



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

10:00 AM

RTA Board Room

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, May 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Please be advised that masks inside the boardroom is encouraged.

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 Raymond, Commissioner Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner DeFrancesch, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner LeBeouf

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes from April 25, 2023

approved

Board Minutes

[**23-085**](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved, and Commissioner Ewell seconded to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2022. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Reports

A. RTA Chairman's Report

Commissioner Raymond stated that the 15th Annual ADA/Senior Hurricane

Emergency Preparedness Meeting was held and the lessons that was learned with Hurricane Ida was shared at this meeting. The RTA played a variable part in evacuating the Senior/Nursing Homes around the City when the power was lost.

Commissioner Raymond stated that the Board will have a summer retreat and should have a date at the June Board Meeting.

B. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report

Commissioner Neal stated that the Summer Pick was presented at the Operations Committee Meeting and at the RAC Meeting staff received a lot of feedback from the riding public regarding bus service and at this meeting there will be an update on the Temporary Signage.

C. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

No Report.

D. Jefferson Parish Report

Commissioner Ewell gave the Jefferson Parish Report. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, May 23, 2023, under the Jefferson Parish Report.

E. RTA General Counsel's Report

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

F. RTA Chief Executive Officer's Report

Lona Hankins reported that the RTA had its Hurricane Preparedness Meeting with the Community, and the RTA signed the CEA with the City of Kenner for Hurricane Preparedness.

Lona Hankins reported that the IBEW Contract expires at the end of June and staff was still negotiating the contract terms. Also, Management is fully aware that some ATU employees are due retro pay and staff was working on those payments to make sure that all payments were accurate.

Lona Hankins reported that the Summer Schedules are available for the June 4, 2023 Summer Service Adjustments.

Lona Hankins reported that the Temporary Signage has been delivered and are being placed around the City and the Permanent Signs are on order and staff has to figure out a Long Term Signage Strategy.

Lona Hankins reported that the Operator of the Month was Joseph James, and the Maintenance Employee of the Month was Emile Fisher.

G. Chief of Staff Legislative Update

Katherine Felton, Chief of Staff gave the Legislative Report. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, May 23, 2023, under the Chief of Staff Legislative Update Report.

In response to Commissioner Ewell, Lona Hankins reported that she believes that the City Council was going to start a pilot program for youths to ride the system for free, but the RTA can't afford to go to zero fares for the youth. The RTA has already reduced the fares for the youth and the RTA will have a meeting with the Council to discuss all the details.

Commissioner Walton stated that today the City Council was creating the fund for this program and will take a vote on this item at Thursday's Meeting.

Commissioner Raymond stated that the Council intention was to have the RTA at the table to discuss this program.

Commissioner Raymond stated that May was Mental Awareness Month and RTA has placed Pause, Breath Signs with a QRCode on all the buses.

H. Operations Update

Christopher Clark presented the RTA's Chief Transit Officer's Report. This report can be found in the Chief Transit Officer's PowerPoint Report dated, May 23, 2023, under the Chief Transit Officer's Report.

Christopher Clark reported that staff was aware of the environment that the Operators has to function in on a daily basis, and has taken into consideration that the operators can have personal issues going on in their lives, so staff is taking the time to teach the operators to better compartmentalize their issues.

I. RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report

Gizelle Banks presented the RTA's Chief Financial Officer's Report. This report can be found in the Chief Financial Officer's Report PowerPoint Report dated, May 23, 2023, under the Chief Financial Officer's Report.

In response to Commissioner Raymond, Gizelle Banks reported that what was on the report was the interest from the Bond Funds.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Gizelle Banks reported that the RTA was never fully staffed and always has vacancies.

In response to Commissioner Raymond, Ryan Moser reported that staff was working on a staffing plan to meet service and get training for staff and next month some Procurement Items will be brought before the Board for solutions that will result in

Blanket POs.

Lona Hankins reported that funding will be obligated by FTA to allow staff to order the hybrid vehicles and additional Paratransit Vehicles.

Lona Hankins reported that staff would like to request an emergency procurement to bring in traveling mechanics to help with fixing the buses.

In response to Commissioner DeFrancesch, Ryan Moser reported that you can get steel parts, but was having problems with electronic parts.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Lona Hankins reported that once staff was out of critical mode, then she would like to introduce a private vendor that would house the necessary parts that the RTA would need.

Commissioner Ewell stated that the RTA needs parts and the RTA need to address this issue immediately.

Commissioner Raymond stated that this was an important discussion to have so that the public could understand the RTA's issues.

[March 2023 Financials]

[23-076](#)

5. Consideration of Insurance Resolution

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Mark Major reported that all these policies have deductibles, and all claims are submitted to the underwriters through the brokers.

Commissioner Coulon moved, and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adopt the Various RTA Insurance Coverages 2023-2024. Resolution No. 23-033 was adopted unanimously.
adopted

Various RTA Insurance Coverages 2023-2024

[23-084](#)

Enactment No: 23-033

6. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda. Resolution No. 23-024 was adopted unanimously.

adopted

August Building Maintenance (ABM) Janitorial Services Contract
Extension

[23-042](#)

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to adopt the August Building Maintenance (ABM) Janitorial Services Contract Extension. Resolution No. 23-035 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-035

Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire 2022

[23-062](#)

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to adopt the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire 2022. Resolution No. 23-036 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-036

Canal Street Camera Refresh

[23-066](#)

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to adopt the Canal Street Camera Refresh. Resolution No. 23-036 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-037

7. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)

None.

8. Audience Questions and Comments

Brenda Holmes - Desire/Louisa Line should be brought back to Canal Street - According to the Guidebook that she was given the #80 service was pulled back - St. Bernard bus line no longer passes on Mirabeau.

Courtney Jackson - La Pass App - real time does not work - when will that start to work - June 4, 2023 Jefferson Parish will cut some routes and important that app works.

Sam Buckley -Concerns about the Service Reductions that RTA and Jefferson Parish was implementing - Ride was concern that these were Service Cuts that was happening on June 4, 2023 - Ride would like to make sure that the public was fully aware of these Service Cuts.

Reginald Rowe, SEAL Security - Late payments since 2021 and would like a resolution.

Commissioner Raymond stated that as Leaders the Board set the tone and culture and the Board has heard the complaints and concerns of the riding public and the public will see improvements across the Board.

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

Commissioner Coulon moved, and Commissioner Neal moved to go into Executive Session regarding
Personnel Matters.

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to come out of Executive Session.

approved

Personnel Matters

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to adjourn the Board Meeting of May 23, 2023. The motion was adjourned unanimously.

[05.23.23 Board Meeting Slides]

[23-094](#)