

March 11, 2026. Chicago Transit Board Regular Meeting Minutes.

Noticed for 10:00 a.m. / Commenced at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA: The posted agenda for the meeting is available at www.transitchicago.com, "Chicago Transit Board", "Meeting Notices, Agendas, and Minutes", (03/11/2026) (Regular Board Meeting), "Agenda".

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by CTA Board Chairman Lester Barclay at 10:00 a.m. There was a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL: Directors: Lester L. Barclay (Chairman), L. Bernard Jakes, Rosa Y. Ortiz, Roberto Requejo, Michael Eaddy and Neema Jha. There was a quorum with 6 members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Barclay advanced the agenda to Public Comments. Secretary Greenlee advised that the Board Office received seven (7) requests for public comments and received four (4) written comments that were forwarded to the Board.

The written public comments were submitted by John Paul Jones, president of Sustainable Englewood Initiatives (2 comments), Georgis Levy-Thompson and Jamelia Hand.

Five of those who submitted requests to give public comments were present and gave remarks:

- Sheila Hennicke
- Fanya Buford-Berry
- Tanya Fisher
- John Werning, and
- Robert Jones

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Acting President Leerhsen began her report by noting a few key updates on service and ridership that were reflected in the revenue report.

Ridership in the first two months of 2026 is up 4.6% compared to that same time in 2025. It is notable that our ridership continues to grow to that degree, especially with some of the very cold days we had during the first two (2) months of 2026. We are excited to see that ridership and growth. The Authority closely follows service enhancements to ensure that they are bringing in new ridership.

At the end of 2025, the CTA made two small but impactful enhancements for riders on the Far North Side, including Evanston, as well as on the South Side. The Authority extended Number 93 at the end of last year and the California/Dodge Route to the Logan Square Blue Line from the Kimball Brown Line. This change is driving double-digit ridership growth this year, over 14% or an additional 2,400 rides on those routes.

We also extended, at the end of 2025, Number 75, from the prior terminal at Damen to Western Avenue, and this is driving an 8 percent ridership growth in the first part of the year, or what is an additional 2,000 rides. These are key impacts that affect ridership growth, and we want to see them continue.

CTA's Tribute to Rev. Jesse L. Jackson: Acting President Leerhsen transitioned to recognize a tribute that CTA had on its system following the death of the Civil Rights leader. To honor his legacy CTA has run digital ads on 400 digital screens across the Authority's rail system which feature his empowering trademark statement, "I AM SOMEBODY."

The ad, which continues to run, reads the following: "The CTA honors the life and enduring legacy of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., whose lifelong commitment to civil rights and economic justice echoes through the neighborhoods we serve. He inspired generations of Chicagoans to stand up, speak out, and move forward together."

CTS riders have embraced the ads on social media and have applauded its presence, and even Jesse Jackson Jr., the son of Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., reposted the tribute on his own social media. Given Rev. Jackson's lifelong commitment to fairness and access and justice it has been meaningful to use the CTA to honor him, especially since the CTA represents fairness and justice at its core.

In closing, Acting President Leerhsen recognized that on the day prior the CTA submitted to the FTA it's Revised Security Enhancement Plan. The plan laid out significantly increased law enforcement resources from the Chicago Police Department, through our voluntary special employment program, as well as through the Chicago Police Department's Public Transportation Unit.

The Revised Security Enhancement Plan also introduces the presence of the Cook County Sheriff's Office onto CTA for deployment onto the rail system. The plan includes, as well, notably increased targets for crime reduction on CTA, with a particular focus on the incredibly important topic of protecting CTA's employees. Notably, the plan reinforces our longstanding, multi-layered approach to security that also uses technology, enhances our physical environment, invests in social services, and moves forward our violence interruption and crisis responder pilot to further enhance the resources available on CTA.

This news is the latest in over a year of unprecedented, targeted initiatives to address crime on CTA, including our target admissions on the Red and Blue Line, as well as visibility-focused missions like the Transit Rider Interaction Program, of which over 300 missions have taken place just since the end of January 2026.

All of this has been further supported by the Chicago Police Department's dedicated CTA Strategic Decision Support Center, which launched last year and continues to produce strong results and quick, effective responses to crime on CTA.

The CTA knows from the work the authority has done over the last year that when we have strong relationships with law enforcement partners, when we use the information and data we have from riders, from employees, and that is strategically deployed, it produces results for our riders and for our employees. Repeatedly we have seen crime and incidents reduce when we send resources in a targeted, data-informed way, and when we keep riders and employees at the center of our work.

This plan presented a new forum and a new audience for CTA to demonstrate this work on such an incredibly personal issue to all of us. That commitment was there before, and it will continue.

Acting President Leerhsen then concluded her remarks.

Chairman Barclay thanked Acting President Leerhsen for her report and commended the CTA's team for the work that went into submitting the Revised Safety Enhancement Plan. He stated his appreciation of the staff's efforts to ensure the plan was completed and submitted in a timely manner.

He also acknowledged the collaboration of the Chicago Police Department and the Cook County Sheriff's Office in the effort. Coordination across these agencies will be critical to the successful implementation of this plan and to ensuring the safety of CTA's riders and employees. Safety is strongest when our partners are working together, and he appreciated the partnership in this effort.

"The safety of our riders and employees is always our top priority. As the warmer months approach, getting this right will be especially important to continuing to build rider confidence. When people feel safe they ride. This plan is key to building that confidence." He thanked the team again for their work and stated that he looked forward to future updates on the FTA's review of the plan.

Following the remarks made by Chairman Barclay there were comments made by Director Requejo, Director Ortiz and Director Eaddy. There was a general discussion about the safety plan and a targeted discussion about the launch of the CTA Safe Ride Specialist Pilot which will employ violence interrupter strategies alongside crisis intervention strategies. Molly Poppe, CTA's Chief Planning and Innovation Officer stated that the goal is to go "live" on the buses and rail lines by July 2026.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: Acting President Leerhsen introduced twenty (20) of CTA's finest employees which have received multiple customer commendations in 2025. "These employees are among the very best of the best at our agency." The employees have received praises directly from customers who took time to reach out to CTA and commend them for their professionalism, their kindness, and their commitment to ensuring that CTA's riders have the best CTA travel experience.

As Acting President Leerhsen then asked each employee to stand up and come to the front of the room to be acknowledged:

1. Jamarr Jackson, Rapid Transit Operator (2 commendations)
2. Albert Mitchell, Rapid Transit Operator (2 commendations)
3. Luis Frontany, Bus Operator (3 commendations)
4. Christopher Keaton, Bus Operator (3 commendations)
5. Rodney Terry, Bus Operator (3 commendations)
6. Ryan Henson, Rapid Transit Operator (3 commendations)
7. Annette Dorsey, Customer Service Representative (3 commendations)
8. Atmas Shaw, Bus Operator (4 commendations)
9. Reginald Smith, Bus Operator (4 commendations)
10. Corey Washington, Bus Operator (4 commendations)
11. Bonita Humphrey, Customer Service Representative (4 commendations)
12. Darryl Cox, Bus Operator (5 commendations)
13. Quianna Bradley-Davis, Customer Service Assistant (5 commendations)
14. Jamere Dantzler, Customer Service Assistant (5 commendations)
15. Kelle Holmes, Customer Service Assistant (5 commendations)
16. Thaddeus Moody, Janitor and Rail Station Manager (6 commendations)
17. Anthony Lewis, Bus Operator, (2 commendations)
18. Elexa McCracklin, Customer Service Representative (7 commendations)
19. Ben Johnson, Customer Service Representative (7 commendations)
20. Jose Abarca, Bus Operator (11 commendations)

Chairman Barclay stated that he and the other board members were moved by these hardworking employees who oftentimes go unrecognized for all their exemplary service to our city. He thanked those who were receiving commendations on behalf of the Board and thanked the citizens for nominating them as well as recognizing their hard work and their diligence.

MINUTES: Chairman Barclay asked for a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes from February 11, 2026. Director Ortiz moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Director Eaddy. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CTA's Acting General Counsel Sisavanh Baker stated that the Board would recess into Executive Session pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Section 2 (c) (11) and (21).

Director Ortiz moved that the Board recess into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Director Eddy and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:57 a.m.

At 11:29 a.m. Director Ortiz moved that the Board recess from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Director Eddy. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

After the Board returned from Executive Session Chairman Barclay requested a motion to approve the closed session minutes from February 11, 2026. Director Ortiz moved, and the motion was seconded by Director Eddy. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

BOARD MATTERS: Chairman Barclay asked whether there were any Board Matters? Board Secretary Georgette Greenlee responded that there was one Board Matters for consideration.

The Board had been asked to consider an ordinance appointing Ashley Neuhauser as the Ethics Officer of the Chicago Transit Authority. Director Ortiz moved to appoint Ashley Neuhauser as the Chicago Transit Authority Ethics Officer and Director Eddy seconded the motion. It passed by unanimous roll call vote.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, AUDIT AND BUDGET: The Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee report was presented by Director Bernard Jakes. The committee reviewed the monthly finance report and approved the February 11, 2026, FAB committee meeting minutes. Director Jakes stated that all Committee agenda items, listed on the Board agenda, were presented, reviewed, discussed, and recommended by the Committee, for Board approval. Director Jakes stated that the committee approved the following two (2) ordinances:

1. An ordinance authorizing the purchase of real property located at 2718 West Street Georges Court in Chicago for the All-Stations Accessibility Program, Blue Line and
2. An ordinance authorizing an intergovernmental agreement with the City Colleges of Chicago for commercial learners permit training.

The Committee also reviewed eight (8) contracts and deferred one (1) contract.

The Committee placed the two ordinances and 8 contracts on the omnibus. The Committee approved

and recommended for Board approval two ordinances and 8 contracts.

Director Jakes concluded the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee report.

Director Ortiz moved the omnibus be approved, and the motion was seconded by Director Eaddy. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of six Board members: Chairman Barclay, Director Jakes, Director Jha, Director Requejo, Director Eaddy and Director Ortiz.

CONSTRUCTION REPORT: The Construction Report was presented by Bill Mooney, CTA's Chief Infrastructure Officer and JuanPablo Prieto, CTA's Director of Diversity Programs and can be found at: <https://www.transitchicago.com/board/presentations/>

NEW BUSINESS:

Secretary Greenlee stated that there was no new business.

Director Ortiz asked to be recognized by the Chair. She stated that she wanted to recognize and acknowledge 25 years of service for Adrienne Brown. She stated that Adrienne Brown, the Asst. CTA Board Secretary, started at CTA as an intern and is still "very much with us." She thanked Adrienne Brown for her service and for all of the efforts she makes to help everyone on the board. "CTA is better because of you." The Board members applauded her for 25 years of service.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chairperson Barclay asked for a motion to adjourn the March 11, 2026, Chicago Transit Board meeting. After being moved by Director Ortiz and seconded by Director Eaddy, the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

APPROVED:



Secretary of the CTA Board of Directors

Date:


