

**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, December 17, 2015** in Suite 1650, 175 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois pursuant to notice.

Chairman Dillard called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

**Approval of minutes from the meeting held on November 19, 2015**

Director Totten moved, and Director Pang seconded that the minutes from the meeting held on November 19, 2015 be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

**1 Absent:** Buchanan

**Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Redden began by reporting on the amount of money currently owed to the RTA by the State of Illinois. She reported that in December, the State owed the RTA \$241.8 million. She also noted that the year-to-date cost of short-term borrowing is currently \$1,377,708.

Ms. Redden then updated the Board on the State budget. The budget impasse continues, but in early December, the Governor and the four legislative leaders held a few meetings to address the matter. Last week the Senate returned to session to pass the legislation appropriating money from several special funds that has been collected by the state, but not distributed as intended due to the budget impasse. The bill provides state funding for 911 call centers and lottery winnings. It also releases millions of dollars in motor fuel tax revenue to municipalities. Cities use this money to repair roads and bridges and also purchase road salt for the upcoming winter months. Both chambers are now scheduled to be out of session until the 2016, returning January 13th.

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
JANUARY 21, 2016**

Ms. Redden explained that the focus in Washington DC was the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) that was recently passed and signed into law. The FAST Act is a five-year fully funded surface transportation bill that increases the MAP-21 funding levels across the board. There is a 10% increase in the first year and almost 18% over the five year authorization nationwide. Ms. Redden then explained the RTA's efforts to address major issues. First, there were limits placed on the use of federal transportation dollars (like CMAQ/STP/TIFIA) for projects that are already being funded by the State of Good Repair formula and the Capital Investment Grant programs. Second, the House bill lowered the federal matching share from 80% to 50% for the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) programs. The RTA immediately fought to amend or eliminate these provisions. The RTA and Service Boards made hundreds of calls, meetings and emails with staff during the process to make sure our positions were known and supported. The final bill that passed completely eliminated the flex limitations and increased the federal share of the New Starts program from 50% to 60%. It also looks as if a permanent transit tax benefit parity provision is now included in the omnibus spending bill that was introduced. It was permanently put at Parity with the Parking Benefit at \$250. This bill will be voted on by the House on the 18<sup>th</sup>, although the fate of the bill is still up in the air.

Finally, Ms. Redden gave a brief update on the RTA Customer Service Center located at 69 W. Washington St. closure and re-opening at 4 City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) Regional Senior Sites. The move was very successful, and the customers experienced a seamless transition.

#### **RTA Transit Access Advisory Committee Update**

Mr. Barry Taylor, Chairman of the RTAAC, gave his quarterly update to the Board. He began by announcing he would be stepping down as Chairman at the end of the year. He then implored the Board to keep in mind how important public transportation is for those living in poverty and/or with a disability. He explained it is often their only lifeline to their communities, healthcare and resources. He asked that the Board weigh these facts when considering any type of fare increase or service cut.

Mr. Taylor then thanked the Board for their support, as well as the RTA staff. He felt that RTAAC/RTACAB was being left in competent hands and looked forward to its future. Michael VanDekreke then presented a plaque to Mr. Taylor acknowledging his years of service.

**Consent Items**

Director Melvin moved, and Director Frega seconded that the ordinances listed below be adopted.

2015-52            These ordinances, which (i) authorize the RTA to issue up to \$108 million of  
2015-53            30-year General Obligation Bonds (“Bonds”) through a competitive sale, and (ii)  
                         authorize the RTA to issue up to \$150 million of working cash notes (“Notes”)  
                         through a direct placement facility with a draw down revolving feature so that  
                         repayment is on an ongoing basis over a 2-year period, all as permitted by  
                         Section 4.04 of the RTA Act.

2015-54            This ordinance will amend the 2015 budget to reflect capital program changes  
                         relative to both funding and expenses. The ordinance also approves budget  
                         revisions for Metra and Pace capital projects that are discussed in greater detail  
                         below. Metra’s proposed revisions include a reduction to the amount of capital  
                         funding by a revision of funding in the Contingencies category to balance the  
                         changes in the federal funding allocations. Pace’s proposed changes also  
                         include a revision to federal funding amounts to reflect the full year  
                         apportionment and the addition of positive budget variance funds.

2015-55            This ordinance to adopt the 2016 Operating Budgets, 2017-2018 Financial Plans,  
                         and 2016-2020 Capital Programs of the Service Boards and the Authority,  
                         including the RTA Agency. This recommendation is made following a review of  
                         the proposed 2016 Business Plans with the Service Boards at a Special Meeting  
                         of the Finance Committee of the Board held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, are  
                         compliant with the funding amounts and recovery ratios adopted by the RTA  
                         Board in August, and meet the required recovery ratio for the region.

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

**1 Absent:** Buchanan

Chairman Dillard acknowledged the achievements and efforts of the RTA staff in 2015.  
Director Pang also commented on the level of cooperation and urged the continued unity of  
the RTA and Service Boards in tough financial times.

**MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the public portion of the meeting of the Board of Directors, Ms. Lacombe cited the exception for the closed session as IOMA Section 2(c)(21). Chairman Dillard requested that the Board adjourn from Executive Session as there was no action to come out. Director Frega moved and Director Ross seconded that the meeting move into Executive Session and adjourn from there. The motion carried on the following voice vote:

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

**1 Absent:** Buchanan

The public portion of the meeting ended at 10:05 a.m.

*Audrey MacLennan*

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AUDREY MACLENNAN

Secretary of the Authority