
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, February 19, 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): Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins (remote), Kotarac, Mondero, Retondo, Ryan, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

3 Absent: Lewis, Ross, Sager

Approval of minutes from the meeting held January 15, 2026 – [watch video](#)

There were no questions or comments from RTA Board members.

Director Walker moved, and Director Sanoica seconded that the minutes from the public meeting held on January 15, 2026, be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

3 Absent: Lewis, Ross, Sager

Proposed Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) loan for Metra's Bridge Improvement Program – [watch video](#)

Jim Derwinski, CEO and Executive Director, Metra, and John Morris, CFO, Metra, presented an overview of the proposed Program and next steps.

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

Public Comment – [watch video](#)

Four people provided in-person public comment.

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

Executive Director Leanne Redden provided a legislative update.

Director Kotarac asked questions or provided a comment.

Update on the activities of the RTA Transit Access Citizens' Advisory Board – [watch video](#)

Ryan Ruele, the Chairman of the RTA Citizens' Advisory Board, provided an update on the work of the Board.

NITA Act Implementation Update – [watch video](#)

Jill Leary, Chief of Staff, provided an update on the key priorities discussed at last month's meeting, including establishing working groups with the Service Boards.

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

Capital Planning, Programming, and Prioritization Overview – [watch video](#)

Brian Lowenberg, Manager, Capital Programs, presented an overview of the processes and information that are available for capital project evaluation and prioritization in anticipation of advancing this work as a key early priority in the NITA transition.

Directors Carey, Alvarez, and Kotarac asked questions or provided comments.

Safety and Security discussion – [watch video](#)

Nora Leerhsen, Acting President, CTA, and Tom McKone, CFO, CTA, discussed safety and security measures at the agency.

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

Resolutions certifying Financial results and Performance measures data-Fourth Quarter 2025 and Quarterly Performance measures – [watch video](#)

Maulik Vaishnav, Senior Deputy Executive Director, Planning and Capital Programming, presented an ordinance that certifies that CTA, Metra, and Pace are in substantial accordance with the requirements of Illinois Public Act 103-0281.

Directors Carey, Alvarez, Mondero, Walker, and Chairman Dillard asked questions provided comments.

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

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

3 Absent: Lewis, Ross, Sager

Sarah Rubino, Principal Analyst, Budget and Treasury, presented on the resolutions that recommended certifying that the operating financial results of CTA, Metra, Pace Suburban Service, ADA Paratransit and the Region as a whole, through the fourth quarter of 2025, are in substantial accordance with budget.

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

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

3 Absent: Lewis, Ross, Sager

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

Director Coulson asked a question.

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

- Ordinance authorizing a contract amendment for energy management and data hosting
- Ordinance authorizing a contract for the provision of information technology products and related services
- Ordinance authorizing an amendment to consultant contract for the Joint Development Study
- Approval of travel expense reimbursement

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

3 Absent: Lewis, Ross, Sager

New Business – [watch video](#)

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

ADJOURNMENT – [watch video](#)

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

The motion carried on the following voice vote:

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

3 Absent: Lewis, Ross, Sager

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The Board meeting ended at 11:48 a.m.

Joey-Lin Silberhorn

Joey-Lin Silberhorn
Secretary of the Authority