

minutes



**Regional
Transportation
Authority**

175 W. Jackson Blvd,
Suite 1650
Chicago, IL 60604
312-913-3200
rtachicago.org

To: RTA Transit Access Advisory Committee

From: Claire Serdiuk-Anderson Manager, External Affairs

Date: January 7, 2020

Re: Minutes from the October 7, 2019 RTA Transit Access Citizens Advisory Board Meeting

The RTA Transit Access Citizens Advisory Board (RTACAB) met on Monday October 7, 2019. Below is a summary of the items discussed.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Greg Polman called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and asked all members of the board to introduce themselves.

2. Reading and Approval of the October 2018 Minutes

The April 2019 meeting minutes were presented for adoption. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jodi Hefler and seconded by David Ogunbode. The board approved the minutes.

3. Public Comment Requests

Chairman Polman then asked if there were attendees present, who wanted to address the committee during the public comment section and three individuals requested time.

4. Standing Reports

a) Chairman's Report

Chairman Polman reported he is planning on attending an upcoming meeting with CTA, Pace and Metra regarding the RTA ADA Innovations Study, specifically focused on ADA services on demand.

b) Government Affairs

Claire Serdiuk-Anderson, Manager of External Affairs, updated the Committee on recent events in Washington D.C. and Springfield.

The Governor recently signed a \$45 billion capital construction program passed by the General Assembly which included funding for numerous transportation modes including transit, roads, bridges, airports, ports, and rails as well as funding for vertical infrastructure. The program is a combination of pay as you and bonded revenues and is paid for through numerous revenue increases.

The pay as you go (or "Pay Go") portion of the capital program is paid for through the increase in the state's motor fuel tax resulting in approximately \$227 million in new revenue annually to the RTA region. This is ongoing funding for the first time ever for transit - and will occur continuously in perpetuity.

The RTA region will also receive \$2.6 billion in bond revenue over the next five years. Three-million, sixty-nine thousand five-hundred dollars has already been earmarked for specific projects, so there is approximately \$2.23 billion in bond revenue coming to RTA for the Service Boards capital programs.

c) Mobility Services Department Statistics

Chairman Polman asked if there were any questions pertaining to the Mobility Services Department Statistics, which were distributed prior to the meeting. There were none.

5. 2020 Proposed Meeting Dates

The RTACAB voted to approve the 2020 meeting dates. All meetings will take place from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM on February 3, April 6, June 29 and October 5. The February and April meetings are currently scheduled to be held at CMAP. The vote was first moved by Emily Karry and seconded by David Ogunbode.

6. Fiscal Year 2020 Public Hearing Dates

Claire Serdiuk briefed the Board on the RTA's FY 2020 public hearings.

Like last year, the RTA will be live streaming the Special Finance Committee meeting/public hearing at locations in each of the region's counties as well as South and North Cook County, as required by statute. This way interested individuals will be able to watch each service board's and RTA's budget presentation and observe follow up questions posed by the Board.

7. Quarterly Performance Update

Peter Fahrenwald, Strategic and Corridor Planning, Division Manager, gave the Board an update on the region's Quarterly Performance Measures. He explained that by utilizing the goals laid out in Invest in Transit, staff were now able to deliver consistent and objective performance reviews of the region's transit system.

Fahrenwald also explained that the adoption of the Rebuild Illinois Capital Program, a much-needed infusion of capital funding will be coming into the system, definitely helps the Region in the short term, it isn't a permanent solution to the long-term capital funding needs.

Chairman Polman asked if ridership was down for all three Service Boards. Fahrenwald answered yes.

The Chairman also asked how the RTA could incorporate Uber/Lfyt into any future plans in the region. Fahrenwald explained that RTA, along with other mass transit systems throughout the country, are trying to develop a plan

that might incorporate TNCs to help riders access the “last mile”. The RTA is currently engaged in some programs where the agency subsidizes riders to and from Metra stations, with the goal that the employer will eventually take over the cost in the future.

8. 5310 Call for Projects Update

Lorri Newsome, Director of Capital Programming, Local Planning & Program Management, presented an update on the current RTA’s 5310 Call for Projects. As the “designated recipient” the RTA is responsible for overseeing the Section 5310 program in Northeastern Illinois and developing an annual Program of Projects (POP).

The Section 5310 program is the only available source of federal transit funds for projects designed to serve older adults and people with disabilities that go beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

In March 2019, RTA released an open call for projects for the FFY 2018 and 2019 Section 5310 Program.

Fourteen (14) project applications were received. The RTA in conjunction with a project selection team composed of staff from IDOT, CMAP reviewed all project applications for program eligibility. As a result of the review, eleven of the 14 projects submitted were recommended and approved for inclusion in the Section 5310 Program of Projects. Nine million dollars in federal funds will be available for awards through this process.

Chairman Polman asked if the amount of money receive for HSTP is determined by a formula grant. Newsome answered that the RTA gets \$9 million from the FTA, then analyzes how the money is spent and reassess each season. A portion of the annual funds is shared with IDOT for purchase of paratransit.

9. Committee on Universal Mobility Study

Metropolitan Planning Council’s (MPC) Transportation Associate, Jeremy Glover, gave an update on a current on-going study regarding universal

mobility. In order to ensure that all mobility options are available to people of all ages and abilities in the region, MPC is gathering an overview of existing mobility infrastructure and services. From there, the goal is to understand any potential “gaps” in the system that need to be addressed.

The study has produced 32 recommendations including improving “last mile” accessibility, upgrading the region’s fixed-route system and eliminating structural funding inequities. MPC is planning a launch event in early December.

Chairman Polman asked if MPC utilized CMAP’s sidewalk study and accessible signals. Glover answered that yes, both have been incorporated into the study.

Adam Ballard then added that he has heard from members in the blind and deaf communities that everything must be truly accessible.

10. Service Board/CAB Committee Reports

Angela Davis, Chairwoman of the CTA ADA Advisory Committee, reported that they elected 5 new members since the last meeting. She also reported that the Red Purple Modernization project is completing ongoing utility work and the ADA Compliance Committee hosted a site visit to the 95th street station.

Finally, Davis announced that this would be her last meeting as Chairwoman of the CTA ADA Advisory Committee, and she appreciated the experience. She did not have any information on a replacement.

Maurice Sanders, Manager of Paratransit Quality Control for Pace, reported that Pace just completed an FTA audit. There were no findings to announce yet, but staff felt the audit went well.

Chairman Polman then suggested that Pace review spending money on the “Trapeze Ap” updates. He said he found the ap upgraded the customer experience.

Susan Dalton, Metra's ADA Committee Chair, reported that Metra also just concluded an FTA audit. There is also an RFP for 225 new rail cars and planned station upgrades in braille.

11. Public Comment

Adam Carter, Director of Little City-Ray Graham Association, thanked the RTA for the recent 5310 funding. He commented about how important this service is for seniors living in poverty.

Heather Armstrong said that the CTA needs to do more at keeping riders off the train tracks for their own safety.

Garland Armstrong reiterated Heather's concerns about members of the public being hit on CTA train tracks. He also would like for more money to be spent on the Cumberland Station's accessibility to busses.

Amy Serpe with CTA responded to both, stating there are clear policies and warnings posted at all train stations. It is up to the individual to pay attention and heed those warnings for his or her own safety. She also said that the Cumberland station is apart of the ASAP program.

Chairman Polman asked for a motion to adjourn at 11:43 a.m. Emily Karry moved the motion and Adam Ballard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 3rd, 2020.

Attendees

Voting Committee Members Present

Greg Polman - Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind- Chairman
David Ogunbode - Community Service Options – Vice Chairman
Emily Doucher - McHenry County DOT
Jackie Forbes – Kane County
Jodi Hefler – DuPage County
Adam Kerman - Pace CAB Chair
Emily Karry – Lake County

Non-Voting Committee Members Present

Michael VanDekreke, RTA Staff Representative
Angela Davis – Chair CTA ADA Advisory Committee

Other RTA/Service Board Staff Present

Claire Serdiuk-Anderson, RTA Staff
Susan Dalton, Metra Staff
Amy Serpe, CTA
Candace Jones, RTA
Maurice Sanders, Pace
Peter Kerstin, RTA
Jeremy Glover, MPC

Public Present:

Garland Armstrong
Heather Armstrong
Tiana Brazzale, Little City Foundation
Adam Carter, Little City Foundation