CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MEETING of the

CHICAGO TRANSIT BOARD

Held on

May 13, 2020

At

10:42 o'clock a.m.

Via Webex Teleconference

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had

in the above-entitled cause via teleconference,

Chairman Terry Peterson presiding.

Reported by: Tracy Jones, CSR, RPR, CLR
License No.: 084-004553

ATTENDEES:
MR. LONGHINI: Good morning. I'm Greg Longhini, Secretary to the Chicago Transit Board.

I would like to note that in accordance with Executive Orders 2020-7, 2020-10, and 2020-37 issued by Governor Pritzker and further guidance issued by the Illinois Attorney General's Office, this meeting will be conducted via teleconference through Webex. The audio for this meeting is being streamed live on CTA's website along with closed captioning, and public comment speakers have been invited to join the teleconference and have been provided with a telephone number by our Board Secretary to do so.

Chairman Peterson, we may begin the meeting.

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Thanks, Greg.

Good morning. I'd like to call the regular ordered scheduled meeting of the Chicago Transit Board for May 13, 2020.

Will the Secretary call the roll.

MR. LONGHINI: Yes.

Judge Chevere?

DIRECTOR J. CHEVERE: Present.

MR. LONGHINI: Reverend Jakes?
DIRECTOR REV. JAKES: Here.
MR. LONGHINI: Reverend Miller?
DIRECTOR REV. MILLER: Here.
MR. LONGHINI: Director Irvine?
DIRECTOR IRVINE: Here.
MR. LONGHINI: Director Silva?
DIRECTOR SILVA: Here.
MR. LONGHINI: Director Alva Rosales?
DIRECTOR ALVA ROSALES: Here.
MR. LONGHINI: Chairman Peterson?
CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Here.
MR. LONGHINI: We have a quorum with all seven members of the Board present. And let the record show that President Dorval Carter and General Counsel Karen Seimetz are also participating in this meeting.
CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Thanks, Greg.
Our first order of business today is public comment.
Greg?
MR. LONGHINI: Yes. We have one public comment speaker who Herb just brought into the system here. His name is Lee Neubecker.
Mr. Neubecker, good morning. Welcome to
the Board meeting. You may address the Board, and we do ask our public comment speakers to try to limit their remarks to three minutes or so. So go right ahead, sir.

MR. NEUBECKER: Thank you. Thank you, Chairman Silva and Directors for allowing me to comment today. I'm the president of Enigma Forensics, a Chicago-based computer forensics, medical records, expert witness consulting firm. I have no interest, financial interest at all or any benefit that I receive for the recommendations I'm making today, except for that my staff use the public transit needs for work, and I'm concerned about COVID-19, as we all are.

What I wanted to make sure that all of you were aware of are some actions that New York City is taking with their MTA to clean their rail cars and buses. They're using ultraviolet light technology, which is known to be effective at sterilization of hospitals, ER rooms, surgical rooms, and so on, to kill viruses and bacteria. And it's now known by research from Columbia University that it can even kill the coronavirus.

The Metropolitan Transit Authority from
New York is currently working with Dr. David Brennan [sic] from the Center for Radiological Research at Columbia University.

I'm sorry. That's David J. Brenner.

And essentially, what the UV cleaning, the ultraviolet light is known to kill viruses with three types of bands of UV. There's A, B, and C. Now, the C band doesn't penetrate the Earth's atmosphere, so it's very lethal to viruses. Unfortunately, it's also harmful to humans. With UVC light, you can get cancer; you can burn out your retinas. So when hospitals have been using UVC light, they're usually using it devoid of any staff inside the room to protect the staff. Or if staff are nearby, they wear -- they wear gloves, they have eyeglass protection, and so on.

It's known that UVC can be harmful to coronaviruses. While it's not proven yet that UVC combats COVID-19, Professor Brenner believes it does. There's a lack of the ability to kind of validate this particular coronavirus can be killed. But it's expected that it does.

The CTA has roughly 3,300 rail cars and
buses. There are industrial GermAwayUV-C surface sterilizers available from cureuv.com that have built in motion shutoff sensors that would protect if a worker were to walk into a rail car. I estimate it would take three of those units at a cost of $1,000 each to sanitize a single car. When you take the volume of rail cars in totality, if you wanted to sanitize all the cars at once, you'd need 9,900 of them. But if the CTA were to break up the cleaning cycles overnight into one-hour cycles, roughly 2500 of these could do the job, which equates to about $2.5 million.

And again, I have no connection to this particular technology. I did speak with Vice President Ellen McCormack from the CTA. She said that they're investigating this and have been pursuing outreach to UVC vendors. The unfortunate thing is there's a six- to eight-week lead time on getting this equipment. So hopefully, if the CTA pursues this, they'll be able to use connections to speed up the order time. But my recommendation is that very soon, almost immediately, the CTA at least try to pilot getting enough lamps. 27 lamps at a cost of 27,000 would allow for piloting and
working through the issues of sanitizing eight rail cars and a single bus, and figuring out what the logistics are. Like, is the glass on the vehicles, does it protect from UV emissions? There's other things that would have to be worked through, but with 15 minutes of treatment time and another 45 minutes to allow for ozone to deplete, that would protect CTA workers that are cleaning the rail cars and buses. And that's a concern for me, but it's also a concern for all of us. But most importantly, it would take down the virus for riders, the risk of virus, you know, residually.

Finally, there's another emerging technology Dr. Brenner is talking about called Far-UVC. And Far-UVC doesn't penetrate the skin and isn't harmful to humans, according to research. The technology isn't there in the market yet to put Far-UVC bulbs into the cars. But if it were, imagine having overhead lights that don't hurt humans, don't cause blindness, but kill any bacteria or the COVID-19 virus when someone coughs and takes it out of the air. It could be in restaurants and so on.

But this is important emerging
information, and I have more -- I have more resources if anyone has questions. But I urge the Board to take prompt action on getting something going with this. Other cities in China are doing it; New York is doing it. And we really should be moving fast on this and not waiting a long time to figure out how to use this technology.

Thank you for hearing me today. If there's any questions, I'm happy to answer questions.

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Let me just say, I don't have any questions, but I wanted to thank you for bringing the UVC lighting matter to the Board's attention. And we look forward to hearing the follow-up from Ellen and her staff regarding usage of this lighting to help address the COVID-19 issue. So again, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to share this with the Board.

DIRECTOR SILVA: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CARTER: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Yes.

PRESIDENT CARTER: I also wanted to thank the speaker for talking to us about this issue today. I think it's important that the Board know that
CTA is looking at a number of technologies that are sort of cutting edge in terms of -- in terms of additional cleaning and sanitizing of our buses, our trains, and our stations. This is one of those technologies that we're looking at. We're also looking at solutions that can put coatings onto vehicles that can be a barrier resistant to coronavirus over an extended period of time, and we are in contact with both New York and LA Metro as well as MBTA about this particular technology and are talking through both their experiences as they start to use it and also looking at what it would -- what it would take for CTA to pursue similar technology if it makes sense. In the meantime, there are other technologies that we are implementing and have started to ramp up, including the electrostatic sprayers that spray -- that spray a fine mist of disinfectant solution throughout our vehicles as one of the ways in which we're trying to improve the sanitation of our system, even as we continue to look at other innovations that might be helpful to that.

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Okay. Thanks, Dorval.
PRESIDENT CARTER: You're welcome.

MR. LONGHINI: Thank you. This is Greg Longhini.

Thank you, Mr. Neubecker, for contacting us. And we'll be in touch.

Chairman Peterson, that concludes the public comment section of today's Board meeting.

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Thanks, Greg.

The next order of business today is the approval of the April 8th, 2020, Board minutes. The minutes were previously distributed. I will now entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of April 8, 2020.

DIRECTOR REV. JAKES: Director Jakes, so moved.

MR. NITZ: I'm sorry, Greg. I have to as you to pause for a minute. I have to add Karen Seimetz back to the call.

MR. LONGHINI: Yes. We'll stop for a second.

MR. NITZ: She's back in. You can proceed.

MR. LONGHINI: Okay. We were at the point of the motion to approve the minutes. Reverend Jakes moved.

DIRECTOR REV. MILLER: Second.
MR. LONGHINI: Okay. Reverend Miller, you want to second it?

DIRECTOR REV. MILLER: Reverend Miller, second.

MR. LONGHINI: Okay. Reverend Miller seconds it. So I'll now take a roll call vote on those minutes.

Judge Chevere?

DIRECTOR J. CHEVERE: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Reverend Jakes?

DIRECTOR REV. JAKES: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Reverend Miller?

DIRECTOR REV. MILLER: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Director Irvine?

DIRECTOR IRVINE: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Director Silva?

DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Director Alva Rosales?

DIRECTOR ALVA ROSALES: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Chairman Peterson?

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: The motion to approve the minutes is approved with seven yes votes.

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: All right. Thanks, Greg.
The next order of business is Board matters. Karen?

MS. SEIMETZ: Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman, before the Board is an ordinance to replace Resolution No. 49-297, which is the resolution passed on June 2nd of 1949 which established the Employee Welfare Fund. The Employee Welfare Fund is for the purposes of employee relations and employee hardship, and it is funded currently through the vending machine profits at vending machines at employee locations.

It is coming before the Board today because we are slightly amending its purpose to address, really, the pandemic. And what this particular revision will do will authorize the President of the CTA to add additional monies to the fund to provide funeral expenses or death benefit to families of employees who pass away from COVID-19 where there is no other death benefit available.

In addition, the funds will be administered by five employees that are chosen by the Chairman pursuant to guidelines that the Chairman establishes. Going forward, there will
also be a yearly report through the transit Board identifying all the deposits into the fund as well as all expenditures that the fund made.

Happy to answer any questions.

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Any questions for Karen?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Hearing none, I will now consider Board No. 4-A, an ordinance replacing resolution No. 49-207 [sic] establishing an Employee Welfare Fund, and ordinance No. 74-21 amending resolution No. 49-297.

May I have a motion to approve?

DIRECTOR REV. JAKES: Director Jakes, so moved.

DIRECTOR REV. MILLER: Director Miller, second.

MR. LONGHINI: I will now take a roll call vote on this item.

Judge Chevere?

DIRECTOR J. CHEVERE: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Reverend Jakes?

DIRECTOR REV. JAKES: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Reverend Miller?

DIRECTOR REV. MILLER: Yes.
MR. LONGHINI: Director Irvine?

DIRECTOR IRVINE: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Director Silva?

DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Director Alva Rosales?

DIRECTOR ALVA ROSALES: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Chairman Peterson?

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: That motion is approved with seven yes votes, sir.

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Thank you, Greg.

The next order of business is a report from the Committee on Strategic Planning and Service Delivery.

Director Irvine.

CTTEE. CHAIR IRVINE: Thank you, Chairman.

The Committee on Strategic Planning and Service Delivery met this morning. The Committee approved the July 17, 2019, and January 15th, 2020, Committee minutes. The Committee also reviewed the following ordinance: An ordinance authorizing an additional experiment for bus route No. 31/31st Street. After review, the Committee approved the ordinance, placed it on the omnibus
for approval, and recommended Board approval of
the ordinance.

That concludes my report, Chairman
Peterson.

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: All right. Thank you,
Director Irvine.

Our next order of business is a report
from the Committee on Finance, Audit and Budget.

Director Silva.

CTTEE. CHAIR SILVA: The Committee on Finance,
Audit and Budget met earlier this morning. The
Committee approved the April 2020 Committee
minutes and reviewed the Finance Report.

The Committee also reviewed the
following: An ordinance amending Ordinance
No. 019-103 approving the fiscal year's 2020-2024
Capital Improvement Program. The Committee also
reviewed nine purchase and sales award contracts.
The Committee approved the ordinance and the nine
contracts and placed both the ordinance and the
nine contracts on the omnibus and recommended
Board approval of the omnibus.

That concludes my report, Chairman
Peterson.
CHAIRMAN PETERSON: All right. Thank you, Director Silva.

May I now have a motion to approve the omnibus as stated by Directors Irvine and Silva?

DIRECTOR REV. JAKES: Director Jakes, so moved.

DIRECTOR REV. MILLER: Director Miller, second.

MR. LONGHINI: It's been moved and seconded.

I'll take a roll call vote on the omnibus.

Judge Chevere?

DIRECTOR J. CHEVERE: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Reverend Jakes?

DIRECTOR REV. JAKES: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Reverend Miller?

DIRECTOR REV. MILLER: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Director Irvine?

DIRECTOR IRVINE: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Director Silva?

DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Director Alva Rosales?

DIRECTOR ALVA ROSALES: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Chairman Peterson?

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Yes.
Judge Chevere.

MR. LONGHINI: The motion to approve the omnibus is approved with seven yes votes, sir.

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Thanks, Greg.

The next agenda item is new business.

Greg, is there any new business?

MR. LONGHINI: I am not aware of any.

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Thank you, Greg.

With no further business to come before the Board, may I have a motion, then, to adjourn?

DIRECTOR REV. JAKES: Director Jakes, so moved.

DIRECTOR REV. MILLER: Director Miller, second.

MR. LONGHINI: I will now take a vote on the adjournment motion.

Judge Chevere?

DIRECTOR J. CHEVERE: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Reverend Jakes?

DIRECTOR REV. JAKES: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Reverend Miller?

DIRECTOR REV. MILLER: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Director Irvine?

DIRECTOR IRVINE: Yes.
MR. LONGHINI: Director Silva?

DIRECTOR SILVA: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Director Alva Rosales?

DIRECTOR ALVA ROSALES: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: Chairman Peterson?

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Yes.

MR. LONGHINI: The motion to adjourn is approved with seven yes votes, sir.

CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Thanks, Greg.

Let me just say that I would pray and hope that everyone continue to stay healthy and safe. And with that, we are adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting of the Chicago Transit Board adjourned at 10:59 o'clock a.m.)
STATE OF ILLINOIS

COUNTY OF COOK

I, TRACY JONES, 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.

Tracy Jones

TRACY JONES, CSR, RPR, CLR
LIC. NO. 084-004553