



2817 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119

## New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

### Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, March 28, 2023

10:00 AM

RTA Board Room

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The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) hereby declares that, in accordance with La. R.S. 42:17.1 (A)(2)(a)-(c), a meeting will be held in person on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Please be advised that wearing masks in the boardroom is encouraged.

Written comments on any matter included on the agenda will be accepted in the following ways: 1) Submission of a Speaker Card on meeting day; 2) Electronically by email sent to: [rtaboard@rtaforward.org](mailto:rtaboard@rtaforward.org) prior to the meeting; or 3) By U.S. Mail send to 2817 Canal Street, Attention: Office of Board Affairs, New Orleans, LA 70119.

#### 1. Call to Order

#### 2. Roll Call

**Commissioners Present:** Commissioner Raymond, Commissioner Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner DeFrancesch, Commissioner Ewell and Commissioner LeBeouf

**Commissioner Absent:** Commissioner Neal

#### 3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

[Board Meeting Minutes - February 28, 2023]

[23-038](#)

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to approve the Board of Commissioners Meeting of February 28, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

[Special Board Meeting Minutes - March 3, 2023 ]

[23-039](#)

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to approve the Special Board Meeting of March 3, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

approved

#### 4. Reports

##### A. RTA Chairman's Report

None.

##### B. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report

None.

##### C. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

None.

##### D. Jefferson Parish Report

Commissioner DeFrancesch gave the Jefferson Parish report. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, March 28, 2023 under the Jefferson Parish Report.

##### E. RTA General Counsel's Report

No Report.

##### F. RTA Chief Executive Officer's Report

#### **Commissioner LeBeouf came to the meeting**

Lona Hankins reported that NTI has a course called Operators Assault and Awareness De-escalation and the three Transit Police Officers has attended the course and now are eligible to train the Operators. The training will take place from April 17-28, 2023.

Lona Hankins reported that the agency has been having issues with derailments and this is due from operator and mechanical failures. The rail has been ordered for the Carrollton and Claiborne locations and was scheduled to be delivered this year. There were 4 derailments at this location due to a broken rod at one of the switches and this has been repaired. Also, the SSO has requested that the RTA conduct a deeper look into these derailments and one of the On-Call Consultants will assist with these inspections.

Lona Hankins reported that she attended the APTA Legislative Conference.

Lona Hankins reported that staff has been working with LePass to make sure that the Real-time bus arrival was accurate on the application and the software developers were working on these issues.

Lona Hankins reported that the Bus Stop Signage vendor did not have the technical

capacity to do the graphic mail merge so in-house staff worked with a local vendor to fix the issues and sent the file to the vendor and once the signs are ready to be printed, the routes printed will be prioritized.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Lona Hankins stated that the vendor is still under contract with the RTA and staff will honor the contract. This contract was authorized last summer.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Lona Hankins stated that the RTA was not the only transit agency impacted by the LePass issues.

In response to Commissioner Ewell, Token was the software company that takes the money and Move-It is the application software.

Employee of the Month are as follows:

Patrick Elliott - Maintenance (January) - Over 40 years of service

Christopher Martin - Operator (February) - Five years

Charles Croon - Maintenance (February) - Over 13 years of service

Chairman Raymond thanked the employees for doing a great job.

Lona Hankins reported that the RTA was awarded \$1.8M from FTA and the money will be used for Paratransit Vehicles: 9 Paratransit Ford Transit and 3-23" Paratransit Lift vehicles.

Lona Hankins reported on the 60 Day, 90 Day and 6 Month Plan. The Plan can be found in the March 28, 2023, Board Meeting PowerPoint Report under the CEO's Report.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Lona Hankins reported that staff has been working with DOTD since the beginning of the BRT project and the DOTD will not give the RTA approval until staff move forward with the design phase of the project.

In response to Commissioner Ewell, Lona Hankins reported that in order to determine the best route a study needs to be done on the best way to get across the CCC Bridge.

In response to Commissioner Ewell, Lona Hankins reported that DOTD would like to see the RTA's Data, so all the data will be coordinated.

Commissioner Raymond stated that the DOTD Study and the RTA Study will compliment each other.

Commissioner Walton stated that a Study is being conducted and this is the time for the public to communicate any ideas to the RTA.

Commissioner Coulon stated that staff should look at the Board for directions and get approval when the Budget will be impacted.

Lona Hankins stated that the increases that were given to staff was included in the 2023 Budget.

#### G. Chief of Staff Legislative Update

This report was given by Katherine Felton and can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, March 28, 2023 under Legislative Update.

#### H. Operations Update

Gerard Guter gave the January Operations Update. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, March 28, 2023 under Operations Monthly Status Report.

In response to Commissioner Ewell, Gerard Guter reported that the City of New Orleans does advise the RTA of Long-Term Construction. The City does not advise the RTA of the Short-Term Detours. Once the RTA is aware of any type of detours the routes are adjusted and the public are advised in advance.

In response to Commissioner DeFrancesch, Gerard Guter reported that when the RTA is advised in advanced the changes can be implemented into the schedules if necessary and with the new software Disruption Manager all these detours will be accounted for in the schedules.

Commissioner Raymond ask Gerard Guter to include in the Operations Update the number of down buses.

#### I. RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report

Mark Major presented the RTA Financial Officer's Report. This report can be found in the Board of Commissioners PowerPoint Report dated, March 28, 2023, under the RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report.

## 5. Consent Agenda

adopted

### EDM CARD STOCK

[23-022](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to adopt the EDM Card Stock. Resolution No. 23-0017 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-017

### Fare Collection Parts

[23-023](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to adopt the Fare Collection Parts. Resolution No. 21-018 was adopted unanimously.

## Enactment No: 83-018

- \* Amendment 9 to the CEA between DOTD and RTA to revise Exhibit K [23-024](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to adopt the Amendment 9 to the CEA between DOTD and RTA to revise Exhibit K. Resolution 23-019 was adopted unanimously.

## Enactment No: 23-019

Bus Shelter Construction [23-027](#)

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to adopt the Bus Shelter Construction. Resolution 23-020 was adopted unanimously.

## Enactment No: 23-020

**6. Other items for consideration:**

Title VI and Environmental Justice [23-018](#)

Commissioner LeBeouf thanked Detrich Hebert-Johnson for doing a great job with the edited document and answering all the Commissioners questions.

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner LeBeouf seconded to adopt the Title VI and Environmental Justice. Resolution No. 23-021 was adopted unanimously.

## Enactment No: 23-021

- \* 2023 Low/No Grant Application [23-037](#)

In response to Commissioner Walton, Dwight Norton stated that the cost of the buses was \$73M and the local match was \$10.2M. This amount would be spread over three years to 2026 and the RTA was asking Finance New Orleans to assist with the cost.

In response to Commissioner Walton, Dwight North stated that the scheduled delivery is 2026.

In response to Commissioner DeFrancesch, Lona Hankins reported that the Grants are reimbursements and part of the Five-Year Capital Plan will show a cash flow. Once the RTA receive the grant a schedule is done to show how the RTA will use the money.

Lona Hankins reported that there is a continuance communication with FTA once your grant is approved.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Dwight Norton stated that the RTA had a consultant that assisted with writing this Grant Application.

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to adopt the 2023 Low/No Grant Application. Resolution No. 23-022 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-022

## **7. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)**

None.

## **8. Audience Questions and Comments**

Alan Drake stated that he was in favor of electric buses but not ones that are fully battery operated.

Brenda Holmes asked that Route 80 needs to go back to Canal Street and there is not service after 10:30. The St. Claude Bus Route constantly gets caught by the train and 4 Broad buses broke down on March 22, 2023, and there were only 6 buses on the line that day and she knows there will be no broken buses during Jazz Fest.

Kory Dupree stated that he wanted to thank Lona Hankins for being more pro-active with the Operators. Last month one of the buses were hijacked and there are is a limited number of transit police officers that deals with the whole system and they are a number of broken buses so the operators can't do their jobs .

Commissioner Ewell asked Gerard Guter to talk to Brenda Holmes.

Commissioner LeBeouf stated that she was glad to hear Brenda Holmes comments regarding the buses and she is the eyes and ears of the public.

Commissioner DeFrancesch stated that she appreciates her comments.

## **9. Executive Session (2/3RDS VOTE TO Consider)**

None.

## **10. Adjournment**

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adjourn the Board Meeting of March 28, 2023. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.

adjourned

\* New Agenda Item (Revised: March 23, 2023)