

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

The Board of Directors of the Regional Transportation Authority met in public session on Thursday, January 18, 2018- in Suite 1650, 175 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois pursuant to notice.

Chairman Dillard called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

ROLL CALL

Board members present (14): Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega (phone), Fuentes, Higgins, Hobson, Kotel, Lewis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, Troiani (phone), Chairman Dillard

Board members absent (2): Anderson, Magalis

Prior to the start of the regular meeting, Chairman Dillard and Board remembered Mary McDonald, a former RTA Board member who recently passed away.

Approval of minutes from the meeting held on December 14, 2017

Director Pang moved, and Director DeWitte seconded that the minutes from the meeting held on December 14, 2017 be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

14 Ayes: Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins, Hobson, Kotel, Lewis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, Troiani, Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Anderson, Magalis

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Leanne Redden began by informing the Board that the state owes the RTA \$440.8 million. She reiterated the work the agency's government relations department has done to obtain language in the budget agreement that resulted in us receiving regular monthly PTF payments. She stated that state budget cuts in conjunction with a decline in sales tax collection combined to reduce the regional transit budget by close to \$100 million dollars in 2017. And, she stated that the region is looking at a similar budget gap this year.

She highlighted the spirit of collaboration that was the one "bright spot" during this difficult budgetary time. Specifically, she stated: The Finance and Information Technology Department worked with the Service Boards to assure the regional budgets are balanced and approved on time. The Planning and Capital Programming staff developed the annual and five year capital plan. The four transit agency Executive Directors worked together to manage through what was a crisis funding year.

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FEBRUARY 15, 2018**

She continued to note that both of the 2017 debt issuances reflected the quality of RTA's credit. The RTA issued up to \$250 million of two-year direct placement working cash notes to help manage continued State funding delays. The agency received three competitive bids for this work with Wells Fargo offering the best terms. The RTA issued a \$191 million current refunding bond last August that will result in present value savings of just over \$33 million over the life of the bond. Looking ahead to 2018 and beyond, the RTA plans to issue \$150 million of bonds in 2018 and \$158 million in 2020 to continue to support Service Board capital programs.

Ms. Redden took a moment to refer to Regional Transit Strategic Plan again as a major 2017 agency initiative and also mentioned that the team worked with the Service Boards early last year to perform a customer satisfaction survey. More than 21,000 respondents completed the survey. The findings show that overall, customers are satisfied with the services provided by the Service Boards.

Ms. Redden then discussed the *2016 Capital Asset Condition Assessment* report. This report substantiated the need to invest \$2-3 billion per year to maintain and renew the region's extensive transit network, which is more than double what we have now.

Ms. Redden then stated that because of the state's fiscal crisis and no new capital funding, the RTA spent a lot of time last year working with IDOT and the Service Boards to come up with a prioritized list of capital projects that align with a revised funding program and worked to accelerate the cash draw down from the estimated cash flow plan for those projects.

Ms. Redden said the agency also continues to work with Amtrak, Metra, and the City of Chicago to restore Union Station. The work she outlined includes: planning and engineering for a number of Master Plan projects that will be completed early this year. These include station and platform capacity expansion, and track operation improvements. She stated that the next steps include: completing the engineering, prioritizing improvements, and identifying and pursuing funding opportunities.

Ms. Redden stated the RTA also worked with the Service Boards to add 81 new directional signs for those who travel through Union Station. That signage project received some good media coverage on CBS-TV, channel 2.

Besides advocating for more transit funding, the RTA was hard at work helping communities become more transit-friendly. Ms. Redden explained the Community Planning Program, which celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2018, selected projects to help suburbs like Schiller Park and Mundelein use their transit assets to enhance economic development. Staff provided the Board with an overview of the program in 2017. She added that the work was highlighted in the Chicago Tribune, in a piece about Bartlett's TOD plan.

Next, she highlighted the agency's Mobility Services department. In 2017, a new county-based Mobility Outreach team began its work. This group travels the region to make presentations and attend events at agencies that serve people with disabilities, older adults and students. Ms. Redden said the staff continues to provide assessments for the ADA Paratransit program at two Assessment Centers; the South Side center was featured last July in a Tribune article about ADA Paratransit service.

The RTA processes about 18,000 ADA paratransit applications and renewals each year; there are about 60,000 regional riders eligible for the program. Last year, the Travel Training program worked with approximately 160 individuals to help them gain independence on public transit last year. The agency also released a mobility services video series to help riders learn about transit's accessibility. It's on our U-tube channel.

The highlights of the agency's 2017 work was also included. The legal department performed important work, including: Spearheading the agency's work on the FTA's 2017 Triennial Review. The review looked at virtually every aspect of our operations. Overall, we passed with flying colors. Also, in conjunction with the CTA, Metra, Pace, IDOT and the Tollway, the RTA is once again hosting the Annual Transportation Symposium his event fosters business relationships between potential vendors and transit agencies. This year, it was a 3- part- event that culminates with the final event in Rosemont on February 23rd.

Next, Ms. Redden reported that the HR team worked with IT to implement a new online benefit enrollment system, making it easier to enroll in and view our benefits package. Ms. Redden also said that the agency's HR team developed a Chicago Public Schools high school intern program. Six high school students were assigned to the RTA and the program was a success. Work on the Enterprise Resource Planning (or ERP) system is continuing.

She then stated that the IT team successfully implemented a redundant architecture for internet access, assuring the agency has uninterrupted internet access.

Ms. Redden mentioned that several departments are working together to look at the agency's physical work space. The RTA had considered moving its offices but for a variety of reasons, chose to stay. However the agency is assessing how it physical space impacts day to day efficiency.

The last department she touched on was the marketing and communications department. This group continues to promote transit ridership and the important work of the RTA. She specifically highlighted the regional participation in the 12th annual "Dump the Pump" initiative and Car Free Day! 2017 saw the sunset of our regional Ride On ad campaign. Some of the ads are still in the marketplace. The agency is planning to do market research this year to identify our next steps in advertising. The RTA also continues to expand its social media presence.

Twitter followers grew by 30% last year (now nearly 3,000) and our Facebook follower grew by 15% (now nearly 6,000). There were more than 100 blog posts last year and views keep rising.

Ms. Redden concluded by saying she was proud of the RTA team and the work we did with the Service Boards in 2017. She then said we all have more on our plate in 2018, with funding being our number one priority. There are tough questions that need to be answered: How do we find a dedicated, reliable annual source of capital funding? How do we deal with the decrease in operating funding? And finally, how will we find the funding our system requires and riders deserve?

She said she wants to work together with the Service Boards to answer these questions in the coming year.

Consent Agenda

Director Pang moved, and Director Fuentes seconded the adoption of the following ordinance as included in the Consent Agenda:

2018-01 This ordinance approves the reappointment of one non-employee Trustee, Frank Paul, to the RTA Pension Board of Trustees.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

14 Ayes: Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins, Hobson, Kotel, Lewis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, Troiani, Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Anderson, Magalis

Director Higgins requested the following ordinance be voted separately from the Consent Agenda.

2018-02 This ordinance adopts the *Invest in Transit: The 2018-2023 Regional Transit Strategic Plan* that is the region's case for pursuing stable and dedicated funding streams that will enable the Transit Agencies to provide vital public transit into the future.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

13 Ayes: Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Hobson, Kotel, Lewis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, Troiani, Chairman Dillard

1 Nay: Higgins

2 Absent: Anderson, Magalis

Contracts/Expenditure Items

Director Lewis moved, and Director Melvin seconded the adoption of the following ordinances and approval of Board travel expenditures as submitted:

- 2018-03 This ordinance authorizes an increase to the original financial advisory services contracts of \$500,000 by \$150,000 with firms and consortiums that serve as financial advisors to the RTA. This will allow the RTA to execute the planned repayment of the existing 2016C working cash notes due in April 2018 by reissuing 2018A working cash notes. It will also allow for the planned issuance of the 2018B long-term bonds, already programmed in the Service Boards capital program.
- 2018-04 This ordinance authorizes the execution of a 36-month contract with Grace Printing and Mailing for an amount not to exceed \$729,770.18 to provide agency-wide printing, fulfillment, storage and lamination services. This contract assists the RTA in managing printing, storage and mailing house services of all of the Mobility Services Department customer program materials, storage, fulfillment, lamination and mailing of RTA system maps and printing of all RTA stationery.
- 2018-05 This ordinance authorizes an amendment to the contract with Brisk Business, Inc. for project management services. The amendment would award Brisk Business, Inc. the task of providing project management services in support of the RTA's ERP Implementation Project for a cost not to exceed \$250,000.

The motion carried on the following leave for last unanimous roll call vote.

14 Ayes: Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins, Hobson, Kotel, Lewis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, Troiani, Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Anderson, Magalis

EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the public session of the Board, Chairman Dillard asked RTA General Counsel Nadine Lacombe to cite the exception for the closed session. Ms. Lacombe cited IOMA Section 2(c)(1) as the exception. Director Durante then moved, and Director DeWitte seconded that the meeting move into Executive Session and adjourn from there. The motion carried on the following leave for last unanimous roll call vote.

The public portion of meeting ended at 10:30 p.m.

Audrey MacLennan

AUDREY MACLENNAN

Secretary of the Authority