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## 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, May 21, 2026, pursuant to notice. Chairman Dillard called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. He then recited the pledge of allegiance.

### **Roll call – [watch video](#)**

**Board members present (15):** Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven (remote), Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan (remote), Sager, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

**1 Absent:** Jenkins

### **Executive Session – [watch video](#)**

Chairman Dillard asked the Secretary to the Authority to cite the exceptions for the closed session. Ms. Silberhorn recited IOMA Sections 2(c)(29).

Director Walker then moved, and Director Gorman seconded that the meeting move into Executive Session, and then return to the regular public session.

**15 Ayes:** Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven (remote), Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan (remote), Sager, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

**1 Absent:** Jenkins

Director Jenkins arrived during the Executive Session.

### **Approval of minutes from the meeting held April 16, 2026 – [watch video](#)**

There were no questions or comments from RTA Board members.

Director Walker moved, and Director Kotarac seconded that the minutes from the public meeting held on April 16, 2026, be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

**15 Ayes:** Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

**1 Absent:** Groven

**Public Comment – [watch video](#)**

The Secretary read a comment from John Paul Jones and Adam Mack provided in-person public comment.

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

Executive Director Leanne Redden provided an update as the agency transitions to Northern Illinois Transit Authority as of June 1 and a legislative update.

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

Ryan Ruehle, the Chairman of the RTA Citizens’ Advisory Board, provided an update on the last meeting of the RTACAB.

Directors Gorman and Kotarac asked questions or provided comments.

**Resolutions certifying Financial results - First Quarter 2026 and quarterly performance measures – [watch video](#)**

Maulik Vaishnav, Senior Deputy Executive Director, Planning and Capital Programming, and Sarah Rubino, Principal Analyst, Budget and Treasury, presented quarterly performance measures for CTA, Metra, and Pace and resolutions that recommend certifying that the operating financial results of CTA, Metra, Pace Suburban Service, ADA Paratransit and the Region as a whole, through the first quarter of 2026.

Director Sager asked a question or provided a comment.

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

**14 Ayes:** Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, and Chairman Dillard

**2 Absent:** Groven, Walker

**Approval of Letters of Understanding with Indiana and Wisconsin for the 2026 Federal Funding Allocations and Amendment of the 2026-2030 Capital Program – [watch video](#)**

Tara O’Malley, Principal Analyst, Capital Programs, presented two ordinances: the first proposed ordinance approved the attachments to the 2026 Federal Funding Allocation Agreements between Northeastern Illinois, Northwestern Indiana, and Southeastern Wisconsin and the second incorporated changes in projects, program revenue, and expenses for CTA, Pace, and Metra.

Directors Kotarac and Lewis asked a question or provided a comment.

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

**13 Ayes:** Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, and Chairman Dillard

**3 Absent:** Alvarez, Groven, Walker

**Ordinance approving the 2026 Budget Amendment – [watch video](#)**

Peter Kersten, Division Manager, Regional Planning, and Doug Anderson, Manager, Budget and Business Analysis, presented an ordinance that approves an amended regional operating budget for 2026 to implement various initiatives and increases the public funding amounts available to the RTA and Service Boards by \$132.2 million. The amendment also updates the monthly cash flow projections for 2026.

Directors Ross, Sager, Kotarac, Gorman, and Ryan asked questions or provided a comment.

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

**14 Ayes:** Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, and Chairman Dillard

**2 Absent:** Groven, Walker

**Ordinance approving the 2027 Budget Call for the Annual Operating Budget, Two-Year Financial Plan, and Five-Year Capital Program – [watch video](#)**

Brian Lowenberg, Manager, Capital Programs, and Doug Anderson, Manager, Budget and Business Analysis, presented an ordinance approves and releases the 2027 Budget and Capital Program Call (the “Budget Call”). The Budget Call defines the schedule and information requirements that the Service Boards must follow for the development of the 2027 Budget, which includes the 2027 Operating Budget, 2028-2029 Two-Year Financial Plan, and 2027-2031 Five-Year Capital Program.

Directors Mondero, Kotarac, Sager, and Chairman Dillard asked questions or provided a comment.

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

**14 Ayes:** Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, and Chairman Dillard

**2 Absent:** Groven, Walker

**Ordinance approving the Combining Financial Report and certifying compliance with the RTA Act recovery ratio requirement for 2024 – [watch video](#)**

John Yu, Controller, and Bill Sarb, Partner, RSM presented an ordinance that approves the 2024 Combining Financial Report for the RTA and the Service Boards and certifies compliance with the RTA Act recovery ratio requirement for 2024.

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

**14 Ayes:** Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, and Chairman Dillard

**2 Absent:** Groven, Walker

**Ordinance to adopt the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) – [watch video](#)**

Heather Mullins, Division Manager, Local Programming and Program Management, presented an ordinance that adopts the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation plan (HSTP).

Directors Carey, Lewis, and Retondo asked questions or provided a comment.

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

**14 Ayes:** Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, and Chairman Dillard

**2 Absent:** Groven, Walker

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

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

- Ordinance Authorizing a Contract for Human Capital Management System
- Ordinance authorizing the Purchase of Excess Liability Insurance Coverage by the RTA's Loss Financing Plan / Joint Self-Insurance Fund

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

**14 Ayes:** Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, and Chairman Dillard

**2 Absent:** Groven, Walker

**New Business – [watch video](#)**

Director Coulson asked a question regarding the June 1 Board meeting agenda.

Chairman Dillard announced the next RTA Board of Directors meeting is Monday, June 1, 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 Alvarez seconded that the meeting adjourn.

The motion carried on the following voice vote:

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**14 Ayes:** Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, and Chairman Dillard

**2 Absent:** Groven, Walker

The Board meeting ended at 11:05 a.m.

*Joey-Lin Silberhorn*

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Joey-Lin Silberhorn  
Secretary of the Authority