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Transcript of Board Meeting

Date: July 9, 2025

Case: Chicago Transit Authority Board Meeting, In Re:

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1 BEFORE THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD

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7 BOARD MEETING

8 Chicago, Illinois

9 Wednesday, July 9, 2025

10 10:15 a.m. CT

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22 Job No.: 590176

23 Pages: 1 - 78

24 Reported By: Courtney Petros, RPR, CSR

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Conducted on July 9, 2025

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1 Board Meeting, held at:

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4 CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

5 567 West Lake Street

6 Chicago, Illinois 60661

7 312.681.3137

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12 Before Courtney Petros, a Certified Shorthand
13 Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter in
14 and for the State of Illinois.

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1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 BOARD MEMBERS:

3 LESTER L. BARCLAY, CHAIRMAN

4 ROSA Y. ORTIZ

5 MICHAEL EADDY (via videoconference)

6 MICHELE A. LEE

7 ROBERTO REQUEJO

8 NEEMA JHA

9

10 ALSO PRESENT:

11 NORA LEERHSEN, PRESIDENT

12 KENT RAY, GENERAL COUNSEL

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Good morning. I would like to call to order the meeting of the Chicago Transit Board for July 9th, 2025.

Kent, please call the roll.

GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Lee.

DIRECTOR LEE: Here.

GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Ortiz.

DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Present.

GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Requejo.

DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Present.

GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Jha.

DIRECTOR JHA: Here.

GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Chairman Barclay.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Here.

GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Chairman Barclay, we have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

We were advised prior to today's meeting that Director Eaddy would be unable to attend this meeting in person due to travel obligations connected to a work commitment.

The Chair are entertain a motion to permit Director Eaddy to participate in this meeting

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1 remotely.

2 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

3 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

4 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: It's been moved and
5 seconded to allow Director Eaddy to participate
6 remotely.

7 We'll have a roll call vote.

8 Director Jha.

9 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

10 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Requejo.

11 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

12 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Ortiz.

13 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

14 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Chairman Barclay.

15 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

16 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Lee.

17 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

18 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: The motion has
19 passed.

20 Director Eaddy, you may now participate
21 remotely.

22 DIRECTOR EADDY: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of
24 business is public comment. Kent.

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1 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Chairman, we have
2 one public comment for today, Patricia Puente.
3 Ms. Puente, I'll remind you you have three
4 minutes.

5 MS. PUENTE: Do I just sit here?

6 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Yes, please.

7 MS. PUENTE: Okay. Thank you.

8 Good morning. My name is Patricia Puente.
9 I have various concerns, a lot of them, but I just
10 know I have three minutes.

11 On the 5th of July, Saturday, CTA
12 transportation was terrible, not in the way that
13 there was no transportation; it was overflowing.
14 It was making a lot of traffic. It was just
15 terrible. I took pictures. There were nonservice
16 buses, like, four, five, six, and just -- they
17 were making too much traffic, you know, chaos. It
18 was really bad. I have pictures. I'll give them
19 to them later.

20 The other thing is that when I came back
21 home, I always take the Midway train. One of the
22 doors didn't -- oh, no, that's another event.

23 When I came -- the bus, they put us on
24 hold on Washington, and I don't remember what

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1 other station. Or Adams. I don't remember. But
2 they had us there for 20 to -- no -- more than 20,
3 like, half an hour to 40 minutes just standing
4 there. They said that there was a problem with
5 the train.

6 After they fixed whatever they needed to
7 be fixed, the red light turned where it says that
8 there was not going to be any stop signs. The
9 train went directly to Midway.

10 Okay. But the thing is, if they said that
11 there was something wrong with the train, when we
12 got to Midway, passengers started getting on the
13 train and the train left. So what -- how could
14 there be a problem with the train and then, when
15 we got to Midway, new passengers got on at Midway
16 and the train left. You know, that's -- that's a
17 concern for me, having that train that said that
18 there was an issue with it. Well, whatever --
19 well, that's one of my concerns.

20 The other concern is that -- I don't
21 remember right now the date. But I was coming in
22 Midway. One of the doors wasn't working. In two
23 or three stops, it didn't open. The passengers
24 had to run to the other door. By the time that

1 they got there, they missed their stop. So then,
2 when I got to Midway, I wanted to talk with the
3 supervisor. The supervisor was really rude.

4 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Ms. Puente, you have
5 25 seconds.

6 MS. PUENTE: The supervisor, he was
7 really, really rude. I was just like, it is a
8 concern. If there was a fire, something, the door
9 doesn't open, you know, it's like -- but that is
10 the other one.

11 The other one is -- what was the other
12 one? Oh, they were cleaning the floors on the 5th
13 of July. People were slippery -- slippery --
14 were, you know -- whatever. I almost fell. Why
15 clean it when they know that it's a holiday and a
16 lot of people are going to come? It seems like
17 they did it on purpose.

18 But thank you very much. Another thing,
19 can I speak with a supervisor? I could give all
20 my concerns and then I don't have to come up
21 again.

22 PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: Yes.

23 MS. PUENTE: Thank you.

24 PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: I'm going to connect

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1 you with Don Bonds, our chief transit officer, who
2 can talk about your experience.

3 MS. PUENTE: Thank you. Thank you. And
4 excellent job. I even speak with the CTA bus
5 drivers. I know what they go. And I said, you
6 know what, you did a good job in handling this
7 case, the bus drivers. You know, thank you very
8 much.

9 PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: We appreciate that.
10 Thank you.

11 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Is there a motion to
12 recess this meeting to the call of the Chair?

13 DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.

14 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

15 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: We'll have a role
16 call on the motion to recess this meeting.

17 Director Jha.

18 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

19 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Requejo.

20 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

21 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Ortiz.

22 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

23 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Chairman Barclay.

24 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

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1 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Lee.
2 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.
3 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Eaddy.
4 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.
5 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: The matter is --
6 this motion -- this meeting is recessed to the
7 call of the Chair.
8 (A recess was taken.)
9 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Shall we have a
10 motion to resume the meeting?
11 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: So moved.
12 DIRECTOR JHA: Second.
13 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: We'll take a roll
14 call vote.
15 Director Jha.
16 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
17 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Requejo.
18 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.
19 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Ortiz.
20 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
21 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Chairman Barclay.
22 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
23 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Lee.
24 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

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1 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Eaddy.

2 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

3 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Thank you. The
4 motion for -- the meeting is back -- resumed.

5 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next item of
6 business on the agenda is our President's report,
7 which will be given our acting president, Nora
8 Leerhsen.

9 PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: Thank you, Chairman,
10 Directors. I'm happy to give an update on several
11 topics for a few minutes.

12 I want to start with security. I know
13 that's top of mind for everyone and our riders and
14 the public at CTA, so I wanted to provide a few
15 updates.

16 Of course, the foundation of our security
17 continues to be our partnership with the Chicago
18 Police Department. And we're happy to report that
19 the missions that we put into place with them
20 continue, including our antismoking missions, our
21 safety outreach missions.

22 And a significant announcement will take
23 place tomorrow with Superintendent Snelling and
24 CTA regarding updates to the strategic decision

1 support center that CPD has in place, which
2 strategically uses our cameras to prevent crime
3 and to assist in arrests and prosecutions of
4 crime.

5 So that dynamic partnership continues to
6 deepen, and I'm happy about that.

7 And I also wanted to add on to that an
8 update on the pilots that I know you authorized as
9 a Board to take place in our budget this year for
10 CTA.

11 And there's a significant development that
12 I want to focus on in my update today, which is
13 that CTA will be moving forward with piloting
14 non-law enforcement resources on CTA through an
15 ambassador program. This will be an initial pilot
16 of a smaller scale to learn lessons about what
17 would be best to potentially expand on to CTA into
18 a broader program.

19 We know this is of intense interest from
20 the public, from our advisory organizations, for
21 many years, this has come up to layer on resources
22 on CTA beyond law enforcement in a way that people
23 want to see.

24 What we're doing here at CTA is twofold in

1 terms of the pilot approach. Given that -- the
2 request for transit ambassadors, for many people,
3 they think of something different. Some of them
4 think of a customer-oriented type of resource,
5 some of them think of a more crisis response
6 recourse, a social service resource. And what
7 we'd like to do at CTA is pilot both of those
8 approaches.

9 So we are moving forward with both using
10 internal resources in a new way for a type of
11 safety ambassador pilot that's more customer
12 experience oriented, dealing with antisocial
13 behaviors to try to prevent them and engage with
14 our riders.

15 And then the second version is more crisis
16 response oriented. And we will be going out with
17 an RFP in the coming months to work with
18 organizations to initiate a pilot in that regard.

19 That will be very much informed by our
20 continued work with community-based organizations,
21 with advocacy groups on this topic to make sure
22 that we're sensitive to all of the concerns and
23 the dynamic and nuanced approaches that people
24 want to see from such an exercise.

1 We're also going to be forming a group
2 that we work with external entities and internal
3 parties to assess the effectiveness of that, to
4 get feedback on what people want to see and their
5 experience with that on CTA.

6 But I'm happy to report movement in that
7 area. And it's significant. As I know this has
8 been something that's come up over the years.
9 We'll continue to keep you updated. Again, it's a
10 small scale pilot to start to experiment with what
11 would work best on our system.

12 I also want to take time to reflect on our
13 special events. We're in the middle of the heat
14 of the summer, both literally and figuratively,
15 and this is where CTA can really shine in terms of
16 the service that we put out around our special
17 events.

18 Since we last met, of course, there was
19 our Pride Parade, which is one of our biggest
20 ridership days of the year. We had 60,000 riders
21 coming to Pride Parade just on its own. It
22 created ridership of nearly 640,000 people just on
23 that Sunday alone, which now marks our highest
24 Sunday ridership of the year.

1 It was a successful event for us. And I
2 had the privilege of spending the day starting in
3 the early morning at our employee meetings at 5:30
4 in the morning right outside Wrigley Field with
5 our bus service management discussing reroutes and
6 how we would manage the day.

7 This is an incredible point of pride for
8 our agency across departments. And I am just in
9 awe of what they execute that day and every day.
10 But that day presents a time to observe, from
11 early morning till late in the night, our teams
12 working around the clock to serve people in
13 dynamic ways. It's rail operations, bus
14 operations, the control center, our fare systems
15 programs, our service planning that plans all
16 those reroutes and executes them.

17 I just want to thank everyone from those
18 department for the incredible work that they do on
19 that day and throughout the summer.

20 Just this past weekend, we logged
21 furthermore complex exercises, the NASCAR
22 competition in CTA, which presents, you know,
23 unique reroutes that we need to plan for and
24 communicate to riders as well as our July 4th

1 activities throughout the city. Every new weekend
2 really brings a new set of challenges for our team
3 that they always step up and execute. And I just
4 want to thank them.

5 In addition to our operations team, I want
6 to take a moment to think about our infrastructure
7 team and the background of what they're executing
8 in days like this and throughout the summer,
9 particularly in the heat.

10 We have our infrastructure team that's
11 making sure all of our cooling aspects of our
12 system are in place. These are our track workers,
13 our signal maintainers, our linemen, our HVAC
14 technicians, our electricians, our escalators
15 mechanics. They're working around the clock to
16 make sure all of our infrastructure is flowing and
17 serving our customers as well.

18 This is, you know, on top of things like
19 the line cut that was in place for the Kostner
20 Pink line and executing that in the heat like
21 experts and with professionalism. I just want to
22 thank everyone for the layers of work that goes on
23 at CTA.

24 We're also excited that July is Disability

1 Pride Month. I'll be excited to also partake in
2 the Disability Pride Parade later this month and
3 to showcase CTA's achievements and focus in that
4 area as well.

5 We'll have a series of communications
6 around that topic that we'll be excited to share
7 with the public as well as, internally, our
8 learning and support unit is going to be executing
9 a film viewing for CTA employees around major
10 achievements around the Americans with Disability
11 Act and forming a discussion here at CTA around
12 those topics to deepen our appreciation and
13 understanding of transit and how it plays a role.

14 Of course, the Red/Purple modernization
15 station openings on July 21st falling during
16 Disability Pride Month is a poignant moment in
17 terms of the excitement around those accessible
18 stations and the role transit plays in moving
19 those meaningful initiatives forward.

20 A few points on ridership. I mentioned
21 the Pride Parade. But just an update, CTA is
22 averaging six and a half million weekly rides. In
23 June, we saw five percent year over year growth,
24 demonstrating our continued health and ridership

1 increases throughout the summer and this year.

2 Our bus frequent network continues to be
3 an example of how investing in service can
4 increase ridership. And it's something we
5 continue to highlight on the legislative front,
6 that the importance of investing in transit will
7 continue to improve ridership.

8 We're seeing nine percent ridership growth
9 across our eight frequent bus network routes. And
10 just to give you a sense, that's three times the
11 ridership growth that we're seeing in the bus
12 service overall. So when you add frequent
13 service, you drive ridership growth, and people
14 are attracted to it.

15 For example, the J14 ridership has grown
16 by 23 percent. And the No. 60 and No. 95 are each
17 growing by 17 percent as well. And we're excited
18 to see those efforts.

19 Another initiative that happened in the
20 past few weeks is our CTA chats initiative that
21 I've been really excited about. We see some
22 boards in the room here that are an example of
23 what we've put out on our system. We've had 11
24 events so far in which CTA leadership and staff is

1 at stations, at bus stops talking with riders
2 about what matters to them at CTA and what they'd
3 like to see.

4 This new forum has really provided a great
5 opportunity to demonstrate CTA's commitment to
6 hear from our riders, particularly, in this unique
7 period that we're in in terms of the fiscal
8 discussion, to make sure we're hearing directly
9 from them and what they want to see and what
10 matters to them.

11 So I will ask our team to play a short
12 video that kind of gives you a sense of some of
13 the work that's been done and what we're hearing
14 from riders.

15 Great. And you see those upcoming chats.
16 We're extending this into the summer with more
17 events. And this is kind of a -- you know, those
18 were some great general feedback that --
19 commentary we got from riders. I be from the
20 event that I attended, what's great is you can
21 also get some very -- location-specific feedback
22 from people when you're standing at where their
23 bus and train usually come and what they'd like to
24 see more.

1 And so it's been incredibly useful. So
2 we've interacted with over 1,000 riders, gotten
3 800 points of feedback on our boards, and continue
4 to be excited about what that's going to provide
5 us with.

6 So, lastly, I'd like to talk about -- we
7 just took a picture downstairs with several of our
8 One Summer Chicago interns. This is an incredibly
9 exciting time of the year for CTA in terms of our
10 One Summer Chicago program. We have a record
11 breaking amount of interns this summer, just under
12 300. We have 298. We had a goal of having 250
13 and we surpassed it.

14 And there's an incredible amount of work
15 on our team that goes on to hosting these interns.
16 And I'm very excited to have our vice president,
17 Kim Robinson, here to talk about the program and
18 have us meet some of our interns right here with
19 us today.

20 So take it away, Kim.

21 MS. ROBINSON: Good morning, Chairman
22 Barclay, Board Directors, Acting President Nora
23 Leerhsen, CTA leadership, and other attendees.

24 I am Kim Robinson. And I am proud to

1 serve as the vice president of training and
2 workforce development. I am thrilled to present
3 to the July CTA Board meeting and provide an
4 overview of the CTA's One Summer Chicago
5 internship program for the summer of 2025.

6 As many are aware, this dynamic program is
7 a huge initiative for the CTA and Chicago Mayor
8 Brandon Johnson. I am joined today by two interns
9 of the program. Both will later address the Board
10 and describe their experience with One Summer
11 Chicago.

12 Every year, the CTA offers hundreds of
13 high school students meaningful and part-time
14 internship opportunities for seven weeks. I will
15 note that the traditional One Summer Chicago
16 program is six weeks, but CTA has extended our
17 program for a seven-week journey.

18 The CTA interns participate in a hybrid
19 internship experience that includes an innovative
20 approach to CTA's hallmark program model focusing
21 on work experience, professional development, and
22 mentorship from transit industry professionals.

23 As mentioned by Acting President Leerhsen,
24 our goal for 2025 was to host 250 interns and

1 externs in this program. We are proud to announce
2 that we have exceeded that goal by onboarding
3 nearly 300 interns in this year, resulting in an
4 increase of around 18 percent.

5 As you can see with the program overview,
6 we are -- as I mentioned, we have a seven-week
7 hybrid program. Our interns work five days a
8 week, five hours a day, for a 25 hour workweek.
9 The starting salary was \$1,620 when the program
10 started on June the 23rd. As of July 1st, the new
11 salary is \$16.60 based on the minimum wage.

12 With this program, we offer to our interns
13 CTA issued iPads, the internet, teleworking
14 supplies, there's college visits, there's
15 community service events, various site visits, and
16 field trips.

17 We create a theme every year that serves
18 as a roadmap to guide our interns on a unique
19 path. This year's theme is navigating your
20 future. Yes, a play on words with the navigation.
21 We selected this word navigate as defined to steer
22 or move. We are using this opportunity to steer
23 and move our youth to achieve future goals with
24 professional development, mentorship, career

1 aspiration, and networking.

2 The CTA's interactive program can best be
3 described using our rail line system as a guide.
4 First, we'll start with the Green Line. That's
5 our route to workforce.

6 This -- excuse me -- this routing includes
7 our orientation week. It was a kickoff. We also
8 had workshops for professional development, team
9 building, and healthy workforce relationships.

10 Our next line is the Yellow Line. This is
11 our path to career -- this is our route to career
12 pathways. On the Yellow Line, our interns learned
13 various pathways through virtual career rides.
14 Through our virtual career rides, we had the four
15 departments displayed on the screen to share their
16 experience and to provide steps to help enhance
17 the future of our interns.

18 For the Yellow [sic] Line, it's our route
19 to service. During this route, our interns
20 participated in community projects while elevating
21 their voice at the Greater Food Depository and
22 Little Brothers of the Elderly.

23 For our Pink Line, this is our route to
24 professional development. During this route, our

1 interns -- excuse me -- participated in a series
2 of events. We have a corporate sponsor,
3 Accenture, that hosted 25 of our interns for the
4 learn to lead curriculum.

5 We also have our CTA's own development --
6 excuse me -- our own creative professional
7 development workshops where we introduce resume
8 writing, interviews, personal branding, and
9 headshots. Also, this includes various field
10 trips to the Art Institute and the Museum of
11 Contemporary Art.

12 For our Blue Line, this is our route to
13 higher education. We have partnered with the City
14 Colleges of Chicago, more specifically, Olive
15 Harvey College, where our juniors and seniors are
16 allowed to take the four courses displayed on the
17 screen. They are free of charge. While they are
18 participating in the program, they receive college
19 credits for any future endeavors.

20 For our Purple Line, this is our route to
21 wellness. During these virtual sessions, we have
22 our performance coach from Nikki Hale Consultants
23 to work with our interns along with CTA's wellness
24 department that helps the interns to balance work

1 and life with activities to help improve emotional
2 and physical health.

3 Our last line is our Brown Line. This is
4 our route to financial freedom. We are partnered
5 with the economic awareness counsel where we
6 discuss banking, budgeting, savings, investments,
7 and credit to name a few topics. This year, we
8 added assistance with completing financial aid for
9 college enrollment and applying for scholarships.

10 Today is actually the pay of the first
11 payday for our interns. So they are excited.
12 That's why you saw so many downstairs. They are
13 here for their first paycheck. And we are going
14 to use the Brown Line to help a system with how
15 they will manage the funding and dollars that they
16 will receive for the seven weeks of this program.

17 Our interns -- excuse me -- our external
18 partners -- the success of this program is
19 established by the support of our CTA internal
20 program partners. As displayed, various
21 departments have hands-on participation with the
22 One Summer Chicago, including onboarding, payroll,
23 programming, and mentorship for special projects.

24 Our external partners are displayed as

1 well. We work aggressively to ensure that this
2 program is impactful and meaningful for our youth.
3 Last year, we forced a partnership with the
4 Chicago Public Schools Southside Occupational
5 Academy. Our -- excuse me -- our One Summer
6 Chicago externs with diverse needs complete
7 programs including culinary arts, art, computer
8 science, and horticulture.

9 If you remember, last year, our externs
10 held a popup sale with various items that were
11 handmade in CTA's lobby. This was a grand
12 success, and you will see our externs again on
13 July 22nd.

14 I am excited to lead a team of amazing
15 transit professionals who are passionate about
16 youth recruitment, engagement, mentorship, and
17 career pathing. Please meet team TWD's unit of
18 internship and educational program.

19 This outstanding program is led by a
20 director, one manager, two coordinators, one for
21 high school and one for college, one training
22 specialist, one staffing specialist, one business
23 admin coordinator. I am proud of the work
24 performed to maintain and continue to imagine One

1 Summer Chicago with a small group of seven CTA
2 staff members.

3 We also have 11 cohort conductors. These
4 are college interns. They coordinate the
5 day-to-day activities for their cohort. This
6 allows for effective engagement with our high
7 school interns as their voice and experience align
8 with this generation and our interns.

9 We have an additional three college
10 interns that assist with programming and digital
11 media.

12 As mentioned, we play a vital role in
13 ongoing success and sustainability of this program.
14 I have a few additional slides, including various
15 photos to highlight some of the activities
16 previously described.

17 We started the program on June the 23rd.
18 We partnered -- for orientation, we partnered with
19 Harold Washington College to make our orientation
20 a grand success.

21 We had a CTA meet and greet with our CTA
22 staff who agreed to mentor our interns with
23 special -- during their special projects.

24 Our interns, as I mentioned, we

1 participate in various community service
2 activities. This picture displays our work at the
3 Greater Food Depository.

4 And to align with not only the internship,
5 work experience, professional development, we also
6 encourage higher education where we have various
7 college tours. For this year, we had UIC,
8 Roosevelt, Harold Washington, and Kennedy King
9 College. Also, for this year, we further expanded
10 to include trades, certification programs, and the
11 military forces. We partnered with the City
12 Colleges in Chicago for in-person and virtual
13 tours for our interns.

14 We kicked off this year with our second
15 year with CPS Southside Occupational Academy where
16 we welcomed 30 externs.

17 And an amazing highlight, as mentioned by
18 Acting President Leerhsen, we had our first meet
19 and greet with around 30 interns from special
20 projects. They had an opportunity to meet one on
21 one and engage with Acting President Leerhsen.
22 Being able to engage one on one with Acting
23 President Leerhsen is definitely one for the books
24 for our interns. We truly appreciate your

1 engagement and support of the program, and we want
2 to thank you.

3 At this time, I would like to welcome
4 Angel Patterson. She will have a few words about
5 her experience with our Southside Occupational
6 Academy. And she is one of our CTA's externs.

7 Angel, are you ready?

8 MS. PATTERSON: Mm-hmm.

9 MS. ROBINSON: Do you want to stand up?

10 MS. PATTERSON: No.

11 MS. ROBINSON: Okay. We are ready.

12 MS. PATTERSON: Good morning. My name is
13 Angel Patterson. I am 21 years old. I go to
14 Southside Occupational Academy. Thank you for CTA
15 this summer. I had fun for flowerpots.

16 MS. ROBINSON: You can say that. You hope
17 to come again next year. Yes?

18 MS. PATTERSON: Yes.

19 MS. ROBINSON: She hopes to come again
20 next year, and we will be excited to have you next
21 year. Thank you.

22 And, now, we have Jameel Meeks. He is
23 from our Red Line, 95th Street. He is one of our
24 2025 One Summer Chicago intern. Do you want to

1 stand?

2 MR. MEEKS: I'll sit. Good morning,
3 everyone. Good morning, Chairman Barclay, Acting
4 President Leerhsen, CTA Board Members, interns.

5 I am Jameel Meeks. I'm a rising senior at
6 St. Ignatius College Prep, and I live in the
7 Austin neighborhood. This is my third year as a
8 CTA One Summer Chicago intern. I currently am in
9 the Purple Loop cohort where I'm assigned to
10 Accenture.

11 Thank you for allowing me to speak to you
12 about the amazing opportunity CTA offers to
13 Chicago's youth every summer. As a third year CTA
14 intern, this continues to be a highlight of my
15 summer. I've realized that these past two years
16 have prepared me well for this role.

17 I started off in the professional
18 development track two years ago where I learned
19 the importance of e-mail etiquette, workplace
20 collaborations, and building interpersonal
21 connections.

22 Last year, I worked as a special project
23 intern where I had the pleasure to work at the
24 west shops under Ms. Jeanine. I had my first

1 experience in Microsoft Outlook software, and I
2 also learned how to communicate effectively with
3 individuals who are established in their careers.

4 This year, at Accenture, I have the
5 opportunity to dive deeper into using Microsoft
6 software, as well as develop my leadership and
7 presentation skills.

8 Every year, I cherish the chance to build
9 relationships with my peers from all over the
10 city, and this year has been no different. In a
11 city painted with a dangerous image, having an
12 organization like CTA uplifting youth to envision
13 themselves in a world of possibilities gives me
14 and many of my peers a hope for a successful
15 impactful future.

16 On behalf of over 270 CTA One Summer
17 Chicago interns, I would like to thank Acting
18 President Leerhsen, the CTA Board Chair, CTA Board
19 Members, and all of the training and workforce
20 development leaders, including Vice President Kim
21 Robinson, all of the cohort conductors and
22 internships and educational programming staff for
23 making this internship a great experience for not
24 just me but for all of us.

1 It is because of your financial
2 investments, mentorship, that we can participate
3 in a worthwhile programming with the second
4 largest transit authority in the country.

5 I thank you again for this opportunity to
6 speak to you about CTA has been important to my
7 development as a young adult.

8 I hope you all have a wonderful day.
9 Thank you.

10 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you guys so much.
11 That will conclude my presentation. I welcome all
12 questions.

13 PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: Thank you so much,
14 Kim. And thank you to our interns for speaking.
15 I know everyone values it so much. So thank you
16 for being here.

17 And that concludes my President's report.

18 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you. Thank you
19 very much.

20 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Thank you for being brave
21 and sharing.

22 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you, President
23 Leerhsen, for your report and your continued
24 leadership. I commend you and the entire team for

1 your efforts and the progress we're seeing across
2 several key areas from expanded public engagement
3 initiatives to continued service improvements.

4 Your work is being noticed and, more
5 importantly, it is being felt by our riders. I
6 encourage you and the team to continue in your
7 efforts as the CTA chats enters into its second
8 phase and the team rolls out safety pilot
9 initiatives in the coming weeks. I look forward
10 to updates on these over the coming weeks.

11 As I mentioned during briefings, we are
12 seeing positive momentum in the progress we're
13 making across engagement. Service and safety is
14 at risk if we don't secure the equitable and
15 sustainable funding needed to support and grow these
16 initiatives.

17 I appreciate the work you and your team
18 have done to raise public awareness of this need
19 and, just as critically, to help to educate our
20 legislators on how this funding is not just about
21 keeping the lights on. It's about preserving and
22 improving the service people rely on every day.
23 It's about protecting jobs, expanding routes, and
24 making the system safer and more accessible for

1 all.

2 Of course, as funding discussions
3 continue, the topic of reform remains closely tied
4 to the conversation. I want to reiterate my
5 support and, I believe, the Board's support for
6 meaningful accountability measures.

7 I welcome reforms that promote
8 transparency, that set clear performance
9 expectations, and that ensure we're delivering at
10 the highest levels. But I also want to emphasize
11 the important of preserving the ability of local
12 transit agencies to make decisions that allow us
13 to respond effectively and efficiently to the
14 people we serve. Our ability to adapt to local
15 needs is a strength. And we must protect that
16 even as we evolve and improve.

17 Before I close, I want to acknowledge and
18 commend Kim Robinson, Ms. Robinson, and your team
19 on another important initiative that goes
20 unrecognized sometimes, the launch of our One
21 Summer Internship Program. Thank you very much.

22 Meeting the students is one of the
23 highlights of the year for the Board. We had an
24 opportunity to welcome this year's class earlier

1 today, and I shared a bit of my own story how I
2 once sat in their seat as a summer intern at CTA.
3 And I reminded them, as I do every year, that the
4 next CTA president or board chair could be among
5 them. We're proud to invest in their development.
6 And I truly believe we're seeing the future of
7 this agency in that group.

8 Thank you, again, to the entire team for
9 your continued work. We look forward to more
10 updates in the coming weeks and to continue to
11 support your efforts as we push forward together.

12 I'd now like to open the floor to my
13 colleagues in response to President Leerhsen's
14 report this morning.

15 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Jha.

16 DIRECTOR JHA: Thank you. I totally agree
17 with you. This is one of the highlights of the
18 year, seeing so many fresh youth back in the
19 lobby. And it seems like the group keeps growing.
20 I remember taking a picture last year, and
21 definitely there were more people today. So thank
22 you for that.

23 From your report, the only thing I think
24 -- great progress. I loved the pilot

1 presentations yesterday about kind of taking small
2 steps but looking into the future. The only thing
3 I'd caution is one of the security initiatives
4 about bringing non, I guess -- what's the term --
5 folks without weapons for security.

6 To me, I think it's very, very important
7 that we have a common language in how we
8 communicate what these are. Because we've sat
9 here and heard a lot of feedback from the public
10 on what those resources on our systems were doing,
11 and that wasn't the highlight of what we were
12 providing. And I know we spend millions of
13 dollars in those initiatives. It should not be
14 the same with a different name.

15 And I think one of the things -- an
16 advantage of a pilot is that our ability -- a
17 pilot is our ability to move faster. And I think
18 whenever we introduce a concept of RFIs or, you
19 know, trying to consolidate or get feedback from
20 everybody, it kind of slows you down.

21 I would encourage the team to, if
22 possible, handpick organizations that you want to
23 work with, whether it is drug enforcements or
24 smoking or just behavior issues.

1 There are enough organizations within the
2 city that you should be able to handpick your top
3 three or top five, bring those, and highlight what
4 you're doing specifically that is going to be
5 different from what we've already done before.
6 Because I think we need to tighten up our
7 communications on that. Because if you can't
8 convince me of the value of what you're doing, I
9 bet you're going to have a hard time convincing
10 the general public on the value of those.

11 And when we're spending dollars, I think
12 we need to be very, very careful in terms of not
13 making it sound like you're doing the same thing
14 with a different name.

15 So I would encourage you to take a look at
16 that and at least create -- I don't know if it's a
17 one-pager or a communication that clearly lays out
18 what are you doing differently. If you're
19 spending money on the same initiative, what are
20 you doing differently? And I think I would
21 challenge you to come up with a better story and
22 better communication to that.

23 But other than that, really excited about
24 some of the things that we're doing.

1 The other thing that I want to highlight
2 is also the whole parking space or the real
3 estate. We talked about that a little bit. I
4 still see opportunity for us to improve our north
5 star vision of what the team is doing around just
6 development of the surrounding spaces within our
7 transit areas.

8 I think we need to tie these messages back
9 to our strategic of here's our long-term view and
10 here's how this piece fits. I feel like when we
11 are approving some of these initiatives, they come
12 as very siloed piecemeal. And we need to start
13 getting better at starting our conversations with
14 this is our north star, this is how it fits into
15 the picture, and we are not doing that.

16 And I think every time you come with a
17 proposal, let's align that to our overall
18 strategic vision and just say how that piece fits
19 into it so we know internally there's cohesion. I
20 know you are talking to each other. We need to
21 show up like that, right? Because all the work
22 that's going in the background somehow gets lost.
23 When we're in the briefing room, it doesn't sound
24 like it's part of a bigger picture.

1 So I want to see some of that sort of come
2 so you get the credit of all the background work
3 that you're doing and the communication is crisp
4 in terms of how it ties to the long-term vision.

5 And thank you. I mean, I know I'm
6 longwinded, but I'm really excited to see what the
7 team comes up with in terms of the feedback from
8 pilot and where we go forward.

9 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Requejo.

10 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yeah. I wanted to
11 double down on congratulations, Kim, who seems to
12 have the best job at CTA I'm realizing here.

13 It was an amazing presentation and an
14 incredible program. And thank you for bringing
15 the students to present to us. This is what makes
16 the CTA different from other organizations. And
17 this is what we mean when we say that we are in
18 the business not just of moving people from A to
19 B. There's a lot more. And when you care about
20 people, it shows. So thank you for that. And
21 looking forward to seeing you back in the future.

22 I have both the same excitement and
23 concerns that some of my colleagues have around
24 the security initiatives. I was one of the

1 proposers of the pilots. I'm super excited. And
2 I want to thank everyone for finding the time this
3 year, in particular, to allocate resources and
4 think differently.

5 And while the overall picture of this
6 particular program, the non-law enforcement folks
7 in the system, is good, I am concerned about not
8 taking this opportunity to do a full reset and
9 reflect on what worked, what didn't, and spend
10 some time with our colleagues, not only
11 nationally, but internationally, who have done
12 these type of ambassador programs.

13 And to be more specific and direct, I am
14 concerned about using some of our private security
15 firms that we have already in the system to do
16 this pilot.

17 I know the reviews have been mixed about
18 the performance. And, I think, again, this is an
19 opportunity, if possible, to find different ways
20 and different partners. And, as my colleague
21 said, there are plenty of organizations in
22 Chicago. And I do know that our procurement
23 process is cumbersome and can be complicated, but
24 I encourage you to look beyond the usual.

1 And, also, I really encourage you all to
2 partner closely with the Mayor's Office because
3 they have a great set of relationships, networks,
4 and programs that are actually working, you know,
5 for security. So just that on this.

6 And then, finally, I'm going to be
7 repeating this constantly because I feel that it
8 gets lost sometimes. I want to stress how
9 important it is that we build the three scenarios
10 that we need to build, not just the two that RTA
11 is asking us to do, but the one that we know is
12 the right one, which is providing us with the
13 resources we actually need.

14 And some of these initiatives, which is
15 what people are asking for, require resources.
16 Some of the ideas circulating out there, including
17 having our own police force, is not a cheap
18 proposition. You know, it requires resources.

19 So I want to, again, encourage the team to
20 work on what we have to do by law and, also, what
21 we have to do because it's the right thing to do.

22 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Thank you. I'm not going
23 to repeat everything, but I absolutely agree with
24 everything they said. Thank you for all the

1 leadership and the internships. It's amazing.

2 It's absolutely invaluable.

3 This must have been another meeting about
4 safety and security because I know that was a big
5 piece of my session yesterday. I guess I was
6 going a little further than that as well. I'm
7 kind of -- I'm glad you started both in that
8 space.

9 I was pretty clear and firm in expressing
10 what I have shared previously, maybe even a couple
11 months, maybe even a year back, that if we can
12 formally establish a safety and security task
13 force that includes partners, not just from the
14 City, but from our neighborhoods and, obviously,
15 with leadership within the CTA, I really feel like
16 that is a great way to help us understand a north
17 star, be clear about that, and then work
18 everything else that we do to meet that north
19 star.

20 Without that, I do also feel that these
21 projects are sort of one-off. And I feel like,
22 together, this task force can think much greater,
23 much stronger, and much clearer about where and
24 how we can move the needle on safety and security

1 in our system.

2 So I would really like to stress that. We
3 need a formal task force on safety and security
4 that is not just CTA, but that it involves other
5 partners so that we can be clear about how we're
6 moving forward, how we're tracking progress and,
7 you know, how we're actually documenting the kinds
8 of efforts that we're doing because it's getting
9 us to a common place that is articulated and led
10 by everyone and owned by everyone, so it would
11 make those efforts stronger.

12 Thank you, again, for all you're doing.
13 Love the chats, the videos. Really fabulous
14 hearing from our riders. And documenting the
15 stories, I think, is very powerful. And I'll
16 leave it at that. So, thank you.

17 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Lee.

18 DIRECTOR LEE: Yeah. Not going to echo --
19 not going to repeat everything that was said, but
20 very much concur with what was said earlier.

21 I also share some concerns about the
22 security pilot. I mean, I'm very happy that it's
23 happening. Very excited that it's moving forward.
24 But I'm concerned, again, that it's going to be

1 the same, more of the same.

2 I was just on a Green Line train this
3 weekend and there was a lot of smoking. You know,
4 I kind of felt -- you know, I had nowhere to turn,
5 like, what do I do? There was no one there. It
6 was the end of car, etc. Glad to hear the
7 missions are still happening and, you know,
8 initiatives are moving forward, but we have to
9 keep pushing farther and do something different
10 because what we're doing isn't working.

11 But, otherwise, very excited that we're
12 trying to double down on positivity and
13 celebrating pride and celebrating disability
14 pride. All these things in the times of
15 uncertainty. So appreciate that we're doing that
16 as well. So, thank you.

17 PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: Thank you, Directors.
18 I just want to say, I think moving -- sorry.

19 DIRECTOR LEE: Director Eaddy.

20 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Eaddy, any
21 further comments or questions?

22 DIRECTOR EADDY: Well, yes. Certainly, I
23 was very excited and I wanted to commend Kim
24 Robinson and all of the work in terms of working

1 with the One Summer Chicago. It's always good and
2 it's always refreshing to know, especially
3 concerning our youth, that we are exposing them to
4 the kinds of things that we know will lend to
5 motivating them to be their better selves and to
6 accomplish those things that we know they're
7 capable of doing.

8 I'll just pose this. I don't know if
9 there's an opportunity for anyone -- her to
10 respond. But I was just wanting to know what are
11 the -- say, what is the follow-up to these youth?

12 Certainly, we have them during the summer
13 for those seven weeks. I would just be curious to
14 know what occurs beyond that in terms of is there
15 any continued connection? I did hear one of the
16 interns state that they were there for the third
17 year, so I was glad to hear that.

18 So I was just wondering to know what
19 happens beyond any one of these youth when they
20 have their experience during the summer months.

21 But, also, always good to hear and see the
22 responses from riders. It's always important that
23 we're hearing firsthand from them in light of what
24 this CTA service means, what it represents, and

1 how it continues to service them. So just commend
2 for that to continue and just think it is the
3 right direction to go hearing directly from the
4 people.

5 But I did raise up something concerning
6 the CTA security focus services during the
7 briefing. And it was shared -- and we understand
8 the pilot and what is being evaluated here.

9 But I think there was a reference maybe or
10 at least comments given about -- I believe it was
11 -- Los Angeles in terms about how they approach
12 it. And if this is a direction that we're
13 considering to go and I know we're -- that's what
14 this pilot is all about, to kind of explore that,
15 but I do think that there needs to be some very
16 serious dialogue with those that are doing it.
17 I'm talking about systemwide. And getting input
18 from them, recommendations, lessons learned, all
19 of that.

20 So I just would want to encourage that to
21 be further explored as we are moving in that
22 direction.

23 So I think that pretty much -- because
24 others have said so much in terms of the other

1 areas, but those were some of the things that I
2 wanted to raise.

3 PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: Thank you, Director.
4 I'll let Kim answer your comment and question
5 about One Summer.

6 MS. ROBINSON: Yes. Thank you, Director
7 Eaddy.

8 We do have informal communications, but
9 not a set curriculum where we further engage after
10 One Summer Chicago. What usually happens is our
11 interns are still connected with their mentors for
12 recommendations for a college, recommendations for
13 scholarship, recommendations or referrals for
14 positions. So they stay engaged but more in an
15 informal setting where they still continue to
16 communicate.

17 And as you noted, we do have various
18 interns that return every year because they have
19 created that network and camaraderie with the
20 mentors that we have here. So not formal, but
21 still communication, more specifically, with
22 recommendations and referrals for scholarships,
23 other opportunities, and for job positions.

24 DIRECTOR EADDY: Thank you very much, Kim.

1 You're doing a phenomenal job.

2 PRESIDENT LEERHSEN: Thank you, Kim.

3 And thank you, Director, for your feedback
4 as well. I'll take your last comment first in
5 terms of talking with other agencies about their
6 ambassador non-law enforcement resource programs.
7 And that's been underway for many years and will
8 continue as we shape this and get feedback.

9 As I mentioned, this has been a topic
10 that's been -- come up for a long time and we've
11 partnered with agencies to hear how their programs
12 are doing, and that will continue to inform what
13 we're doing.

14 And I just want to thank all the Directors
15 to their feedback. I think this is the testament
16 to a value of advancing concepts, that we start to
17 see really concrete, actionable feedback from you
18 that's shared amongst you.

19 And I hear you in terms of keeping this
20 clear in terms of a north star and where this sits
21 in a larger vision, making sure it's clear what's
22 different. Security gets talked about a lot and
23 with a lot of different terminology.

24 So what is different, what's the impact,

1 and keeping the focus on that as well as making
2 sure we're partnering with the right entities in
3 this, including the Mayor's Office of Community
4 Safety and Deputy Mayor Garien Gatewood has been a
5 great partner and will continue to be. And that's
6 certainly going to be a resource for us.

7 So I really appreciate your feedback.
8 And, like I said, this is a testament to, I think,
9 the value of moving forward with these pilots,
10 that we can partner together and make them robust
11 and effective. So I thank you for that.

12 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you, Nora.

13 Our next order of business is the approval
14 of the minutes of our regular Board meeting of
15 June 11th, 2025.

16 May I have a motion to approve?

17 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

18 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

19 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: The motion has been
20 moved and seconded.

21 We'll have a roll call vote.

22 Director Jha.

23 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

24 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Requejo.

1 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

2 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Ortiz.

3 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

4 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Chairman Barclay.

5 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

6 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Lee.

7 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

8 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Eaddy.

9 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

10 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: The motion passes.

11 6 yeas, 0 nays.

12 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next item on the
13 agenda is executive session.

14 Kent, it's my understanding that today we
15 do have an executive session.

16 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Yes, we do,
17 Chairman, pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings
18 Act 5 ILCS 120 subsections 2(c), 11, and 21.

19 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will now entertain a
20 motion to recess into executive session for the
21 reasons stated by counsel.

22 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

23 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

24 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: The motion to move

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1 into executive session has been moved and
2 seconded.

3 We'll have a roll call vote.

4 Director Jha.

5 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

6 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Requejo.

7 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

8 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Ortiz.

9 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

10 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Chairman Barclay.

11 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

12 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Lee.

13 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

14 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Eaddy.

15 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

16 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: The motion passes.

17 (A recess was taken.)

18 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will now entertain a
19 motion to return to open session.

20 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: So moved.

21 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Is the motion
22 seconded?

23 DIRECTOR JHA: Second.

24 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: The motion to return

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1 to open session has been moved and seconded.
2 We'll have a roll call vote.
3 Director Jha.
4 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
5 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Requejo.
6 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.
7 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Ortiz.
8 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
9 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Chairman Barclay.
10 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
11 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Lee.
12 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.
13 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Eaddy.
14 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.
15 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: The motion passes.
16 Chairman, with respect to Board item 6A --
17 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: 5A.
18 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: 5A, the Board
19 reviewed closed session meeting minutes for June
20 11th, 2025.
21 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: May I please have a
22 motion to approve the closed session minutes for
23 June 11th, 2025?
24 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

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1 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

2 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: The motion to
3 approve the minutes has been moved and seconded.
4 Director Jha.

5 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Director Requejo.

7 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

8 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Ortiz.

9 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

10 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Chairman Barclay.

11 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

12 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Lee.

13 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

14 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Eaddy.

15 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

16 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: The motion to
17 approve the closed session meeting minutes has
18 been approved.

19 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: We will now address
20 Board agenda item 6, Board matters.

21 Kent, do we have any Board matters today.

22 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: No, Chairman, there
23 are no Board matters today.

24 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of

1 business is a report from the Committee on
2 Finance, Audit, and Budget.

3 Director Lee.

4 DIRECTOR LEE: Sure. The Committee met
5 earlier this morning and approved the June 11th,
6 2025 Committee minutes and reviewed the finance
7 report.

8 The Committee also reviewed four
9 ordinances.

10 First, review of an ordinance authorizing
11 free rides on the first day of school for Chicago
12 Public Schools in 2025 and 2026.

13 Second, review of an ordinance authorizing
14 a copromotional agreement with the City of Chicago
15 Department of Fleet and Facility Management.

16 Third, review of an ordinance authorizing
17 modification of parking fees for Park & Ride and
18 under L parking locations.

19 Lastly, review of an ordinance authorizing
20 a license agreement with MobileMoney, Inc. to
21 install, operate, and maintain automated teller
22 machines at designated rail stations.

23 The Committee also reviewed one contract.
24 The Committee then placed four ordinances and one

1 contract on the omnibus. And the Committee
2 approved and recommended for Board approval four
3 ordinances and one contract.

4 This concludes the report of the Finance,
5 Audit, and Budget Committee.

6 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Is there a motion
7 now to approve the omnibus?

8 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: So moved.

9 DIRECTOR JHA: Second.

10 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: The motion to
11 approve the omnibus has been made and seconded.

12 We'll have a roll call vote.

13 Director Jha.

14 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

15 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Requejo.

16 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

17 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Ortiz.

18 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

19 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Chairman Barclay.

20 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

21 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Lee.

22 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

23 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Eaddy.

24 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

1 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: The motion to
2 approve the omnibus is approved.

3 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of
4 business is a construction report from Grace Ohs,
5 our vice president of the modernization project,
6 Steve Mascheri, vice president of capital
7 construction, and JuanPablo Prieto, our director
8 of diversity programs.

9 MR. MASCHERI: Good morning, Board of
10 Directors. My name is Stephen Mascheri, vice
11 president of capital construction.

12 We're in the core portion of the program
13 of basically everything besides RLE and RPM.

14 MS. OHS: Good morning. My name is Grace
15 Ohs. I'm the vice president of RPM construction.

16 MR. PRIETO: Good afternoon, JuanPablo
17 Prieto, director of diversity programs.

18 MR. MASCHERI: We will be presenting the
19 Board presentation for today.

20 Today's presentation will be similar to
21 what Mr. Mooney typically prepares, which talks
22 about the state of the repair projects followed by
23 ASAP and then our customer-facing projects, the
24 refresh and renew, and then we'll finish up with

1 the RPM.

2 The first project is our Barry, Damen, and
3 Canal projects. We are currently in the final
4 stages of getting our Damen substation, which is
5 right by the Blue Line where we're doing our final
6 testing of the Damen substation where we test
7 every piece of equipment to make sure that it's
8 functioning properly, and, also, in the event that
9 something -- we have an anomaly in the system so
10 that it fails safely so that the system is able to
11 function properly and also be maintained properly.
12 So any disruption to the system is minimized.

13 We do this with both the transformers and
14 the rectifiers inside the substation. As you can
15 see, each piece of equipment is isolated, so they
16 kind of work independently and then, also,
17 integrated as well so they can work safely and
18 reliably.

19 Here, what we have is we are putting down
20 a traffic coating, which seems somewhat nominally.
21 But we actually do this work to elongate the life
22 of the equipment. So what we do is we put down
23 this protective floor coating that essentially
24 mitigates dust getting into the air, which,

1 typically, in your house seems like it would be
2 pretty trivial, but if a lot of that dust that's
3 in the air, gets into the equipment, it can reduce
4 the life expectancy of the equipment.

5 So we do this in all of our substation.
6 So that floor coating actually keeps the dust
7 down. So when we do our normal cleaning, it
8 doesn't get into the equipment. It increases the
9 reliability and the life expectancy of the
10 equipment that we're putting online.

11 The next photo here is the Barry
12 substation. So Barry is right by the Belmont Blue
13 Line station. When we actually -- when we built
14 this substation, it's up at street level but
15 actually connects into the -- right by the
16 crossover, which is in the subway.

17 So what we did here is we're actually
18 putting an extensive sump pump and waterproofing
19 infrastructure so that in case we have a water
20 event in the subway, that it protects the
21 equipment, which is up at the street level. So
22 we're kind of able to isolate our infrastructure.
23 That's under construction right now.

24 Here, we have the equipment that we're

1 wiring up for testing at Barry, which we're
2 expecting to have come online later this fall.

3 And this is the Canal tie-house, which is
4 currently online. But we're now kind of in the
5 point of putting in belts and suspenders.

6 So we put a drip pan above the tie-house
7 to actually kind of -- in case we have any water
8 infiltration coming through the subway, that drip
9 pan protects as another layer of protection above
10 the tie-house around it.

11 And then the photo on the right shows kind
12 of where we're putting in a protective barrier for
13 not just the equipment but our employees as well.
14 So as you can see, the yellow boxes which -- the
15 switches, if our employees have to access to those
16 switches, there will be kind of a guardrail there
17 so that they're isolated from the train traffic,
18 which is on the left side of the photo.

19 Next, we'll be moving into the Harlem
20 station bus bridge. So I think last time we
21 presented saying that we did the big deck pour,
22 which we're really excited about because we don't
23 do a lot of bridges.

24 So now that the deck is poured and cured,

1 what we're actually doing is now kind of getting
2 into the next phase, which is pouring the
3 sidewalks and the parapets. So it will be where
4 the passengers are able to get off the bus and
5 then walk over to the stationhouse, which will be
6 considered railroad north. So we poured that
7 sidewalk area.

8 And then, here, we're framing up the
9 parapet wall, which is essentially kind of with
10 the little barrier that isolates people walking
11 from the area from the expressway below. To it's
12 an aesthetic treatment as well as a protective
13 measure.

14 Here, we have a photo of the bus driver
15 bathroom. Previously, we kind of had a small
16 prefabbed bathroom that we've removed. We're
17 actually building something that's a bit more
18 robust for our bus drivers. So it will be both
19 protected from the weather as well as the cold.
20 So the bus drivers will have a more comfortable
21 experience between their runs. We'll be having
22 this bridge open later this summer.

23 Moving into the ASAP program. I won't be
24 talking about RPM and take any of Grace's thunder

1 away from her, but talking about some of the
2 stations within the core program.

3 So we have a couple of stations that are
4 under construction as well as we have a couple of
5 stations that are up to bid right now as well as
6 projects that are under design. We're moving
7 ahead with the ASAP program in total.

8 The first station we'll talk about is the
9 Lake and Austin, which is at the west end of the
10 Green Line station. I know we had a ribbon
11 cutting a couple months ago, which is really
12 exciting. It was a little colder back then.
13 Since we've had the ribbon cutting, we've actually
14 started building up the foundation of the main
15 station entrance. So we've been able to sequence
16 that work, which will kind of compress our time
17 frame.

18 So once the -- our auxiliary entrance is
19 open over at Mason, we'll be able -- kind of be
20 already on our way of building the main
21 stationhouse over at Austin so we can have this
22 work wrapped up later this winter.

23 Photo here showing kind of the newly --
24 the new stationhouse with the enclosure over at

1 the Mason. The glass is going in and the
2 enclosure is being finalized. We're expecting to
3 have that open in the very near future, which
4 we're really excited to have.

5 This is a photo of the inside of the
6 stationhouse over at Mason. It used to be a
7 storage unit and also used for telecom equipment
8 that we've had relocated. And we're actually able
9 to use it as an alternate means of egress.

10 So while we're working on the main
11 entrance at Austin, we're able to keep the station
12 open by using that Mason entrance.

13 This is the photo looking out of the Mason
14 entrance kind of onto the street, which will be
15 completely paved once that entrance is ready to be
16 open.

17 Here, workers are working on putting on
18 the new roof. This is kind of one of those unique
19 photos that kind of shows we're building new
20 infrastructure to old infrastructure.

21 On the right side of the photograph shows
22 kind of that little bit of concrete that's like a
23 retaining wall. It's over 100 years old. It's
24 something that's really important to us. When I

1 say kind of putting new to old, we want to make
2 sure that we have kind of a seamless transition to
3 make sure that those -- integrate walls so that we
4 don't have water issues, that you don't have any
5 settlement differentials. So we want to make sure
6 that that work is done properly.

7 Moving on over to Racine. Work is
8 progressing along very well here, which you've --
9 I think we've shown photos previously about the
10 concrete panels that we've been installing. We
11 basically finished the panels. They kind of run
12 parallel to the tracks. We're working on the
13 waterfall slide for the stairwell and then we're
14 also going to be finalizing also these concrete
15 panels as well.

16 On the interior, all the structure has
17 been installed. We're installing doors and
18 finishes. So we're expecting to have this work
19 wrapped up late summer, early fall to have this
20 station open for an accessible entrance.

21 Down at the canopy level, all the painting
22 work has been done. We've also been installing
23 these purlins, so those metal beams that you see
24 kind of in the middle will be supporting the

1 translucent canopy panel that we use at some of
2 our neighboring station is. So those will also be
3 going up in time for the station opening.

4 This photo here, the last report, we
5 talked about this is a big win for us working with
6 ComEd where we have to work with building these
7 receiving pits for new power and new utilities
8 going into the station.

9 Sometimes, if you think of about just kind
10 of little duct packages or conduit that go under
11 the expressway, it's not too significant. But as
12 you can see here, the people inside of this
13 receiving pit just kind of gives you the scale of
14 the level of involvement that's required to build
15 these large pits, these large structures.

16 And, here, you can see, as you come out of
17 that vault, running the electrical conduits back
18 down to the ComEd main feed.

19 This is a shot of inside of the Morgan
20 substation. It's coming together with stairs
21 going from the first level up to the second floor.

22 And, here, we're starting to -- on the
23 second floor, we're starting to do electrical trim
24 outs. As we're finalizing the build-out of the

1 substation, we're actually going to be -- in the
2 coming months, we'll be starting to see
3 transformer equipment come in, have the equipment
4 commissioned and get this substation online next
5 year, which we're really excited about.

6 And this is an exterior of the Morgan
7 substation, again, with those concrete panels
8 that, you know, sister up with the Racine station.
9 So Morgan and the Racine station, while they're
10 both near each other geographically, also kind of
11 have a harmonious look to them with the finishes
12 on the exterior.

13 Next is Western Brown Line station. While
14 we're doing a lot of the aesthetic work, as we're
15 peeling some things back, we found some pretty
16 extensive structural work that we had to do
17 repairs on.

18 Here, you're looking for inside the
19 station up where some of the seal was kind of
20 covered up since the station was built in the
21 1940s. We saw some extensive degradation that we
22 needed to also take care of that's also going to
23 be part of the project. It was able to keep us on
24 time and on budget. But we've been working with

1 our shop and our maintenance crew to ensure that
2 we're able to get that work done quickly.

3 At the same time, we're also doing a lot
4 of work on the exterior of the station with
5 tuckpointing. If anyone knows, in that area,
6 there's a lot of work happening with CDOT.
7 There's a lot of streetscape work happening. So
8 as we're trying to coordinate all that work at the
9 same time, it's a really busy place. But we're
10 really excited to have this work kind of done late
11 end of the year, early next year.

12 This is a photo of the -- we had to
13 rebuild the temporary bus canopy roof just while
14 we're -- before we demolish it, which we'll be
15 doing later in the summer.

16 Refresh and renew. Of the 28 stations we
17 currently have planned, we have 13 that have been
18 completed by our maintenance group. And then with
19 the bus turnaround program, 5 of the 14 planned
20 have been completed. So we're full speed ahead on
21 those as well.

22 Damen Pink Line station, showing some
23 before and afters here with new lighting and
24 painting and, also, relocating of the trash bins.

1 Inside the station, we've retrofitted the
2 stations with high performance LED lights for a
3 brighter, airier feel, and, also, we removed
4 miscellaneous debris. And then the exterior, the
5 photo on the left, you can see we were able to
6 remove some graffiti, put some plantings in, and,
7 also, replace some of the lighting as well.

8 At the platform level, we were able to do
9 some painting, various repairs, and install some
10 high efficiency LED light fixtures.

11 Garfield Red, we did some work here not
12 just within the station, but, also, from the total
13 customer experience. So the canopy replacement,
14 the people sit outside waiting for the bus, we
15 actually did a full replacement of that with not
16 just the corrugated metal, but, also, lighting as
17 well.

18 And then inside the station, similar, we
19 did a full paint job with new high efficient LED
20 light fixtures. And then inside the station,
21 every painted surface that we had, we were able to
22 do repainting as well.

23 With that, I'll turn it over to Grace for
24 RPM.

1 MS. OHS: Hi. Honored to be here today,
2 especially because we're on the verge of opening
3 our four new stations for RPM. So a long road to
4 get here. I know that Bill's been keeping you
5 guys updated, so I hope to give you a preview of
6 those stations and the work we've accomplished.

7 As we do, we start down in the Red/Purple
8 bypass area. We broke ground here back in 2019
9 building the bypass. And, here, we see the new
10 north main line tracks above the new modern
11 structure. And we're doing the finishing touches
12 of our at grade improvements.

13 In this area, we have a plaza pavement
14 below which provides space for the community but
15 also a way for us to maintain this new structure
16 as well and have access.

17 So I know Bill told you guys back in May
18 that we untangled what we had tangled up and we
19 are back operating four tracks on north main and
20 the new bypass service. So normal operations,
21 thanks to the support from rail ops during those
22 phases, several phases to untangle that. But
23 putting the finishing touches on down there.

24 So up in the Lawrence to Bryn Mawr area,

1 we are preparing to open the four new fully
2 accessible stations. Here, we have Lawrence.
3 This is the furthest south and least complete at
4 this point, but we are putting the finishing
5 touches now on this station as well.

6 Here, we see the new fare array within the
7 station ready for customers to start using that
8 shortly.

9 Another photo here of Berwyn. We're
10 getting ready. The granite's getting cleaned up.
11 New granite, new elevators and escalators in each
12 of these stations, and new digital signs as well
13 to help inform customers.

14 Exterior to Berwyn, we see some of the
15 more dramatic architectural features. Berwyn fits
16 within that community that it's placed in, as do
17 all of these stations, take context from the
18 community from which within the stations are
19 built.

20 Go to the next one. So one of our most
21 dramatic, Argyle. We've got the accent lighting.
22 I know Bill shared that. And we've got pavers
23 that are being finished up this week as we speak.
24 And bright red colors there as well at Argyle as

1 we finish those -- that station.

2 And then, finally, Bryn Mawr. Here, we
3 see the new wider platforms. We still have the
4 barrier up at this point, we just took it down a
5 few days ago, that separated us from the
6 in-service track.

7 And we see the newly built track, which
8 will begin operations when the stations open as
9 well. So track complete. We put a test train and
10 powered up at the end of June. And we powered
11 back up and we're doing familiarization with
12 operators and making sure that everyone is ready
13 for this new operation on July 20th.

14 So just reflecting back at where we
15 started. These are were the stations back in 2019
16 when we started the RPM phase 1 design-build
17 project and photos of the stations today as they
18 near completion. These photos are probably a
19 couple weeks old, but we are even further along
20 with most of the streetscape done and the stations
21 really getting the finishing touches to open.

22 And, again, these are stations that fit
23 within the context of the neighborhood. We can
24 see on Bryn Mawr, actually, we salvaged the

1 historic pilars there and reinstalled those as
2 well. And so some elements were able to be reused
3 in the new station to try to, you know, remember
4 where we came from.

5 So getting the word out about these
6 station openings, we're out at popup events in the
7 community, letting people know the stations are
8 opening. We've posted signage in all of the open
9 stations letting them know that new stations will
10 open and are ready for customers on July 20th.

11 I will turn it over to JuanPablo Prieto.

12 MR. PRIETO: Thanks, Grace.

13 I'll be providing you with an update on
14 RPM number through May and our DBE and workforce
15 outreach activities for the month of June.

16 As of May 31st, 122 unique DBEs have been
17 awarded over \$298 million between the design and
18 construction packages on RPM phase one. 55 of
19 those firms are new to CTA.

20 DBEs have been paid more than \$245 million
21 to date, which puts Walsh-Fluor's attainment at
22 20.81 percent of their 20 percent goal.

23 On the workforce side, as of the end of
24 May, over 2,800 unique individuals have worked

1 over 2.5 million labor hours and earned over \$151
2 million to date. Walsh-Fluor is on track to meet
3 their workforce goals. And these goals represent
4 over 1,000 unique workers that have had an
5 opportunity to either start or continue their
6 career in the building trades.

7 Next slide.

8 In June, we hosted and attended a number
9 of events to inform small businesses and residents
10 about contracting and career opportunities on our
11 projects.

12 On June 12, we hosted our building small
13 businesses orientation. There were over 50
14 attendees at the JLM. These attendees learned how
15 to access capital, gain back office support, and
16 gain assistance with procurement opportunities.
17 Since 2019, BSB has assisted over 40 firms in
18 accessing over \$18 million in capital and provided
19 almost 500 small businesses with access to its
20 services.

21 On June 18th, we hosted a meet the
22 contractor event for our supply chain contract
23 with NAPA. During this even, we welcomed eight
24 exhibitors. These were DBEs. And then 35

1 attendees that included CTA staff that purchased
2 supplies through the NAPA contract. So this is a
3 little bit in reverse of what we usually do. We
4 usually have the prime presenting to DBEs about
5 opportunities. Here, we see DBEs presenting their
6 products to the prime and the using groups to see
7 if we were interested in adding those to our NAPA
8 contract.

9 NAPA, also the prime, also presented on
10 how to become a vendor with them so that the DBE
11 suppliers could get registered with them and start
12 providing quotes.

13 And then, lastly, on June 26th, we
14 attended the CHA's third annual construction,
15 trades, and apprentice hands on expo. Our team
16 highlighted ongoing efforts to connect the over
17 170 attendees to CTA construction-related
18 opportunities, training, and small business
19 opportunities with CTA contractors on ongoing and
20 upcoming projects.

21 Next slide.

22 We'll continue to bring you our activities
23 and our work to advocate, certify, and invest in
24 DBEs, SBs, and career seekers.

1 That concludes our report. We're happy to
2 answer any questions.

3 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you. Thank you.
4 We're so excited about those four stations opening
5 up, and I'm sure the public is also. So thank you
6 for the work there.

7 I'll leave it open to any other Board
8 members.

9 DIRECTOR JHA: I have no questions.
10 Thank you.

11 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Congratulations. I
12 used those stations for 14 years. 15 years, that
13 was my neighborhood. It was so difficult to
14 navigate. So congrats on that.

15 And in the spirit of the improvements in
16 safety, I think it would be good now to compare
17 safety and security incidents before and after,
18 you know, because this is a whole different
19 restructuring of the entire area, not just the
20 station. So that would be an interesting data
21 point to come back in six months and report that.

22 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: I want to lean on that
23 comment. My design aspect kicked in when I saw
24 the platforms. And I just keep thinking about how

1 can we continue to make our stations safer,
2 especially as we've seen more and more fatalities
3 from people on the tracks that have been fatal.

4 Small recommendation. I wonder if maybe
5 you-all thought about it if there were other
6 ideas, maybe even just putting a yellow line at
7 some point so that you know and others know that,
8 you know, passing anything here, you're really
9 putting yourself at risk.

10 I think something like that that could be
11 as small as paint and visually helping people
12 understand this is danger, don't go past this line
13 until the train comes could be a really small but
14 meaningful, you know, detail that can help of us
15 be safer.

16 MS. OHS: Yeah. That photo, when it was
17 taken, right, we hadn't installed yet what we call
18 the tactile edge. So we do have a blue edge to
19 our platforms, which also has a surface that helps
20 people know that they have stepped too close. And
21 we are always encouraging people to stand back
22 from the tactile edge until the train is safely
23 bermed in the station.

24 We do have that. I did notice in that

1 photo when they were cleaning it up that they
2 hadn't yet. That was one of the finishing touches
3 that we just put on about a week ago.

4 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Great. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

6 Anyone else?

7 DIRECTOR LEE: Just really excited that
8 the ASAP program is moving forward. I know it's
9 long and it's hard and the road ahead, but got to
10 celebrate the wins when we can. So I'm excited.

11 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Eaddy, any
12 questions?

13 MS. MORGAN: Director Eaddy lost
14 connection online.

15 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Okay. Thank you.

16 There are no other questions, Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our final order of
18 business is new business.

19 Kent, is there any new business today?

20 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: No. There is no new
21 business today.

22 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Since there is no
23 further business to come before the Board, may I
24 have a motion to adjourn the Chicago Transit Board

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1 meeting of July 9th of 2025?

2 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

3 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

4 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: The motion to
5 adjourn has been moved and seconded.

6 We'll have a roll call vote.

7 Director Jha.

8 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

9 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Requejo.

10 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

11 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Ortiz.

12 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

13 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Chairman Barclay.

14 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

15 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Lee.

16 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

17 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Director Eaddy, are
18 you back on?

19 (No response.)

20 GENERAL COUNSEL RAY: Regardless, the
21 motion passes. We're adjourned.

22 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

23 (Off the record at 12:26 p.m.)

24

CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

I, Courtney Petros, Registered Professional Reporter and Certified Shorthand Reporter, the officer before whom the foregoing proceeding was taken, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the testimony given; that said testimony was taken by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that reading and signing was not requested; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed this 16th day of July, 2025.



COURTNEY PETROS, RPR, CSR

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