

**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, February 21, 2019**, at 8:35 a.m., in Suite 1650, 175 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois, pursuant to notice.

Committee Chairman Fuentes presided.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present (5): Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins (@ #3), Ross (phone)

Committee members absent (2): Pang, Sager

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

Approval of minutes from the meeting held on May 17, 2018

Director Durante moved, and Director Frega seconded that the minutes from the meeting held on May 17, 2018 be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

4 Yeas: Directors Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Ross

3 Absent: Directors Higgins, Pang, Sager

Presentation of the 2017 Regional and Sub-regional Peer Reviews

Ms. Karin Allen presented the Peer Performance Reports for 2017. The data from the reports is collected and published by the FTA and shows how our region's transit operators perform relative to their peers, on regional and modal levels. The first update focused primarily on the regional peer report, which compares Chicago-area transit to nine other large metropolitan regions throughout the U.S. Overall, the Chicago region performed well in comparison to its peers, ranking in the top half for 14 of 16 measures and in the top three for nine of them, two more than in 2016. The Chicago transit network remained strong, providing the second-most passenger trips and passenger miles in the country. Perhaps of greater interest is the amount of service available to Chicago-area residents, as the availability of transit ties into one of the RTA's three strategic goals – to build on the strengths of our network. Transit coverage, and the mobility opportunity it provides, will be more closely monitored in the near future.

The Chicago transit operators continue to perform favorably compared to peers in the service efficiency and effectiveness area, meeting our strategic goal of delivering value on our investment. In the maintenance and capital investment area, significant improvement has been noted in the reduction of vehicles in service beyond their useful life, from 30% in 2013 to 21% in 2017. However, significant reductions were seen in the reliability indicator, Miles between Major Mechanical Failures, as a large number of CTA buses approached mid-life and requiring complete overhauls. Where capital investment in new vehicles was made, at Pace, reliability measures show dramatic improvement, underscoring the need to increase capital expenditures. However, the Chicago region's lowest peer ranking was for capital expenditures per area resident, for which it ranked sixth of ten -- 25% below the peer average.

In summary, the peer comparison reports help us gain useful insights that inform tactical decisions at each operating agency as well as strategic direction for the RTA. Despite ridership declines over recent years, in 2017 the RTA system served 586 million riders for 3.8 billion passenger miles. Efficiency and effectiveness results are strong, when considered at a regional level or among each mode, demonstrating strong fiscal stewardship. Capital funding is still low in comparison to peers and continues to be a critical element to providing reliable service to our customers.

Director Coulson pointed to a recent article which named Metra as the best commuter rail service in the country.

Director Magalis asked about the fare recovery ratio, which for the peer reports is simply the ratio of fare revenue collected to the total operating expense and allows for direct comparisons to peer agencies. This is different from the RTA recovery ratio, which allows for certain expenses to be credited.

Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Jessica Hector-Hsu presented the Board with an update on the Strategic Plan. In January 2018, the RTA Board adopted *Invest in Transit*, the 2018-2023 Regional Transit 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. She explained that the *Invest in Transit Priority Projects* document provided to the Board outlines and describes specific capital priorities for CTA, Metra, and Pace that are currently unfunded. *Invest in Transit* has shaped the activities of the RTA, CTA, Metra, and Pace throughout the year, and has served as the basis for a campaign seeking additional capital funding.

Director Melvin asked about the company Chariot and why they shut down. Ms. Hector-Hsu explained they are a startup company based in San Francisco and were operating for a few years but have recently made a decision that their operating model was not sustainable. They were a micro-transit operator and were providing shuttle service from Metra to office parks in Oakbrook. The RTA's pilot was not the reason for the announcement, it was timing based.

Director Melvin asked if there were some thoughts of ways to use automation. Ms. Hector-Hsu replied that her team is working on something this year.

Ms. Leanne Redden commented that the landscape in the mobility space is changing rapidly. There are many players out there in a dynamic landscape. The RTA is engaging in many pilots and watching others around the country. None of these services have seen the demise of transit. Transit remains the backbone for many of these other choices. Without this strong backbone, you can't really have any of these other options in the market.

Director Fuentes commented on how the-last-mile is always the challenge.

Director Melvin asked about a system-to-system comparison of riders' experience. Ms. Hector-Hsu mentioned that non-rider lapsed survey can tell them more about their reasons not to ride.

Chairman Dillard asked if there are any statistics on rider satisfaction? Ms. Hector-Hsu responded people are surveyed every 2 to 3 years and satisfaction rate tends to be high.

ADJOURNMENT

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

5 Yeas: Directors Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins, Ross

2 Absent: Directors

The meeting ended at 9:15 a.m.

Audrey MacLennan

AUDREY MACLENNAN

Secretary of the Authority