

**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, December 14, 2017 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 (16): Anderson, Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins, Hobson, Kotel, Lewis, Magalis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, Troiani, and Chairman Dillard

Approval of minutes from the meeting held on November 29, 2017

Director Fuentes moved, and Director Pang seconded that the minutes from the meeting held on November 29, 2017 be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Public Comment

Mr. George Blakemore addressed the Board regarding his concerns for low-income people and the cost of public transit.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Leanne Redden, began by briefing the Board that as of the end of November, the State owes the RTA \$ 451.0 million of ASA, AFA, and PTF. The State is 17 months behind on ASA and AFA and the equivalent of 8.7 months behind on PTF. The YTD cost of short-term debt is \$4.8 million.

She then briefed the Board on recent events occurring in the US Congress, specifically passage of a Continuing Resolution (CR) on December 7 that will fund the federal government through December 22. Congress will then likely pass another short CR to fund the government through mid-January, in order to give them enough time to come to an agreement on an omnibus spending bill to fund the remainder of FY 2018. The RTA expects that transportation funding levels should align with FAST Act authorized levels and will likely look similar to FY 2017.

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JANUARY 18, 2018**

On December 7th, the White House said it would release its infrastructure proposal in early January; it will be in the form of detailed principles, not legislative text. The package will put \$200 billion in federal dollars over ten-years to be leveraged by an additional \$800 billion in spending by state, local and private entities.

In addition, Conferees of the tax reform bill came to an agreement on Wednesday December 13, although the bill will not be released until Friday the 15th. While the Senate bill does eliminate the advanced refunding of bond interest and the allowance of employers to deduct the transportation fringe benefit as a business expense, it does preserve the tax exemption of private activity bonds. The RTA expects these provisions to be in final version.

Lastly, Ms. Redden informed the Board that some RTA staff are volunteering in the Mid-Day Mentoring program which focuses on third grade literacy. Volunteer and student pairs spend time reading aloud and building comprehension skills through conversation. Every Tuesday, volunteers travel to Brentano Elementary in Logan Square to help 25 third graders improve their reading skills.

Director Hobson asked if the state is getting caught up on their payments to the RTA as they have now passed a budget. Ms. Redden responded that the state is becoming more regular, but their backlog is still significant. Ms. Bea Reyna-Hickey added that the state never delayed in sales tax payments, and PTF has received a few additional payments. The concern is with the ASA payments which are currently 17 months behind.

Director Ross suggested that we ask the state use the 2% they withhold to pay down the debt to the RTA.

Director Frega expressed concern over the amount of interest on the money we are borrowing and the fact this is passed on to the taxpayers.

Director Anderson commented the RTA should find a way to engage in the solution to the broader issue, which is the impact of the state operations on the taxpayer base.

Director Durante asked where the RTA ranked on the state debt list. Ms. Redden replied the RTA was ranked number 2 on the side of public agencies.

Consent Agenda

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

- 2017-58 This ordinance repeals the existing RTA Procurement Rules and Regulations (PRRs) and adopts the amended PRRs governing the conduct of RTA purchasing and contracting. The revised PRRs are consistent with the legislative change and in keeping with industry standards and should lead to a clearer, more efficient procurement process for RTA staff and potential vendors.
- 2017-59 This ordinance amends the 2017-2021 Capital Program to incorporate changes in program revenue and expenditures for CTA, incorporating changes relative to both funding and expenditures.
- 2017-60 This ordinance approves a 12-month time extensions for implementation of Metra and Pace Innovation, Coordination and Enhancement (ICE) funded projects.
- 2017-61 This ordinance adopts the 2018 Operating Budgets, 2019-2020 Financial Plans, and 2018-2022 Capital Programs of the Service Boards and the Authority, including the RTA Agency. This recommendation is made following a review of the proposed 2018 Business Plans with the Service Boards at a special meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board held on November 29th at which the Service Boards presented their proposed budgets and capital programs and provided responses to questions from the RTA Board. The budgets, financial plans, and capital programs defined by the ordinance are in balance, adhere to the funding amounts and recovery ratios adopted by the RTA Board in August, and meet the required recovery ratio for the region.

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

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

Chairman Dillard took a moment to urge individuals to talk to their employers about the Transit Benefit program, which provides a significant savings to the daily commuter.

Contracts/Expenditure Items

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

- 2017-62 This ordinance authorizes the execution of a contract with Edenred for administrative support services for the RTA's Transit Benefit Fare Program. The contract term is for a three-year base agreement at an amount not to exceed \$1,196,000 and two one-year renewal options not to exceed \$519,000 and \$561,000 respectively, with a total contract of up to \$2,276,000.

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

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

Director Ross expressed his appreciation to the Chairman, the Finance Chair and staffs of all four agencies for all the hard work that went into passing the budget.

Director Pang commented that power the RTA and Service Boards have through the collaboration provides a great force to take to Springfield.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 10:05 p.m.

Audrey MacLennan

AUDREY MACLENNAN

Secretary of the Authority