

**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, October 20, 2016** in Suite 1650, 175 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois pursuant to notice.

Chairman Dillard called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**ROLL CALL**

**Board members present (16):** Anderson, Buchanan, Coulson, DeWitte, Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins, Hobson (phone), Lewis, Magalis, Melvin, Pang, Ross, Troiani, and Chairman Dillard

**Approval of minutes from the meetings held on September 15, 2016**

Director Fuentes moved, and Director Buchanan seconded that the minutes from the meetings held on September 15, 2016 be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

**Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Leanne Redden reported that the RTA is owed \$269.7 million by the state of Illinois and that the cost of short-term borrowing YTD is \$2.5 million.

Ms. Redden then gave the DC Update. Washington activity in the month of September and early October centered on the final details for a Continuing Resolution (CR) that funds the federal government through December 9.

She then reported on a Getting America To Work letter to the Senate Banking and House Transportation Committees covered by *POLITICO'S* Morning Transportation and an opinion piece in *The Hill* highlighting the positive economic impact enhanced investment in public transit infrastructure will have on communities across the nation.

RTA staff has been active in "shared mobility" – exploring how transit can work together with car sharing, Uber, Lyft, bike sharing and all of the variety of new transportation options. In September, the RTA co-hosted with DuPage County and Choose DuPage the John Noel Public Transit Conference. This year it was a workshop exploring the potential for new partnerships to help solve the last-mile problem in DuPage. Representatives from a wide variety of private

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“Transportation Network Companies” (Uber, Lyft, Zipcar, Getaround, Zagster) engaged with DuPage municipalities, corporations and property developers to better understand the mobility needs in the County.

In October, the RTA was pleased to participate on the “shared mobility” topic at a national level, at the Shared Used Mobility Center’s annual Chicago “Shared Mobility Summit”. Redden gave welcoming remarks.

On November 15, 2016, the RTA, in collaboration with the CTA, Metra, Pace, IDOT and the Illinois Tollway Authority, will host the 19th annual Transportation Symposium & Business Exchange. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), Minority Owned Business Enterprises (MBEs), Women Owned Business Enterprises (WBEs), Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB) and Small Business Enterprises (SBEs) who are interested in learning valuable information on how to do business with transit-related agencies are encouraged to attend.

The dates and locations of the 2017 Annual Budget Hearings were announced. This year the RTA will conduct the hearings jointly with Metra. All of the hearings run from 4pm-7pm. The RTA will also host a separate final public hearing on November 30<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-6pm.

Finally, the dates for the Annual Budget presentations to the 6 county boards in the region were announced. The RTA will be making most of these presentations with our Service Board counterparts.

**Presentation & Public Participation: RTA Availability Study and FTA Triennial DBE Goal**

Ms. Collette Holt, the RTA’s consultant working on the Availability Study for this project began by explaining that governed by federal regulations 49 C.F.R. Section 26.45, the RTA must submit a DBE goal for FTA funded contracts every three years. Ms. Holt discussed the RTA’s proposed FTA 2017-2019 DBE goal of 11.38%. The 11.38% DBE goal is based on the following: 1) the 2016 Availability Study, 2) RTA’s geographic and industry markets, and 3) the RTA’s prior utilization of DBEs. Also discussed were the RTA’s efforts to continue engaging in DBE outreach by hosting events such as the Transportation Symposium & Business Exchange, soliciting DBEs for specific opportunities, and working with organizations to support DBEs.

Following the brief explanation of the proposed goal and rationale and methodology for arriving at it, public commentary was solicited from attendees who had been invited to participate. The agency General Counsel invited members of the public to provide thoughts and commentary regarding the proposed DBE submission via a number of methods (in person, via comment card provided at the meeting, via email, etc.).

Ms. Beth Doria, Executive Director of the Federation of Women Contractors of Chicago (FWCC), offered comments, in person, regarding the proposed goal and the RTA's past performance relative to DBE participation. Ms. Doria expressed being pleasantly surprised by the RTA's DBE utilization in 2015, invited the RTA to participate in a forum to which FWCC belongs and indicated that she "strongly supports" the RTA's submission.

Following the public comments offered by Ms. Doria, Ms. Holt provided also, discussed was a briefing on the findings and recommendations of the Availability Study. The study determined that the RTA's utilization of DBEs in its markets (based on the past three years) is 6.8% on federally-funded contracts and 19.87% on non-federally funded contracts. An aggregated weighted availability of those numbers determined percentages of 15.8% on federally funded contracts and 13.82% on non-federally funded contracts. Ms. Holt recommended the RTA's M/W/D/V BE goal is set based on the 13.82% for non-federally funded procurements. Further recommendations from the study were as follows: the RTA use the study to set DBE annual goal and contract goals; implementation of an electronic contracting data collection and monitoring system to increase compliance; conduct DBE and prime contractor networking events on RTA projects; provide an annual contracting forecast; and increase contract unbundling; review our experience requirements on contracts; and adoption of a Small Business Enterprise target market.

Director Frega asked about the RTA's contracting efforts with veteran-owned firms. Ms. Lacombe responded that the RTA routinely contracts with veteran-owned firm 3<sup>rd</sup> Coast Imaging. Since early 2015, the RTA has awarded over \$15,000 to the firm for printing services. The figure isn't very high relative to construction-related contracts, but is not insignificant for the RTA's usual purchases.

### **Consent Items**

Director Ross moved, and Director Frega seconded the adoption of the following ordinance:

2016-50      This ordinance authorizing the implementation of the Section 5310 –Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program of Projects. Funding is proposed for ten grantees in support of previously funded projects: Association for Individual Development – Ride in Kane; City of Naperville - Naperville/Lisle Partners Ride DuPage to Work; DuPage County – Ride DuPage to Work; Kendall County - Kendall Area Transit; Lake County - Ride Lake County Central Dial-a-Ride; Lake County - Ride Lake County West Project; Little City Foundation - Transportation Program; McHenry County - McHenry County Service Integration & Coordination; Will County - Mobility Management Program; and Ray Graham Association (RGA) for People with Disabilities - RGA's

Comprehensive Transportation Program. The Section 5310 program is federally-funded with grantees responsible for the local match. No RTA funds are required to support the projects. Awards of \$4,259,554 in federal funds are proposed with project sponsors committed to providing \$3,036,574 of local match for a total \$7,296,129 program budget. The program of projects was released on September 15, 2016 for thirty days of public comment.

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

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

**Contract/Procurement Items - Ordinance approving a contact for a CTA Wayside Energy Storage Assessment**

Director Hobson requested information on the return of investment on other similar installations in the United States. Ms. Leary noted that Los Angeles Metro has one installation that is saving \$99,000 annually and was installed with grant funding for \$3.6 million. Director Hobson noted this was a poor payback and questioned the spending of \$200,000 on this study prompting him to request tabling this item until we have more information.

CTA Project Manager, Pete Ballard was introduced to review the CTA's interest and background. Mr. Ballard reviewed the technology which stores energy for later use. The CTA's new 5000-series rail cars have regenerative braking, which returns energy to the third rail which can be used by other accelerating trains, saving energy costs. There is also a potential revenue stream by selling the stored energy back to the power supplier to balance the needs of the power grid. The CTA began looking at this technology in 2010 and found payback to be 107 years, but technology has advanced. In 2015, the CTA issued a Request for Information and there was interest at that time from vendors that proposed installing a system at no cost to the CTA. The purpose of the CTA Wayside Energy Storage Assessment is to find the optimal locations and determine the expected Return on Investment (ROI), to enable the CTA to determine if it makes sense to move forward.

Director Pang commented that the CTA has done the background work and the study looks prudent. Director Coulson commented that Director Hobson's point is good, and before implementation the numbers need to be known. Chairman Dillard requested that Mr. Ballard inform CTA leadership that the RTA has serious interest in understanding the ROI.

Director Buchanan requested more information on vendor proposals to install at no cost to the agency. Mr. Ballard noted that is one model, but there are also hybrids where the agency pays some of the installation. Financing of engineering and installation by a vendor is viable because the grid operator is willing to pay the vendors for the power when there is a need for grid balancing. In the SEPTA installation, SEPTA also gets some of this revenue in addition to the energy savings.

Ms. Redden noted the staff recommendation was for Board to move forward with the study. She clarified that the contract being authorized by the ordinance is to perform the study that does the analysis to determine if there is sufficient benefit and evaluate different models to implement such a program.

At the conclusion of the discussion Chairman Dillard noted the RTA has a broader mandate as a public body to promote green technology.

Director Troiani moved, and Director Anderson seconded the adoption of the following ordinance:

2016-51        This ordinance authorizes the execution of a six-month contract with Mott MacDonald, LLC (MM) to develop a *Wayside Energy Storage Assessment for CTA Traction Power*. This contract is part of RTA's Regional Green Transit Plan funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation and RTA. The total contract amount is not-to-exceed \$199,767.00. In addition, MM will meet the 10% DBE goal established for this contract by retaining a certified DBE sub-consultant.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote.

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

**1 Nay:** Frega

**Special Action Items**

Director DeWitte moved, and Director Lewis seconded the adoption of the following resolution:

2016-52        Resolution setting 2017 regular RTA Board meeting dates.

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the public portion of the Board of Directors meeting, Director Durante moved, and Director Pang seconded that the meeting adjourn.

The motion carried on the following voice vote.

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

The public portion of the meeting ended at 11:15 a.m.

*Audrey Macleannan*

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AUDREY MACLENNAN

Secretary of the Authority