent seamless way for all employees to know where they stand and that they can go to HR to make sure they are made whole.

Lona Hankins reported that her goal was to have a level of transparency so the employees can see what their career paths look like.

Commissioner Ewell ask staff to make this Study as simple as possible for the Board to understand.

Lona Hankins stated that she will speak to the Board to summarize this Study better for the Board's understanding.

Lona Hankins reported that the RTA needs the performance metric for employees.

Darwyn Anderson reported that HR works closely with the Chief of Finance to make sure that these salaries stay within the Budget.

Lona Hankins reported that once the Board adopts this Study she will then work with Chiefs/Directors to review all the job grades and staff will make the appropriate adjustments and staff should see these adjustments in their checks in August.

Commissioner Walton stated that he understands the purpose of the Study and he wants to ensure that the RTA was not fixing this with something that was arbitrary.

Lona Hankins reported that she was trying to create a standard across the board for all employees and as staff moves forward, she expects raises to be a combination of Cost of Living and Merit Increases.

Commissioner Walton stated that for this to be successful, metrics have to be developed, space for the Board questions to be answered, and financial beneficial to the RTA.

**This agenda Item was brought back up again under its normal agenda spot.**

Commissioner Neal stated that the Commissioners will work with staff to get the necessary information that the Board has requested.

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to approve the RTA Compensation Schedule would be removed from the Consent Agenda and taken up at the June Board Meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

**Aye:** Chairperson Walton, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Coulon

**Absent:** Commissioner Ewell

Purchase Canal and Riverfront Streetcar Inverter Upgrades [23-087](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved, and Commissioner Neal seconded to approve the Purchase for Canal and Riverfront Streetcar Inverter Upgrades. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coulon, seconded by Commissioner Neal and approved to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 6/27/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairperson Walton, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Coulon

**Absent:** Commissioner Ewell  
Enactment No: 23-043

B. Amendments:

McPherson Oil Contract Extension [23-079](#)

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Lona Hankins reported if the procurement being bid allows other entities to participate the RTA will participate with other agencies.

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to approve the McPherson Oil Contract Extension. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Neal, seconded by Commissioner Coulon and approved to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 6/27/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairperson Walton, Commissioner Neal and  
Commissioner Coulon

**Absent:** Commissioner Ewell  
Enactment No: 23-040

Change Order for Fuel Card Services [23-080](#)

**This item was taken out order.**

Commissioner Coulon moved, and Commissioner Neal seconded to approve Change Order for Fuel Card Services. The motion was approved unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-041

Change Order for Transit Security Services [23-089](#)

In response to Commissioner Walton, Lona Hankins reported that the RTA has a Technical Evaluation Committee that is bringing back firms for questions to get clarifications and then a selection would be made.

In response to Commissioner Walton, Gizelle Banks reported that she was not sure of the number of proposals that were submitted but she can get that information.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Gizelle Banks reported that staff has consulted with General Counsel with this process and staff involved with the elevations process was very diverse.

In response to Commissioner Neal, Gizelle Banks reported that the RTA

was not in litigation, the respondents were in litigation with each other.

Commissioner Coulon moved, and Commissioner Neal seconded to approve the Change Order for Transit Security Services. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coulon, seconded by Commissioner Neal and approved to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 6/27/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairperson Walton, Commissioner Neal and  
Commissioner Coulon

**Absent:** Commissioner Ewell  
Enactment No: 23-044

## 11. Audience Questions & Comments

None.

## 12. New Business

None.

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

**Aye:** Chairperson Walton, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner  
Coulon

**Absent:** Commissioner Ewell

## 13. Adjournment

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting of June 8, 2023. The motion was adjourned unanimously.

[Finance Slides 06.08.23]

[23-106](#)