



Minutes

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

The Board of Directors of the Regional Transportation Authority met on Thursday, March 27, 2025, pursuant to notice. Chairman Dillard called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. He then recited the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call – [watch video](#)

Board members present (16): Carey, Coulson, Gathing, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Pang, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

Approval of minutes from the meetings held on February 20, 2025 – [watch video](#)

No questions or comments from RTA Board members.

Director Sager moved, and Director Retondo seconded that the minutes from the public meeting held on February 20, 2025, be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

16 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gathing, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Pang, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

Public Comment – [watch video](#)

One written comment by Meg Matthias was read into the record by the Secretary of the Authority. Public comment was made in person by Stephen Hiatt-Leonard and virtually by Doug Fowler.

Executive Director’s Report – [watch video](#)

Executive Director Leanne Redden announced the 2025 Community Planning and 5310 Call for Projects were now open and provided a brief Federal legislative update.

Transit is the Answer Update – [watch video](#)

Doug Anderson, Manager, Budget and Business Analysis, and Rob Nash, Director, Government Affairs, provided an update on monthly financials and a legislative update.

Directors Sager, Mondero, Ryan, and Kotarac asked questions or provided comments following the presentation.

Update on RTA Board resolution 2025-01 directing next steps to address the fiscal cliff – [watch video](#)

Executive Director Redden, Kevin Bueso, Chief Financial Officer, Nora Leerhsen, Acting President, CTA, Janice Thomas, Chief of Staff/Deputy Executive Director, External Affairs, Metra, and Melinda Metzger, Executive Director, Pace presented on the requirements of RTA Board resolution 2025-01 that provided quantitative details on the consequences of the fiscal cliff, including budget balancing actions; detailing and building upon the vision for \$1.5 billion state investment in transit operations; and identifying potential efficiencies that could be implemented.

Directors Ryan, Retondo, Sager, Lewis, Carey, Kotarac, Mondero, Lewis, Gathing, Yonan, Gorman, Ross and Chairman Dillard asked questions or provided comments following the presentation.

Approval of Letters of Understanding with Indiana and Wisconsin, Amendment of the 2025-2029 Capital Program, and extensions to ICE funded projects – [watch video](#)

Jon Sung, Senior Analyst, Capital Programs, and Tara O'Malley, Principal Analyst, Capital Programs, presented three ordinances: one that approved the attachments to the 2025 Federal Funding Allocation Agreements between Northeastern Illinois, Northwestern Indiana, and Southeastern Wisconsin; the second ordinance incorporated changes in projects, program revenue, and expenses for CTA, Pace, and Metra; and the third approved extensions to the Innovation, Coordination, and Enhancement (ICE) program for Metra and CTA.

Director Groven moved, and Director Yonan seconded that the proposed ordinance be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

16 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gathing, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Pang, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

Ordinance authorizing a contract for legislative consulting services – [watch video](#)

Mr. Nash answered questions and comments from Directors Coulson, Ross, Kotarac, Carey, Sager, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard.

Director Kotarac moved, and Director Coulson seconded to consider an amendment to the ordinance.

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

16 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gathing, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Pang, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

Director Kotarac moved, and Director Coulson seconded approving the contract with the amendment.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

16 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gathing, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Pang, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

Contract/Expenditure items - [watch video](#)

Director Sager moved, and Director Mondero seconded the adoption of the following ordinances as well as the approval of Board travel expenditures as submitted:

Ordinance Authorizing a Contract for Transit Signage On-Call Maintenance and Storage Services

Ordinance authorizing a contract amendment for audiovisual equipment and services

Approval of travel expense reimbursement

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

16 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gathing, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Pang, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

New Business – [watch video](#)

Director Mondero asked about committees and Chairman Dillard said he would talk to the Board members about their thoughts.

Chairman Dillard announced the next RTA Board of Directors meeting is Thursday, April 17, at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT – [watch video](#)

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors Meeting, Director Lewis moved and Director Gorman seconded that the meeting adjourn.

The motion carried on the following voice vote:

16 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gathing, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Pang, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

The Board meeting ended at 12:18 p.m.

Joey-Lin Silberhorn

Joey-Lin Silberhorn
Secretary of the Authority