

1  
2 CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
3 MARCH 2023 FINANCE, AUDIT & BUDGET COMMITTEE BOARD  
4 MEETING

5  
6 Held via videoconference

7 on

8 March 8th, 2023

9 at

10 9:40 a.m.

11 at

12 567 West Lake Street, 2nd Floor,  
13 Chicago, Illinois 60661

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15  
16 STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS via  
17 videoconference had in the above-entitled cause  
18 held at the Chicago Transit Authority Headquarters,  
19 567 West Lake Street, 2nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois,  
20 L. Bernard Jakes, presiding.

21  
22  
23 REPORTED BY: Margaret E. Mecklenborg, CSR

24 LICENSE NO.: 084-004495



1 BOARD MEMBERS:

2 MR. LESTER L. BARCLAY, Director;

3 DR. L. BERNARD JAKES, Chairman;

4 MS. NEEMA JHA, Director;

5 MS. MICHELE A. LEE, Director;

6 REV. JOHNNY L. MILLER, Director;

7 MR. DORVAL R. CARTER, JR., President;

8 MR. KENT S. RAY, General Counsel.

9 MS. GEORGETTE L. GREENLEE, Secretary.

10 ABSENT:

11 MS. ROSA ORTIZ, Director.

12 PRESENTERS:

13 MR. JEREMY FINE, Chief Financial Officer.

14 ALSO PRESENT:

15 MR. DONALD BONDS, Chief Transit Officer;

16 MR. MARC BUHMANN, Videographer;

17 MR. JAY CHAROENRATH, General Manager,  
18 Bus Engineering and Heavy Maintenance  
and Instruction;

19 MS. TAMMY CHASE, Director of Communications and  
20 Media Relations;

21 MR. MICHAEL CONNELLY, Chief Planning Officer;

22 MS. MICHELE CURRAN, Vice President,  
Budget & Capital Finance;

23 MR. ANDREW FULLER, Chief Internal Auditor;

24



1 ALSO PRESENT:(Continued)

2 MS. CAROLINE GALLAGHER,  
3 Chief Strategy, Data and Technology Officer;

4 MS. ELSA GUTIERREZ, Vice President, Planning;

5 MS. SONJA HARGROVE, General Manager,  
6 Strategic and Business Operations;

7 MS. NORA LEERHSEN, Chief of Staff;

8 MS. ELLEN MCCORMACK, Vice President of  
9 Purchasing and Supply Chain;

10 MR. THOMAS MCKONE,  
11 Chief Administrative Officer;

12 MR. WILLIAM MOONEY,  
13 Chief Infrastructure Officer;

14 MS. APRIL MORGAN,  
15 Chief of Staff, Office of the Chairman;

16 MR. HERB NITZ,  
17 Director, Technology Engineering;

18 MS. SANJA NOBLE,  
19 Director of Treasury Operations;

20 MS. MOLLY POPPE, Chief Innovation Officer;

21 MR. JUANPABLO PRIETO,  
22 Director, Diversity Programs;

23 MS. LISA SMITH,  
24 Director of Budget;

MR. SAMUEL SMITH,  
Vice President, Legislative Affairs;

MR. BRIAN STEELE,  
Vice President of Communication and Marketing;

MS. NANCY-ELLEN ZUSMAN,  
Chief Safety & Security Officer.



1 (whereupon the meeting  
2 reconvened at 9:40 a.m.  
3 as follows:)

4 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes, we may now  
5 begin the meeting on finance, audit and budget.

6 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Thank you. Good morning. I  
7 would like to call to order the March 8th, 2023  
8 meeting on the Committee of the Finance, Audit and  
9 Budget. Georgette, would you, please, call the  
10 roll?

11 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jha?

12 DIRECTOR JHA: Here.

13 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Lee?

14 DIRECTOR LEE: Here.

15 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller? Director  
16 Miller?

17 DIRECTOR MILLER: Here. I'm sorry. Here.

18 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

19 DIRECTOR BARCLAY: Here.

20 DIRECTOR MILLER: Can you hear me? Here.

21 SECRETARY GREENLEE: And Director Jakes?

22 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Here.

23 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes, you have a  
24 quorum with four members in -- in attendance. You



1 can proceed to item number two.

2 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Our first order of business is  
3 the approval of the committee minutes of  
4 February 8th, 2023. May I have a motion to  
5 approve?

6 DIRECTOR JHA: So move.

7 DIRECTOR LEE: Second.

8 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jha?

9 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

10 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Lee?

11 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

12 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller?

13 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.

14 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

15 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

16 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.

17 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

18 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes.

19 SECRETARY GREENLEE: The motion passes.

20 Director Jakes, you can -- may proceed to item  
21 number three.

22 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Our next order of business is  
23 the finance report. Jeremy Fine?

24 MR. FINE: Good morning. I'm Jeremy Fine, your



1 Chief Financial Officer. And today I'll walk  
2 through results for January. We see here on the  
3 first page January revenues. January revenues for  
4 farebox and pass totals are coming in better than  
5 expected via the budget by about 3.7 million  
6 dollars. Reduced fare subsidy comes in as expected  
7 and non-farebox totals are coming in about a half a  
8 million dollars better than expected in the budget.  
9 Therefore, for January we see total revenues coming  
10 in 4.2 million dollars better than the budget and  
11 about 7.9 million dollars better than 2022 January  
12 results. On the next page you see January  
13 expenses. We see labor coming in about 8 million  
14 dollars better than budgeted. Material coming in  
15 about a half a million dollars lower, you know, or  
16 worse, unfavorable to budget. And this is not  
17 uncommon in the winter months. Fuel coming in  
18 better by about a million dollars. Power coming in  
19 essentially flat. Injuries and damages and  
20 security services coming in either flat to budget  
21 or slightly positive. And other expenses coming in  
22 about 2 million dollars to the negative. But again  
23 this is not uncommon as we go from one year into  
24 the next with regard to timing of invoices and



1 whatnot. We see a negative variance here of about  
2 2 million dollars. So overall for the month of  
3 January we see positive favorability to the tune of  
4 about 6.6 million dollars for expenses. When we  
5 couple that with our revenues, we see a net number  
6 of 10.8 million dollars for the month of January.

7 with regard to our public funding, we show  
8 this three different ways in the next couple of  
9 pages. The first page is an aggregate page showing  
10 both '22 results and '23 results. For sales tax we  
11 see results here for November of 2022 where we  
12 still are comparing against the amended budget and  
13 the original budgets for that year. We see  
14 3.1 million dollars of positive favorability  
15 against the amended budget. 7.5 against the  
16 original budget. PTF is -- and RETT and PTF on  
17 RETT are compared against the '23 budget only and  
18 we see positive favorability on PTF of 1.4 million  
19 dollars. A negative 4.5 million dollars for RETT  
20 which is indicative of the higher interest rates  
21 and the slow down in -- in general -- with regard  
22 to real estate sales and PTF on RETT coming in  
23 about \$900,000 better and ICE funding coming in  
24 against the '22 budget flat to the amended budget



1 and slightly positive to the original budget. So  
2 overall for the month we see about 3.1 million  
3 dollars of favorability to the respective amended  
4 budgets and about 5.4 million dollars to the  
5 respective original budgets. On the next couple of  
6 pages we break this out by year so we can see more  
7 clearly with regard to 2022 results. On the next  
8 page we see sales tax -- I'm sorry. I think we may  
9 have skipped a page there. So yes. Thank you. On  
10 sales tax through November we see the results  
11 coming in 27.1 million dollars better than  
12 expected. You know, the results through December  
13 have been accrued which means that for the month we  
14 see about 50 million dollars of positive  
15 favorability vis-à-vis the amended budget. With  
16 the collections now for sales tax through November,  
17 we see positive favorability against the original  
18 budget of almost 125 million dollars. On the next  
19 page you see results for 2023. Again because we  
20 have not received collections for sales tax for  
21 January because we're still closing out 2022, we  
22 only see results for PTF, RETT and PTF on RETT. In  
23 an aggregate they're essentially flat but slightly  
24 negative to budget by about \$200,000. Again





1 without seeing any of the results yet for sales tax  
2 for 2023.

3 On the next page you see the federal  
4 relief funding draws. We see about 21 million  
5 dollars of total draws against federal relief funds  
6 for the month. This means that we've drawn down to  
7 date about 43 percent of the total allocation which  
8 means that we have about 1.25 billion remaining.  
9 And again as we continue to close out 2022 we'll  
10 continue to keep the Board apprised as to how  
11 things shake out for '22 in total but again we  
12 expect to see some positive variance even vis-à-vis  
13 our budgeted numbers for how we were going to end  
14 2022.

15 With regard to the three commodities that  
16 we purchase, fuel, power and natural gas, we see  
17 again that we've been able to lock in a good  
18 portion of the expected volume for '23, '24 and '25.  
19 We will continue to look for selective  
20 opportunities to buy the outer years for fuel,  
21 power and natural gas. And again this strategy has  
22 worked out very well for us in being able to lock  
23 in at very attractive pricing. That concludes my  
24 report for January and I'm glad to answer any



1 questions.

2 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Jeremy, one, it was great  
3 seeing the report where there were green arrows  
4 going up and not red arrows going down. So that  
5 was -- that was a joy to see. But what -- what do  
6 you attribute in January to the -- the increase?

7 MR. FINE: So I think that, you know, again we  
8 continue to see, you know, good results on  
9 the -- on -- on public funding. You know, there's  
10 still some tailwinds. However, we continue to keep  
11 a close eye on, you know, the larger economy. We  
12 also see, you know, again some, you know, increased  
13 ridership, you know, kind of continuing to bolster  
14 our fare and pass totals which is again -- again a  
15 very good sign. And then again with regard to our  
16 expenses, I think that over the last couple of  
17 years again just working with all of the  
18 departments, you know, making sure that we are  
19 tightening our belts as best we can and continuing  
20 to work, you know, aggressively on that front has  
21 allowed us to continue to see positive variance  
22 there as well. So, you know, again I think that  
23 the ridership trends as well as the larger economy  
24 trends for the -- at least for the near term until



1 there's, you know, a potential recession continue  
2 to be favorable for us.

3 CHAIRMAN JAKES: I want to make sure I heard  
4 you correctly. Ridership is increasing, not  
5 decreasing or not flat.

6 PRESIDENT CARTER: That's correct.

7 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Good.

8 PRESIDENT CARTER: Ridership is increasing.

9 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Good.

10 PRESIDENT CARTER: Another point that I would  
11 make that has also helped us particularly in the  
12 winter months is that we've had a relatively mild  
13 winter. And a lot of the expenses that we might  
14 normally incur around snow removal and overtime  
15 because of severe weather have not really impacted  
16 us the way they might in a typical winter. That  
17 also may -- that also helped us a little bit with  
18 our ridership. So I think the mild winter has been  
19 our friend this year for -- certainly.

20 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Good. That's a great report.  
21 Thank you. Thank you. Jeremy, thank you for that.  
22 I have no more questions. Georgette?

23 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Are there any other  
24 questions or comments?



1 DIRECTOR LEE: No questions.

2 DIRECTOR JHA: No questions.

3 DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions. Thank you.  
4 Good report.

5 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes, you may  
6 proceed to the contracts which is agenda item  
7 number four.

8 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Great. Thank you. Our next  
9 order of business is the review of transit  
10 operations contract A-1 and A-2.

11 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jha, any  
12 questions?

13 DIRECTOR JHA: No questions.

14 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Lee, any  
15 questions?

16 DIRECTOR LEE: None. Thank you.

17 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller?

18 DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions.

19 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

20 DIRECTOR BARCLAY: No questions.

21 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

22 CHAIRMAN JAKES: No questions. Our next order  
23 of business is the review of infrastructure  
24 contracts B-1 through B-11. I have no questions.



1 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jha, any  
2 questions?

3 DIRECTOR JHA: No questions. Thank you.

4 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Lee, any  
5 questions?

6 DIRECTOR LEE: None. Thank you.

7 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller, any  
8 questions?

9 DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions.

10 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman Miller?

11 DIRECTOR MILLER: No question. No questions.

12 SECRETARY GREENLEE: You may now proceed --

13 DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions. I don't  
14 why you --

15 SECRETARY GREENLEE: We heard you. We heard  
16 you, Director Miller. Thank you very much.

17 DIRECTOR MILLER: Oh, okay. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: There's a delay.

19 DIRECTOR JAKES: Right.

20 SECRETARY GREENLEE: We may now proceed to  
21 contracts -- contract number C-1.

22 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Our next order of business is  
23 the review of finance contract number C1, energy  
24 management and advisory services for a period of up



1 to three years with two funded one-year options. I  
2 do have a question. More of a -- yeah. A  
3 question. Can you explain that, Ellen? Just  
4 explain that. I don't know if that's you or Jeremy  
5 who can talk about this -- this contract further.

6 PRESIDENT CARTER: Jeremy -- Jeremy is probably  
7 the best person to explain the contract.

8 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Okay.

9 PRESIDENT CARTER: So, Jeremy, why don't you  
10 explain what the contract does?

11 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Thank you.

12 MR. FINE: Perfect. Again I'm Jeremy Fine,  
13 your Chief Financial Officer. This contract is for  
14 energy management services. The CTA really relies  
15 on industry experts to help us provide best  
16 practice in risk management to reduce our costs  
17 associated with energy procurement for natural gas,  
18 electricity, diesel fuel, the things that we talk  
19 about on a monthly basis. This contract really  
20 helps us, you know, kind of again scope out and  
21 understand and reduce risk management with regard  
22 to the supply in pricing of those commodities. It  
23 also helps with auditing and reporting of  
24 consumption and billing data with regard to the



1 purchase and -- of the three commodities. And also  
2 with regard to budget forecast, preparation and  
3 energy procurement negotiation which will obviously  
4 become more and more important as we know the  
5 fleet -- the bus fleet over to e-buses and they've  
6 also helped us develop the strategy that has become  
7 very beneficial to us in securing particularly fuel  
8 of, you know, buying allotments along the way when  
9 prices avail themselves. So again all of those  
10 functions kind of roll up under this contract and  
11 this has been a very beneficial contract for us in  
12 securing energy at the lowest cost possible price.  
13 As well as continuing to explore new, you know,  
14 sustainable energy sources as we move forward, you  
15 know, in not only the -- not only the -- the e-bus  
16 but just the procurement of the electricity and  
17 energy needed for those fleets of the future. So  
18 again this is a -- this is a very important role  
19 for us and one that we've worked with Ameresco who  
20 is the -- the winning bidder here for several years  
21 now and they provide services to a number of other  
22 large municipal buyers of energy including the City  
23 of Chicago, CHA, CPS, Cook County Parks and -- and  
24 UIC. So they're well adept at this and have been a



1 very good partner for us in the past.

2 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Good. And if my memory serves  
3 me correctly, it was -- the DBE was 30 percent.

4 MR. FINE: Yes. That's correct. It's a firm  
5 called Shelton Solutions and it is for 30 percent  
6 participation.

7 CHAIRMAN JAKES: It was -- it was great seeing  
8 that because I -- I've learned of -- I hadn't heard  
9 of it and I Googled them so it was nice to see a  
10 company right here in Chicago and -- and it was  
11 even more nice to see that they were -- they were  
12 people of color.

13 MR. FINE: Absolutely.

14 CHAIRMAN JAKES: I mean they were African- --  
15 African-American. I think she's the -- she's the  
16 chair, CEO and president. So great job on that.  
17 Thank you. I have no -- no further questions,  
18 Georgette.

19 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Are there any other  
20 questions? Director Jha?

21 DIRECTOR JHA: No questions.

22 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Lee?

23 DIRECTOR LEE: No questions. Thanks.

24 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?





1           DIRECTOR BARCLAY: No questions. We may then  
2 move to contract H-1. Director Jakes?

3           CHAIRMAN JAKES: Our next order of business is  
4 the review of safety contract number H-1. Clean  
5 up, handling, removal, transport and disposal of  
6 hazardous and non-hazardous waste for thirty-six  
7 months. My question on this contract is that I  
8 noticed it was only one bid. Is that accurate?

9           MS. MCCORMACK: That is accurate. We did -- we  
10 did have another company, Safety-Kleen and EvoEco.  
11 And they both looked at the procurement. They  
12 downloaded the document. And Safety-Kleen reached  
13 out to us and asked if we could give -- give them  
14 an extension. So we sent out an addendum and we  
15 extended the procurement for everyone. And yet  
16 again only Tradebe submitted a proposal. So one of  
17 the other companies stated that the -- the work was  
18 just far too much for their small company to  
19 handle. And when we asked Safety-Kleen why didn't  
20 you submit a bid, we extended it for the length of  
21 time that you asked, they said that they still  
22 didn't have time. And unfortunately we see  
23 that -- that will happen. When we get one  
24 proposal, we send out -- we reach out to the other



1 contractors that we see either downloaded the bid  
2 or bid on it in the past and we ask them why didn't  
3 you submit a bid. And they'll -- sometimes they'll  
4 respond we didn't have enough time so we reissue it  
5 and we do the whole procurement again and we still  
6 don't get a procurement. We have worked with  
7 Tradebe in the past and the using department is  
8 happy with the work that they do and the pricing  
9 they provided was good pricing. So we felt that it  
10 was in the best interest of CTA to go ahead and  
11 award this contract.

12 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Okay. Thank you for that,  
13 Ellen. Is there a reason why there was a zero  
14 percent DBE?

15 MR. PRIETO: Yes. This is JuanPablo Prieto,  
16 Director of Diversity Programs. We -- we've looked  
17 at this traditionally at -- at a zero percent goal  
18 because there are no DBE firms that have the  
19 equipment to handle the hazardous waste. We have,  
20 you know, tried to talk with several companies  
21 about expanding but the cost tends to be  
22 prohibitive because of the equipment needed for  
23 this type of work.

24 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Thank you, JuanPablo. Thank



1 you, Ellen.

2 MR. PRIETO: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN JAKES: No further questions,  
4 Georgette.

5 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Are there any further  
6 questions? Director Jha?

7 DIRECTOR JHA: No questions.

8 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Lee?

9 DIRECTOR LEE: No questions.

10 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

11 DIRECTOR BARCLAY: No questions.

12 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes,  
13 we -- being that there are no further questions, we  
14 may now proceed to item number 4-A.

15 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Since there are no further  
16 questions on the contracts, may I have leave to  
17 place the fifteen contracts on the omnibus?

18 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jha?

19 DIRECTOR JHA: So move.

20 DIRECTOR LEE: Second.

21 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman -- Director  
22 Jakes, we may now proceed to item number 4-B.

23 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Since there is no further  
24 business to come before the committee, may I have a



1 motion to approve the omnibus and recommend the  
2 omnibus for board approval?

3 DIRECTOR JHA: So move.

4 DIRECTOR LEE: Second.

5 SECRETARY GREENLEE: A motion has been moved  
6 and seconded. Director Jha?

7 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

8 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Lee?

9 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

10 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller?

11 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.

12 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

13 DIRECTOR BARCLAY: Yes.

14 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

15 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes.

16 SECRETARY GREENLEE: The motion to approve the  
17 omnibus passes. Director Jakes, you may proceed to  
18 agenda item number 5.

19 CHAIRMAN JAKES: And, finally, may I have a  
20 motion to adjourn?

21 DIRECTOR JHA: So move.

22 DIRECTOR LEE: Second.

23 SECRETARY GREENLEE: The motion to adjourn has  
24 been moved and seconded. Director Jha?



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DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Lee?

DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

DIRECTOR BARCLAY: Yes.

SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes.

SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes, the  
committee is adjourned.

CHAIRMAN JAKES: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the meeting  
adjourned at 9:59 a.m.)



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STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 ) SS:  
COUNTY OF C O O K )

MARGARET E. MECKLENBORG, as an Officer of the Court, says that she is a Certified Shorthand Reporter doing business in the State of Illinois; that she reported in shorthand the proceedings of said meeting, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of her shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid, and contains the proceedings given at said meeting via videoconference.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF: I have hereunto set my verified digital signature this 9th day of March , 2023.

*Margaret E. Mecklenborg*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporter



		<b>7.9</b> 6:11	<b>auditing</b> 14:23	<b>Chairman</b> 4:6,18,22 5:2,14,15, 18,22 10:2 11:3,7,9, 20 12:8,19,22 13:10, 18,22 14:8,11 16:2, 7,14,24 17:3 18:12, 24 19:3,10,15,21,23 20:12,15,19 21:4,7, 10	<b>data</b> 14:24	<b>expected</b> 6:5,6,8 8:12 9:18
<b>\$</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>avail</b> 15:9	<b>Chicago</b> 15:23 16:10	<b>date</b> 9:7	<b>expenses</b> 6:13,21 7:4 10:16 11:13
<b>\$200,000</b> 8:24		<b>8</b> 6:13	<b>award</b> 18:11	<b>Chief</b> 6:1 14:13	<b>DBE</b> 16:3 18:14,18	<b>experts</b> 14:15
<b>\$900,000</b> 7:23		<b>8th</b> 4:7 5:4	<b>B</b>	<b>City</b> 15:22	<b>December</b> 8:12	<b>explain</b> 14:3,4,7,10
<b>1</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>B-1</b> 12:24	<b>Clean</b> 17:4	<b>decreasing</b> 11:5	<b>explore</b> 15:13
<b>1.25</b> 9:8		<b>9:40</b> 4:2	<b>B-11</b> 12:24	<b>close</b> 9:9 10:11	<b>delay</b> 13:18	<b>extended</b> 17:15,20
<b>1.4</b> 7:18		<b>9:59</b> 21:12	<b>Barclay</b> 4:18,19 5:14,15 12:19,20 13:18 16:24 17:1 19:10,11 20:12,13 21:4,5	<b>closing</b> 8:21	<b>department</b> 18:7	<b>extension</b> 17:14
<b>10.8</b> 7:6		<b>A</b>	<b>basis</b> 14:19	<b>collections</b> 8:16,20	<b>departments</b> 10:18	<b>eye</b> 10:11
<b>125</b> 8:18		<b>A-1</b> 12:10	<b>begin</b> 4:5	<b>color</b> 16:12	<b>develop</b> 15:6	<b>F</b>
<b>2</b>		<b>A-2</b> 12:10	<b>belts</b> 10:19	<b>comments</b> 11:24	<b>diesel</b> 14:18	<b>fare</b> 6:6 10:14
<b>2</b> 6:22 7:2		<b>a.m.</b> 4:2 21:12	<b>beneficial</b> 15:7,11	<b>committee</b> 4:8 5:3 19:24 21:9	<b>Director</b> 4:4,11,12,13,14,15, 17,19,20,21,23 5:6, 7,8,9,10,11,12,13, 16,17,20 12:1,2,3,5, 11,13,14,16,17,18, 20,21 13:1,3,4,6,7,9, 11,13,16,17,19 16:20,21,22,23 17:1, 2 18:16 19:6,7,8,9, 11,12,18,19,20,21 20:3,4,6,7,8,9,10,11, 13,14,17,21,22,24 21:1,2,3,5,6,8	<b>farebox</b> 6:4
<b>2022</b> 6:11 7:11 8:7,21 9:9, 14		<b>Absolutely</b> 16:13	<b>bid</b> 17:8,20 18:1,2,3	<b>companies</b> 17:17 18:20	<b>disposal</b> 17:5	<b>favorability</b> 7:3,14,18 8:3,15,17
<b>2023</b> 4:7 5:4 8:19 9:2		<b>accrued</b> 8:13	<b>bidder</b> 15:20	<b>company</b> 16:10 17:10,18	<b>Diversity</b> 18:16	<b>favorable</b> 11:2
<b>21</b> 9:4		<b>accurate</b> 17:8,9	<b>billing</b> 14:24	<b>compared</b> 7:17	<b>document</b> 17:12	<b>February</b> 5:4
<b>22</b> 7:10,24 9:11		<b>addendum</b> 17:14	<b>billion</b> 9:8	<b>comparing</b> 7:12	<b>dollars</b> 6:6,8,10,11,14,15, 18,22 7:2,4,6,14,19 8:3,4,11,14,18 9:5	<b>federal</b> 9:3,5
<b>23</b> 7:10,17 9:18		<b>adept</b> 15:24	<b>bit</b> 11:17	<b>concludes</b> 9:23	<b>downloaded</b> 17:12 18:1	<b>felt</b> 18:9
<b>27.1</b> 8:11		<b>adjourn</b> 20:20,23	<b>board</b> 9:10 20:2	<b>consumption</b> 14:24	<b>drawn</b> 9:6	<b>fifteen</b> 19:17
<b>3</b>		<b>adjourned</b> 21:9,12	<b>bolster</b> 10:13	<b>continue</b> 9:9,10,19 10:8,10,21 11:1	<b>draws</b> 9:4,5	<b>finally</b> 20:19
<b>3.1</b> 7:14 8:2		<b>advisory</b> 13:24	<b>break</b> 8:6	<b>contract</b> 12:10 13:21,23 14:5, 7,10,13,19 15:10,11 17:2,4,7 18:11	<b>E</b>	<b>finance</b> 4:5,8 5:23 13:23
<b>3.7</b> 6:5		<b>African-</b> 16:14	<b>budget</b> 4:5,9 6:5,8,10,16,20 7:12,15,16,17,24 8:1,15,18,24 15:2	<b>contracts</b> 18:1	<b>e-bus</b> 15:15	<b>Financial</b> 6:1 14:13
<b>30</b> 16:3,5		<b>African-american</b> 16:15	<b>budgeted</b> 6:14 9:13	<b>correct</b> 11:6 16:4	<b>e-buses</b> 15:5	<b>Fine</b> 5:23,24 10:7 14:12 16:4,13
<b>4</b>		<b>agenda</b> 12:6 20:18	<b>budgets</b> 7:13 8:4,5	<b>correctly</b> 11:4 16:3	<b>economy</b> 10:11,23	<b>firm</b> 16:4
<b>4</b> 9:18		<b>aggregate</b> 7:9 8:23	<b>bus</b> 15:5	<b>cost</b> 15:12 18:21	<b>electricity</b> 14:18 15:16	<b>firms</b> 18:18
<b>4-A</b> 19:14		<b>aggressively</b> 10:20	<b>business</b> 5:2,22 12:9,23 13:22 17:3 19:24	<b>costs</b> 14:16	<b>ellen</b> 14:3 18:13 19:1	<b>flat</b> 6:19,20 7:24 8:23 11:5
<b>4-B</b> 19:22		<b>ahead</b> 18:10	<b>buy</b> 9:20	<b>County</b> 15:23	<b>end</b> 9:13	<b>fleet</b> 15:5
<b>4.2</b> 6:10		<b>allocation</b> 9:7	<b>buyers</b> 15:22	<b>Cook</b> 15:23	<b>energy</b> 13:23 14:14,17 15:3, 12,14,17,22	<b>fleets</b> 15:17
<b>4.5</b> 7:19		<b>allotments</b> 15:8	<b>buying</b> 15:8	<b>correct</b> 11:6 16:4	<b>equipment</b> 18:19,22	<b>forecast</b> 15:2
<b>43</b> 9:7		<b>allowed</b> 10:21	<b>C</b>	<b>contracts</b> 12:6,24 13:21 19:16, 17	<b>essentially</b> 6:19 8:23	<b>forward</b> 15:14
<b>5</b>		<b>amended</b> 7:12,15,24 8:3,15	<b>C-1</b> 13:21	<b>contractors</b> 18:1	<b>estate</b> 7:22	<b>friend</b> 11:19
<b>5</b> 9:18 20:18		<b>Ameresco</b> 15:19	<b>C1</b> 13:23	<b>CTA</b> 14:14 18:10	<b>evocoo</b> 17:10	<b>front</b> 10:20
<b>5.4</b> 8:4		<b>apprised</b> 9:10	<b>call</b> 4:7,9	<b>damages</b> 6:19	<b>expanding</b> 18:21	<b>fuel</b> 6:17 9:16,20 14:18 15:7
<b>50</b> 8:14		<b>approval</b> 5:3 20:2	<b>called</b> 16:5		<b>expect</b> 9:12	<b>functions</b> 15:10
<b>6</b>		<b>approve</b> 5:5 20:1,16	<b>CARTER</b> 11:6,8,10 14:6,9			<b>funded</b> 14:1
<b>6.6</b> 7:4		<b>arrows</b> 10:3,4	<b>CEO</b> 16:16			<b>funding</b> 7:7,23 9:4 10:9
<b>7</b>		<b>attendance</b> 4:24	<b>CHA</b> 15:23			<b>funds</b> 9:5
<b>7.5</b> 7:15		<b>attractive</b> 9:23	<b>chair</b> 16:16			<b>future</b> 15:17



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>G</b></p> <p><b>gas</b> 9:16,21 14:17</p> <p><b>general</b> 7:21</p> <p><b>Georgette</b> 4:9 11:22 16:18 19:4</p> <p><b>give</b> 17:13</p> <p><b>glad</b> 9:24</p> <p><b>goal</b> 18:17</p> <p><b>good</b> 4:6 5:24 9:17 10:8, 15 11:7,9,20 12:4 16:1,2 18:9</p> <p><b>Googled</b> 16:9</p> <p><b>great</b> 10:2 11:20 12:8 16:7,16</p> <p><b>green</b> 10:3</p> <p><b>GREENLEE</b> 4:4,11,13,15,18,21, 23 5:8,10,12,14,17, 19 11:23 12:5,11,14, 17,19,21 13:1,4,7, 10,12,15,20 16:19, 22,24 19:5,8,10,12, 18,21 20:5,8,10,12, 14,16,23 21:2,4,6,8</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>H</b></p> <p><b>H-1</b> 17:2,4</p> <p><b>half</b> 6:7,15</p> <p><b>handle</b> 17:19 18:19</p> <p><b>handling</b> 17:5</p> <p><b>happen</b> 17:23</p> <p><b>happy</b> 18:8</p> <p><b>hazardous</b> 17:6 18:19</p> <p><b>hear</b> 4:20</p> <p><b>heard</b> 11:3 13:15 16:8</p> <p><b>helped</b> 11:11,17 15:6</p> <p><b>helps</b> 14:20,23</p> <p><b>higher</b> 7:20</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>I</b></p> <p><b>ICE</b> 7:23</p> <p><b>impacted</b> 11:15</p> <p><b>important</b> 15:4,18</p> <p><b>including</b> 15:22</p> <p><b>increase</b> 10:6</p> <p><b>increased</b> 10:12</p> <p><b>increasing</b> 11:4,8</p>	<p><b>incur</b> 11:14</p> <p><b>indicative</b> 7:20</p> <p><b>industry</b> 14:15</p> <p><b>infrastructure</b> 12:23</p> <p><b>Injuries</b> 6:19</p> <p><b>interest</b> 7:20 18:10</p> <p><b>invoices</b> 6:24</p> <p><b>item</b> 5:1,20 12:6 19:14,22 20:18</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>J</b></p> <p><b>Jakes</b> 4:4,6,21,22,23 5:2, 17,18,20,22 10:2 11:3,7,9,20 12:5,8, 21,22 13:19,22 14:8, 11 16:2,7,14 17:2,3 18:12,24 19:3,12,15, 22,23 20:14,15,17, 19 21:6,7,8,10</p> <p><b>January</b> 6:2,3,9,11,12 7:3,6 8:21 9:24 10:6</p> <p><b>Jeremy</b> 5:23,24 10:2 11:21 14:4,6,9,12</p> <p><b>Jha</b> 4:11,12 5:6,8,9 12:2, 11,13 13:1,3 16:20, 21 19:6,7,18,19 20:3,6,7,21,24 21:1</p> <p><b>job</b> 16:16</p> <p><b>joy</b> 10:5</p> <p><b>Juanpablo</b> 18:15,24</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>K</b></p> <p><b>kind</b> 10:13 14:20 15:10</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>L</b></p> <p><b>labor</b> 6:13</p> <p><b>large</b> 15:22</p> <p><b>larger</b> 10:11,23</p> <p><b>learned</b> 16:8</p> <p><b>leave</b> 19:16</p> <p><b>Lee</b> 4:13,14 5:7,10,11 12:1,14,16 13:4,6 16:22,23 19:8,9,20 20:4,8,9,22 21:2,3</p> <p><b>length</b> 17:20</p> <p><b>lock</b> 9:17,22</p> <p><b>looked</b> 17:11 18:16</p> <p><b>lot</b> 11:13</p> <p><b>lower</b> 6:15</p>	<p><b>lowest</b> 15:12</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>M</b></p> <p><b>make</b> 11:3,11</p> <p><b>making</b> 10:18</p> <p><b>management</b> 13:24 14:14,16,21</p> <p><b>March</b> 4:7</p> <p><b>Material</b> 6:14</p> <p><b>MCCORMACK</b> 17:9</p> <p><b>means</b> 8:13 9:6,8</p> <p><b>meeting</b> 4:1,5,8 21:11</p> <p><b>members</b> 4:24</p> <p><b>memory</b> 16:2</p> <p><b>mild</b> 11:12,18</p> <p><b>Miller</b> 4:15,16,17,20 5:12, 13,16 12:3,17,18 13:7,9,10,11,13,16, 17 20:10,11</p> <p><b>million</b> 6:5,8,10,11,13,15, 18,22 7:2,4,6,14,18, 19 8:2,4,11,14,18 9:4</p> <p><b>minutes</b> 5:3</p> <p><b>month</b> 7:2,6 8:2,13 9:6</p> <p><b>monthly</b> 14:19</p> <p><b>months</b> 6:17 11:12 17:7</p> <p><b>morning</b> 4:6 5:24</p> <p><b>motion</b> 5:4,19 20:1,5,16,20, 23</p> <p><b>move</b> 5:6 15:14 17:2 19:19 20:3,21</p> <p><b>moved</b> 20:5,24</p> <p><b>municipal</b> 15:22</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>N</b></p> <p><b>natural</b> 9:16,21 14:17</p> <p><b>needed</b> 15:17 18:22</p> <p><b>negative</b> 6:22 7:1,19 8:24</p> <p><b>negotiation</b> 15:3</p> <p><b>net</b> 7:5</p> <p><b>nice</b> 16:9,11</p> <p><b>non-farebox</b> 6:7</p> <p><b>non-hazardous</b> 17:6</p> <p><b>noticed</b> 17:8</p> <p><b>November</b> 7:11 8:10,16</p>	<p><b>number</b> 5:1,21 7:5 12:7 13:21,23 15:21 17:4 19:14,22 20:18</p> <p><b>numbers</b> 9:13</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>O</b></p> <p><b>Officer</b> 6:1 14:13</p> <p><b>omnibus</b> 19:17 20:1,2,17</p> <p><b>one-year</b> 14:1</p> <p><b>operations</b> 12:10</p> <p><b>opportunities</b> 9:20</p> <p><b>options</b> 14:1</p> <p><b>order</b> 4:7 5:2,22 12:9,22 13:22 17:3</p> <p><b>original</b> 7:13,16 8:1,5,17</p> <p><b>outer</b> 9:20</p> <p><b>overtime</b> 11:14</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>P</b></p> <p><b>pages</b> 7:9 8:6</p> <p><b>Parks</b> 15:23</p> <p><b>participation</b> 16:6</p> <p><b>partner</b> 16:1</p> <p><b>pass</b> 6:4 10:14</p> <p><b>passes</b> 5:19 20:17</p> <p><b>past</b> 16:1 18:2,7</p> <p><b>people</b> 16:12</p> <p><b>percent</b> 9:7 16:3,5 18:14,17</p> <p><b>Perfect</b> 14:12</p> <p><b>period</b> 13:24</p> <p><b>person</b> 14:7</p> <p><b>place</b> 19:17</p> <p><b>point</b> 11:10</p> <p><b>portion</b> 9:18</p> <p><b>positive</b> 6:21 7:3,14,18 8:1, 14,17 9:12 10:21</p> <p><b>potential</b> 11:1</p> <p><b>power</b> 6:18 9:16,21</p> <p><b>practice</b> 14:16</p> <p><b>preparation</b> 15:2</p> <p><b>president</b> 11:6,8,10 14:6,9 16:16</p> <p><b>price</b> 15:12</p>	<p><b>prices</b> 15:9</p> <p><b>pricing</b> 9:23 14:22 18:8,9</p> <p><b>Prieto</b> 18:15 19:2</p> <p><b>proceed</b> 5:1,20 12:6 13:12,20 19:14,22 20:17</p> <p><b>procurement</b> 14:17 15:3,16 17:11, 15 18:5,6</p> <p><b>Programs</b> 18:16</p> <p><b>prohibitive</b> 18:22</p> <p><b>proposal</b> 17:16,24</p> <p><b>provide</b> 14:15 15:21</p> <p><b>provided</b> 18:9</p> <p><b>PTF</b> 7:16,18,22 8:22</p> <p><b>public</b> 7:7 10:9</p> <p><b>purchase</b> 9:16 15:1</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q</b></p> <p><b>question</b> 13:11 14:2,3 17:7</p> <p><b>questions</b> 10:1 11:22,24 12:1, 2,3,12,13,15,18,20, 22,24 13:2,3,5,8,9, 11,13 16:17,20,21, 23 17:1 19:3,6,7,9, 11,13,16</p> <p><b>quorum</b> 4:24</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>R</b></p> <p><b>rates</b> 7:20</p> <p><b>reach</b> 17:24</p> <p><b>reached</b> 17:12</p> <p><b>real</b> 7:22</p> <p><b>reason</b> 18:13</p> <p><b>received</b> 8:20</p> <p><b>recession</b> 11:1</p> <p><b>recommend</b> 20:1</p> <p><b>reconvened</b> 4:2</p> <p><b>red</b> 10:4</p> <p><b>reduce</b> 14:16,21</p> <p><b>Reduced</b> 6:6</p> <p><b>regard</b> 6:24 7:7,21 8:7 9:15 10:15 14:21,24 15:2</p> <p><b>reissue</b> 18:4</p> <p><b>relief</b> 9:4,5</p> <p><b>relies</b> 14:14</p> <p><b>remaining</b> 9:8</p>	<p><b>removal</b> 11:14 17:5</p> <p><b>report</b> 5:23 9:24 10:3 11:20 12:4</p> <p><b>reporting</b> 14:23</p> <p><b>respective</b> 8:3,5</p> <p><b>respond</b> 18:4</p> <p><b>results</b> 6:2,12 7:10,11 8:7, 10,12,19,22 9:1 10:8</p> <p><b>RETT</b> 7:16,17,19,22 8:22</p> <p><b>revenues</b> 6:3,9 7:5</p> <p><b>review</b> 12:9,23 13:23 17:4</p> <p><b>ridership</b> 10:13,23 11:4,8,18</p> <p><b>risk</b> 14:16,21</p> <p><b>role</b> 15:18</p> <p><b>roll</b> 4:10 15:10</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>S</b></p> <p><b>safety</b> 17:4</p> <p><b>Safety-kleen</b> 17:10,12,19</p> <p><b>sales</b> 7:10,22 8:8,10,16,20 9:1</p> <p><b>scope</b> 14:20</p> <p><b>seconded</b> 20:6,24</p> <p><b>SECRETARY</b> 4:4,11,13,15,18,21, 23 5:8,10,12,14,17, 19 11:23 12:5,11,14, 17,19,21 13:1,4,7, 10,12,15,20 16:19, 22,24 19:5,8,10,12, 18,21 20:5,8,10,12, 14,16,23 21:2,4,6,8</p> <p><b>securing</b> 15:7,12</p> <p><b>security</b> 6:20</p> <p><b>selective</b> 9:19</p> <p><b>send</b> 17:24</p> <p><b>serves</b> 16:2</p> <p><b>services</b> 6:20 13:24 14:14 15:21</p> <p><b>severe</b> 11:15</p> <p><b>shake</b> 9:11</p> <p><b>Shelton</b> 16:5</p> <p><b>show</b> 7:7</p> <p><b>showing</b> 7:9</p> <p><b>sign</b> 10:15</p> <p><b>skipped</b> 8:9</p> <p><b>slightly</b> 6:21 8:1,23</p>
---	--	---	---	--	--





**slow**  
7:21  
**small**  
17:18  
**snow**  
11:14  
**Solutions**  
16:5  
**sources**  
15:14  
**stated**  
17:17  
**strategy**  
9:21 15:6  
**submit**  
17:20 18:3  
**submitted**  
17:16  
**subsidy**  
6:6  
**supply**  
14:22  
**sustainable**  
15:14

---

**T**

---

**tailwinds**  
10:10  
**talk**  
14:5,18 18:20  
**tax**  
7:10 8:8,10,16,20  
9:1  
**term**  
10:24  
**things**  
9:11 14:18  
**thirty-six**  
17:6  
**tightening**  
10:19  
**time**  
17:21,22 18:4  
**timing**  
6:24  
**today**  
6:1  
**total**  
6:9 9:5,7,11  
**totals**  
6:4,7 10:14  
**Tradebe**  
17:16 18:7  
**traditionally**  
18:17  
**transit**  
12:9  
**transport**  
17:5  
**trends**  
10:23,24  
**tune**  
7:3  
**type**  
18:23  
**typical**  
11:16

---

**U**

---

**UIC**  
15:24  
**uncommon**  
6:17,23  
**understand**  
14:21  
**unfavorable**  
6:16

---

**V**

---

**variance**  
7:1 9:12 10:21  
**vis-à-vis**  
8:15 9:12  
**volume**  
9:18

---

**W**

---

**walk**  
6:1  
**waste**  
17:6 18:19  
**ways**  
7:8  
**weather**  
11:15  
**whatnot**  
7:1  
**winning**  
15:20  
**winter**  
6:17 11:12,13,16,18  
**work**  
10:20 17:17 18:8,23  
**worked**  
9:22 15:19 18:6  
**working**  
10:17  
**worse**  
6:16

---

**Y**

---

**year**  
6:23 7:13 8:6 11:19  
**years**  
9:20 10:17 14:1  
15:20

