

**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 22, 2015** 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 (15):** Buchanan, Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Hobson, Lewis, Magalis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, Totten, Troiani (phone), and Chairman Dillard

**Board members absent (1):** Anderson

**Approval of minutes from the meetings held on December 17, 2014**

Director Totten moved, and Director Frega seconded that the minutes from the meetings held on December 17, 2014 be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

**15 Ayes:** Buchanan, Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Hobson, Lewis, Magalis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, Totten, Troiani, and Chairman Dillard

**1 Absent:** Anderson

**Public Comment**

Mr. Garland Armstrong commented on an incidence where an individual tried to get him to use his reduced fare card to board a train. He stated this activity needs to be monitored closely.

Mr. David May remarked on a proposed change that would charge sales tax on retail services, such are barbers and lawyers to help build the sales tax base.

**Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Redden began by reporting the amount of money currently owed to the RTA from the State of Illinois. She reported that in December, the State owed \$194.0 million.

Ms. Redden then discussed the importance of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress as the MAP-21 extension and HTF revenue lapses on May 31, 2015. Hearings for reauthorizing MAP-21 will begin in early February. Revenue issues continue to dominate and there has been some discussion on raising the gas tax. In December, the President signed the omnibus bill which included \$120 million funding for Core Capacity that will be allocated to the Chicago rail system. Ms. Redden also

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MARCH 19, 2015**

reported that GATW continuing to add new members and is planning for the upcoming Stand Up for Transportation Day on April 9.

Ms. Redden then dedicated the rest of her report looking back on 2014 and a little bit of what to expect for the New Year. She began with the Finance and Performance Management department whose four divisions are critical in RTA's operation. This year, the department was awarded the CAFR award for financial reporting as well as the distinguished Budget Presentation award from the Government Finance Officers Association. They also issued \$100 million in regional State of Good Repair bonds and executed a smooth regional budget process.

Next, in the Planning and Market Development department, Facebook marketing has increased tremendously and there has been significant progress in the regional fare payment system with over 500,000 Ventra permits issued for seniors and people with disabilities. The RTA has received 3 federally funded grants (JARC, New Freedom & Section 5310) and is responsible for administering these funds throughout northeastern Illinois.

Ms. Redden then highlighted the Mobility Service Department and their success in helping over 550,000 customers obtain their new Ventra permits and helping over 16,000 new paratransit applicants, a 12% increase over last year.

The Audit and Ethics Department continued its implementation of its Five-Year Audit Plan and its Ethics Policy program. The department also completed several internal reviews and a Board requested review regarding last year's Polar Vortex.

The Legal department also had great success this year with sales tax litigation and continued training in procurement and contract management.

Ms. Redden discussed the Human Resources department's success in executing a new benefits plan and hosting a series of seminars and training classes.

The Information Technology department worked hard this year to launch a new RTA website which includes live streaming (both audio and visual) of Board meetings. This enhances RTA transparency and ensures compliance with House Bill 3672.

The Government Relations department is continuing to work with the State and federal government on issues including sales tax, regional transit funding, and legislative proposals. It is also continuing RTA's leadership in the GATW coalition, which is committed to securing funding for transit investment.

Ms. Redden noted that the Communications department is continuing to draft press releases, letters to the editor, and preparing media statements with local and regional media. The topics have ranged from Metra's performance during the "polar vortex," to peer performance

measure reports. The department has also prepared numerous presentations for speaking engagements attending by Chairman Dillard and Redden.

Ms. Redden concluded her report with discussing her three priorities for 2015. First, she would like to continue working collaboratively with the Service Boards to achieve all common goals. Second, to continue RTA's work on more capital funding so that the backlog does not keep growing. Lastly, continue looking for efficiencies at the RTA to further benefit all of its riders.

### **Contracts and Procurements**

Director Hobson moved, and Director Magalis seconded that the one ordinance listed below be adopted as submitted.

2015-01        This ordinance the execution of a 36-month contract with Caldwell Letter Service, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$668,000 to provide printing, storage, fulfillment and mailing services for all Mobility Services Department program materials and for storage, fulfillment and mailing of RTA system maps.

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

**15 Ayes:** Buchanan, Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Hobson, Lewis, Magalis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, Totten, Troiani, and Chairman Dillard

**1 Absent:** Anderson

### **Consent Agenda**

Director Durante moved, and Director Lewis seconded that the ordinance from the Consent Agenda listed below on the Consent Agenda be adopted as submitted. There were no items pulled for separate vote.

2015-02        This ordinance updates the authority of RTA staff with respect to transferring funds and entering into agreements with financial institutions.

2015-03        This ordinance approves Pace's request for \$12,000,000 bond issuance for the purpose of converting a bus garage into a compressed natural gas facility.

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

**15 Ayes:** Buchanan, Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Hobson, Lewis, Magalis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, Totten, Troiani, and Chairman Dillard

**1 Absent:** Anderson

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the meeting of the Board, Director Fuentes moved and Director Frega seconded that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried on the following voice vote.

**15 Ayes:** Buchanan, Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Hobson, Lewis, Magalis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, Totten, Troiani, and Chairman Dillard

**1 Absent:** Anderson

The meeting ended at 10:30 a.m.

*Audrey MacLennan*

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AUDREY MACLENNAN

Secretary of the Authority