



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

Saturday, May 9, 2026

1:00 PM

RTA Board Room

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

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 Saturday, May 9, 1:00 p.m. Meetings start at the scheduled time, but may be delayed until a quorum of the Commissioners is present. The agency's website will stream the in-person meeting live, and wearing masks in the boardroom is optional.

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.

This meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. To help assure availability, modifications or accommodations linked to a disability must be requested 72 hours before the meeting or hearing. Please direct requests for public meeting accommodations to the Office of Board Affairs, 2817 Canal Street, NOLA 70119, or call 504-827-8341 or by email (rtaboard@rtaforward.org).

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Duplessis stated that she was very honored to serve as the Board Chair along with a diverse Board. This Board is committed to strengthening the governance and continuing to improve transparency and rebuilding trust in the agency.

This Special Board Meeting was called to take action after the Board discovered an amendment to Lona Hankins, CEO employee contract. This Board engaged independent counsel to review the CEO's employment contract as well as the amendment in question. The recommendations from the independent counsel will be discussed in Executive Session.

This Board will continue to do what is in the best interest of the agency and work diligence to make decisions that would put this agency in the best position to serve ridership, run effectively and efficiently and rebuild public trust in the RTA.

2. Roll Call

Commissioner Present: Commissioner Duplessis, Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Major and Commissioner Ramey

Commissioner Absent: Commissioner Casby and Commissioner Mann

3. Executive Session (2/3RDS VOTE TO CONSIDER)

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Ramey seconded to go into Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Ramey seconded to come out of Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

approved

- Personnel Matter: Review and Discussion of Employment Agreement and Amendment for Board-Appointed Official pursuant to La R.S. 42:17 (A)(1) for Lona Hankins, Chief Executive Officer.

adopted

[Executive Session Resolutions]

[26-063](#)

Commissioner Duplessis stated that the Board discussed three Resolutions in Executive Session. They are as follows:

To Determine Addendum 2 to the Chief Executive Officer's Employment Agreement to be of No Legal Force or Effect

Authorizing Negotiation of Separation Agreement with the Chief Executive Officer

Authorizing Retention of a National Search Firm for CEO Recruitment

Commissioner Duplessis stated that the final resolve regarding the CEO's Contract should be done by the next Board Meeting and she thanked the members for continuing to serve the Board and helping to rebuild the public trust in the RTA.

CEO Agreement Is Not Legal

[26-064](#)

This Resolution was read into the record. There were no public comments regarding this item.

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Ramey seconded To Determine Addendum 2 to the Chief Executive Officer's Employment Agreement to be of No Legal Force or Effect. Resolution No. 26-027 was adopted unanimously.

CEO Separation of Employment

[26-065](#)

The Resolution was read into the record. There were no public comments regarding this item

Commissioner Ramey moved and Commissioner Major seconded to Authorize Negotiation of Separation Agreement with the Chief Executive Officer. Resolution No. 26-028 was approved unanimously.

Recruitment of CEO Search

[26-066](#)

This Resolution was read into the record. There were no public comments regarding this item

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Guidry seconded to Authorize Retention of a National Search Firm for CEO Recruitment. Resolution No. 26-029 was adopted unanimously.

4. New Business (Unanimous Vote Required to Consider)

None

5. General Public Comments (Informational Items)

Alan Drake stated that there is a lack of experience dealing with the Maintenance of Streetcars. The RTA is not training the current staff to work on streetcars. The morale for the workers of the RTA is very low, and management needs to start training the current workers.

6. Adjournment

Commissioner Major moved and Commissioner Guidry seconded to adjourn the Special Board Meeting of May 9, 2026. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.

adjourned