

1 CHICAGO TRANSIT BOARD

2
3 IN RE THE MATTER:)
4 REGULAR MEETING)
5)
6)

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8 Report of proceedings at the meeting of
9 the above-entitled cause, before Tabitha Watson, an
10 Illinois Shorthand Reporter, on the 10th day of
11 March, 2021, at the hour of 10:17 a.m., via
12 videoconference.

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19 Reported by: Tabitha Watson, CSR, RPR
20 License No.: 084-004824



1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

2 ARABEL ALVA ROSALES, Chairperson

3 KEVIN IRVINE

4 BERNARD JAKES

5 JOHNNY MILLER

6 ALEJANDRO SILVA

7
8
9 ALSO PRESENT:

10 DORVAL R. CARTER, JR., President

11 GREGORY LONGHINI, Secretary

12 KAREN SEIMETZ, General Counsel

13 CHRIS BUSHELL

14 BILL MOONEY

15 JUAN PABLO PRIETO



1 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Good morning. This is
2 Greg Longhini again and we are ready to start the
3 next meeting, Chairman Alva Rosales.

4 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Good morning,
5 everyone. I would like to call to order the
6 regularly scheduled meeting of the Chicago Transit
7 Board for March 10, 2021.

8 would the secretary call the roll?

9 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Yes.

10 Director Miller?

11 DIRECTOR MILLER: Here.

12 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Jakes?

13 DIRECTOR JAKES: Here.

14 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Irvine?

15 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Here.

16 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Silva?

17 DIRECTOR SILVA: Here.

18 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Chairman Alva Rosales?

19 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Here.

20 SECRETARY LONGHINI: We have a quorum with all
21 five members of the Board present. Let the record
22 also show that President Carter and General Counsel
23 Karen Seimetz are also participating in this
24 meeting.



1 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you, Greg.

2 Our first order of business today is
3 public comment. Greg?

4 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Yes. Today we have five
5 public comment speakers. They're all waiting to
6 speak. And I'd ask each of them to please try to
7 limit your remarks to approximately three minutes.
8 And we will begin with Ms. Dorothy Bell.

9 Ms. Bell, if you could unmute your phone,
10 you may start speaking to the Board. Thank you.

11 DOROTHY BELL: Yes. Good morning. My name is
12 Dorothy Bell and I am a resident at the Kelvyn Park
13 Senior Suites and we have 84 apartments in this
14 building and the majority of us depend on CTA and I
15 would like to start off with something positive.
16 We are located on Cicero and, actually, the bus
17 comes on a timely manner. They're on time and
18 that's one of the great positive things about CTA.

19 Now, my concern is that I am a senior
20 citizen and one of the things I would like to
21 address is safety hours and safety on the bus. And
22 the safety hours, if they could, you know, coincide
23 with the store hours when we're going out shopping,
24 grocery shopping and for our personal items, that



1 would be wonderful. And I think most of the time,
2 the safety hours is anywhere from 8:00 to
3 10:00 p.m. -- 10:00 a.m. I'm sorry. And I would
4 like to feel safe and maybe around that time, we
5 could have security on the bus during those times.

6 Now, here at the Senior Suites, we used to
7 have a driver that comes and takes us out like
8 twice a month. However, because of the pandemic,
9 they're no longer doing that. So we have to
10 provide these things on our own and we're currently
11 taking CTA now, however, one of the concerns is
12 safety matters on the CTA lines. That is a big
13 issue for the majority of us here as seniors at
14 Kelvyn Park.

15 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Ms. Bell, thank you
16 so much, first of all, for putting this issue and
17 information before us.

18 Can I ask, the Senior Suites, is it on
19 Cicero and what other street? What's the cross
20 street?

21 DOROTHY BELL: It's near Diversey.

22 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: You're near
23 Diversey. Okay. Got it.

24 DOROTHY BELL: Yes.



1 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Well, I really want
2 to thank you. I'm glad to hear you're getting out.
3 I'm sorry to hear, you know, that you feel unsafe,
4 but we really appreciate on my behalf and on behalf
5 of the Board and everybody at CTA, you coming
6 before us and sharing this with us.

7 what I'd like to do, and we will also get
8 a follow-up from this individual, is ask Chief
9 Safety and Security Officer Nancy Ellen Zusman to
10 reach out to you and to try to address some of your
11 concerns that you raised here today. And we will
12 hear back from Nancy and get more information on
13 how this is going. But I really, you know, really
14 do sincerely want to thank you for coming and
15 sharing this information with us today.

16 DOROTHY BELL: What's the person's name? I'm
17 sorry.

18 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Sure.

19 DOROTHY BELL: The individual's name.

20 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Sure. It's Chief
21 Safety and Security Officer Nancy Ellen, and the
22 last name is spelled Z-U-S-M-A-N. And we'll make
23 sure that they reach out to you. I know Greg will
24 help as well.



1 DOROTHY BELL: well, I would like to thank you
2 very much for giving me this opportunity to speak
3 today.

4 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you and stay
5 safe and we will do our best to work with you on
6 this. Thank you so much.

7 DOROTHY BELL: Okay. Thank you. Bye-bye.

8 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Have a great day.
9 All right. Thank you.

10 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Thank you, Ms. Bell.

11 Our next speaker today will be Susan
12 Hurley. Susan?

13 SUSAN HURLEY: Thank you, Greg. Good morning.
14 My name is Susan Hurley. I am Executive Director
15 of Chicago Jobs with Justice. We are a coalition
16 of 40 organizations in Chicago advocating for
17 workers' rights and economic and social justice.
18 We are also proud to be part of the Jobs to Move
19 America Coalition in Illinois.

20 We believe public agencies like the
21 Chicago Transit Authority should spend our public
22 dollars on companies that pay living wages and
23 benefits and that invest in training and job
24 opportunities, in particular, for black and brown



1 communities who face overlapping barriers to
2 quality employment.

3 Companies receiving our public dollars
4 through CTA contracts should be high-road
5 (phonetic) employees. That's why I'm speaking
6 today in support of CTA's ongoing work to create a
7 permanent good-jobs purchasing policy.

8 As the Board may know, the Jobs to Move of
9 America Coalition submitted a model policy to CTA
10 back in September that would incorporate the US
11 Employment Plan into CTA's procurement of trains
12 and buses permanently going forward.

13 I am encouraged to hear that CTA staff
14 continue to engage in conversations about a robust
15 policy. I hope to see these conversations move
16 forward in a substantial way and that the CTA will
17 incorporate key policy recommendations from this
18 coalition, the Jobs to Move America Coalition, as
19 our organizations are working with the unemployed
20 and underemployed on a regular basis.

21 There should be no delay by the CTA's
22 Board in adopting a good-jobs policy. The longer
23 we wait, the longer we leave family-supporting jobs
24 and equity on the table. Now more than ever,



1 including during the pandemic, we need CTA to adopt
2 a permanent policy that makes our purchases on
3 behalf of Chicago work for people. We should
4 insist that companies you contract with make pay,
5 training, and equity commitments; and likewise, we
6 should commit as the CTA Board and community
7 stakeholders that we're going to hold companies
8 accountable to their commitment and that we're
9 going to commit to transparency, allowing the
10 public to see the commitments that companies are
11 making.

12 I commend CTA for recently using the US
13 Employment language for the first time in a bus
14 contract and I look forward to CTA building this
15 progress with a permanent good-jobs policy that
16 will bring long-term changes for workers and
17 communities. We are committed to working with the
18 Board and Illinois Jobs to Move America to make
19 this a strong policy. And thank you for allowing
20 me to address the Board this morning.

21 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: All right. Thank
22 you, Ms. Hurley, for coming before the Board. We
23 appreciate your comments. Thank you.

24 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Thank you, Susan.



1 Our next speaker will be James white.

2 Mr. white?

3 JAMES WHITE: Yes. Good morning. My name is
4 James white. I'm the Director of Strategic
5 Campaigns for the International Association of
6 Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers,
7 also known as SMART. We represent over 200,000
8 members across Chicago, Illinois, and the rest of
9 the country including sheet metal workers, service
10 technicians, bus operators, railroad engineers and
11 conductors, welders, production, and manufacturing
12 employees and more.

13 We are also a proud member of the Jobs to
14 Move America Coalition, which is working to develop
15 a recruitment and training program to place women,
16 African-Americans, Latinos, returning citizens, and
17 veterans in new jobs at the Rail Corp on the
18 southeast side of Chicago. This factory is
19 building CTA's newest railcars. SMART alongside
20 other labor, community, and workforce development
21 groups are working to make sure this factory will
22 provide middle-class careers for folks who are not
23 traditionally employed in manufacturing. We are
24 proud to see CTA's railcar contract resulting in



1 investments in the people of Chicago.

2 CTA must ensure purchases like the railcar
3 contract and the most recent diesel bus contract
4 continue to include benefits for working people. I
5 am asking you to set a date to pass a good-jobs
6 policy or permanent US Employment Plan and to pass
7 it quickly and with strong language. If done
8 right, the policy would leverage CTA's purchases to
9 help address the growing skills gap in
10 manufacturing, the rise in temporary or unstable
11 employment, and the lack of diversity in the trades
12 workforce.

13 CTA's policies should encourage companies
14 competing for contracts to create and retain
15 full-time jobs, invest in pre-apprenticeship
16 programs, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and
17 workforce developmental programs and training and
18 hiring people who have historically been excluded
19 or underrepresented in manufacturing.

20 Through the policy, CTA can use our public
21 dollars to raise labor and equity standards in the
22 manufacturing industry, including in the emerging
23 electric bus industry. This is especially
24 important as CTA begins its transition to an



1 electric bus fleet.

2 Many of our members are struggling to get
3 by in the pandemic and we need CTA to act. Don't
4 wait to do this policy. Help create good
5 family-sustaining jobs and careers. Thank you. I
6 appreciate you giving me the time to speak to the
7 Board.

8 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you. Thanks
9 for coming before the Board and thanks for all the
10 work that SMART Union is doing. Thanks much. Have
11 a good day.

12 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Mr. -- I'm sorry. Thank
13 you, Mr. White.

14 Our next speaker will be Ms. Wahlberg.
15 Please unmute, Natalie, and you may address the
16 Board.

17 NATALIE WAHLBERG: Excellent. Can you hear me?

18 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Yes, we can.

19 NATALIE WAHLBERG: Great. I'm Natalie
20 Wahlberg, Illinois Coalition Organizer with Jobs to
21 Move America, which works at the intersection of
22 racial, economic, and environmental justice to
23 ensure that public dollars advance a more equitable
24 economy and healthier environment. We convened the



1 local coalition of labor, workforce development,
2 and community organizations that developed a
3 good-jobs policy, which we presented to CTA this
4 past September.

5 We were thrilled to have President Carter
6 speak at our press conference last week where
7 mayors and transit agency leaders from across the
8 country joined us to call for an end to the ban on
9 local hire for Federally funded infrastructure
10 procurements. It's great to see CTA leading on
11 this important effort. We hope CTA can continue to
12 demonstrate itself as a leader in good jobs and
13 equity by moving forward with the proposed policy
14 our coalition presented last fall.

15 As we're faced with worsening economic
16 inequality and environmental crises, this moment
17 calls for the Board to pass a strong-jobs policy to
18 make the US Employment Plan a permanent part of
19 CTA's purchases of railcars and buses.

20 It's not only a crucial moment, but an
21 opportune one for CTA to adopt a policy to leverage
22 public spending on transit infrastructure to build
23 up a community with good jobs and living wages.

24 The Federal Government's Build Back Better



1 recovery plan is expected to bring significant
2 infrastructure investment and CTA should be poised
3 to get the most out of this additional Federal
4 support for communities left behind.

5 We want to see CTA be a leader in helping
6 position our city for an equitable economic
7 recovery. The Board should adopt a good-jobs
8 policy that strongly signals that every public
9 dollar CTA spends matters in creating career
10 opportunities for marginalized workers, especially
11 in the clean-energy economy.

12 It has now been 18 months since CTA was
13 directed to implement a good-jobs policy and I
14 encourage the Board to pass this policy as soon as
15 possible so that our public transit dollars can
16 support jobs that lift up our communities. I look
17 forward to the US Employment Plan becoming a
18 permanent tool in CTA's purchases to advance good
19 jobs and equity.

20 Now is the time to change the rules in
21 CTA's purchases to maximize the benefits for
22 communities most often denied good paying jobs.
23 The CTA would be the largest transit agency in the
24 country to adopt this kind of policy. By passing a



1 strong-jobs policy, CTA can set a national example
2 for how other government agencies across the
3 country can leverage our public dollars for an
4 economic recovery coming out of the pandemic.

5 Thank you for your time and I look forward
6 to talking with you all in the future.

7 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you, Natalie
8 wahlberg. Thank you. We appreciate your time,
9 your words, and your time as well. Thank you.

10 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Thank you, Natalie.

11 Our final speaker today, Chairman, is
12 Mr. Leone Jose Bicchieri.

13 So, Leone, if you want to unmute your
14 phone and address the Board, go right ahead. Thank
15 you.

16 LEONE BICCHIERI: Thank you. Did I unmute?

17 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Yes. You sound very
18 clear, sir.

19 LEONE BICCHIERI: Excellent. Excellent. Thank
20 you so much.

21 So good morning, President Carter, Vice
22 Chair Alva Rosales, and the whole CTA board. My
23 name is Leone Jose Bicchieri. I'm the founder and
24 Executive Director of Working Family Solidarity.



1 We work in several dis-invested neighborhoods on
2 Chicago's west, southwest, and south side, which
3 are largely African-American and Latinx.

4 Our mission is to improve workplace
5 conditions and advocate for equitable hiring
6 practices and equitable development; and last year,
7 we've been working a lot to support workers during
8 the pandemic.

9 People out here are really hurting as you
10 all know, which is why my organization, as part of
11 Jobs to Move America Coalition, has been working
12 with the CTA on the good-jobs policy. Our proposed
13 policy, we would hope then the companies bidding
14 for CTA contracts would make commitments around the
15 number of manufacturing jobs, that they would
16 create or retain, the wages and benefits they'll
17 provide, and their plans to train and hire workers
18 who face major barriers to employment, a lot of our
19 members, such as people with a history in the
20 criminal justice system or just very low-income and
21 it's a way to incorporate jobs, equity, and
22 training into CTA's contracts with companies.

23 We need the Board's support to make sure
24 that this policy empowers low-income workers and



1 workers of color, which are about 90 to 95 percent
2 of our members, and my organization works with
3 people who are employed and also a lot who are
4 unemployed and seeking work; people who are
5 underemployed; people who are contingent, work one
6 to three times a week, whatever they can get,
7 sometimes at different jobs. No benefits, no job
8 security, no avenue for earning better wages and
9 more hours.

10 I really encourage CTA to use its position
11 as the nation's second largest public transit
12 system to ensure that our public dollars go to
13 companies that take care of their workers.
14 Companies receiving our public money should build
15 high-quality buses and railcars and be good
16 employers that treat workers that make our vehicles
17 with dignity and respect.

18 Our coalition would love to have the
19 opportunity to meet with the Board and tell you
20 more about our proposed policy at some point in the
21 future and I thank you very much for giving me time
22 today.

23 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you. Thank
24 you also for the work you're doing in the



1 communities with the Working Family Solidarity.

2 Thanks so much for that.

3 I want to -- so I am Mexican. You said
4 you're Mexican-Italian, so I want to see if I say
5 your name correctly. Bicchieri? Is that correct?

6 LEONE BICCHIERI: Really close. Well, you said
7 it like my Mexican side of the family says it. So
8 I can't say no. My Italian side, that's from --
9 Leone. Leone is the Italian way. So I actually
10 got Leone Jose and then Bicchieri Gonzales. I
11 spared you guys the full name today.

12 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Okay. All right.
13 Well, thank you so much for coming and I want to
14 thank all of the speakers.

15 LEONE BICCHIERI: For sure.

16 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: All right, Leone.
17 Thank you so much. Have a good day.

18 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Thank you. Thank you,
19 Leone, as well.

20 Chairman Alva Rosales, that concludes the
21 public comment portion of today's meeting.

22 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Great. Thank you.

23 PRESIDENT CARTER: Director Alva Rosales --

24 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: We'll move on --



1 Pardon me?

2 PRESIDENT CARTER: Director --

3 SECRETARY LONGHINI: President Carter wants to
4 say something.

5 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Oh, yes.

6 PRESIDENT CARTER: Sorry. Before we move on,
7 can I just say something in response to the
8 speakers who raised the US Employment Plan with
9 you?

10 First of all, I want the Board to know
11 that the principles behind which JMA is making this
12 request to the Board certainly align with the
13 principles that I believe in as president of CTA.
14 I believe that as a public agency, we should be
15 leveraging and should be finding ways to leverage
16 public dollars to support particularly
17 disenfranchised communities, communities of color,
18 communities who have faced traditional barriers
19 that prevented them from being able to get
20 well-paying good jobs that allow them to support
21 their family and their communities.

22 That is one of the reasons why I have been
23 probably one of the strongest voices in the transit
24 industry in support of the US Employment Plan as



1 well as the other principles that JMA has been
2 pursuing that would be supportive of these
3 endeavors. In fact, as you know, not only have we
4 pursued these options with regards to our railcar
5 procurement and our bus procurement, but we also
6 are pursuing them right now with regard to RPM and
7 the local hiring -- the local hiring and the
8 programs we put in place to really create the
9 pipeline to provide, through that project, the
10 types of jobs that would be supportive of the goals
11 that have been expressed by our commenters today.

12 I also want to let you know that I am
13 working on a proposal to present to the Board later
14 this year that will cover a broader holistic view
15 of how CTA should conduct its business in an
16 inclusive and diverse environment. And that --
17 that policy, as I envision it, which you will hear
18 more about in the future, will not only in my
19 opinion address the concerns that are being raised
20 by JMA in terms of the Board establishing the
21 principles by which CTA will conduct its business,
22 but will also address many of the other issues that
23 I know the Board feels deeply about in terms of how
24 we conduct our business, be it the way we provide



1 our services, the way we engage the community, and
2 the way in which we ultimately support the
3 communities that we serve on a daily basis in our
4 role as CTA.

5 So I ask you to -- to be patient while I
6 put this together. I'm actually working with an
7 organization I know many of you are familiar with,
8 both because the organization and because of one of
9 their leaders, CNT and Jackie Grimshaw, who has
10 generously agreed to support CTA in developing the
11 principles that I want to present to you at a later
12 date. And I believe that when we present these --
13 this broader policy to you, it will be not only
14 something that the Board will readily embrace, it
15 will also reflect what, in my opinion, has been the
16 position and approach that the Board has taken with
17 CTA staff ever since I've been a part of this -- of
18 CTA and in ensuring that we're doing everything
19 that we can to address the inequities that exist in
20 areas in this city that we serve through the
21 dollars that we ultimately spend in a very public
22 way to support CTA and its daily services.

23 So I want you to know that there's nothing
24 that I heard in these comments that I would take



1 strong objection to. In fact, as one of the
2 commenters mentioned, I actually have been involved
3 in press events advocating for the things that they
4 want and I certainly understand their desire to
5 want to be sure that the agency as a whole has
6 institutionalized many of the concepts that I've
7 developed and created on a case-by-case basis here
8 at CTA. But I certainly believe that it should be
9 my legacy as CEO and ultimately your legacy as
10 board members to put in place a broader policy that
11 will ultimately indicate and show the Board's
12 support, as you have already done, on a much
13 broader way in support of the principles that have
14 been discussed by these commenters today. So thank
15 you for just giving me the opportunity to clarify
16 that.

17 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you, President
18 Carter. Did you say you have sort of a timeline
19 when you're going to be sharing that with us?

20 PRESIDENT CARTER: It's my hope to do it later
21 this year. I suspect that it will be sometime this
22 summer. I don't have a specific date that I'm
23 going to present this to you. We have developed an
24 MOU with CNT that has time parameters around the



1 deliverables that they need to give to us. Those
2 deliverables will ultimately feed into the document
3 that I'm talking about that the Board will adopt,
4 but certainly before the end of this year, the
5 Board will have in front of it a policy document
6 for its consideration.

7 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Great. Thank you.

8 All right. So we'll go to our next order
9 of business today, which is the approval of the
10 February 10th board minutes. The minutes were
11 previously distributed. So I would now like to
12 entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the
13 Regular Board Meeting of February 10th, 2021.

14 DIRECTOR JAKES: So moved.

15 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Second.

16 SECRETARY LONGHINI: The motion has been moved
17 by Directors Jakes and Irvine. I will now take a
18 vote.

19 Director Miller?

20 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.

21 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Jakes?

22 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

23 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Irvine?

24 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Yes.



1 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Silva? Director
2 Silva? Have you unmuted, Director Silva? Can you
3 hear me?

4 DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes.

5 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Yes. So you're voting yes
6 on the minutes. Thank you.

7 Chairman Alva Rosales?

8 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Yes.

9 SECRETARY LONGHINI: That motion is approved,
10 ma'am, with five yes votes.

11 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you. Our next
12 order of business is Executive Session and it is my
13 understanding that today we will have Executive
14 session, is that correct, Karen?

15 COUNSEL SEIMETZ: Yes, Vice Chair. We will
16 have a short Executive Session pursuant to
17 section 2, paragraph (c), subparagraph (11) of the
18 Open Meetings Act.

19 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you. I'll now
20 entertain a motion to recess into Executive Session
21 for the reasons stated by our counsel.

22 DIRECTOR JAKES: So moved.

23 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Second.

24 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Moved and seconded by



1 Directors Jakes and Irvine. I will now take a
2 vote.

3 Director Miller?

4 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.

5 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Jakes?

6 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

7 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Irvine?

8 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Yes.

9 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Silva?

10 DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes.

11 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Chairman Alva Rosales?

12 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Yes.

13 SECRETARY LONGHINI: That motion is approved
14 with five yes votes and we are now recessed into
15 Executive Session. Thank you.

16 (A break was had for
17 Executive Session.)

18 SECRETARY LONGHINI: This is Gregory Longhini
19 of the CTA Board Office. Chairman Alva Rosales, we
20 are ready to proceed.

21 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Great. Thank you so
22 much.

23 I will now entertain a motion to return to
24 Open Session of the March 10th, 2021 Regular Board



1 Meeting.

2 DIRECTOR JAKES: So moved.

3 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Second.

4 SECRETARY LONGHINI: The motion has been moved
5 and seconded by Directors Jakes and Irvine. I'll
6 take a vote.

7 Director Miller?

8 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.

9 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Jakes?

10 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

11 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Irvine?

12 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Yes.

13 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Silva?

14 DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes.

15 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Chairman Alva Rosales?

16 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Yes.

17 SECRETARY LONGHINI: That motion -- excuse me.

18 That motion has passed, Chairman, and we are back
19 in Open Session now.

20 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Great. Thank you.

21 The Board will now consider Agenda Item
22 Number 4A, an item discussed in Executive Session.
23 Karen?

24 COUNSEL SEIMETZ: Thank you, Vice Chair. In



1 Executive Session, we discussed the lawsuit of
2 Joseph Morgan versus Sunday Ajayi and the CTA.
3 This lawsuit involves an accident which occurred on
4 June 6th, 2019 at 8:44 a.m. when the plaintiff
5 Joseph Morgan was struck and sustained severe
6 injuries while riding a bike in the bike lane on
7 Hubbard Street -- actually, on Wells Street near
8 Hubbard and the CTA bus rear-ended him and ran him
9 over.

10 The plaintiff has now indicated a
11 willingness to accept in full settlement of this
12 lawsuit \$1,750,000 following a mediation and the
13 Law Department recommends settlement in that
14 amount.

15 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you, Karen. I
16 will now entertain a motion to approve an ordinance
17 recommending a settlement of \$1,750,000 in the case
18 of Joseph Morgan versus Sunday Ajayi and the
19 Chicago Transit Authority, Case Number 19-L-006846.

20 DIRECTOR JAKES: So moved.

21 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Second.

22 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Moved and second by
23 Directors Jakes and Irvine. I will now take a
24 vote.



1 Director Miller?

2 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.

3 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Jakes?

4 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

5 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Irvine?

6 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Yes.

7 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Silva?

8 DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes.

9 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Chairman Alva Rosales.

10 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Yes.

11 SECRETARY LONGHINI: That motion to approve the
12 settlement offer has been approved with five yes
13 votes.

14 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you, Greg.

15 Our next order of business is a report
16 from the Committee on Finance, Audit & Budget.
17 Director Silva.

18 DIRECTOR SILVA: The Committee on Finance,
19 Audit & Budget met earlier this morning via Zoom
20 video-teleconference. The Committee approved the
21 February 10, 2021 committee minutes. The Committee
22 reviewed the finance report.

23 The Committee also reviewed the following
24 ordinance. An ordinance authorizing an



1 intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois
2 Department of Children and Family Services for the
3 purchase of Ventra tickets. The Committee also
4 reviewed ten purchase and sales award
5 recommendations.

6 The Committee approved all items and
7 recommends board approval of all items. The
8 Committee placed the ordinance and nine contracts
9 on the omnibus. And that concludes my report,
10 Chairman Alva Rosales.

11 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you, Director
12 Silva. May I now have a motion to approve the
13 omnibus as stated by Director Silva?

14 DIRECTOR JAKES: So moved.

15 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Second.

16 SECRETARY LONGHINI: The motion has been moved
17 and seconded by Directors Jakes and Irvine. I will
18 now take a vote.

19 Director Miller?

20 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.

21 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Jakes?

22 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

23 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Irvine?

24 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Yes.



1 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Silva?

2 DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes.

3 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Chairman Alva Rosales?

4 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Yes.

5 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Yes -- you said yes,
6 correct?

7 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Yes, I did.

8 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Yes. The motion to
9 approve the omnibus has passed with five yes votes.

10 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you. Director
11 Silva, we will --

12 SECRETARY LONGHINI: We now need that motion.

13 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Right. I will now
14 take a -- I will now ask for a motion to approve
15 Contract Number C2.

16 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Yeah, C, as in cat, 2.
17 Yes. That's the motion.

18 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Yes.

19 DIRECTOR JAKES: So moved.

20 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Second.

21 SECRETARY LONGHINI: The motion to approve
22 Contract Number C, as in cat, 2 has been moved by
23 Director Jakes, seconded by Director Irvine. I
24 will now take the vote.



1 Director Miller?

2 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.

3 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Jakes?

4 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

5 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Irvine?

6 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Yes.

7 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Silva?

8 DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes.

9 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Chairman Alva Rosales?

10 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: I'll recuse myself
11 from this vote. Thank you.

12 SECRETARY LONGHINI: All right. That motion
13 has been approved with four yes votes and there was
14 one recusal by Chairman Alva Rosales, so it has
15 been approved.

16 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Great. Thank you.
17 Our next order of business is the construction
18 report and we will hear from Bill Mooney.

19 BILL MOONEY: Good morning.

20 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Good morning.

21 BILL MOONEY: Herb, whenever you're ready.

22 THE HOST: One moment.

23 BILL MOONEY: For the record, Bill Mooney, your
24 Chief Infrastructure Officer.



1 Today I'll begin the construction report
2 where I normally do, on the Your New Blue signal
3 project. The project remains on budget and tight
4 to schedule.

5 We've had a pretty significant milestone
6 in the project as we've received all the what they
7 call the books of plans. These are the basic
8 designs for all the relay houses and the signal
9 system as a whole. Great -- a few of these are
10 still under review and being revised. The fact
11 that we now, in this next-generation technology,
12 have seen the design for the package is a
13 significant milestone. It's been a huge hurdle for
14 as we've been advancing something that has never
15 before been installed kind of in the United States
16 system. We've been working with the vendors on the
17 concept, how it evolves and stuff and that's
18 probably one of the challenges working on the
19 project. So having that milestone passed has been
20 of great value to us.

21 We also recently received our Harlem relay
22 house, which was our fifth relay house in the
23 project. Go ahead, Herb. You can skip to the next
24 slide, please.



1 Here you can see it being craned in off
2 the highway onto the right-of-way. Next slide,
3 please.

4 Here, they're installing the power for
5 that house to get it up, get the heat going, get
6 the AC going. At the time it was craned in, it was
7 pretty cold out. This happened right about the
8 time of the major snowstorm, so we were bouncing
9 that crane in around kind of a series of weather
10 events. Next slide.

11 Here they started pulling the wiring into
12 the house. This is from one of the junction boxes
13 in the field. I've shown you other slides of this
14 where what happens is we ultimately pull wiring
15 from these junction boxes back into the house and
16 then from the junction boxes to the wayside
17 equipment. So they've started actually wiring up
18 this house as well.

19 We continue to commission Nagle
20 interlocking, which is the interlocking just south
21 of this house. We are actually operating on the
22 new track circuits there, which I reported last
23 month and we're in the process of putting the
24 interlockings in service and finishing up with the



1 testing with that and shortly after that, we'll
2 begin the commissioning process for this Harlem
3 house as they advance the wiring there and we
4 should be running on that in near future.

5 We continue to progress Cumberland, which
6 is the next relay house down the line. Old
7 Mannheim and River Road, which are the other kind
8 of standalone relay houses for smaller
9 interlockings, are all pretty much fabricated at
10 this point, have been through the testing and
11 commissioning project in the plant, and so they
12 have scheduled shift dates to the area and we
13 continue to advance kind of the final packages
14 around the major interlockings at Rosemont and
15 O'Hare and look to start doing some of that work
16 this summer. So the project continues to advance
17 forward through the winter as well as kind of
18 through the pandemic.

19 Next project please, Herb.

20 My last project for you today is our
21 traction power upgrade and transformer replacement
22 project. The project moves on -- on schedule and
23 on budget. Next slide, please.

24 As I mentioned last month, all the work



1 has been focused around the last site at Franklin
2 substation. These are a different type of
3 transformer. These are what they call oil-type
4 transformers, where the previous ones we've talked
5 about are dry-type transformers.

6 This site actually had some remediation
7 associated with the transformers where we had to
8 clear out some oil around the pad and, in
9 preparation, kind of actually expand the pad, but
10 also we actually had to remediate the pad itself.
11 So what you're seeing here, that excavation, that
12 oil, and actually the cleaning effort around this
13 pad. You know, many, many years of this site, the
14 pad actually does get some seepage of oil from the
15 transformers and that's what the pad's purpose is,
16 is to collect that oil. So we actually had to
17 remediate the concrete so we can top it off and
18 expand it for the new transformers when they come
19 on-site in the upcoming months. Next slide,
20 please.

21 Part of that effort was actually that
22 whole site was tented in the middle of winter and
23 we had to bring in a bunch of heat to super heat
24 the area to actually sweat out any impurities that



1 were in the pad so it can be properly cleaned. So
2 that was kind of an interesting task in the middle
3 of February when we were at some of our coldest
4 days of the month and of the winter as a whole to
5 be able to completely seal that off, heat it up,
6 and then be able to sweat that out of the concrete.

7 with that, that concludes my portion of
8 the construction report.

9 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you, Bill.

10 You know, I just want to comment that thank you for
11 continuing all this work with the severe weather
12 that we had. I know everybody ended up being
13 hands-on-deck and just moving everything forward;
14 but, I mean, you've got these relay houses, the
15 transformers, oil cleaning, et cetera. So much and
16 yet -- I know everybody also had to be involved
17 with the severe weather that we had, the cold and
18 then the inordinate amount of snow. So just really
19 thank the team for keeping everything moving
20 forward. I know everybody was involved in that.
21 We really appreciate it. It sounds like there
22 wasn't even a delay in any of the work that you've
23 been doing. So ...

24 BILL MOONEY: You know, we plan in our schedule



1 for some weather-related incidents, you know,
2 throughout, kind of in the flow of that schedule.
3 So there may be a day or two during the actual snow
4 where the work slows down or really it gets
5 reprogrammed and we try and focus on stuff that's
6 more inside activities. That's one of the benefits
7 of kind of the signal relay housework is a lot of
8 it happens in the house itself. Once we get those
9 cables kind of terminated from the field post, all
10 the wiring and a lot of the testing occurs inside
11 that building. So it's really about how we look at
12 the phasing and work around it. I will certainly
13 pass your comments along to the team. I mean, they
14 do a great job.

15 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: They do. Yes. They
16 do. No more questions for me, but I'll go through
17 and ask the rest of the directors.

18 Director Jakes, do you have any questions?

19 DIRECTOR JAKES: No questions.

20 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Director Irvine?

21 DIRECTOR IRVINE: No questions. I just want to
22 say, I think this may be the first transformer
23 sauna that I've ever seen. So kudos to you and the
24 team for creating that and it was fun to see. And



1 just -- I just want to reiterate, great job to your
2 whole team continuing to work through, you know,
3 the winter storm we had and all the -- just all the
4 snow that's out there. Great work. I know you
5 guys have been working hard and digging deep to
6 push through with all of this. So kudos to the
7 whole team.

8 BILL MOONEY: Thank you, Director.

9 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you.

10 Director Miller?

11 DIRECTOR MILLER: I just want to confirm the
12 same as you and Director Irvine, and with the COVID
13 and all to stay on schedule and all, just
14 congratulations to the team. That's all. Thanks.

15 BILL MOONEY: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you. Director
17 Silva? You might want to unmute.

18 DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes. And congratulations,
19 okay, for a very good (indiscernible).

20 BILL MOONEY: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you. So
22 please let the team know how we all feel and thank
23 you so much for that.

24 BILL MOONEY: I will be certain to share your



1 comments. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you.

3 We will now hear from Chris Bushell and
4 Juan Pablo Prieto on the RPM project and diversity.

5 CHRIS BUSHELL: Thank you. Chris Bushell, your
6 Chief RPM Officer.

7 So the RPM project continues on budget and
8 tight to schedule. We are still working on the
9 design, although that progresses appropriate to the
10 various pieces of construction that are occurring.

11 In the bypass area, we continue working on
12 the bypass itself. We are pouring concrete -- a
13 concrete deck on top of much of the bypass. You'll
14 see in the slides to come that that concrete work
15 continues as weather allows. And then we are doing
16 various pieces of assembly as the deck becomes a --
17 as the structure becomes -- goes from being an
18 open-deck project to a closed-deck project. So
19 behind me you'll see some photos of us installing
20 it and that is really in the area as the bypass
21 kind of comes north of Belmont. It's all solid or
22 enclosed deck and then as it comes kind of back
23 north along the Brown Line and attaches to the
24 Brown Line, it's open-deck for several hundred



1 feet. So that's what you see behind me. So that
2 work continues.

3 And we also are continuing with the
4 quarter signal improvement. That is the larger
5 signal project. Although, most of our energy is on
6 the signal work that's associated with prestige.
7 So, as you know, prestige over the past -- over
8 2020, we installed two major interlockings and
9 since the end of that work in the late fall of 2020
10 and into this year, we have been working on
11 commissioning the signaling system, really going
12 through a series of very incremental tests to make
13 sure that that system is ready for operation. So
14 we have commissioned many aspects of the Montrose
15 interlocking and are now starting to move up to
16 Thorndale.

17 Those two interlockings, as you know,
18 along with the temporary stations are critical to
19 completing the work that's necessary to set the
20 stage for building the segmented box girder for
21 building the two major bridges between Lawrence and
22 Bryn Mawr. That work is set to commence in the
23 spring of this year. A major milestone for the
24 project. And, as I said, that work at this moment



1 consists of the actual Lawrence to Bryn Mawr
2 segment and those bridges consist of pouring the
3 various segments for the segmented box girder.
4 You've seen photographs of those segments. They
5 sort of look like sections of your back, your back
6 bones, your spine really.

7 So if we could advance, Herb, to the next
8 slide.

9 So this is the deck. This is the rebar
10 that's under the deck. We have, since, poured this
11 section and are now advancing further north. So
12 this is the closed-deck section of the bridge.
13 That tower, Clark tower in front of you, the bridge
14 kind of goes around that and then to the left or
15 the north and as it gets towards the Brown Line and
16 connects back to it, that's where it becomes the
17 open-deck section. Next, please.

18 The Lawrence to Bryn Mawr segment, as we
19 put a new interlocking in as Montrose, we also are
20 doing some improvements to the structure under that
21 interlocking, all and all with the aim towards
22 increasing speeds through that area. So this is
23 various pieces of -- various pieces of work that
24 support that. This is pouring new foundations



1 underneath columns on either side of Montrose and
2 the area of the interlocking.

3 Next. I mentioned that we're
4 commissioning the signaling system. So this is
5 various pieces of electrical work to support it.
6 Here, you see electricians that are connecting and
7 then doing testing on various electrical
8 components. Next slide.

9 And the temporary stations. We are
10 advancing the two temporary stations at Argyle and
11 Bryn Mawr. Work continues with those despite the
12 challenges associated with the weather. Next.

13 And community outreach continues, most of
14 it virtual. So despite the weather, we've been
15 able to have some very significant meetings with
16 the community. Some of the most significant ones
17 would be the Stage A Construction Aldermanic
18 Briefings. We actually had that meeting and then,
19 more recently, a town hall associated with that
20 that was very well attended where we explained as
21 we move into the construction -- the first set of
22 construction, that segmented box girder, the
23 impacts associated with that, particularly the ones
24 in and around areas that we're demolishing and then



1 replacing with a new infrastructure.

2 We unveiled the station designs. The four
3 stations are not only accessible, but I think they
4 are a community asset as well, beyond that
5 accessibility. So we had good feedback on those
6 stations and praise in general on the designs.

7 We continue meeting with various agencies
8 and chambers of commerce in the area beyond the
9 aldermen and coordinating more directly with them
10 and their constituents and we continue to hold
11 virtual office hours if there are people in the
12 community who have questions regarding upcoming
13 work, particularly as it relates to impacts of
14 their garages if they're residents and impacts to
15 their businesses in regard to parking and garbage
16 pickup, which we would handle in the case of an
17 impact to, say, like an alley closure.

18 So those meetings, in some ways, the
19 virtual aspects of it make it easier for people to
20 participate and we've seen very good attendance and
21 responses at all our meetings. We follow up with
22 posting the recording -- a recording of the meeting
23 on our website as well as the questions that were
24 asked and our answers to those questions.



1 So with that and in regard to workforce
2 and DBE, I'll turn it over to Juan Pablo.

3 J.P. PRIETO: Thanks, Chris. Thanks, Chris.

4 Good morning, Directors. Juan Pablo
5 Prieto, Director of Diversity Programs.

6 So we continue to host our monthly
7 meetings with the prime contractor to discuss DBE
8 and workforce outreach and compliance. We received
9 coverage from Good Day Chicago on our Elevating
10 Futures Scholarship on February 16th. We also
11 received coverage on ABC. The application period
12 closed earlier this month and Chicago Scholars will
13 be announcing the winners (indiscernible).

14 Walsh-Flour hosted a virtual construction
15 employment opportunity meet-and-greet on
16 February 18th for current union cardholders. We
17 had over 100 participants on the meeting who heard
18 general information about the project and our
19 projected trades. From there, the participants
20 were moved into breakout rooms where they heard
21 about specific opportunities based on the unions
22 that they're already in.

23 When we then came back to the main room
24 and answered more questions. We had great



1 discussion and questions in both the breakout rooms
2 and the main room. We are planning an outreach
3 event for folks who are interested in getting in
4 the union -- in the trade unions coming up later
5 next month.

6 Although we were not able to host a
7 virtual workshop for the Building Small Businesses
8 session due to an unforeseen circumstance, the team
9 was still able to connect and conduct the
10 one-on-one session with the firms that had
11 registered.

12 We wanted to make sure we helped firms
13 apply for the Payroll Protection Program, or PPE,
14 and Emergency [sic] Injury Disaster Loans, or EIDL
15 funding that were open for small businesses.

16 I'm happy to report that the BSB team has
17 helped small businesses secure over 4 -- I'm sorry,
18 \$5.4 million in financing, which includes PPE,
19 EIDL, working capital, and equipment loans.

20 Four DBE firms that have participated in
21 BSB have secured contracts on RPM totaling over
22 \$13 million. 17 firms have participated in a
23 cohort training run by the Hispanic American
24 Construction Industry Association or HACIA and ten



1 firms have participated in back-office training
2 conducted by Sustainable Options for Urban Living
3 or SOUL.

4 And, finally, on February 16th, the
5 workforce initiatives group hosted our ninth
6 installment of our Construction Talk series with
7 CISCO and the Pipefitters Local 597. The virtual
8 event featured a recorded tour of the union
9 training facility, interviews with members of the
10 local, an interview with the admissions director,
11 and a question-and-answer period with CISCO and
12 Local 597's admissions director. We had 25
13 attendees join the live event and received engaging
14 questions from the audience regarding the
15 application process and career benefits of pursuing
16 an apprenticeship with the trades.

17 We are planning our next Construction
18 Talks, which is scheduled for April. All of our
19 Construction Talks videos as well as other outreach
20 events are posted on our YouTube channel, CTA Doors
21 Open.

22 That concludes my portion of the report.
23 Happy to answer any questions.

24 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Thank you. Thanks



1 to the two of you. I mean, great work and great
2 press too I think from both of the reports. Thank
3 you for that.

4 I don't have any further questions, but
5 I'll ask my fellow board of directors.

6 Director Jakes, do you have any questions?

7 DIRECTOR JAKES: No questions. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Director Irvine?

9 DIRECTOR IRVINE: No questions. It's looking
10 great. Excited to see the bypass come along.

11 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Director Miller?

12 DIRECTOR MILLER: Sorry. No questions. Thank
13 you.

14 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Director Silva?

15 DIRECTOR SILVA: No questions.

16 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: All right. Thank
17 you and thanks again for your report.

18 With no further business to come before
19 us, I will now ask if we have any new business.

20 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Greg, you're muted.

21 DIRECTOR MILLER: I just want to -- can I take
22 a moment to thank you all for the condolence calls
23 from the president and you, Arabel, thank you for
24 the cards and all and the prayers in the support of



1 the passing of my mom and I just want to thank the
2 entire board for the support.

3 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Of course, Director
4 Miller, and our prayers are with you and your
5 family.

6 DIRECTOR MILLER: Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Greg, I think you're
8 muted.

9 DIRECTOR JAKES: You're muted, Greg.

10 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Can you hear me now?

11 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Yes.

12 SECRETARY LONGHINI: I must have clicked the
13 wrong button. Anyway, Chairman, there is no new
14 business that I'm aware of, so I guess there's
15 none.

16 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Great. Well, thank
17 you. With no further business to come before the
18 Board, may I have a motion to adjourn?

19 DIRECTOR JAKES: So moved.

20 DIRECTOR IRVINE: And I second.

21 SECRETARY LONGHINI: The motion to adjourn has
22 been moved and seconded by Directors Jakes and
23 Irvine. Let's take a vote.

24 Director Miller?



1 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.
2 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Jakes?
3 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.
4 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Irvine?
5 DIRECTOR IRVINE: Yes.
6 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Director Silva?
7 DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes.
8 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Chairman Alva Rosales?
9 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: Yes.
10 SECRETARY LONGHINI: Chairman, that motion has
11 been approved with five yes votes, so I guess we
12 are adjourned.
13 CHAIRPERSON ALVA ROSALES: We are adjourned.
14 Thank you, everybody. Thank you so much.
15 (Meeting adjourned at
16 11:22 a.m.)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS:
COUNTY OF C O O K)

Tabitha watson, being first duly sworn, on oath says that she is a court reporter doing business in the state of Illinois and that she reported in shorthand the proceedings of said meeting and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of her shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid and contains the proceedings given at said meeting via videoconference on said date.

Tabitha Watson

Certified Shorthand Reporter



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