

June 10, 2026. Chicago Transit Board Regular Meeting Minutes.

Noticed for “Immediately following the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee Meeting.” Commenced at 10:10 a.m.

AGENDA: The posted agenda for the meeting is available at www.transitchicago.com, “Chicago Transit Board”, “Meeting Notices, Agendas, and Minutes”, (06/10/2026) (Regular Board Meeting), “Agenda”.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

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

The Board was advised by Secretary Greenlee that Director Roberto Requejo wanted to attend the meeting remotely due to being ill. Director Neema Ortiz moved to admit Director Requejo into the meeting remotely and Director Diego-Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. This brought the quorum for the meeting to a total of seven (7) attendees.

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

Three of the four people who submitted requests to give public comments were present and gave remarks:

- Antoine Trimuel from Local Union 241
- Edward Smith from Local Union 241 and
- Phil Bronson

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Acting President Leerhsen began her report by painting a picture of the CTA’s over the weekend, which laid out the complexity and the amount of work going on across many departments as everyone enters the summer season. She thanked employees and management for their work.

Infrastructure Improvements:

- The CTA is doing critical work on the Red Line subway. Acting President Leerhsen visited the nighttime crews on the Saturday night prior to the June Board Meeting to observe the work and

thank them for their work.

- The work that is being done on the tracks is critical because it will improve travel times and make trains faster. Simultaneously, the work has been strategically laid out in order to improve and upkeep CTA's stations.
- It is important that leadership give the public a sense of the hard, intensive work that our infrastructure department employees (coordinators, road masters, track workers machinists, laborers, line workers, signal maintainers and foremen) perform when the subway closes down until we open it back up.
- Acting President Leerhsen thanked the CTA Operations Division for supporting the Red Line Subway work by running bus shuttles all weekend in a very effective way. She went to Fullerton to speak to and thank the supervisors, the bus operators, the customer service assistants, the rail operators and management.

Ridership:

- Acting President Leerhsen noted that the Frequent Network investments that were made in 2025 continue to support meaningful ridership growth and the CTA has reached an important milestone. The CTA's ridership is 90 percent of the Authority's Pre-COVID level, which is an exciting milestone which has been reached from investing in hiring more employees, and investing in security efforts, the system and service.
- Four more routes will be added to the Frequent Network System in the Fall of 2026. During the Summer of 2026 the Authority is going to have later bus service and add weekend service on routes across the network.
- Weekend Ridership Growth: The Weekend Ridership Growth is also notable. The CTA has surpassed Pre-COVID ridership on weekend days, which is evidence of riders' changing travel patterns. Riders are using CTA for a variety of activities:
 - Recreational trips have grown 9% points
 - Entertainment trips have grown 7% points
 - Airport trips have grown 4% points

Crime & Security:

- The CTA is continuing to see sustained, positive progress in the area of crime and security
- CTA crime is down for the fifth straight month in a row with notable drops across 8 of the last 10 months

Acting President Leerhsen then presented data to support the progress in crime reduction.

- May 2026:
 - Major crime across the whole system was down 40%
 - Violent crime across the whole system was down 33%
 - Red Line:
 - All crime is down 50% compared to May 2025
 - Violent crime is down 77% compared to May 2025
- Incidents:
 - In May 2025 the CTA had 38 instances of violent crime on the system
 - In May 2026 crime is down to single digits across the entire month of May

Acting President Leerhsen thanked law enforcement partners for their strategic deployment and advised that CPD was running up to three missions a day on CTA. The Cook County Sheriff is also on the system and is working closely with the Authority.

She then gave some additional updates:

- Declines in crime are also occurring on the CTA's bus system.
- Feedback from employees is informing where and when the security missions are deployed
- The CTA is also about to deploy in the coming months, a CTA Safe Ride Specialist Program that will involve violence intervention specialists and crisis intervention specialists

Security & Service:

Leerhsen advised that security and service are deeply connected. Service can be impacted by disturbances on the system and one of the key leading indicators of major delays on CTA historically comes from disturbances from passengers. Security work is improving service and is translating into a reduction of major delays on the rail system.

- Major delays across the whole system are down more than 26%
- Delays on the Red Line are down nearly 50%

The Arts & Culture Program:

Acting President Leerhsen thanked the Board for the approval of the arts & culture program that launched earlier in May 2026. Specifically, the Red Line Jazz Program launched at the Howard Terminal.

The CTA has gotten a strong response from the public to people who are excited about conducting music, arts and culture on the CTA.

The Pride Train and the Pride Parade:

Acting President Leerhsen also noted that the Pride Train will be running for the month of June on the Red Line. This will be an exciting complement to one of the biggest ridership days of the year with the Pride Parade.

The Obama Presidential Center & the #10 Bus Route:

The Board approved the extension of the #10 bus route to serve the Obama Presidential Center more effectively. There are an additional eight (8) routes that also serve the Center. The CTA is taking a regional approach and is working with Metra and Pace to make sure everyone visiting the Center is thinking about Metra, CTA and Pace as the best way to get there.

Acting President Leerhsen then concluded her remarks.

Chairman Barclay thanked Acting President Leerhsen for her report and commended her team on the continued progress the CTA is seeing in ridership recovery numbers, particularly on the bus side. He noted that the recovery milestones are significant and reflect years of work across the agency to build a workforce, service and schedules to strengthen ridership confidence.

He noted that the ridership trends were particularly encouraging as the CTA heads into the summer months and hoped that the positive momentum would continue into the months ahead.

He also acknowledged the early indicators of progress that Leerhsen reported with respect to security and commended the team and the CTA's sister agencies for their partnership and collaboration in advancing the efforts.

He implored leadership to closely monitor the data and feedback from riders and employees to evaluate progress. *"Success will require continuous evaluation, accountability and a willingness to refine CTA's approach based on what the data and the feedback tell us."*

He closed with noting that the new NITA law took effect at the beginning of June, and that as Board Chairperson he is committed to working collaboratively with the Authority's regional partners and fellow service boards to support the law's goals of greater coordination and integration across the region. He stated that effective regional coordination depends on strong local agencies. *"While collaboration will be essential to achieving the vision of a more integrated transit network, the CTA Board's responsibility will be to govern the Authority and advance its' mission of providing safe, reliable and accessible service to the residents, workers and visitors of [Chicago]."*

Following the remarks made by Chairman Barclay there were comments and questions made by Director Jakes, Director Eaddy, Director Diego-Johnson, Director Jha, Director Ortiz and Director Requejo. There was also discussion.

MINUTES: Chairman Barclay asked for a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes from May 13, 2026. Director Ortiz moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Director Diego-Johnson. 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) (21) (1) and (3).

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 11:07 a.m.

At 12:17 p.m. Director Ortiz moved that the Board recess from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Director Diego-Johnson. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Director Ortiz moved to adopt the Executive Session Minutes from April 8, 2026. The motion was seconded by Director Diego-Johnson. Director Diego-Johnson abstained from voting. The motion passed by a vote in the affirmative from Chairman Barclay, Director Jha, Director Ortiz, Director Jakes, Director Eaddy and Director Requejo.

Director Ortiz moved to adopt the Executive Session Minutes from May 13, 2026. The motion was seconded by Director Diego-Johnson. 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 which was to approve an ordinance appointing a trustee and an alternate trustee to the Board of Trustees of the Retirement Plan for the Chicago Transit Employees. A copy of the ordinance may be found at: <https://www.transitchicago.com/board/presentations/>

Director Ortiz moved to adopt the ordinance and Director Diego-Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a 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 May 13, 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. The Finance Audit and Budget Committee received the report of the independent auditor for 2025. Director Jakes stated that the committee approved of the following six (6) ordinances:

1. An ordinance adopting an amended budget for calendar year 2026.
2. An ordinance amending Ordinance 025-118, approving the fiscal years 2026 through 2040 Capital Improvement Program.
3. An ordinance authorizing the chief financial officer/treasurer to execute a natural gas contract.
4. An ordinance authorizing a permanent easement agreement with Comcast and Astound for the Red Line Extension Project.
5. An ordinance consenting to the Bryn Mawr landmark history, which includes Chicago Transit Authority property located at 1113-15 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, on the Red Line Extension Project.
6. An ordinance authorizing the purchase of primary and excess property insurance coverage for policy years 2026 and 2027.

The Committee also reviewed nine (9) contracts.

The Committee placed six ordinances and 9 contracts on the omnibus. The Committee approved and recommended for Board approval six ordinances and 9 contracts.

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

Director Ortiz moved the approval of the omnibus, and the motion was seconded by Director Diego-Johnson. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of seven Board members.

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/>

The report was a video of the Red Line Extension Groundbreaking. The video has been broadcast on YouTube and other social media channels. The video highlights the celebration and the historic significance of the Red Line Extension Project.

Prior to the video being shown, Director Jha asked whether the Red Line Extension team will run a

miniseries or live share from the Red Line Extension construction field?

Acting President Leerhsen suggested that the Construction Department should do more videos given the abundance of opportunities. Jha responded that the team should capitalize on activities that occur on a round-the-clock basis or during the overnight hours.

Following the video presentation Director Jakes commended the team that worked on the Red Line Groundbreaking Ceremony and said that it was a "great time."

JuanPablo Prieto reported that CTA's Diversity team got through the recent reevaluation process with the IFR and the Illinois UCP. The department is not back to setting DBE goals and tracking DBE participation. The team is also fully engaged with CTA's private contractors to ensure that they are meeting their contractual commitments.

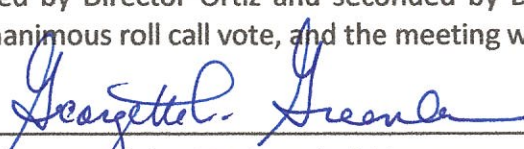
NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Barclay congratulated Merresa Topps-Akindele and Rovaughn Graham for their appointments to the CTA Retirement Plan Board.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chairperson Barclay asked for a motion to adjourn the June 10, 2026, Chicago Transit Board meeting.

After being moved by Director Ortiz and seconded by Director Diego-Johnson, the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

APPROVED:


Secretary of the CTA Board of Directors

Date:

