

**May 13, 2026. Chicago Transit Board Regular Meeting Minutes.**

Noticed for 10:00 a.m. Commenced at 10:22 a.m.

AGENDA: The posted agenda for the meeting is available at [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com), "Chicago Transit Board", "Meeting Notices, Agendas, and Minutes", (05/13/2026) (Regular Board Meeting), "Agenda".

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by CTA Board Chairman Lester Barclay at 10:22 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 a conflict with work travel. Director Neema Jha moved to admit Director Requejo into the meeting remotely and Director Eaddy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. This brought the quorum for the meeting to a total of seven (7) attendees.

WELCOME DIRECTOR LILY DIEGO-JOHNSON: Chairman Barclay took a moment to welcome the CTA's new Board Member, Lily Diego Johnson, who was appointed by Mayor Johnson. Director Diego-Johnson is a licensed clinical therapist with a focus on disability affirming care where she helps individuals navigate the complexities of the mental health system. Director Diego-Johnson extends the work outside of her profession as a disability justice advocate, raising accessibility, awareness, and equity withing all systems in the city, including public transit which she uses regularly.

He further stated that Director Diego Johnson is a co-creator of the University of Illinois Chicago Disability Cultural Center. He then welcomed her on behalf of the board and invited her to share a few words.

Director Diego-Johnson thanked Chairman Barclay for having her and stated that she was grateful to serve on the Board. She acknowledged her disability and stated that she appreciated being able to share her own lived experience and those of her committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Barclay advanced the agenda to Public Comments. Secretary Greenlee advised that the Board Office received five (5) requests for public comments.

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

- Adam Mack
- Monica Cooper (remotely by phone)
- Bob Israel

ADA Advisory Committee Report: Laura Saltzman, Chair off the CTA ADA Advisory Committee gave the report on behalf of the committee.

She stated that she would be providing a summary of the ADA Advisory Committee meeting held on April 13, 2026.

- CTA Operations Ste-by-Step Process for ADA Complaints: Randolph Williams, General Manager of Bus Operations and Richard Porter, Vice President for Rail Station Management presented CTA's process for handling ADA-related complaints. The committee discussed systemic complaint patterns and current analysis.
  - Saltzman felt that there were areas that could help the ADA Committee understand areas for improvement that were not clearly addressed.
    - Complaints Requiring External Intervention: There is a pattern that when complaints have required outside intervention the complaint is flagged to multiple people, and no one addresses it until Laura Saltzman gets involved and uses her official title as Chair of the ADA Advisory Committee and Senior Policy Advisor for Access Living. She stated that this is not an equitable or effective system for resolving issues.
    - Saltzman stated that she appreciated the (new) program that the CTA Planning and Innovation Department is developing and believes they are taking the need to improve seriously.
- Innovation Studio Initiative – Right-of-Way Intrusion Detection Pilot:
  - AI Cameras at Ashland and Cicero Station
  - Fiber Optic Vibration Sensing
  - Solar and Battery Powered E-Paper Bus Stop Signs with Text-to-speech capability

The ADA Committee recommended proactive outreach to organizations serving blind and low-vision riders about the audio feature.

- Smoke Mitigation – Carbon Filters Pilot

- Automated Bus Lane Enforcement Pilot
  - Since enforcement began during October 2025 on the 36 Broadway and 66 Chicago routes, six camera-equipped buses have reported 13,106 warnings and violations
  - An analysis of the 15 highest ramp-deployment stops in the original pilot area showed an 18% decrease in violations from December to February
  
- Accessibility Concerns: Vice Chair Sarah Luna reported on topics discussed in the Way-finding Subcommittee from March of 2026:
  - CTA's Recap Audit Website: disability-inclusive language and digital tools
  - The lack of audible announcements on certain railcars
  - Paper signs and
  - Station Accessibility
  
- ADA Compliance Program Manager Quarter One Highlights:
  - CTA conducted 23 ADA trainings for frontline staff
  - Participated at Nexamps Civic Design Lab
  - MLPD Summer Jobs Month
  
- Autism Transit Project: CTA partnered for a second year to have locally reported public announcements playing across all eight rail lines.
  
- Tactile Bus Signs Progress:
  - A new tactile bus stop sign contract was approved covering 7,000 remaining tactile signs to be installed over the next two years
  - CTA installed 50 additional decal tactile signs with rapid indirection rail information at bus stops
  
- Red Line Extension Groundbreaking: Saltzman attended the groundbreaking for the Red Line Extension, which is a long overdue project that will bring new accessible train service to communities with some of the highest percentages of people with mobility disabilities in the city.
- The 2026 People with Disabilities Survey was launched in April and will remain open through the end of May. There is a link to take the survey on CTA's front page. There is an accessible screen for readers who are visually impaired and there is a version in Spanish.
- Chair Saltzman welcomed Director Diego Johnson and said that she was looking forward to working her.
- She advised that the next ADA Advisory Committee meeting is Monday, July 13, 2026.

## FEEDBACK FROM THE BOARD:

- Chairman Barclay thanked Laura Saltzman for her report and asked whether there were any questions from any other members of the Board.
- Director Jha:
  - Thanked Chairperson Saltzman for the report and stated that she thought as a team it was time they started using the feedback that the ADA Advisory Committee to create a list of the top 10 things that need to be addressed and make those items a part of their monthly briefings. She also stated that a timeline needed to be associated with that list of 10 things. She also urged the Board to be more transparent about whether there is capacity to address the issues raised by the ADA Advisory Committee.
- Director Diego-Johnson:
  - She advised that she would be attending the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. She told Chairperson Saltzman that she would be grateful if she would let the ADA Committee members know that she will be in attendance.
  - She advised Saltzman that she thinks it is very important that access to bus stops, especially stops where ramps are being let out not be blocked by cars and trucks
  - She is also concerned about ensuring that people who are a part of the wrap and tap system, who are possibly assisting other passengers with disabilities – that they not be fined
  - He also stated that she was really grateful to have information regarding the 13,000+ Automated Bus Lane Enforcement violations
- Director Requejo:
  - He thanked Chairperson Saltzman for the report and stated that he was worried about ADA issues constantly being brought to the Board's attention. He feels that the Board has not fully responded to the ADA Advisory Committee's concerns.
  - He asked Chairperson Saltzman whether she had recommendations or ideas on how to strengthen or modify the CTA's ADA trainings for the CTA's Customer Service Team such that the authority creates a culture of equity towards people with disabilities?

There was discussion. Acting President Leerhsen stated that more ADA dedicated staff will be hired pursuant to the 2026 budget. She acknowledged that the issue of training and the building up and strengthening of CTA's training around ADA issues needs to be addressed. She further stated that in partnership with Chairperson Saltzman and the ADA Advisory Committee there will be a concrete review of the process that will be reported out to the Board in the coming months.

In response, Director Requejo asked if the Board could receive a summary by the next time the ADA Advisory Committee gives a report? Acting President Leerhsen assured him that one would be prepared.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Acting President Leerhsen began her report by stating that the focus of her remarks today would be on the safety and security of CTA's riders and employees. The CTA's investment and work in the area of safety and security have been a major focus for the past year. She wanted the public, the board and the employees to know that an unprecedented amount of work has occurred in this area and the Authority is seeing some positive trends that will be highlighted in her report.

She acknowledged that a positive trend or a statistic is no comfort to someone who feels uncomfortable or is a victim of crime. But she did think that it is important to give the Board and the public a report on what is occurring in terms of the data on the system.

Data for Safety & Security on CTA: The increase in deployment of meaningful security resources began over a year ago. The CTA worked with the CPD in a mission based strategy that began in the spring of 2025 across the entire system, but focused specifically on the Red Line in the overnight hours, on the Blue Line in the Code of Conduct missions and across the system in a targeted way based on the data.

The Chicago Police Department has also publicized beginning in the middle of last year, double-digit drops across the system as well.

In March 2026 the CTA committed a 75% increase in law enforcement on CTA. That target percentage increase has already been attained.

Through the Authority's primary and foundational partnership with the Chicago Police Department, with Superintendent Snelling, with the Commander of the Public Transportation Unit, Albert O. Segura and with the support of the Cook County Sheriff's Police, riders and employees are seeing increased police presence across the bus and rail systems.

The Transit Rider Interaction Program missions on the rail side and the bus missions have resulted in over 400 missions taking place. During the month of April 2026 there were 84 missions conducted across the system. In March, the Cook County Sheriff's Police began deploying in the afternoon to evening hours on the system as well.

Throughout 2026 so far, the positive trends from 2025 have continued and deepen. The Authority is seeing a notable downward trend across overall crime in CTA, including significant decreases in serious and violent crime and notably, the positive trends are concentrated in areas where we are specifically sending resources in a targeted, data-informed way.

Numbers reported publicly by the Chicago Police Department:

- Last month on CTA, serious crime across the system fell 47 percent when compared to the same time in 2025
- Violent crime, which dropped 30 percent in March has maintained that reduction in April dropping 33 percent when compared to the same time last year
- On the bus system, violent crime has reduced 64 percent in April when compared with last year.

The Red Line: The Red Line has been a focus for the past year. There has been a request from employees for more support in the overnight hours and the CTA has been deploying additional support with the Chicago Police Department, the Cook County Sheriff's Police and the K-9 units.

Leerhsen stated that leadership knows that the work on the Red Line is having a positive impact.

She stated that the reduction in crime was good news for CTA riders and CTA employees. Nora Leerhsen thanked the operators. She stated that the work is not over – but that she wanted to give this update to impress upon the board that this work is “real.”

This work is against the backdrop of unprecedented investments in alternative non-law enforcement resources on CTA. Rider will see new resources aimed at addressing the dynamic and complex situations that we see on the CTA.

In the upcoming months the CTA is going to be implementing pilots that are utilizing violence intervention specialists and crisis intervention specialists on the system. Currently staff is refining exactly which firms the Authority will partner. This strategy will be layered on top of the law enforcement resources.

Acting President Leerhsen put the investment in context. Three years ago, CTA spent less than a million dollars annually on outreach and social service support on the system. This year the Authority has budgeted nearly \$13 million for this effort. The CTA intends to see this investment grow as the Northern Illinois Transit Authority forges a new regional focus for the area. A variety of feedback surveys will be sent out to riders and people on the system to assess their experiences using the system.

The Welcoming Spaces Performance Program: As the new safety and security investments create a measurable impact, they allow CTA to invite people onto the system in a more welcoming and open way.

RIDERSHIP: Systemwide ridership has already crossed 108 million rides over the first four months of the year through April, which is nearly a 3% increase over last year. The rail system has led ridership growth with a 4.3% ridership growth during 2026. The routes on the Frequent Bud Network are averaging more than 7% growth year over year. Ridership follows the investment that the CTA is implementing on the system.

GAS PRICES: Gas prices have risen and in light of those costs the CTA is looking to welcome car drivers back onto the CTA where they can avoid the high price of gasoline.

.In closing, Acting President Leerhsen recognized the incredible achievements of the groundbreaking of the Red Line Extension, which occurred at the end of April 2026. She thanked the Board for their support of the project over the years, and particularly over the past few months.

Acting President Leerhsen then welcomed Director Lily Diego-Johnson to the Board after which she concluded her remarks.

Chairman Barclay thanked Acting President Leerhsen for her report and acknowledged the continued efforts of the team and CTA's partner agencies to address security across the board. He thinks that is appears "things are trending in the right direction and for that I am pleased."

He further stated that safety is not measured by statistics alone. If the public does not feel safe the CTA still has a lot of work to do. The very real challenge around public perception and public confidence is real. The true sign of progress is when riders see it, feel it and trust it. He encouraged the team to continue their effort and their work.

He acknowledged the CTA team efforts to coordinate the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Red Line, "which was extraordinary." He thought that the team did an excellent job of pulling the event together. He thanked CTA Board members who were in attendance and experienced the momentum from the community which is very excited about the Red Line Extension.

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 March 11, 2026. Director Jha moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Director Eaddy. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

Chairman Barclay next asked for a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes from April 8, 2026. Director Jha 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) (21) and (3).

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 11:39 a.m.

At 1:01 p.m. Director Jha moved that the Board recess from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Director Eaddy. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Director Requejo did not return to the meeting following Executive Session.

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 is to approve an ordinance fixing the salary of Lily Diego-Johnson as a member of the Chicago Transit Board and appointing her to the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee. A copy of the resolution may be found at: <https://www.transitchicago.com/board/presentations/>

Director Jha moved to adopt the ordinance and Director Eaddy 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 April 8, 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 of the following three (3) ordinances:

1. An ordinance authorizing introduction of a bulk discount rate for seven Park & Ride facilities.
2. An ordinance authorizing an amendment of a lease with Pullman Gateway, LLC for property located at 11203 South Corliss Avenue, Chicago, Illinois for the Red Line Extension Project.
3. An ordinance amending Ordinance 006-75 which governs rules regarding public performances on CTA property.

The Committee also reviewed eight (8) contracts.

The Committee placed the three ordinances and 8 contracts on the omnibus. The Committee approved and recommended for Board approval three ordinances and 8 contracts.

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

Director Jha moved the omnibus be approved, and the motion was seconded by Director Eaddy. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of four Board members.

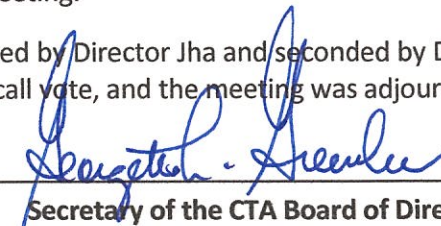
CONSTRUCTION REPORT: Director Jha moved that the Construction Report be deferred. The motion was seconded by Director Eaddy. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Secretary Greenlee stated that there was no new business.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chairperson Barclay asked for a motion to adjourn the April 8, 2026, Chicago Transit Board meeting.

After being moved by Director Jha and seconded by Director Eaddy, the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

APPROVED:   
Secretary of the CTA Board of Directors

Date: June 10, 2026