



2817 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119

## New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

### Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, September 26, 2023

10:00 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 Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Please be advised that mask wearing is not mandatory 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](mailto: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 Raymond, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner DeFrancesch, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner LeBeouf, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Sams

**Commissioner Absent:** Commissioner Walton  
approved

#### 3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to approve the July 25, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

[July 25, 2023 Board Minutes]

[23-159](#)

#### 4. Reports

A. RTA Chairman's Report

No Report.

**B. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report**

No Report.

**C. Finance Committee Chairman's Report**

No Report.

**D. Jefferson Parish Report**

Commissioner Ewell gave the Jefferson Parish Report which can be found in the Powerpoint Presentation under Jefferson Parish Report dated September 26, 2023.

Commissioner Coulon stated that the RTA was providing Ferry Service for the Gretna Fest and Sundiata Haley stated that staff will be finalizing the CEA today.

**E. RTA General Counsel's Report**

Sundiata Haley stated that he will present his report in the Executive Session.

**F. RTA Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Lona Hankins introduced the Board to the new Rider Communication Campaign "Aunt RiTA" that reminds riders to reserve the priority seating for the elderly/disability community and along with the New Awareness Campaign it was also Rail Safety Week for Streetcars Safety. She also reported the Perley A. Thomas Streetcars will be 100 Year anniversary this year and the RTA was having a Block Party on Saturday, October 28th from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Carrollton Streetcar Barn.

The CEO also reported that Adonis Expose' was the Women's Business Enterprise Council (WBEC) Regional Advocate of the Year and Dwane Tillis was the Operator Employee and Daris Hollins was Maintenance Employee of the month for July. Keishawn Sinegal was the Operator Employee and Dwayne Detiege was the Maintenance Employee for the month of August.

The CEO concluded her report by stating that management and IBEW signed a four-year Contract which took place at the Carrollton Streetcar Barn and that the agency was closely monitoring the Saltwater Intrusion situation, the Federal Government shutdown, and the AUW Strike.

**G. Chief of Staff Legislative Update**

No report.

**H. Operations Update**

Christopher Clark gave the Operations Update. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, September 26, 2023, under the

### Operations Update.

Christopher Clark reported that the Hayne Route OTP has been in the 60% range and this line will continue to improve. He also reported that the Hayne Line was a popular route and the RTA does receive complaints on this route and staff was working with the scheduling team to adjust the schedules and the number of buses on this route. The current ridership for the Hayne Route was 4,600 for the month of July. Commissioner Neal stated this was a perfect time to adjust the schedule and get this route correct. Commissioner LeBeouf stated that the Hayne Route OTP needs to be better for its riders.

Commissioner Ewell also requested to have the operator come to the next Board Meeting so that the Board can acknowledge him for his act of heroism.

### I. RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report

Gizelle Banks gave the RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, September 26, 2023 under the Chief Financial Officer's Report.

Gizelle Banks reported that the Financials are always 2 months behind due to timing of the reports. Commissioner Coulon stated the Government Budgets are based on previous year expenses. The CFO also reported that the RTA's Financial System has been shut down for 2 weeks.

## 5. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda. Resolution No. 23-056 was adopted unanimously.

adopted

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the Parish of Jefferson (JP) and Regional Transit Authority for mobile ticketing integration (Le Pass) (REVISED)

[23-126](#)

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the CEA between the Parish of Jefferson and Regional Transit Authority for Mobile Ticketing Integration (Le Pass). Resolution No. 23-057 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-057

Change Order to Purchase Non-Revenue Support Vehicles: 7 Dodge RAM Trucks

[23-129](#)

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Change Order to Purchase Non-revenue Support Vehicles: 7 Dodge RAM Trucks. Resolution No. 23-058 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-058

Purchase of New Flyer Proprietary Parts [23-131](#)

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Purchase of New Flyer Proprietary Parts. Resolution No. 23-059 was adopted unanimously.

Change Order for Facility Maintenance & Construction Support Services with BRC Construction Group, LLC [23-135](#)

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Change Order for Facility Maintenance & Construction Support services with BRC Construction Group, LLC. Resolution No. 23-060 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-060

New Contract to Purchase a Welding Truck [23-139](#)

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the New Contract to Purchase a Welding Truck. Resolution No. 23-061 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-061

Strategic Mobility Plan - 2023 Update #1 [23-140](#)

Enactment No: 23-062

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the Parish of St. Bernard Government and the RTA [23-149](#)

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the CEA Between the Parish of St. Bernard Government and the Regional Transit Authority. Resolution No. 23-063 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-063

**6. Procurements**

A. Authorizations:

Service Trucks Purchase: 2 Non- Revenue Service Vehicles [23-146](#)

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adopt the Service Trucks Purchase: 2 Non-revenue Service Vehicles. Resolution No. 23-064 was adopted unanimously.

adopted

Enactment No: 23-064

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) #2 between Jefferson Parish to Permit an RTA Information Kiosk at the Wilty Terminal

[23-148](#)

In response to Commissioner LeBeouf, Lona Hankins reported that the \$83,205 was needed to allow the RTA to reimburse Jefferson Parish for the additional cost incurred to include RTA's riders' data in the Digital Kiosk located at Wilty Terminal and if additional locations are added it would be an amendment to this CEA.

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adopt the CEA #2 Between Jefferson Parish to permit an RTA Information Kiosk at the Wilty Terminal. Resolution No. 23-065 was adopted unanimously.

adopted

Enactment No: 23-065

Purchase of Non-Service Vehicles: Six (6) 3500 Series Trucks

[23-150](#)

In response to Commissioner Ewell, Lona Hankins reported that these trucks will be used by the Maintenance Employees.

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Purchase of Non-Service Vehicles: 6 3500 Series Trucks. Resolution No. 23-066 was adopted unanimously.

adopted

Enactment No: 23-066

Transfer Hubs Programming

[23-152](#)

Commissioner Neal recommended that the Consultant come and speak at a Riders Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting.

Commissioner LeBeouf moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Transfer Hubs Programming. Resolution No. 23-067 was adopted unanimously.

adopted

Enactment No: 23-067

Purchase of Two (2) 15-Passenger Service Vans

[23-154](#)

In response to Commissioner LeBeouf, Lona Hankins reported that the current 15-Passenger Van has reached its useful life and grant money

was available for 2 vans.

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch to adopt the Purchase of 2 15-Passenger Service Vans. Resolution No. 23-068 was adopted unanimously.

adopted

Enactment No: 23-068

B. Amendments:

Canal Street Ferry Terminal Project: Amendment Request [23-124](#)  
to Woodward-APC's Contract

In response to Commissioner Neal, Lona Hankins reported that the Amendment to the CEA with Audubon Commission for Additional Riverfront Enhancements goes along with this amendment. One amends the contract and the other amends the amount in the CEA with Audubon, so the numbers match the Contract and the CEA. The total amount of the amendment is \$666,435.

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Canal Street Ferry Terminal Project: Amendment Request to Woodward-APC's Contract. Resolution No. 23-069 was adopted unanimously.

adopted

Enactment No: 23-069

Amendment to CEA with Audubon Commission for [23-156](#)  
additional Riverfront enhancements

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Amendment to the CEA with Audubon Commission for additional Riverfront Enhancements. Resolution No. 23-070 was adopted unanimously.

adopted

Enactment No: 23-070

C. Ratifications:

Ratification of Contract Award for RTA Parametric [23-151](#)  
Insurance Coverage [2023-2024]

In response to Commissioner Ewell, Lona Hankins reported that this insurance will cover all Wind Events.

In response to Commissioner DeFrancesch, Lona Hankins reported that the RTA has continue to do its Due Diligence like it does for all storms.

Commissioner LeBeouf recommended that all items that need Board approval should be submitted in a timely fashion such as the Change Order for BRC Construction Group, LLC. She stated that the timing that staff move things forward should comply with the Board obligations.

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to adopt the Ratification of a Contract Award for RTA Parametric Insurance Coverage 2023-2024). Resolution No. 23-071 was adopted unanimously.  
adopted

Enactment No: 23-071

D. Grants:

FY23 TOD Pilot Program Grant Application

[23-157](#)

Commissioner LeBeouf moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the FY23 TOD Pilot Program Grant Application. Resolution No. 23-072 was adopted unanimously.

adopted

Enactment No: 23-071

## 7. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)

None

## 8. Audience Questions and Comments

Courtney Jackson stated that Ride represents riders and gave the Board comments from the everyday riders. Ride is an ally of the RTA and understands the issues that the RTA is currently dealing with and would like to work with the RTA. She stated that currently, the apps, maps and calling the Rideline is not working and this is affecting the operators because they are the first people that the riders see. The RTA need to get the necessary Information to the riders.

Courtney Jackson further stated that the LePass App is not working and getting the necessary information to the riders. Buses are breaking down and buses are not pulling out on-time in the morning and the app is not advising the public. The LePass App is not being updated in real time, so the riders don't know when the buses are running late. The RTA has a great staff and the Rideline is not getting the necessary information to tell the public. Commissioner Neal added that if the buses are on schedule the app works great but if buses are late the app is not notifying the riding public.

Sam Buckley stated that the RTA does not have enough working buses to run service and the RTA need to cut runs to run service and Ride is concerned that the riders are not getting the necessary information on the late buses. Sam Buckley stated that if a route has a 80% OTP but 20% of that service is cut that is not being reflected in the 80% stats. The data about service cuts need to be made available to the riding public. The Board needs to be made

aware of the feedback from the riding public.

Rev. Lawrence Williams, Field Supervisor for the RTA for 47 Years and is at this meeting to support the Union of Administrative Employees that need to be unionized. The Field Supervisor are hourly employees and feel that they should be a part of the Union.

David Thompson, Local Organizer for Local 100 - and the RTA was fighting its own employees. When negotiations was supposed to begin and Management revoked the recognition of the majority of the members and 4 Unfair Labor Practicing with NLRB. He stated that Management needs to stop fighting the Safety Analyst, Administrative Employees, Operations and Mechanic Supervisors and allow them to be a part of the Union.

Tierai E. Clarke read a letter from Women of Action ATU Women's Caucus NOLA in support of the Union this letter can be found in the Meeting File.

Gilda Washington read a letter from the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People that can be found in the Meeting File.

Kory Dupre stated that he agrees with Ride on the OTP. When the buses are broken the operators get the brunt of the complaints. Management is not dealing with grievances in a timely manner some operators have not received money that is owed to them since the signing of the ATU Contract.

Brenda Holmes stated that she does not understand why the RTA does not want the Route #80 to go to Canal Street and the route has been adjusted to run until 11:30 at night. The RTA need buses and don't understand what the riders experience when trying to ride the system.

In response to a question from Commissioner Raymond regarding new buses, Lona Hankins reported that the RTA will not receive delivery of the new buses until June 2024.

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

Commissioner LeBeouf moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to approve to go into Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority vs The Regional Transit Authority (Number: 2021-04470)

Gerard Guter

ULU Local 100

Personnel Matters

[PowerPoint Presentation 09.26.23]

[23-163](#)

## **10. Adjournment**



Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to return to regular session and adjourn the September 26, 2023, Board Meeting. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.

approved