

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

The **Planning & Administration Committee** of the Board of Directors of the Regional Transportation Authority met in public session on **Thursday, January 18, 2018**, at 9:05 a.m., in Suite 1650, 175 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois, pursuant to notice.

Committee Chairman Fuentes presided.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present (7): Frega (phone), Durante, Fuentes, Higgins, Hobson, Pang, Ross

Other Board members present: Coulson, DeWitte, Kotel, Lewis, Melvin, Troiani (phone), Chairman Dillard

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

Director Durante moved, and Director Hobson 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:

7 Yeas: Directors Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins, Hobson, Pang, Ross

Update on the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) initiative

Mr. Mark Minor briefed the committee on the status of the RTA's ERP Initiative, which is focused on improving agency productivity and enhancing the agency's technology. The initiative began in the fall of 2016 and the RTA is currently in the middle of negotiating with vendors to select the ERP solution it intends to purchase. The ERP will streamline over 90 business processes, improve reporting and reduce operational risk. The ERP Project Management Team has engaged staff from nearly all agency departments on this initiative, which is expected to Go Live in 2019.

Director Hobson asked about integration with the Service Boards. Mr. Minor explained this is something that will be addressed as the initiative progresses.

Director Higgins asked about data security. Mr. Minor responded this is being covered through a secure cloud solution that resides within the United States and addresses the findings from the cybersecurity audit.

Director Frega asked how many proposals were received. Mr. Minor responded eight were received.

Director Melvin asked about quantifying the benefits of investing in an RFP. Mr. Minor responded this will be taken up when the procurement for the software and implementation services is brought before the Board in early 2018.

Ordinance adopting Invest in Transit: The 2018-2023 Regional Transit Strategic Plan

Ms. Jill Leary gave an overview of *Invest in Transit*, the final 2018-2023 strategic plan. *Invest in Transit* 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 provided document, *Invest in Transit Priority Projects*, outlines and describes specific capital priorities for CTA, Metra, and Pace that are currently underfunded. Ms. Leary then provided an overview of the vision, goals, and brief comments about the process. She concluded her presentation by thanking the Service Boards for providing invaluable input and participating in a very collaborative effort. She also acknowledged the executive leadership at the RTA and the staff that lead the effort.

Next, the respective leadership of the CTA, Metra, and Pace gave remarks regarding the Plan. In turn President Carter from the CTA, CEO Jim Derwinski from Metra, and Executive Director TJ Ross from Pace spoke about the importance of the plan, collaboration, and working towards implementation. Finally, Ms. Leanne Redden discussed the next steps as we work towards determining how to pursue and secure additional investment for transit. She closed by thanking the Board for their input and participation with the strategic plan process and opened it up to the Board for questions.

Director Pang mentioned Mr. Dorval's comments on Amazon and that the reason companies stay or move to this region is due to its dynamic nature, not only in Chicago, but also in the suburbs. The difference in the choices of housing and affordability and transit are also in that equation. If Amazon were not to pick the Chicago region, it would be because of the fractious political environment. She stated that the RTA should pull this story together quickly because of the companies and employees already in this region and opportunities to get HQ2 would bring pressure and momentum.

Director Ross commented he believes strongly in the planning and the grant making processes. He pointed out the five policy statements and three goals contained in the plan provide a solid framework for the Service Board and RTA to strengthen public transportation in this region. He stated that to achieve the goals in the plan, continued support of stakeholders, local, county governments, planning agencies, state agencies and the governor are needed. He hoped the board members are zealous in adopting and supporting the plan.

Director Lewis stated that public transit accrues to more than the northeastern Illinois being the beneficiary of public transit when everybody in the state of Illinois benefits from what public transit does. The beneficiaries should help share in the cost of the public transit services.

Director Hobson commented on the fantastic work the staff has done. He stated he would forward the strategic plan to McHenry County state legislators both in House and Senate to vote correctly.

Director Higgins asked what the approval process was for the plan and whether or not it has gone before the Service Boards. Ms. Redden responded that Chairman Dillard and she have presented to each of the Service Boards a couple of months prior. The statutory requirement is that the RTA board members adopt the plan. There is no requirement that the service boards adopt it, but it was presented to them. Feedback was also received.

Director Higgins commented that page 18 of *Invest In Transit* that references to new revenue expansion and provides an example of a gas tax that he is not willing to put an approval vote on and would not want to speak as to how that need is filled. Ms. Leary responded that the reference list is as an example of a specific tax and they can expand the examples with other potential taxes or strike that specific tax.

Chairman Dillard commented that the motor fuel tax in Illinois has been unchanged since 1990 and its purchasing power is 60% due to no adjustment for inflation. Illinois is in the lowest 10 states in the country of which the portion of the gas tax that goes to infrastructure is in our system. Illinois is in the bottom 10 of what the gas tax provides for infrastructure. Chairman Dillard referenced Indiana and Iowa as states that have raised their motor fuel tax. Chairman Dillard points out that Ms. Leary makes it clear that these taxes are possibilities as menu options.

Director Pang moved, and Director Ross seconded that the proposed ordinance be recommended for Board approval as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

6 Yeas: Directors Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Hobson, Pang, Ross
1 Nays: Director Higgins

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting of the Planning & Administration Committee, Director Durante moved, and Director Higgins seconded that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried on the following voice vote:

7 Yeas: Directors Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins, Hobson, Pang, and Ross

The meeting ended at 10:05 a.m.

Audrey MacLennan

AUDREY MACLENNAN

Secretary of the Authority