

OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021 9:00 AM

COMMISSIONER PRESENT: Chairman Fred Neal, Jr, Commissioner Walter Tillery, Commissioner Laura Bryan, and Commissioner Sharon Wegner

OTHER COMMISSIONER PRESENT: Chairman Daniels and Commissioner Raymond

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.
2. **Roll Call:** A quorum was confirmed
3. **Consideration: Minutes December 3, 2020**
Commissioner Tillery moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 meeting. Motion was adopted unanimously.

4. **Consideration: Committee Chairman's Report**
Chairman Daniels stated that the RTA was in the best place that it has been in for years and the RTA has an extraordinary team and the Board will work together with staff to come up with some creative solutions to deal with the challenges that the RTA will face in 2021.

Commissioner Neal stated that 2021 was going to be an exciting year for the RTA and he was excited to see the RTA provide the best equitable transit available.

5. **Consideration: RTA's Chief Executive Officer's Report**
Alex Wiggins reported that Chairman Daniels facilitated a conversation between staff and Dr. Corey Herbert regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and employees had the opportunity to ask questions about the vaccine. The vaccine would be highly recommended but will not be mandatory.

Mr. Wiggins reported that the RTA will continue to operate the level of service it is currently running which is at 80%. And, that the RTA did receive a 2nd round of CARES Act Funding which was \$26 Million.

Mr. Wiggins also reported that in 2021 staff was going to focus on On-Time Performance. And that the transition between RTA and Transdev went very smooth and he was going to conduct small group sessions to talk to staff.

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6. Consideration: Chief Operations Officer's Report

Thomas Stringer gave the Monthly Status Report presenting information on ridership and on-time performance. There was a slightly dip in ridership for the month of November due to the holidays. On-Time performance; bus 63%, streetcar 72% and paratransit 92% for the month of November and staff has put in place a team that was going to do the metrics to include the what, whys and how do we make the necessary corrections for On-time Performance and some of the data that staff was collecting was not 100% accurate and there is a lot of different components that's affecting the On-Time Performance.

Commissioner Neal asked that staff identify the intersections where most preventable accidents were taking place.

Mr. Stringer reported that the RTA assisted with a four-alarm fire and two supervisors made sure that the victims of the fire had food and assisted with keeping them out the cold.

In response to Commissioner Raymond, Thomas Stringer stated that he would have to investigate if Paratransit riders can use the GoMobile Application for rides.

7. Consideration: Ferry Operations Update

Jose Ruiz reported that the Canal Street Ferry completed 97% of its scheduled trips and the Chalmette Ferry completed 99% of its scheduled trips and for the month of October ridership for the Canal Street Ferry doubled from the prior month and has been steady for the month of November and during the month of September, October, and November the Chalmette Ferry had an increase in ridership.

Commissioner Neal would like to have a detailed report on the Ferry presented at the Operations and Administration Meeting in the next few months.

In response to Commissioner Neal, Jose Ruiz stated that people were relaying on the Chalmette Ferry when other modes of transportation was not operating.

8. Consideration: Security Report

Robert Hickman reported that for the month of December they were 5 arrest and handled 43 calls for service and issued 8 citations.

Robert Hickman reported that the City of New Orleans has an issue with Homeless and the RTA has asked different City Agencies to assist with getting the homeless off the streets and out of the RTA shelters.

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Commissioner Bryan stated that she was glad to know that the RTA was treating the homeless as people and it was a great thing to hear how our staff help the victims of the fire.

Commissioner Wegner would like to recognize the two supervisors at the Board Meeting.

9. Infrastructure and Planning Report

Lona Hankins gave the following report on active capital projects:

Shelter Program: The RTA has completed the installation of 24 shelters. A vehicle hit the shelter at Canal and Magazine and a replacement shelter will replace the destroyed shelter.

In response to Commissioner Neal, Lona Hankins reported that staff was trying to figure out how to create a robust shelter program for 2021 an Engineering Firm should be brought on to help the planning team. Ms. Hankins also reported that she was in conversation with DPW and was trying to figure the lines of responsibilities between the RTA and DPW.

Chairman Daniels stated that housing and transit should go together, and transit should make sure that people have access to jobs and education.

Commissioner Wegner thanked Lona Hankins for implementing a shelter plan.

St. Charles Streetcar Line: ADA Improvements to Six Stops: The Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of New Orleans will be executed at the Board Meeting to pay the City and the contract could be closed out.

Canal Street Ferry Terminal Project: Woodward has completed the demolition of the hammerhead and staircase and Woodward was surveying the site and preparing the site for the test piles. The State Fire Marshall (SFM) has approved the changes to the Temporary Berthing Design.

Replacement of AC in the IT Server Room: A Change Order was needed to do small modifications and the completed scheduled date is January 30, 2021.

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Canal Street Riverfront Streetcar: The Board has approved the contract and staff was waiting for the Notice-To-Proceed for the Riverfront Track Installation and the Pole Painting

Canal Street Facility Sewer Line: Four Bids was received for this project.

SIS Building: Staff was moving some funds around so this project can begin.

ENO Exterior Envelope Repair: Staff was able to move some funding around to proceed with the advisement of this project.

Algiers Ferry Terminal: Staff was completing the analysis from the information received from the Engineering Firm to either replaced or repair the barge.

Napoleon Facility: Staff was still waiting on FEMA and the SHIPO consultant was reviewing this project.

Carrollton Double Crossover: The Change Order was issued to Infinity to get started on finalizing the design.

In response to Commissioner Bryan, Lona Hankins reported that the Legal staff would deal with recovering the necessary funds from the Hard Rock Collapse.

10. Consideration: New Business

None

11. Consideration: Audience Questions & Comments

PLEASE NOTE: Persons wishing to submit public comments must either enter their full name in the chat sections of the Zoom meeting to provide comments during the meeting or email your comments to rtaboard@rtaforward.org to have your comments read aloud at the meeting.

Courtney Jackson stated that transit was one of the many pillars of the community and she was glad to see that the RTA was caring for the homeless community and that transit riders was excited to hear about the long term planning regarding but stop and bus shelters and the public understands that there would be some moving parts and some flexibility will be needed on the

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planning side but riders need shelters now and the public would like to see a scheduled timeline for the bus shelters.

Valerie Jefferson thanked Thomas String for recognizing the RTA's employees that are doing a great job and Mr. Sting and the union was working on the new schedule pick that would decrease the crowding on the buses and have a better On-Time Performance. Ms. Jefferson also stated that she was glad to hear about the comfort stations for the operations and the help the RTA was trying to give to the homeless population.

Jim Goodwin stated that he was glad that the Ferry Metrix was developed ahead of schedule and on the RTA's website and the Canal Ferry Terminal states that there are three phases to the project but there are only two on the website.

In response to Jim Goodwin, Lona Hankins stated that the Ferry Terminal will be based on life cycle cost.

12. Consideration: Adjournment

Commissioner Tillery moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to adjourn the Operations and Administration Meeting of January 14, 2021. The motion was approved unanimously.