



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

10:00 AM

Virtual

The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority does hereby certify that it will convene a meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 electronically via Zoom in accordance with the provisions of La R.S. 42:17.1(A)(2)(a)-(c).

1. Call to Order

The meeting commenced at 10:04 am.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was reached.

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

[02.22.22 Board Meeting Minutes]

[22-060](#)

adopted

4. Reports

A. RTA Chairman's Report

None.

B. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report

Commissioner Neal reported that the New Links implementation update was reviewed during the March 10, 2022 Operations and Administration Committee Meeting, and would be shared.

C. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

None.

D. Jefferson Parish Report

None.

E. RTA General Counsel's Report

The report was provided during the Executive Session.

F. RTA Chief Executive Officer's Report

Alex Wiggins reported that several key staff members and Board Commissioners had the opportunity to interact with policy makers and legislative staff in person at the APTA Legislative Conference in February to get updates regarding infrastructure funding and legislation regarding transit, in addition to make the argument regarding for significant investments in New Orleans infrastructure.

Based on the guidance of the Commissioners, going forward the Chief of Staff will provide monthly updates regarding state, federal, and local transit legislation as of the March 22, 2022 Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Mr. Wiggins reported a downturn in COVID numbers, with only one infected employee as of the first week of March 2022; the beginning of fuel prices stabilizing; and the successful recovery of employee Michael Godfrey's grandmother from the Ukraine.

Mr. Wiggins reported the successful partnership between RTA, the Distillery Association, local business leaders, and responsibility.org to change the approach to alcohol advertising, and commission a bus wrap by artist/activist BMike to discourage underage drinking. Mr. Wiggins reported another such example of RTA community engagement will be seen between now and June 2022.

Mr. Wiggins reported Operator Appreciation Day was celebrated March 18, 2022, to thank frontline staff for the hard work they do to deliver effective transportation.

Chairman Daniels asked that more detailed reports with operational benchmarks be included in the Board report, particularly on-time performance, to which Mr. Wiggins replied that the Operations team, Commissioner Bryan, and Commissioner Neal have been working to update those very metrics, and would share those results.

5. RTA Federal Agenda Discussion

Chief of Staff Katherine Bush-Felton reported the 2022 State and Federal Agendas.

State Agenda

Ferry Operations - \$13M Capital Outlay Request for ferry operations, seasonal expansion and maintenance barge replacement

Commuter Rail-Bus - Support congestion relief efforts along I-10 by providing Commuter Bus service until the Commuter Rail is viable.

Federal Agenda

Bus Rapid Transit - Westbank-CBD-New Orleans East Line and CBD-Airport Line

UPT Transit Oriented Communities - Develop Union Passenger Terminal, Main Post Office

and Federal Office Building to a mixed-use housing, retail and governmental complex

Transit Oriented Communities - Develop mixed-use housing, retail and office space at each terminus location of the Westbank to New Orleans East BRT Lines

Downtown Transit Center - Design and build the Downtown Transfer Center at Canal and Basin St.

Commissioner Neal mentioned his desire to discuss further offline.

6. RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report

[January 2022 Financials]

[22-057](#)

Gizelle Banks reported that - Ridership - January's ridership of 507K fell short of the budget by 221K passengers. This is largely due to a slower than expected pandemic recovery. Hurricane Ida and the Hard Rock Hotel collapse continue to have smaller and waning negative effects. Year-to-date comparisons to January actuals (7.1M riders through December 2021) show mixed results across the spectrum - when compared to the budget (-30.3%), 2020 actuals (6.6M riders) and 2019 pre-COVID actuals (15.5M riders).

Gizelle Banks reported that - Farebox Recovery Rates 2021 vs. 2019 (Pre-COVID) Fare revenue continues to offset a significantly lower percentage of operating expenses as ridership struggles to rebound. However, January's farebox recovery decreased from 7.25% in the prior to 7.21%.

Gizelle Banks reported that - FERRY - Farebox Recovery Rates 2021 vs. 2019 (Pre-COVID) - The increase in farebox recovery from 9.51% in December to 9.87% in January is a result of a slight change in passenger revenue and a decrease in operating expenses.

Gizelle Banks reported that - Operating Revenues (Budget, Actual & Prior Year) - Overall, Operating Revenues display positive results for the month when compared to the prior year due to strong Sales Tax Revenues. Passenger Fares for January, fared within 1% of the budget, or \$10K.

Gizelle Banks reported that - Operating Expenses - Labor and Fringe Benefits, the largest expenditure at \$6.1M, comprised 66.5% of this month's actual expenses. The contrast in 2020 and current year results for Labor and Fringe Benefits and Services is directly related to the transition from the O & M contractual arrangement with Transdev to 100% in-house operations. In total, Operating Expenses for the month compared favorably with the budget with a \$194K positive variance.

Gizelle Banks reported that - Net Revenue (Before Government Assistance) is

\$853K for the month of January. This positive position is largely attributable to \$988K in Net Operating Revenue for the month. After applying the month's \$1.2M in Government Operating Assistance, and accounting maritime operations, Net Revenue totaled \$1.1M

Gizelle Banks reported that - Operating Reserve - The strong positive variance from Net Revenue \$1.1M (After Government Assistance) was offset by \$777K in Debt Service, resulting in approximately \$361K in Restricted Operating/Capital Reserve.

Commissioner Walton asked for clarification regarding maritime spending.

To that point, Commissioner Wegner brought up the need for a revenue source to support maritime spending, to which Ms. Banks added that federal funding is indeed being used for maritime funding.

7. DBE Report

Adonis Expose' reported that the RTA awarded a total of \$6,206,511 in contracts and \$5,025,500 was awarded to DBE Prime Contractors. The DBE participation was 81%.

Current DBE Projects:

CMAR - Canal Street Ferry Terminal (Construction) - 5%
Security Services - 8%
Disaster Recovery Grants Management and Administration - 31%
Riverfront Track Work & Overhead Catenary - 10%
Transit Ferry Services - 0%
East New Orleans Maintenance Building - 11%
St. Charles Streetcar Line Downtown Loop Pavement Replacement - 55%
OCS Pole Replacement - 0%
Business Intelligence & Data Management Reporting System - 0%
On Call Technical Support - 0%
Napoleon Facility Renovation & Upgrade - 0%

Current SBE Projects:

DBE Consulting Services - 46%
Construction Cost Audits - 49%
On Call A&E Services for Design of Interim Downtown Transit Hub - 0%
Vegetation Control on Streetcar Lines - 0%
Facility Maintenance & Construction Support Services - 0%

Upcoming DBE/SBE Projects:

Leadership & Change Management Training - 100% SBE
Classification, Compensation Health & Retirement Benefits Consultant - 100% SBE
Transit Security Services - 23%
Short-Term Janitorial Services - 100% SBE

8. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Walton arrived at 10:21 am and was able to vote on the consent agenda items.

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Bryan moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Resolution No. 22-014 was adopted unanimously.
adopted

Classification and Compensation Study [22-023](#)

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Bryan seconded to adopt the Classification and Compensation Study. Resolution No. 22-015 was adopted unanimously.
adopted

Enactment No: 22-015

TVM Machine Purchase [22-024](#)

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Bryan seconded to adopt the TVM Machine Purchases. Resolution No. 22-016 was adopted unanimously.
adopted

Enactment No: 2-016

RTA Work Policies New and Amended [22-045](#)

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Bryan seconded to adopt RTA Work Policies New and Amended. Resolution No. 22-017 was adopted unanimously.
adopted

Enactment No: 22-017

Authorization to procure Clever System to integrate Ferry Mode [22-048](#)

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Bryan seconded to adopt the Authorization to Procure Clever System to Integrate Ferry Mode. Resolution No. 22-018 was adopted unanimously.
adopted

Enactment No: 22-018

Amendments to Fixed Route Service Standards [22-049](#)

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Bryan seconded to adopt the Amendments to the Fixed Route Service Standards. Resolution No. 22-019 was adopted unanimously.
adopted

Enactment No: 22-019

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) Between the City of Kenner and the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) [22-053](#)

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Bryan seconded to adopt Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) Between the City of Kenner and the

Regional Transit Authority (RTA). Resolution No. 22-020 was adopted unanimously.
adopted

Enactment No: 22-020

9. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)

None.

10. Audience Questions and Comments

None.

11. Executive Session (2/3RDS VOTE TO Consider)

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Bryan seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss

Amalgamated Transit Union

The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to come out of Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

go into Executive Session

Amalgamated Transit Union

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Raymond seconded to adjourn the Board Meeting of March 22, 2022. The motion was approved unanimously.