



Minutes

175 W Jackson Blvd
Suite 1550
Chicago, IL 60604

312 913 3200
rtachicago.org

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, January 15, 2026, pursuant to notice. Chairman Dillard called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. He then recited the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call – [watch video](#)

Board members present (13): Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven (remote), Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Retondo, Ross (remote), Ryan, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

3 Absent: Alvarez, Mondero, Sager

Approval of minutes from the meeting held December 18, 2025 – [watch video](#)

There were no questions or comments from RTA Board members.

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

13 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

3 Absent: Alvarez, Mondero, Sager

Public Comment – [watch video](#)

Stephen Hiatt-Leonard, Amber Smock, and Mike Archey provided public comment.

Director Mondero during the public comment.

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

Executive Director Leanne Redden provided a legislative update.

NITA Implementation Timeline and Next Steps – [watch video](#)

Executive Director Redden, Rob Nash, Director, Government Affairs, and Maulik Vaishnav, Senior Deputy Executive Director, Planning and Capital Programming, provided an overview of the timeline for Public Act 104-0457, the Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA) Act, next steps and priorities.

Directors Mondero, Lewis, Gorman, Kotarac, Carey, and Chairman Dillard asked a question or provided a comment.

Joint Development Study Update – [watch video](#)

Heather Mullins, Division Manager, Local Planning and Program Management, provided an update on the RTA-led Joint Development study seeking to better understand the potential of land-use development on transit agency-owned parcels near transit stops and the future impact of the NITA Act on this project.

Directors Kotarac, Coulson, Mondero, and Chairman Dillard asked questions or provided comments.

ADA Action Plan Implementation Update – [watch video](#)

Peter Kersten, Division Manager, Regional Planning, provided an update on the preliminary analysis of usage, ridership, and cost of the ADA paratransit and user subsidy programs since the RTA ADA Action Plan was implemented on October 1, 2025, and outlined potential next steps.

Directors Walker, Sanoica, Gorman, Carey, Jenkins, Ryan, and Mondero asked questions or provided comments.

Monthly Financials – [watch video](#)

Sarah Rubino, Principal Analyst, Budget and Treasury, presented the regional financial results from November 2025.

Director Gorman asked questions or provided comments.

Resolution honoring Director John Yonan – [watch video](#)

Directors Gorman and Lewis provided comments.

Director Gorman motioned, and Director Lewis seconded that the expenses be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

14 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Alvarez, Sager

Approval of travel expense reimbursement – [watch video](#)

Director Retondo motioned, and Director Walker seconded that the expenses be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Page 3

14 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Alvarez, Sager

New Business – [watch video](#)

Chairman Dillard announced the next RTA Board of Directors meeting is Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT – [watch video](#)

There being no further business to come before the public session of the Board, Chairman Dillard asked the Secretary to the Authority to cite the exceptions for the closed session. Ms. Silberhorn recited IOMA Sections 2(c)(8), 2(c)(11), and 2(c)(21).

Director Kotarac then moved, and Director Walker seconded that the meeting move into Executive Session and adjourn from there.

The motion carried on the following voice vote:

14 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Alvarez, Sager

The Board meeting ended at 10:58 a.m.

Joey-Lin Silberhorn

Joey-Lin Silberhorn
Secretary of the Authority