



2817 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119

## **New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners**

### **Meeting Minutes - Draft**

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**Tuesday, July 29, 2025**

**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, July 29, 2025 at 10:00 a.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](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.

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](mailto:rtaboard@rtaforward.org)).

#### **1. Call to Order**

#### **2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners Present:** Commissioner Colin, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Guidry, Commissioner Neal, Commissioner Sams and Commissioner Walton

**Commissioner Absent:** Commissioner Moore

**Present:** Chairperson Fred Neal, Vice-Chairman Art Walton, Commissioner Flozell Daniels, Commissioner Louis Colin, Commissioner Mitchell Guidry, and Commissioners Timolyn Sams

**Absent:** Commissioner Mariah Moore

### 3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

[Board Meeting Minutes - June 24, 2025]

[25-097](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to approve the Meeting Minutes from June 24, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

**Aye:** Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin, Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioners Sams

**Absent:** Commissioner Moore

### 4. Informational Reports

#### A. RTA Chairman's Report

Commissioner Neal stated that RTA appreciates the riding public and the employees that keep the buses running and transportation is very important to the City of New Orleans.

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

None.

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

None.

#### D. RTA General Counsel's Report

This report will be handled in the Executive Session Report.

#### 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:**

Employees of the Month for July were recognized.

#### Summer Youth Intern Programs

The RTA has partnered with the Summer Youth Force NOLA Program for the past 4 years and partnered with Stem NOLA for the past two years. Commissioner Sams would like staff to keep the youth engaged in the transit system.

Algiers Service Improvement Plan

The public meetings regarding the Algiers Service Plan will take place on Wednesday, August 6, 14, 27 and September 3, 2025.

With upcoming service changes focused on Algiers, Commissioner Guidry asked staff to conduct an assessment post New Links on the entire network that includes riders input. Commissioner Neal stated that the original measure of success for New Links is at the 3-year mark. Commissioner Colin stated that staff should reach out to other transit agencies for input when reviewing New Links.

Commissioner Daniels stated that currently there is contention between the operators and the schedulers that he would like to see addressed in the assessment.

Agency Updates

RTA appeared before the City Council's Transportation Committee on July 22, 2025 Oscar Duplessis was promoted as the Director of Mobility and Alternative Modes Hurricane Preparedness activities are underway

Intergovernmental Affairs

Closely watching the THUD Appropriations Bill and ACT 511

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.

**Report Highlights - Operations:**Staff Announcements

Oscar Duplessis successfully completed a nationally competitive process for the position of Director of Mobility.

Labor Meetings

A labor management meeting was held and both sides stated that the meeting was very productive.

Planning & Scheduling

Commissioner Guidry commented on transit schedules. He stated that historically schedules were built around the number of operators and buses available. Cm Guidry also suggested a change with the organizational structure, stating that the Scheduling Department should be reporting to the Operations Department.

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.

## 5. Full Discussion/Action Items

### A. Authorizations

RTA's Annual DBE Goal for Fiscal Years 2026-2028

[25-072](#)

The Annual DBE Goal for Fiscal Year 2026-2028 is being increased from 32% to 34%. Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Daniels seconded to adopt the DBE Goal for Fiscal Years 2026-2028. Resolution No. 25-037 was adopted unanimously.

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

**Aye:** Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton,  
Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin,  
Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioners Sams

**Absent:** Commissioner Moore  
Enactment No: 25-037

Renewal of Excess Liability, Automobile Physical  
Damage, and Cyber Insurance [2025-2026]

[25-082](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Renewal of Excess Liability, Automobile Physical Damage, and Cyber Insurance 2025-2026. Resolution No. 25-038 was adopted unanimously.

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

**Aye:** Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton,  
Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin,  
Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioners Sams

**Absent:** Commissioner Moore  
Enactment No: 25-038

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between The  
University of New Orleans (UNO) and Regional Transit  
Authority (RTA)

[25-083](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the CEA between the University of New Orleans and RTA. Resolution No. 25-039 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Walton, seconded by Sams and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton,  
Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin,  
Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioners Sams

**Absent:** Commissioner Moore  
Enactment No: 25-039

TMSEL Board of Trustees Appointment - Jesse Evans [25-095](#)

Commissioner Guidry asked why more information regarding the TMSEL Board of Trustees Appointment was not provided to the Board prior to the vote. The Chief Legal Officer stated that Mr. Evans has an extensive history with the City of New Orleans' Pension Plan. Commissioner Neal stated that he will make sure as Chairman to get the necessary information to the former TMSEL employees.

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the TMSEL Board of Trustees Appointment. Resolution No. 25-040 was adopted unanimously.

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

**Aye:** Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton,  
Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin,  
Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioners Sams

**Absent:** Commissioner Moore  
Enactment No: 25-040

#### B. Procurements

Zero-Emission Bus Architectural and Engineering Services [25-086](#)

Commissioner Colin moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to adopt the Zero-Emission Bus Architectural and Engineering Services. Resolution No. 25-041 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Colin, seconded by Vice-Chairman Walton and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton,  
Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin,  
Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioners Sams

**Absent:** Commissioner Moore  
Enactment No: 25-041

Purchase of Replacement Modems for Streetcar [25-088](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to

adopt the Purchase of Replacement Modems for Streetcars. Resolution No. 25-042 was adopted unanimously.

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

**Aye:** Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton,  
Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin,  
Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioners Sams

**Absent:** Commissioner Moore  
Enactment No: 25-042

Mobile Application Contract Extension, Token Transit [25-090](#)

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Mobile Application Contract Extension, Token Transit. Resolution No. 25-043 was adopted unanimously.

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

**Aye:** Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton,  
Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin,  
Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioners Sams

**Absent:** Commissioner Moore  
Enactment No: 25-043

Mobile Application Contract Extension, Moovit [25-091](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the Mobile Application Contract Extension, Moovit. Resolution No. 25-044 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Walton, seconded by Commissioner Colin and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton,  
Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin,  
Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioners Sams

**Absent:** Commissioner Moore  
Enactment No: 25-044

Award contract to Landmark Consulting LLC to assist with the development and implementation of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Project [25-096](#)

Commissioner Guidry asked why this was being outsourced rather than

written by staff. The CFO responded by saying that the RTA has the capacity to write SOPs, but this consultant will be analyzing the Safety and Operating SOPs since there have been a lot of accidents on the rail side.

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Development and Implementation of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Project to Landmark Consulting, LLC.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Walton, seconded by Sams and approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton,  
Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin,  
Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioners Sams

**Absent:** Commissioner Moore  
Enactment No: 25-044

#### C. Grants (Ratification)

FY25 Buses and Bus Facilities FTA Grant Application

[25-078](#)

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Colin seconded to adopt the FY25 Buses and Bus Facilities FTA Grant Application. Resolution 25-045 was adopted unanimously.

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

**Aye:** Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton,  
Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Colin,  
Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioners Sams

**Absent:** Commissioner Moore  
Enactment No: 25-046

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

None.

#### 7. Audience Questions and Comments

Alan Drake submitted a letter to the Board regarding Hurricane Evacuation. This can be found in the Board of Commissioners Meeting Folder.

Ms. Thompkins asked that the Board bring back the Paratransit Meetings that were held once a month for the Paratransit Riders/Fix Route Riders. The fixed route riders were having issues with fixed route bus stops, with no sidewalks, making it impossible for Paratransit riders using fixed route to get to the bus stops. The Paratransit operators don't consider the passengers on the buses when operating Paratransit Buses and hit every bump in the streets. The train

along St. Claude makes the commute longer and RTA staff does not communicate with staff to make the commute better for the riders.

Rodney Baptiste stated that the new Paratransit Operators need more training dealing with the visual and hearing-impaired Paratransit Passengers. The operators are very rude and he has changed his schedule multiple times to avoid riding with a certain operator.

Commissioner Neal stated that there was an Equity and Access Committee Meeting held in July that addresses issues with Paratransit and the next meeting is scheduled during the month of October.

Ms. Jasmine stated she does Civil Disobedience in the streets every night with public transit and would like some office space in the RTA building to report on Human Trafficking. She stated that the operators either don't let her on the bus, make her get off the buses or keep her on the bus past her stop.

Commissioner Neal asked Ms. Jasmine to share her experience with him and he will deal with her issues.

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

Commissioner Daniels moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to go into Executive Session on:

BRC Construction Group, LLC v. RTA CDC No.: 2024-03335

Mark A. Major v. New Orleans Regional Transit Authority, et al.; CDC#2025-06065; Div "L"

The motion was approved unanimously.

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

This was approved.

BRC Construction Group, LLC v. RTA – CDC No.: 2024-03335

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Walton, seconded by Sams and approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton,  
Commissioner Daniels, and Commissioners Sams

**Absent:** Commissioner Colin, and Commissioner Moore

**Abstain:** Commissioner Guidry

[07.29.25 Board Meeting PowerPoint Presentation]

[25-103](#)

Mark A. Major v. New Orleans Regional Transit Authority, et al.; CDC# 2025-06065;  
Div "L"

No action was taken on this matter.

**9. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Walton, seconded by Commissioner Daniels and adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

<b>Aye:</b>	Chairperson Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Guidry, and Commissioners Sams
<b>Absent:</b>	Commissioner Colin, and Commissioner Moore