

August 12, 2026. Chicago Transit Board Regular Meeting Minutes.

Noticed for 10:00 a.m. / Commenced at 11:02 a.m.

AGENDA: The posted agenda for the meeting is available at www.transitchicago.com, "Chicago Transit Board", "Meeting Notices, Agendas, and Minutes", (08/12/2026) (Regular Board Meeting), "Agenda".

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by CTA Board Chairman Lester Barclay at 11:02 a.m. There was a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL: Directors: Lester L. Barclay (Chairman), L. Bernard Jakes, Rosa Y. Ortiz, Michael Eaddy, Neema Jha, Roberto Requejo and Lily Diego-Johnson. There was a quorum with seven (7) members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Barclay advanced the agenda to Public Comments. Secretary Greenlee advised that the Board Office received eight (8) requests for public comments.

The eight (8) individuals who submitted requests to give public comments and were present are as follows:

- Ethel Todd: Acting Director Leerhsen asked CTA's Chief Security Officer, Joe Bird and CTA's Chief Transit Officer Don Bonds to follow up with her.
- Pennie McCoach, President of ATU Local 308
- Patricia Puente
- Adam J. Mack
- Jacklyn Story, Program Director for Homeless Outreach Program at Thresholds, Inc.
- Jessica Dubuar Director of Health and Specialty Services at Haymarket Center, Inc.
- Nicole Ricardson, Thresholds, Inc. – Declined to speak.
- Phil Bronson, IBEW Local 134 and VP of Target Electric, Inc.

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA: Secretary Greenlee advised Chairman Barclay that the Chairperson of the Finance, Audit & Budget Committee, Director Bernard Jakes, had a severe time constraint and given the late start of the Regular CTA August 2026 Board Meeting there was a request to amend the agenda to move item number 7, which was the Report of the Committee on Finance, Audit and Budget, up to item number 3. Director Requejo moved to amend the agenda and the motion was seconded by Director Jha. The motion passed unanimously by a 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 FAB committee meeting minutes from July 8, 2026. 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 of the following eight (8) ordinances:

1. An ordinance authorizing an amendment to a contract with CRRC Sifang American JV for rail cars and to provide additional funding.
2. An ordinance authorizing a first amendment to both the intergovernmental agreement and option to extend with the City of Chicago by and through its authorized nominee for outreach and non-congregate shelter to individuals in need.
3. An ordinance authorizing an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Chicago by and through its authorized nominee for outreach and non-congregate shelter to individuals in need.
4. An ordinance authorizing a pilot program agreement with F212-CITEF for a rail simulator pilot under the Chicago Transit Authority's Innovation Studio Program.
5. An ordinance authorizing a pilot program agreement with Housing Forward for a crisis intervention safe ride specialist pilot under the Chicago Transit Authority's Innovation Studio Program.
6. An ordinance authorizing a pilot program agreement with Healthcare Alternative System for a crisis intervention safe ride specialist pilot under the Chicago Transit Authority's Innovation Studio Program.
7. An ordinance authorizing a pilot agreement with Metropolitan Family Services for a community violence intervention safe ride specialist pilot under the Chicago Transit Authority's Innovation Studio Program.
8. An ordinance authorizing a pilot program agreement with Street Samaritans for a crisis intervention safe ride specialist pilot under the Chicago Transit Authority's Innovation Studio Program.

The Committee also reviewed seven (7) contracts.

The Committee placed eight ordinances and 7 contracts on the omnibus. The Committee approved and recommended for Board approval eight ordinances and 7 contracts.

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

Director Requejo moved the approval of the omnibus, and the motion was seconded by Director Jha. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of seven Board members.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Acting President Leerhsen began her report by recognizing the notable approvals that occurred on August 12th and the dynamic set of resources that are now available to the CTA that makes this moment historic.

An incredible amount of work has been invested over the past year by CTA staff from all departments. The Board of CTA has pushed staff for the resources to be allocated. CTA employees, riders, the general public and participants at CTA's Transit Community Safety Workshop that was held during the summer of 2025. Acting President Leerhsen stated that the strides CTA is taking to make the system safer and more secure for riders makes CTA a national leader and that she is excited to see what the energy invested thus far will produce. She thanked everyone for their efforts.

She further stated that it was notable and intentional that several different resources have been identified because the CTA's dynamic and diverse riders have a variety of needs that must be addressed in different ways. Acting President Leerhsen is confident that the system will see improvements across all of those categories in the coming months.

Security Update:

Acting President Leerhsen stated that "positive progress sustains itself." The Chicago Police Department has reported (once again) that violent crime is down 30% across the entire system year-to-date. There have also been the intentional strategic deployments on the red line that continue to produce results. Major crime on the red line south branch is down over 60% since the deployments. This means that there have been nearly 300 fewer incidents of major crime across CTA year-to-date. One hundred and forty of the reduction is on the red line alone.

Ridership Growth:

Over the last three months, the red line south branch has grown seven percent year over year in ridership. It is outpacing gains across other branches at CTA and there has been a stark turn from seeing a decline to actually seeing one of the biggest ridership jumps across the entire system. In the past three months CTA has provided nearly 170,000 more rides in that period than were provided last year.

Major delays due to incidents or disturbances at CTA are down nearly 50% and that is related to increased resources and the reduction in disturbances and crime on the system. Those resources are impacting the experience of service delivery across the system.

There has been a steady increase in ridership through the summer. Ridership has grown three (3%) over last year (2025) and this summer ridership has crossed an important milestone, and CTA is now

averaging more than 7 million rides every week with weekdays now regularly exceeding 1.1 million rides.

Also, weekend ridership continues to exceed pre-pandemic levels on Saturdays and Sundays.

On major events days in June and July the CTA is reaching milestones over 1.2 million rides – which is just shy of what we typically see for major events like the Chicago Marathon. The Thursday before Lalapalooza 2026, the Agency's rail system clocked more than 587,000 rides on the system, which was a record for a Thursday in the post pandemic environment.

Additionally, there are other positive trends across key areas of service delivery:

- Maintenance delays are down 21%
- Major delays year-to-date are down 30% across the whole system

Civic Events:

Acting President Leerhsen then chronicled events that CTA participated in over the summer:

- August 2026: The Austin Greenline Station was unveiled as the new ADA accessible station with a modernized station house. She thanked all of the elected officials and everyone who attended the gathering – both community members and advocates.
- July & August 2026: Redline Extension Workforce Connections Events: The kickoff event occurred on the first Tuesday in July 2026. These workforce connections events will occur every first Tuesday of the month and they afford opportunities to talk to young people about the great opportunities that the Red Line Extension (RLE) can bring.
- August 2026: Bud Billiken Day Parade
- June – August 2026: The Red Line Jazz Program

Finally, the CTA is moving forward with creating more welcoming and inviting spaces like the flowers being planted at the 51st Street Green Line Station were Green Corp and CDOT partnered with the CTA to put them in place.

Acting President Leerhsen concluded the President's Report.

Chairman Barclay thanked Acting President Leerhsen for her report and noted that summer is always a special time in Chicago. Neighborhoods are active, visitors are out exploring and there is renewed energy across the city. Our system plays an important role in connecting people to everything our city has to offer. That backdrop makes the results we are seeing particularly encouraging.

Chairman Barclay commended the team for the continued growth, and service and ridership and the strong results we have seen over the summer months. These numbers reflect years of work to rebuild service, strengthen our workforce, and restore confidence in the system.

“When people choose CTA to get to work, to a ball game, to a festival or concert or to simply enjoy our system and what it provides. We should recognize this progress while also recognizing that maintaining that momentum requires continued attention to the fundamentals: reliable service, a strong workforce, a positive customer experience and importantly a system where people feel safe, both the Agency’s passengers and employees.”

Chairman Barclay noted that the safety and social service pilots that the board has considered today were the result of a decision the CTA Board made last fiscal year to invest in creative approaches to addressing some of the most complex challenges in the CTA system. The Board determined that improving safety required more than one solution and that CTA needed to be willing to test new approaches, evaluate what works, and make adjustments based on what the data told us.

“Good governance is making decisions that lead to better outcomes for the public. These pilots give us an opportunity to...put resources behind the innovative approaches, learn from the results and determine what can be expanded or improved.”

It is particularly fitting that authorizing the implementation of these pilots is one of the final actions of this board. It reflects how we have approached our work throughout our service on this board, identifying challenges, making strategic investments, supporting innovation, and holding ourselves accountable for results.

“As we look ahead, I hope we continue to build on this momentum, not just because the numbers are moving in the right direction, but because behind those numbers are people who are choosing our system to move through our city. Thank you to the team for your continued work and I look forward to seeing the results of these pilots and the continued progress.”

Following Chairman Barclay’s remarks, the following other members of the CTA Board made remarks: Director Ortiz, Director Requejo, Director Jha, Director Jakes, Director Diego-Jonson, and Director Eaddy.

MINUTES: Chairman Barclay requested a motion to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of July 8, 2026. Director Requejo moved, and the motion was seconded by Director Jha. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

CONSTRUCTION REPORT: The Construction Report was presented by Grace Ohs, CTA's Vice President of Capital Construction and Brittany Johnson, a program officer with CTA's Diversity Program Department and can be found at: <https://www.transitchicago.com/board/presentations/>

There were questions from members of the Board and there was discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CTA's Acting General Counsel Sisavanh Baker stated that the Board does not have an Executive Session. She advised that the Executive Session Minutes from June 10, 2026, had been vetted with the Board and recommended that they be adopted and added to the record.

Director Requejo moved that the Executive Session Minutes from June 10, 2026, be approved and Director Jha seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a 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, which was a Resolution of Appreciation for the Members of the Chicago Transit Board of Directors.

Secretary Greenlee read the resolution into the record. The resolution can be found at: <https://www.transitchicago.com/board/presentations/>

Following the reading of the resolution the Board was applauded by those who were present at the meeting. Chairman Barclay and several of the other Board Members gave remarks.

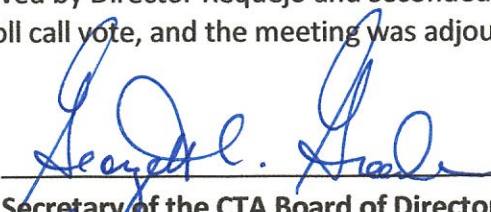
NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

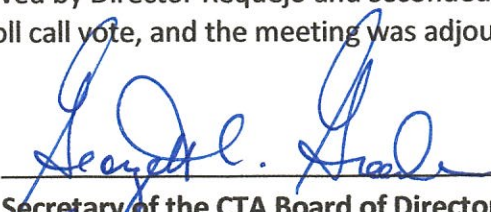
MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chairperson Barclay asked for a motion to adjourn the August 12, 2026, Chicago Transit Board meeting.

After being moved by Director Requejo and seconded by Director Jha, the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

APPROVED:


Secretary of the CTA Board of Directors

Date:


September 22, 2026