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2
3 CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
4 May 2022 HUMAN RESOURCES BOARD MEETING
5

6 Held via videoconference

7 on

8 May 11th, 2022

9 at

10 9:04 a.m.

11 at

12 567 West Lake Street, 2nd Floor,
13 Chicago, Illinois 60661
14

15
16 STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS via
17 videoconference had in the above-entitled cause
18 held at the Chicago Transit Authority Headquarters,
19 567 West Lake Street, 2nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois,
20 Johnny L. Miller, presiding.
21

22
23 REPORTED BY: Margaret E. Mecklenborg, CSR

24 LICENSE NO.: 084-004495



1 BOARD MEMBERS:

2 REV. JOHNNY L. MILLER, Chairman;
3 MR. GREGORY LONGHINI, Secretary;
4 MR. ALEJANDRO SILVA, Director;
5 MR. LESTER L. BARCLAY, Director;
6 MR. DORVAL R. CARTER, JR., President.

7 ABSENT:

8 MR. KEVIN IRVINE, Director;
9 DR. L. BERNARD JAKES, Director.

10 PRESENTERS:

11 MR. THOMAS MCKONE,
12 Chief Administrative Officer.

13 ALSO PRESENT:

14 MS. VERONICA ALANIS,
15 Chief of Strategy, Data and Technology;
16 MR. DONALD BONDS, Chief Transit Officer;
17 MR. MARC BUHMANN, Videographer;
18 MR. CHRISTOPHER BUSHELL,
19 Senior Vice President, Infrastructure;
20 MR. MICHAEL CONNELLY, Chief Planning Officer;
21 MS. MICHELE CURRAN, Vice President,
22 Budget & Capital Finance;
23 MS. VEDA DUFFIE, Electronic Communications;
24 MR. JEREMY FINE, Chief Financial Officer;
MS. STINA FISH, Senior Manager,
Business Development;



1 ALSO PRESENT:(Continued)

2 MS. MARLISE FRATINARDO,
3 Senior Project Manager, Planning;

4 MR. ANDREW FULLER, Chief Internal Auditor;

5 MS. CAROLINE GALLAGHER,
6 Chief Strategy, Data and Technology Officer;

7 MS. ELSA GUTIERREZ, Vice President, Planning;

8 MR. BRAD JANSEN, Acting General Counsel;

9 MS. ELLEN MCCORMACK, Vice President of
10 Purchasing and Supply Chain;

11 MS. DEBORAH MILOSLAVICH,
12 Senior Coordinator, Fare Systems;

13 MR. WILLIAM MOONEY,
14 Chief Infrastructure Officer;

15 MR. HERB NITZ,
16 Director, Technology Engineering;

17 MS. ROSA ORTIZ;

18 MR. JUANPABLO PRIETO,
19 Director, Diversity Programs;

20 MR. BRIAN STEELE, Vice President of
21 Communications and Marketing;

22 MR. MICHAEL THIRY,
23 Manager, Fare Systems Program Management;

24 MS. NANCY-ELLEN ZUSMAN,
Chief Safety & Security Officer.



1 (whereupon, the following
2 proceedings commenced at
3 9:04 a.m. via Zoom.)

4 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Good morning. I'm Greg
5 Longhini of the Chicago Transit Board Secretary's
6 office. On May 5th, 2022, the board office issued
7 a notice of changed format of meetings of the
8 Committees of Human Resources and Finance, Audit
9 and Budget and the Transit Board meeting scheduled
10 for May 11th, 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
11 There is currently in effect a statewide disaster
12 declaration as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic
13 which has been renewed from month to month since
14 the start of the pandemic. Pursuant to
15 Section 7(e) of the Open Meetings Act, virtual
16 public meetings are permitted while the disaster
17 proclamation remains in effect. Because of the
18 governor's disaster proclamation remains in effect
19 in the state of Illinois, the meetings of
20 May 11th, 2022 are being held electronically or
21 virtually for members of the public. With that, we
22 can begin the meetings today for the Committee of
23 Human Resources. Chairman Miller?

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Good morning. I'd like to



1 call to order the May 11, 2022 meeting of the
2 Committee on Human Resource. Greg, will you call
3 the roll, please?

4 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Sure. Director Silva?

5 DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes.

6 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Silva?

7 DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes.

8 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Barclay?

9 DIRECTOR BARCLAY: Here.

10 SECRETARY LONGHINI: And Jakes will not be here
11 today. Chairman Miller?

12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Here.

13 SECRETARY LONGHINI: We have a -- we have a
14 quorum with three members of the committee present,
15 sir.

16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you. On the agenda for
17 today's meeting of presentation of CTA hiring
18 presented by Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Tom
19 McKone. Mr. McKone?

20 MR. MCKONE: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and
21 other directors. Tom McKone, Chief Administrative
22 officer. I'm here to provide a hiring update as
23 was discussed at the last board meeting. So with
24 that, I'll go through a set of slides and then



1 we're going to play a video -- a video at the end.
2 So you can go to the next slide. As background,
3 CTA has approximately 10,000 employees. The number
4 varies typically between 10,000 and 11,000
5 employees. The vast majority of -- of these
6 employees are essential -- essential workers and
7 frontline workers who provide service to -- to our
8 customers. We use Taleo for talent acquisition
9 purposes. Our frequently filled positions are
10 posted on TransitChicago.com. And Taleo manages
11 the -- the full process for our candidates
12 providing updates to them, manages the process
13 through -- through to hiring. Typically we hire
14 between 1,000 and 1200 employees annually to come
15 work at CTA. Once they're -- once they're posted
16 and available, they're marketed through a variety
17 of -- of partners. And part of that marketing
18 includes a focus on the strong benefits that we
19 provide. Especially for -- for some of our key
20 positions a paid training period. For non-CDL
21 holders along with the other suite of benefits that
22 are available to all of our employees. And you'll
23 see that feature through a number of our -- our
24 recruiting and marketing efforts.



1 You can go to the next slide. So when
2 the -- when the pandemic hit, it had a number of
3 impacts on our -- our workforce and our recruiting
4 efforts. And I want to talk a little bit about
5 those because CTA as an employer is no different
6 than other employers in the industry and the -- and
7 the market as -- as a whole. We did see an
8 increase in turnover attrition during the great
9 resignation. It's no different than any other
10 transit agency or any other employer has been
11 seeing. So we did note that. And it's also been
12 an unprecedented labor market. We have seen a
13 decrease in interest across the board as measured
14 by the number of applications that we're receiving
15 for the positions that we're posting. And again
16 this is no different than any other employer
17 that -- that we talk to or meet with or any number
18 of our peers in the -- in the transit industry and
19 this is demonstrated by the decrease that we did
20 see in -- in applications from 2019 to 2021. In
21 addition, we've had an increase in workforce
22 unavailability due to illness and other causes.
23 Notably during the -- the most recent Omicron surge
24 we had a market increase in absenteeism due to



1 folks contracting the illness and -- and not being
2 available to work. That has continued throughout
3 the pandemic. Obviously it -- it ebbs -- ebbs and
4 flows as the pandemic does but we've seen an
5 increase in that unavailability rate in our
6 workforce. And a lot of our support functions have
7 been impacted by some of these workforce impacts as
8 well. You wouldn't normally think about it until
9 it -- it's not there and not working. But, for
10 instance, for our -- our bus operator positions we
11 require them to -- to have a CDL permit to start
12 training. That permit is not available if they
13 can't go to the facility to acquire it. And as you
14 know and as recently as earlier this year, those
15 licensing facilities were closed. They were closed
16 as a result of the pandemic in safety -- safety
17 precautions that were taken. But that had an
18 impact on -- on our pipeline and our ability
19 to -- to bring in the workforce. We've seen it in
20 other areas such as our background check processing
21 where they might not have the workforce available
22 to go through the files that were required as part
23 of our -- our background check procedure. So we've
24 been impacted by these -- these slow downs and some



1 of these support functions and that has lead
2 to -- to a decrease in the number of folks that we
3 were able to hire initially at the -- at the start
4 of the pandemic. And since then we've made
5 adjustments so that these -- some of these issues
6 are -- are not -- not as challenging as they have
7 been in the past.

8 If you go to the next slide. I'll talk a
9 little bit about the industry and what we're seeing
10 within the industry and industry impacts. So the
11 American Public Transportation Association did a
12 survey of over 100 public transit agencies at the
13 start of -- of this year. CTA actually
14 participated in this survey as well. And they
15 published a study about a month ago on workforce
16 shortages impacting public transportation. And
17 I've listed here some of the key takeaways from
18 their report. 92 percent of agencies stated that
19 they're having difficulty hiring new employees and
20 employees in bus operations are the most
21 challenging to find. 66 percent of agencies
22 reported having difficulty retaining employees so
23 this is the attrition note that -- that I made
24 earlier. And over half of agencies have increased



1 their starting pay in response to some of these
2 worker shortage issues. And no doubt you'll
3 remember in February when we ratified the
4 collective bargaining agreement this -- this did
5 increase the -- the wages across the board
6 for -- for our workers and has helped
7 to -- to address some of the -- the shortages and
8 challenges that we're seeing -- seeing there.
9 Below this I've also listed what was in the report
10 which is a ranking of the most difficult positions
11 to fill. So again this is across the transit
12 industry. And what you'll see here is that bus
13 operations is ranked as the number one most
14 difficult to fill position currently within
15 the -- within the industry. Bus maintenance is
16 number two and then you can see the ranking down
17 there for the top seven positions that were ranked.
18 And I would say that CTA is no different into
19 ranking that bus operations position as -- as
20 the top -- the top impacted position that we're
21 seeing right now.

22 So if we go from the industry, we can talk
23 a little bit about the positions at CTA and -- and
24 you'll recognize some these names and what they're



1 associated with in terms of the service we -- we
2 deliver. We actually have had relatively good
3 success. I'll knock on wood as I say that. In
4 filling some of our mechanic positions and some of
5 our support positions on the rail side. So you'll
6 see bus mechanic up there hiring in the baseline
7 year of 2019 of thirty. Last year we actually
8 hired forty-three into that position. So we've
9 been able to -- to maintain on the -- on a position
10 like bus mechanic. Bus servicer those are the
11 employees who clean the vehicles. Customer service
12 assistant is our main entry point on the -- on the
13 rail system. Track worker and flagger are also
14 entry positions on the rail system. And you'll see
15 that there was a dip across the board for most of
16 these positions in 2020, the initial year of the
17 pandemic. And then a pretty good recovery in 2021.
18 So last year we were able to -- to resume those
19 hiring rates in a lot of positions. The one
20 notable position that was lagging is the bus
21 operator position. And this would be the part-time
22 bus operator position. The year 2019 is typical of
23 what we look to -- to hire in a -- in a standard
24 year for bus operators. About fifteen every two



1 weeks to help maintain -- maintain our pool of bus
2 operations and you'll see that dropped in 2020 like
3 the other positions did. And then we were able to
4 pick back up in 2021 but not quite to the level
5 that we'd like it to be at.

6 So if you go to the next slide page, I'm
7 going to talk a little bit about some of the
8 improvements we're making and how we're kind of
9 turning the corner on addressing some of the
10 challenges that -- that we've had in filling some
11 of those positions. So in terms of the process,
12 we've moved it entirely on-line. So from
13 application to testing to interviews to the record
14 review, everything is done and Taleo is sort of the
15 entry point for that for doing all of that
16 processing of -- of talent acquisition. And it's a
17 faster process from start to finish. There is more
18 transparency and visibility in the -- in the
19 process and it gives the candidates more control
20 over the process. They can self-schedule their
21 interviews. They can self-schedule their other
22 pre-appointment appointments. We've integrated the
23 scheduling with Concentra for the -- for their
24 medical exams and medical reviews so that they can



1 self-schedule that allowing the candidate to -- to
2 schedule this, to control it at their own pace and
3 to move more quickly through the process. We
4 automatically update candidates when their status
5 changes so they get that via -- via e-mail. We've
6 integrated with HireRight which is our background
7 check -- our background check company. That --
8 this allows motor vehicle records to -- to come
9 back almost instantaneously. And this is free to
10 the candidate. Normally where in other positions
11 you may see they require candidates to show up with
12 their motor vehicle record and this usually costs
13 them. They have to retrieve it. It takes time to
14 do that. We do that for free for the candidate and
15 virtually instantaneously. We do video interviews
16 for our positions and this has greatly increased
17 the availability of our candidates and also our
18 interview panels. Our managers work throughout the
19 city. Oftentimes it's challenging to them -- for
20 them to get to a central location and to conduct
21 interviews all day. Video interviews have made it
22 much more accessible not only for our candidates
23 but for our managers as well. Our postings are
24 automatically posted with partner organizations



1 such as Indeed or Diversity Jobs. And then we do
2 our assessments on-line. So we moved from a few
3 years ago pre-pandemic it would not be uncommon to
4 find folks at our headquarters location taking a
5 test, a three-hour test using a Scantron sheet for
6 some of our -- for some our positions. We've been
7 able to move that all on-line so the candidates can
8 perform their assessments on-line sort of on their
9 own schedule. And that's increased our -- not only
10 the number of assessments that we've been able to
11 do but our retention rate for our candidates
12 through the process.

13 If you go next, we'll talk about some of
14 the position enhancements that we've made. So
15 almost to a person when what we were hearing from
16 the bus operators that we were recruiting and also
17 what we were hearing in the exit interviews that we
18 were conducting is that the part-time bus operator
19 position was not competitive within the marketplace
20 for CDL holders. And that what they were looking
21 for is a full-time position. So when we would
22 conduct exit interviews with our part-time bus
23 operators as they submitted their resignation, they
24 said they were looking for a full-time job. They



1 were looking for a full-time position. Again
2 almost to a person as they were exiting the agency.
3 So we focused on directly recruiting a full-time
4 position. With the collective bargaining agreement
5 that's in place now, we are able to do that. So
6 we're recruiting full-time operators directly. In
7 closing that -- that gap and sort of meeting the
8 marketplace where the marketplace currently is. As
9 soon as that -- the contract was approved, we
10 posted the position. We launched a career fair.
11 We had over 300 people in attendance at that -- at
12 that career fair. And I'm happy to report that our
13 first class started yesterday. And we had almost a
14 full class of -- of thirty. We had twenty-nine
15 trainees enter training. And they're set to
16 graduate in the month of June. In addition, we've
17 expanded the flexibility to use retired bus
18 operators so that they can work on weekends and
19 then Fridays and Mondays to help fill some of the
20 part-time work. So we're actively recruiting
21 recently retired CTA bus operators to come back and
22 support our efforts there. We also have a
23 short-term agreement with our union partners to
24 employ retired rail instructors and the first of



1 them actually started coming onboard right at the
2 end of October of last year to help augment our
3 training efforts on the rail instruction side.
4 We've got nine of them currently working
5 providing -- providing rail instruction and helping
6 to supplement that -- that workforce. And then the
7 last position that I'll -- I'll note here is
8 updating the customer service assistant position.
9 This is the entry point to our -- our rail options
10 positions. Previously they could not select a
11 schedule that was more than thirty-two hours.
12 Again we know that the workforce is looking for
13 full-time positions. So in the collective
14 bargaining agreement we removed that cap so that
15 now they can select a full-time schedule and work a
16 full-time schedule rather than having to -- to
17 submit to a previous half of a part-time schedule
18 of thirty-two hours. And that's going to help not
19 only with the recruitment but also with the -- with
20 the retention -- with the retention side of things.

21 If we go to the next page, I'll talk a
22 little bit about our recruitment and hiring
23 initiatives. So we've -- we've restructured to
24 focus on increasing marketing and marketing



1 our -- our positions. We're holding monthly career
2 fairs and rotating the focus of those career fairs.
3 You'll see a couple of advertisements on the
4 right-hand side for some of those recent career
5 fairs that -- that we've held. We're also
6 presenting to some of our organizational partners.
7 So not directly to job candidates but to those
8 organizations that serve job candidates and serve
9 potential employees so that we can help familiarize
10 them with the process, what's required in various
11 phases of the process and help dispel some of the
12 myths that may be out there about working at CTA.
13 So we look to do that a couple of times a month to
14 help inform our partners so that they can better
15 inform the clients that they're working with about
16 the opportunities at CTA and how to successfully
17 complete that process. We've -- we participated in
18 a career fair almost any time that it comes along.
19 So we attended, you know, thirty-six events in 2021
20 to talk about various opportunities. We focused on
21 our capital campaigns last year. As -- as you
22 know, we've ramped up our capital programs and
23 capital projects and filled close to 300 positions
24 associated with those. And at the bottom here I'll



1 just note the -- the overall hiring progress that
2 we've made across all of our positions. So in
3 2019, again baseline year pre-pandemic we hired
4 1,170 employees. During the pandemic year that
5 dropped off but 2021 showed a robust
6 recovery -- recovery with 1222 hires. We're well
7 on track in 2022 reporting results through the
8 first quarter. And we expect to see these numbers
9 increase throughout the year.

10 If you can go to the next page. To get
11 into some of the specifics about how we're
12 marketing these jobs and to highlight some of
13 the -- the creative thing that we're doing and
14 we're sharing with the rest of the industry as
15 well. We're undertaking efforts to reach a broad
16 set of communities and market our opportunities.
17 We're taking full advantage of the system in using
18 the -- the advertisement placements that are made
19 available on the system including sort of both
20 inside rail cars and in buses and on the outside as
21 well taking advantage of the -- the side of bus
22 to -- to market opportunities to anybody that may
23 see the bus -- may see the bus coming by. In
24 addition we've had radio ads promoting our -- our



1 CTA career fairs. These radio ads have been
2 multilingual. They've not only been in English but
3 they've also been in -- in Spanish and in Polish.
4 We've had communications also in Chinese when we've
5 had printed posters. And I'm going to show you a
6 couple of examples of -- of those as well. In
7 addition, we've been using social media
8 aggressively. Facebook, LinkedIn and -- and others
9 to -- to promote our jobs, to promote our career
10 fair and -- and interest in those. We've also
11 partnered with our union partners throughout the
12 year to -- to have job fairs joining with them
13 to -- to help reach a broader base of potential
14 applicants for -- for our jobs.

15 If you go through the next page. I'll go
16 through some of the marketing and some of the
17 history and kind of highlight some of what we focus
18 on as part of our advertising. So going back to
19 2020, you can see some of our historic advertising
20 kind of on the right-hand side of this page
21 focusing again on the bus operator position,
22 dispelling the myth that you need to have a CDL to
23 apply for the job or even get hired which is not
24 true. So we see a call out there that CDL is not



1 required to apply. Highlighting some of what we've
2 heard are the top reasons to become an operator.
3 And highlighting both the benefits to the
4 individual but also the benefits that employees
5 tell us they get in terms of providing service
6 to -- to the riding public and in working with
7 their other employees here at CTA. And then you'll
8 see some of the -- the ads that we -- we've been
9 putting forward to directly address some of our
10 competitors focusing on delivery drivers, rideshare
11 drivers and the benefits that we offer in terms
12 of -- of a stable career, strong benefits that we
13 have at CTA for those folks who are -- are
14 interested in driving and trying to move them from
15 being a rideshare driver into -- into being a bus
16 operator. You can see on the next page more of
17 that better on the bus campaign which we ran
18 throughout 2021. And then some of our seasonal
19 advertising efforts where we try to -- to capture
20 people as they might have been in seasonal jobs and
21 what those -- what those careers might look like
22 at -- at CTA. So a seasonal delivery driver might
23 be interested in -- in being a bus operator.
24 Somebody who works in retail can focus cuss on



1 being a customer service assistant. So focusing on
2 those entry points and then really the benefits
3 that -- that come with working at CTA and having
4 that sort of stable long-term career opportunity
5 with CTA. And then the launch of our full-time bus
6 operator campaign. So if you go to the next page,
7 you'll see some of those seasonal ads and the
8 results that we saw from those. Again those were
9 launched at the end of last year and the start of
10 this year. Again saying, hey, now that you're done
11 with your seasonal opportunity, come on and look
12 for a -- for a long term career with CTA. A strong
13 response to that in terms of our career fair
14 participation and our reach on -- on social media.
15 And if we move from there, highlights our full-time
16 bus operator campaign on the next page. You can
17 see examples of those ads. Again you can see some
18 of the -- the multiple languages that we're putting
19 these ads out in. You can see the ad on the side
20 of the bus to catch people not only as they're
21 inside of the bus that you see on the outside of
22 the bus just focusing on the fact that, you know,
23 now we're hiring full-time -- full-time bus
24 operators and this is, you know, for the first time



1 ever a full-time entry-level opportunity on the bus
2 side. And so despite the -- the headwinds that
3 we've talked about earlier in terms of the market
4 and marketplace, you know, this is really helping
5 us to turn the corner on our recruiting efforts and
6 to help to fill some of the -- those gaps that we
7 saw that were created by the pandemic. So we've
8 been pleased with the response so far to -- to this
9 campaign and to the changes to the position. We've
10 had a strong set of job applications. We had a
11 full -- a full class starting just this week for
12 the full-time operator position. And we're always
13 looking for ways to enhance it, to -- to streamline
14 our process, to find ways to -- to help people more
15 successfully navigate the process and to -- to find
16 ways in which we can make this better. So this is
17 not the end. We're not going to rest here. We're
18 going to focus on continuing to -- to fill these
19 positions and -- and to create these opportunities
20 for -- for the workforce.

21 If we go to the next page. At the end of
22 this, we'll show you a video but I also want to
23 give you a preview of the upcoming campaign. So if
24 you go to the next page here. The upcoming



1 campaign is going to focus on pictures of our
2 employees. The I clean it, I fix it, I drive it
3 campaign and picture yourself at CTA. So you can
4 see the little Polaroids here where we'll have
5 pictures of employees who are performing those
6 functions to help kind of humanize, you know, what
7 it means so people can see their self working at
8 CTA in various functions and promoting that.
9 Right? Promoting sort of the -- the people and the
10 personal level of the jobs and of the opportunity
11 at CTA. And we're looking forward to -- to
12 launching this campaign this -- this summer and
13 really sort of continuing to -- to -- to build our
14 brand and to -- and to promote the -- the CTA
15 workforce opportunities.

16 So with that, we do have a thirty-second
17 video that's up on our web site that's been
18 promoted on social media. I do want to show that
19 as well. It is -- Herb is going to pull it up
20 here. You can find this on CTA --
21 TransitChicago.com/careers where we have our -- our
22 job postings as well. Go ahead, Herb.

23 (Video played.)

24 MR. MCKONE: okay. Thank you for the



1 opportunity to present. I'm happy to answer any
2 questions.

3 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Let the record show that
4 Director Ortiz has also joined the proceedings.
5 Chairman Miller, any questions or comments?

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: No questions. Good
7 presentation. Thank you.

8 PRESIDENT CARTER: Greg?

9 SECRETARY LONGHINI: I'm sorry.

10 PRESIDENT CARTER: Before you take questions,
11 let me just say something in summary to --

12 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Sure.

13 PRESIDENT CARTER: -- that you all heard here.

14 And I know we've given you a lot of information.
15 And -- and I -- I -- I was concerned that, you
16 know, we're overwhelming you with all the stuff
17 that we're doing but it occurs to me that in all
18 the time that I've been here at CTA we have never
19 really informed the board on what our hiring
20 process is or how we're engaging in it and it is
21 such a critical component to our success in
22 everything else that we do. That I wanted him to
23 at least give you this kind of an overview. If
24 there are things out of this presentation that



1 you'd like to hear more about or would like to dive
2 deeper into, let us know. We can then -- we could
3 then focus our presentation on those particular
4 items or issues but this is really is a chance just
5 to keep(inaudible) -- at the CTA. Clearly the
6 challenges that we face since we fell under the
7 pandemic and certainly the new strategies we put in
8 place to basically try to improve our recruitment
9 and to, you know, increase our flexibility in terms
10 of the way that we hire people to take it to the
11 reality of social distancing and things we're
12 dealing with right now.

13 DIRECTOR MILLER: Thank you. No questions.

14 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Barclay?

15 DIRECTOR BARCLAY: Yeah. I -- I do have a
16 comment. First, thank you for bringing us up to
17 date on the hiring efforts. You know, I went out
18 to the garage a couple weeks ago and one of the
19 things that a couple of drivers said that they had
20 people who were -- they're referring to seek
21 full-time employment at CTA. And given the nature
22 of the competition with the CDL license, school bus
23 drivers, you know, Uber drivers. Everybody is
24 trying to -- to basically get in. They basically



1 said that the -- the process in terms of the
2 background check takes a lot of time. How have you
3 streamlined the background check so that we can be
4 competitive so that we can get an employee before
5 someone else grabs that person?

6 MR. MCKONE: Yeah. So as I noted at the top,
7 we -- we have seen delays. Right? Covid impacted
8 delays from our background check providers. And we
9 use multiple providers to make sure we have a full
10 sense of -- of everyone's background. For the bus
11 operator position specifically, we've been -- we've
12 begun to bring people on -- on a contingent basis
13 so if -- if things start to get delayed, we make
14 sure that we can bring them onboard and -- and have
15 them as employees even as we're finishing the
16 background check process. In addition, the
17 background check -- we have a background check
18 review and review committee. They've been meeting
19 more frequently to make sure that we're speeding up
20 any reviews that have to take place as -- as part
21 of the background check process.

22 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

23 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Silva?

24 DIRECTOR SILVA: No questions.



1 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Ortiz?

2 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: I'm not on this committee but
3 I would like to highlight two points if I may?

4 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Sure.

5 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Thank you again for the broad
6 overview. I know these are hard times to really
7 bring onboard exceptional partners to be part of
8 our team. Just on two thoughts on the last part of
9 the presentation in terms of ads. I wonder if your
10 marketing team is thinking through diversity within
11 your strategy. One of the things that impacted me
12 on the slides is, you know, I fix it and I drive it
13 which makes a lot of sense but I clean it I'm not
14 so sure how many people would want to sign up and
15 say, hey, feature me and I clean these buses
16 knowing that some of them are just hard to -- to
17 engage with. So I just -- you know, if you want to
18 think through that and make sure your team is
19 thinking through the putting on the hat of the
20 other people on the other side who we want to
21 target and then, you know, bring onboard. The
22 benefits piece I think would be a great attraction
23 to people and just really thinking about the
24 audience that we're trying to capture and what



1 would be really comfortable and exciting for them
2 to join us. Last but not least, I think at the end
3 of the video if you want to take a look at that
4 video again at the very end if you want to think
5 through the lens of diversity, you know, how is
6 that portrayed. How could it be enhanced? I did
7 actually really like the ads that had different
8 colors in the background and the different splits
9 but that final image on that video I'm not sure
10 really captures that diversity as well. So I
11 welcome you to take a look at it with your team and
12 make sure we're trying to get a broad breadth of
13 our top talents in the city to really join us and
14 be part of our team. So thank you.

15 MR. MCKONE: Thank you. Much appreciated.

16 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Thank you.

17 PRESIDENT CARTER: Director Ortiz, one of the
18 things that we can also give a more detailed
19 presentation on is what our recruitment efforts are
20 around diversity. How we -- how we engage the
21 various communities here in -- in the city to -- to
22 directly recruit from them. And it's an issue that
23 not only you have raised but that elected officials
24 raised with us on a regular basis. We have a



1 very -- we have very extensive level of engagement
2 that is targeted and focused on various communities
3 here in -- in Chicago. And we can have -- have Tom
4 and his team put together a more detailed
5 presentation on that.

6 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: That would be great. Thank
7 you.

8 PRESIDENT CARTER: Uh-huh.

9 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: I'm sure you're doing that. I
10 just thought I'd help.

11 PRESIDENT CARTER: Yeah. You know, it is a
12 challenge. You're absolutely right to point that
13 out. And -- and obviously we're always looking for
14 ways that we can improve on that. But, you know,
15 it is -- it is a concern of ours. You know,
16 clearly we want the agency to reflect the diversity
17 of the city that we serve. We are a very diverse
18 workforce but we could be better and we talk about
19 that a lot. I mean an awful lot. Tom knows that
20 he and I have rendered conversations about what we
21 can do to improve on that and clearly if any of the
22 members of the Board have other ideas of things
23 that you think we should be doing, other ways to
24 engage, we'll be happy to hear that. And more



1 importantly we'll -- we'll put together a more
2 detailed presentation but just focusing on that
3 aspect of the recruiting process.

4 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: That would be great. Thank
5 you.

6 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Okay. Thank you.
7 Chairman Miller, we're finished with delivery.

8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you so much to Tom for
9 that presentation. Since there's no further
10 business to come before the committee, I move to
11 adjourn.

12 DIRECTOR BARCLAY: Second.

13 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Moved and -- moved and
14 seconded by Chairman Miller and Director Barclay.
15 Director Silva?

16 DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes.

17 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Barclay?

18 DIRECTOR BARCLAY: Yes.

19 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Chairman Miller?

20 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

21 SECRETARY LONGHINI: We are adjourned with all
22 three members adjourn -- voting to adjourn.



1 (which were all proceedings had
2 in the above-entitled cause at
3 this time.)

4 (Meeting concluded
5 at 10:08 a.m.)

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