

**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 Wednesday, November 29, 2017 in Suite 1650, 175 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois pursuant to notice.

Chairman Dillard called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**ROLL CALL**

**Board members present (15):** Anderson (phone), Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes (phone), Higgins, Hobson, Kotel, Lewis, Magalis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, and Chairman Dillard

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

**Approval of minutes from the meeting held on October 19, 2017**

Director DeWitte moved, and Director Ross seconded that the minutes from the meeting held on October 19, 2017 be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

**15 Ayes:** Anderson, Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins, Hobson, Kotel, Lewis, Magalis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, and Chairman Dillard

**1 Absent:** Troiani

**Consent Agenda**

Director Magalis moved, and Director Melvin seconded the adoption of the following ordinances as included in the Consent Agenda:

2017-52	These resolutions certify that the operating financial results for each Service Board
2017-53	and the region as a whole, through the second quarter of 2017, are substantially in
2017-54	accordance with the budgets adopted on December 15, 2016. The system-wide
2017-55	operating deficit of the Service Boards, including Pace ADA Paratransit, was \$1,140.4 million. This result is \$36.2 million, or 3.1%, favorable to the adopted budget, with favorable results being reported by CTA, Metra, and Pace Suburban Service. The regional system-generated revenue recovery ratio, which excludes ADA Paratransit, of 50.4% was 0.8 percentage points favorable to budget.

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

**15 Ayes:** Anderson, Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins, Hobson, Kotel, Lewis, Magalis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, and Chairman Dillard

**1 Absent:** Troiani

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
DECEMBER 14, 2017**

**Contracts/Expenditure Items**

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

2017-57 Ordinance approving continuing employment contract for the Executive Director Leanne P. Redden.

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

**15 Ayes:** Anderson, Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins, Hobson, Kotel, Lewis, Magalis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, and Chairman Dillard

**1 Absent:** Troiani

**Update on Regional Transportation Authority Citizens' Advisory Board**

RTA Transit Access Citizens Advisory Board (RTACAB) Chairman Greg Polman provided an update to the RTA Board of Directors at the November 2017 Board meeting.

The RTACAB held its fourth-quarter meeting on October 16, 2017. In addition to standing updates about activities related to Government Affairs and the Mobility Services Department, a number of topics were highlighted at the meeting.

Mr. Polman explained that Doug Anderson, RTA's Manager, Budget and Analysis gave an update on the 2018 budget. Mr. Anderson explained that due to lower gas prices, declining ridership and on line purchases, sales tax collection is expected to decrease for next year. He then advised the Board of the dates for the upcoming public hearings as well as Pace's and Metra's public hearings and encouraged everyone's attendance.

Mr. Polman then told the Board that Michael Horsting RTA's Manager for Local Planning gave a briefing on the Community Planning Program. The RTA has been on the National forefront of transit agencies providing this type of planning assistance and locally remains an important tool to the region for transit-oriented development.

Finally, Ms. Deane Rosen, Manager, Mobility Education did a presentation on RTA's Mobility Outreach Program. She introduced the Board to the six Mobility Outreach Coordinators dedicated to each county. Mr. Polman said quite a few members of the RTACAB had actually gone through one the orientation presentations and highly praised the Trainers' efforts.

**Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Leanne Redden began by briefing the Board that as of the end of October, the State owes the RTA \$ 447.2 million. The State is 16 months behind on ASA and AFA and the equivalent of 9 months behind on PTF and the YTD cost of short-term debt is \$4.4 million.

The Illinois General Assembly recently concluded its fall veto session. On November 6th and 7th, the RTA participated in a series of meetings with legislators in conjunction with the Transportation for Illinois Coalition (TFIC). TFIC has identified several legislators from each caucus in the Senate and House that will help to lead an effort to pass a statewide infrastructure capital bill in 2018 or early 2019.

Ms. Redden then gave an update on Washington activities, which has focused on tax reform during late October and the majority of November. The current federal spending bill expires on December 8 and Congressional leadership has indicated that they plan to pass another short-term continuing resolution (CR) that will fund the government through January or February. However, some Democrats have also publicly stated they will not vote in favor of a CR until a deal on a fix to the DACA (Dreamer) immigration program is finalized. Democratic votes are typically needed to pass funding legislation, which means there could be a government shutdown if no agreement on DACA is reached in early December. Redden then explained the RTA has weighed-in with the congressional delegation both formally, through letters, and informally through phone calls and email. The hope was that tax writers would take advantage of tax reform to address the sustainability of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), but that unfortunately did not come to fruition. Other top priorities of the RTA's tax reform advocacy include the continuation of the tax-exempt treatment of municipal and private activity bonds, preserving the employer business deduction of the transportation fringe benefit and the advanced refunding of bonds.

Ms. Redden then announced, Invest in Transit: the 2018-2023 Regional Transit Strategic draft is now complete and available for public review and comment. She thanked the Board for their active participation in the two workshops held this spring and fall. Comments on the plan will be accepted through December 31, 2017, and will be presented for the Board's consideration and adoption at the January 18, 2018 board meeting.

Ms. Redden then reminded the Board that the RTA is hosting 8 public hearings related to the proposed 2018 regional transportation operating budget and capital program and the regional transit strategic plan.

She congratulated RTA staff on being awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the RTA for its Comprehensive Annual Finance Report (CAFR) for the year ended December 31, 2016 by The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

Finally, Ms. Redden played two videos created by RTA communication team. The first video has a fun Halloween theme that asked riders about how scary it would be without public transit; the second video features some familiar faces in our region sharing why they are "thankful" for our transit system.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting ended at 12:00 p.m.

*Audrey MacLennan*

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AUDREY MACLENNAN

Secretary of the Authority