

October 9, 2024. Chicago Transit Board Regular Meeting Minutes.

Noticed for 10:00 a.m. Commenced at 11:09 a.m.

AGENDA: The posted agenda for the meeting is available at www.transitchicago.com, "Chicago Transit Board", "Meeting Notices, Agendas, and Minutes", (10/09/2024) (Regular Board Meeting), "Agenda".

There was a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL: Directors: Lester L. Barclay (Chairman), Rosa Ortiz, Roberto Requejo, Neema Jha, Michele Lee, Bernard Jakes, and Michael Eaddy.

There was a quorum with 7 members present.

MINUTES: Chairman Barclay asked for a motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes from September 11, 2024. After being moved by Director Lee and seconded by Director Ortiz, the minutes were approved with six (6) votes by roll call vote. Director Michele Lee abstained from voting.

ADA ADVISORY BOARD REPORT: The ADA Advisory Board Chairperson Laura Saltzman, who is a Senior Policy Analyst at Access Living, presented on behalf of the ADA Board.

She reported that the committee met on October 7, 2024. They welcomed the new ADA Advisory Committee Vice Chairman Lincoln Edwards and thanked Cindy Fosco for her past work as Vice Chairperson.

They had Public Commentator who encouraged the CTA to consider the standards the agency follows related to elevator design and whether those current designs follow "best practices."

There were three (3) presentations made which addressed the following programs and projects: Bill Mooney, CTA's Chief Infrastructure Officer presented on (1) the All-Stations Accessibility Program, (2) the Red Line Extension (RLE). Christine Bader, the CTA's Strategic Planning Project Manager presented the future phase of the Red/Purple Modernization Project. The ADA Board asked questions and had discussions about each program/project.

Two current ADA Board members, Doreen Bogus and Mary Abramson, will be completing their four-year terms in January 2025. Two new members are being recruited by Irma Gomez, the CTA's ADA Manager. The application to serve on the CTA ADA Advisory Board can be found online and the deadline to apply is November 8, 2024.

The Mayor's Office for People with Disability will be hosting an employment networking event for people with disabilities at which the CTA will be present. The event will take place at the MOPD's Central West Community Center located at 2102 West Ogden.

Laura Saltzman reported that the ADA Advisory Board also raised at their meeting the expansion of BRT and the need for career CSTs and CSAs at CTA stations and crisis response teams. The ADA Advisory Board asked for a process that would flag whether specific garages or stations consistently have more complaints that would need to be resolved beyond the infrastructure level.

The next meeting of the ADA Advisory Board will be on Monday, January 13, 2025.

That concluded the report of the ADA Advisory Board.

There were questions posed to Laura Saltzman from members of the CTA Board and there was discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Barclay advanced the agenda to Public Comments.

Secretary Greenlee advised that the Board Office had received five (5) requests for public comments and four were present:

- Pennie McCoach, President for ATU Local 308
- Bill Morton
- Keith Kysel
- Keith Hill, President of ATU Local 241

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Nora Leerhsen, Chief of Staff for the President's Office gave the President's Report in the absence of CTA President Dorval Carter who was ill.

She reported that the CTA is launching the planning process for CTA's (first ever) agency-wide strategic plan. The initiative is entitled "Powering Our Transit Future" and it will provide CTA with a detailed vision and a roadmap towards establishing the world-class transit system that CTA's customers deserve.

The planning process will be guided by community and rider input and has three (3) central goals. The first will be to develop a coordinated proactive framework for decision making, policy development and strategic investments.

The second will be to articulate a clear, direct vision for CTA riders, employees, elected officials, and other stakeholders on future investments and objective for transit in the region.

Finally, the third goal will be to establish specific outcomes and metrics for a process guided by principles equity, sustainability, accessibility, and rider and employee experience.

The most critical component of the process will be the input and feedback from the communities CTA serves, the customers who ride the system and other stakeholders from across the city who want to engage with the CTA and provide their thoughts regarding CTA's operational and funding priorities.

President Carter believed that as the CTA seeks to drive progress on the immediate priorities for frequent, reliable and safe transit service, the agency needs to lay the groundwork for CTA's long-term future.

On behalf of President Carter, Chief of Staff Leerhsen provided a brief note about CTA's fiscal year 2025 proposed budget recommendation. The budget is a balanced spending plan that puts the agency's customers, improved service and transit equity first. The budget will maintain fares and enhance service. President Carter is very proud of CTA's performance in 2024 and that CTA is already either approaching, meeting or in some cases exceeding 2019 levels across key metrics including workforce and service performance.

This summer, the number of full-time CTA bus operators employed by CTA reached 2019 levels and today it exceeds that level. In addition, the agency is making great strides towards President Carter's promised goal of training 200 new rail operators this year, which will ensure that the agency turns to 2019 service levels for rail as well.

After highlighting a few other budget priorities, Chief of Staff Leerhsen concluded the President's Report.

- Chairman Barclay thanked Chief of Staff Leerhsen and commended President Carter. He remarked that during the prior month he attended the City Club and was in attendance when President Carter laid out a strategy for CTA becoming a world-class transit system where he challenged many of the business and political elected officials to support CTA as the agency seeks to address the inequities in funding both the system and the region.
- He supported President Carter's efforts in bringing attention to the funding source issue and encouraged the Board to also support.
- *"It is essential that we continue to advocate for fair and equitable funding that allows for us to meet the growing demands of our service and deliver on our commitments to the communities that we represent."*
- He also thanked the strategic planning team, for informing the Board, briefing the Board members on the strategic plan and seeking input from the Board.
- Other members of the Board also commented on the President's Report:

- Director Requejo thanked Nora Leerhsen for the preview of the strategic plan and budget. He aligns with President Carter in making the CTA a world class agency and he knows that in order for the CTA to be a world-class strategic agency we are going to need a world-class plan.
- The CTA should be looking at what other agencies are doing on that front. The agency should not be repeating and rehashing. He stated that the planning process should not be internally driven. It has to be an open plan.
- He stated that there are a number of issues that were raised in the report that are really important:
 - Security on CTA's buses and rails and having a security plan that is comprehensive, open, multilayered.
 - The reallocation of resources to customer engagement and customer experience.
 - We have a great opportunity to set up resources to better staff equitable transit-orientated development. We need to get staff in place to take advantage of transit-orientated development opportunities.
- Director Ortiz stated that in regard to the strategic plan, she has always been excited about the prospect, and she has offered support and time. So often she is surprised with, "This is everything that we've been working on and we are done with it," and she doesn't like being surprised in this manner.
 - She advised staff that there is a lot of support available, different perspectives and a lot of great resources.
 - Specifically, in regard to the Strategic Plan, there is a lot more that can be done to be inclusive and thoughtful.
 - She encouraged that the strategic plan be fully vetted, thought out with different voices at the table to be really, a world-class approach, plan, and overall implementation plan to do the work.
 - She encouraged a more thorough assessment, process, and inclusivity specific to that because the plan is so important.
 - She also stressed communication – not just with the riders, but throughout the agency. There have been talks about being able to connect directly with staff and not just posting [bulletins and notices] at various sites and workstations.
 - There needs to be two-way communication with the customers who ride the CTA and with staff who work for the CTA. She hopes that the Board and the agency can work through these issues together.
- Director Michele Lee echoed the sentiments expressed from her fellow board members and offered her support in collaborative efforts.
- Director Eaddy concurred with the statements made and advocated for a forum or a town hall to receive community input. He stated that the optics of it would demonstrate that CTA is interested in hearing from the broader community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: CTA's General Counsel Kent Ray explained that there would be an Executive Session pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Article 2C, Sections 1, 2, 8, 11 and 21. Director Lee moved that the Board go into Executive Session and Director Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. The Board went into Executive Session at 12:00 p.m.

At approximately 12:42 p.m. the Board returned from Executive Session.

Chairman Barclay requested a motion to return to open session, which was moved by Director Lee and seconded by Director Ortiz. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES APPROVAL: It was moved by Director Lee and seconded by Director Ortiz that the Board approve the close session minutes from September 11, 2024. The motion passed with six (6) votes in the affirmative. Director Michele Lee abstained from voting.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS:

General Counsel Kent Ray advised that regarding agenda item 6B the Board reviewed an ordinance authorizing execution of a collective bargaining agreement containing the terms of the tentative agreement with the Craft Coalition of Trade Unions.

Director Lee moved that the Board adopt the ordinance adopting the collective bargaining agreement containing the terms of a tentative agreement with the Craft Coalition of Trade Unions and Director Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

General Counsel Kent Ray advised that regarding agenda item 6C the Board reviewed an ordinance authorizing execution of a collective bargaining agreement containing the terms of a tentative agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 399. Chairman Barclay requested a motion to adopt the collective bargaining agreement. Director Lee moved for adoption and the motion was seconded by Director Ortiz. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

General Counsel Kent Ray advised that regarding agenda item 6D the Board reviewed the recommended findings and decision of the hearing committee appointed in connection with the review of the discharge of CTA employee Michael Huff under Section 8 of the Metropolitan Transit Authority Act. Director Lee moved to sustain the discharge of Michael Huff. Director Ortiz seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, and the results of that vote are as follows:

Director Eaddy voted “yes.

Director Lee voted “yes.”

Director Jakes voted “no.”

Chairman Barclay voted “yes.”

Director Ortiz voted “yes.”

Director Requejo voted “no.”

Director Jha voted “no.”

Secretary Greenlee reported that the motion to sustain the discharge passes with four (4) votes to sustain the discharge and three (3) voting in opposition to sustain the discharge.

BOARD MATTERS: Chairman Barclay asked whether there were any Board Matters? Secretary Greenlee responded that there was one Board Matter on the agenda, which was a resolution of appreciation for the dedicated employees of the Chicago Transit Authority for their efforts during the 2024 Democratic National Convention. Secretary Greenlee read into the record the resolution.

CTA Board Resolution: The CTA Board Resolution (**Resolution number R024-4**) was presented and can be found at: <https://www.transitchicago.com/board/resolutions/>.

Following the reading of the resolution Chairman Barclay thanked Donald Bonds, Chief Transit Operations Officer on behalf of the Board for doing a splendid job for the Democratic National Convention and making the CTA and the city of Chicago look good. He asked him to pass along the Board sentiments along with the Board’s sincere appreciation for their efforts.

Chairman Barclay asked for a motion to adopt the resolution of appreciation. Director Lee moved to adopt the resolution and Director Ortiz seconded the resolution. The motion passed unanimously by 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 September 11, 2024, 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 all the approved committee items, 6 ordinances and 9 contracts, were placed on the omnibus for approval by the Board. Director Jakes concluded the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee report.

Director Lee moved that the omnibus be approved, and the motion was seconded by Director Ortiz. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

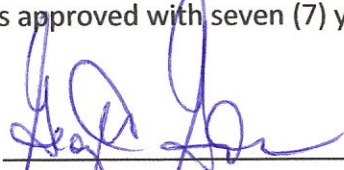
All approved October 9, 2024, Board ordinances are available online, at www.transitchicago.com, "Chicago Transit Board", "Board Ordinances", Ordinance numbers 024-125– 024-140.

Chairman Barclay apologized to Bill Mooney, Chief Infrastructure Officer and JuanPablo Prieto, Director of Diversity Programs, and explained that the Board was running short on time and asked that the Construction report and the Diversity Programs report be deferred to the following month.

CONSTRUCTION REPORT: Secretary Greenlee requested a motion to amend the agenda to defer the construction report to the November Board meeting. Director Lee moved to amend the agenda and the motion was seconded by Director Ortiz. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS: None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chairperson Barclay asked for a motion to adjourn the October 9, 2024, Chicago Transit Board meeting. After being moved by Director Lee and seconded by Director Ortiz, the motion was approved with seven (7) yes votes and the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

APPROVED:  _____
Secretary of the CTA Board of Directors

Date: 11/13/2024 _____