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Transcript of Board Meeting

Date: July 8, 2026

Case: Chicago Transit Authority Board Meeting, In Re:

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CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Chicago, IL

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

10:39 a.m.

Job No.: 613732

Pages: 1 - 64

Transcribed by: Patrick Owen

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1 Meeting, BOARD MEETING, held at the offices of:

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5 567 West Lake Street

6 2nd Floor

7 Chicago, IL 60661

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14 Pursuant to agreement, before William Pantoja,

15 Notary Public in and for the State of Illinois.

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APPEARANCES

ALSO PRESENT:

Sisavanh Baker - Acting General Counsel
Nora Leerhsen - Acting President
Rosa Y. Ortiz - Board Member
Lester L. Barclay - Chairman
Rev. Dr. Bernard Jakes - Vice Chairman
Lily Diego-Johnson - Board Member
Georgette L. Greenlee, Esquire - Board Secretary

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EXHIBITS

(None marked)

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PROCEEDINGS

Whereupon,

MR. BARCLAY Good morning. I would like to call to order the meeting of the Chicago Transit Board for July 8th, 2026. Georgette, please call the roll.



MS. GREENLEE



Director Rosa Ortiz

MS. ORTIZ

MR. BARCLAY

Here. Chairman Lester

Barclay

MR. BARCLAY

Here.

MS. GREENLEE

Director Bernard Jakes

MR. JAKES

Here.

MS. GREENLEE

Director Lily Diego-

Johnson.

MS. DIEGO-JOHNSON

Here.

MS. GREENLEE

Chairman Barclay, you do

have a quorum.

MR. BARCLAY

It has been brought to

my attention that Director Michael Eaddy will not be

participating in the meeting in person due to a family

emergency and is requested to participate in the

meeting remotely. May I have a motion to permit

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1 Director Eaddy to participate in the meeting remotely
2 due to illness?

3 MS. DIEGO-JOHNSON So moved.

4 MS. ORTIZ Second.

5 MS. GREENLEE It's been moved by
6 Director Diego-Johnson, seconded by Director Rosa
7 Ortiz, that Director Michael Eaddy be allowed to
8 participate in the meeting remotely due to a family
9 emergency. We'll take a roll call vote. Director
10 Ortiz.

11 MS. ORTIZ Yes.

12 MS. GREENLEE Chairman Barclay?

13 MR. BARCLAY Yes.

14 MS. GREENLEE Director Jakes?

15 MR. JAKES Yes.

16 MS. GREENLEE Director Diego-Johnson.

17 MS. DIEGO-JOHNSON Yes.

18 MS. GREENLEE The motion passes.

19 MR. BARCLAY Our next order of
20 business is public comment. Georgette?

21 MS. GREENLEE Director, I'm sorry,
22 Chairman Barclay, we have four registered public
23 comment speakers and one written comment which has
24 been distributed to the board members from John Paul

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1 Jones. I would like to welcome our public comment
2 speakers who have pre-registered for today. Thank you
3 for attending and coming to our board meeting and
4 participating in this process. Each speaker will be
5 given three minutes to speak. I will be calling time
6 at the end of your three minutes, so don't get mad.
7 And I would like to call our first speaker, Delilah
8 Martinez, if you could just have a seat here. And your
9 three minutes starts now.

10 MS. MARTINEZ Good morning. My name is
11 Delilah Martinez. I am the owner of Vault Gallery,
12 founder of a nonprofit called the Mirror Movement and
13 Big Sis Club Initiative, which is a mentorship group
14 for teenage girls. I'm a born and raised Chicago CTA
15 girl. I started riding CTA as early as fifth grade to
16 get my brothers and myself to and from school. CTA has
17 become much more than transportation to me. It has
18 taught me independence, confidence, and
19 responsibility. Most importantly, it taught me how to
20 navigate a big city with awareness and confidence.
21 Today I see the same journey in a lot of our young
22 women. This is why this moment is so personal to me. I
23 love the CTA and I believe CTA is one of Chicago's
24 greatest assets. I created a women's safety campaign

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1 after hearing the experiences of many women throughout
2 the city and our young girls in our mentorship
3 program. It led me to one question. How can we work
4 together with the CTA to make it feel safer,
5 celebrating CTA and all of it that it represents? I'd
6 like to briefly share three pilot ideas that I believe
7 will strengthen riders' safety while highlighting CTA
8 as a national leader in community engagement. My first
9 idea stems from the Mirror Movement, my nonprofit, has
10 spent years partnering with government agencies and
11 nonprofits to bring awareness on important public
12 issues, including human trafficking, voter
13 registration, public health, and now women's safety.
14 We've learned that people engage visually with
15 compelling stories like artworks. Art captures
16 attention, the messages create awareness, and
17 resources create action. I'd love to expand my
18 existing campaign with CTA through digital artworks
19 and QR codes that connect riders to trusted resources
20 promoting awareness and community responsibility. My
21 second idea is creating community-driven content
22 around rider etiquette and positive bystander
23 behavior. We've already begun doing the work with
24 several community leaders, creators, influencers,

1 because people influence people. Creating content
2 showing simple CTA moments such as giving up your
3 seat, checking in respectfully with others, and
4 respecting others' personal space. This will help
5 shape culture in public transportation. I'd love to
6 partner with CTA to create content that models
7 behaviors and encourages riders to look out for one
8 another. My third idea stems from around the world,
9 different cities like Japan, Mexico, Brazil, and India
10 have tested innovative approaches to women's safety,
11 including women-only transit spaces such as pink
12 carts, pink buses for women only, and various other
13 pilot programs. Research has shown promising
14 reductions of 50% on street harassment in some of
15 these settings. I believe Chicago has the opportunity
16 to study these successful models from around the world
17 and explore how this could work for us. Why does this
18 matter? Because nearly 3,000 crimes were reported on
19 CTA stations and platforms in the recent 12-month
20 period. At the heart of this campaign is partnership.
21 I believe the MIRA movement is uniquely positioned to
22 serve as a creative and community engagement partner
23 with CTA. For years we've helped organizations with
24 public issues. I would love to have the opportunity to

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1 work alongside CTA, not just to present ideas, but to
2 carry them out. Thank you guys so much. All Directors: Thank you. 

Acting President Nora Leerhser  

3 MS. GREENLEE Our next public speaker
4 is Eric M. Poders.

5 MR. PODERS If you could tell me two
6 minutes and two and a half minutes.

7 MS. GREENLEE Three.

8 MR. PODERS Can you just tell me two
9 and two and a half minutes?

10 MS. GREENLEE Oh, you want me to tell
11 you at two and a half minutes. Okay, I can do that.

12 MR. PODERS Good morning ~~everybody~~. 

13 My name is Eric Poders. I'm a fourth generation
14 Chicagoan. Born and raised in Rogers Park. Moved out
15 to the suburbs when I was a kid. Everybody has these.
16 June 6th, I lost it on the Orange Line.

17 I was working and I had to head to Soldier Field for
18 the friendly game and I basically freaked out. I was
19 stuck on a platform. Everything in the phone, the one
20 that I'm recording with, not this one, was basically
21 left on a train. I didn't know what to do. I called
22 the general number. I got somebody in scheduling.

23 Lost and found is closed on the weekends. Five people
24 actually helped me and the gentleman at the Orange

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1 Line terminus at Midway Airport, amazing man, said,
2 bro, you're going to find your phone. But I'm going to
3 tell you, so many phones go through this system.
4 It's a shame that lost and found is closed. So I would
5 just like to give accolades to the woman in
6 scheduling. I'd love to find out who you are.
7 Controller number 57 in the control center. The
8 gentleman at the Midway Vestibule that I talked about
9 at the terminus. Jay Boyd at 35th and Archer.
10 I saw the next day on June 7th. Basically walked up to
11 the gate. He showed me this form.
12 I unlocked my phone and he handed it to me. But the
13 most important person was the cleaner. Every single
14 employee with the CTA needs to be recognized for the
15 work that they do every single day. I got a call from
16 somebody on your admin staff in reference to my
17 comments from last month that I wasn't able to make in
18 reference to a task force. Looking at the agenda item,
19 9, this innovation studio with technology solutions,
20 and number 10 with City Year. I think I could bring a
21 lot of ideas to not only help people come out of town.
22 Imagine coming from Germany to watch the friendly game
23 and you lose your phone. Lost and found is closed. But
24 you fly out on Sunday to go back to Munich or wherever

1 you're flying into. How are you going to get your
2 phone? The number one resource for the CTA, the RTA,
3 and PACE with this new I guess group or consortium
4 that you're going to form is listening to people like
5 myself. Listening to task forces, listening to people
6 at the stations. I lived in Japan for two years. I
7 spoke in 2010. 2010, 16 years ago to the Illinois
8 Department of Transportation. Here we are 16 years
9 later. With that, I want to thank you and again I want
10 to thank every single CTA employee that helped me on
11 that day. I got my phone back and we'll see what
12 happens in the future.

13 Thank you. ~~Thank you.~~ All Directors: Thank you. 

14 MS. LEERHSEN Thank you for your
15 comments. I'm going to ~~leave it to you with your~~
16 ~~requests on the ground just~~ to make sure we have an
17 accommodation process and we can make sure those
18 employees that helped you are recognized for that.

19 MR. PODERS Thank you for that.
20 Appreciate it.

21 MS. GREENLEE Our next speaker is King
22 Israel.

23 MR. ISRAEL Thanks for letting me
24 speak this time. I just came to follow up on a couple

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1 of months ago. Reverend Bernard Jakes, is that your
2 name?

3 MR. JAKES Yeah, I think so.

4 MR. ISRAEL I heard Reverend Jakes,
5 but this is the first time. Anyway, you had asked me
6 to put something in writing I think. I didn't know
7 exactly what you meant. The young lady over there,
8 hard to catch. April Morgan I think you told me to
9 submit it to. She's not even here today. So I was just
10 trying to find out what exactly did you want me to put
11 in writing so I can get on top of that.

12 MR. JAKES Typically we don't do
13 public comments, but whatever you talked about last
14 month, I want that in writing so I can actually see
15 it. Because that way, not trying to remember it and
16 things of that nature, I want to be able to lay eyes
17 on it.

18 MR. ISRAEL Understood. I want
19 to thank Mr. Mooney for meeting with me, him and his
20 staff. I guess my voice is being heard, but still I
21 just need to see some actions. I don't know who in
22 control of the board, you guys or the people behind me
23 or the Mayor of Chicago, but I'm hearing rumors about
24 all that. I've been trying to meet with the acting

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1 president for seven months. It seems like that ain't
2 going to happen. So I just wanted to make sure.
3 5.7 billion dollars coming through the south side of
4 Chicago improves that community. That's all I'm
5 concerned about. If I'm asking for too much, let me
6 know. But I don't know the last time any of y'all
7 walked up 111th Street or 119th Street. It's being
8 gentrified, to be honest. I'm just going to be honest
9 with y'all. So I just wanted to make sure that Walsh
10 and they saw a contract to hire some people from that
11 community. But I'm going to put it in writing, Mr.
12 Jakes. Like I said, I'm just concerned about my
13 community.
14 It ain't about me. I ain't trying to get no side
15 contract and all that. I don't mind working together
16 with you guys. But I just wanted to make sure my
17 community gets something out of 5.7 billion. That's
18 like 5,700 millions. I just hope a couple of millions
19 stay in the community. That's all I'm saying.

20 MR. JAKES Appreciate you. Thanks,
21 man.

22 MR. ISRAEL You're more than
23 welcome.

24 MS. GREENLEE Our last speaker is Phil

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1 Bronson. Your time starts now.

2 MR. BRONSON Good morning, CTA board
3 members. Good morning. Good morning, CTA officials and
4 the entire audience. The sun shines bright today. I'm
5 Phil Bronson, a VP with Target Electric, Inc.,
6 established 1991 MBE, DBE Electrical Contracting
7 Company. I've been an electrician since 1979, grew up
8 on the far south side of Chicago in Argo Gardens.
9 I actually spoke here last month, and I had mentioned
10 that my dad worked with the CTA in the late 40s. My
11 father was a conductor of the streetcars and the first
12 black that collected money on the streetcars. I'm here
13 because of my company, again, Target Electric. We did
14 a project with one of your prime contractors, Ardridge
15 Electric, up in Libertyville back in 2006. There was
16 an accident on the job, and what Ardridge and CTA did,
17 they colluded within the court sessions to besmirch
18 Target Electric and blame us for the accident. Last
19 week when I was here, Target Electric was seeking,
20 based on the fraud and the corruption and cover-up by
21 CTA and Ardridge, a period of 2006 to 2011, we didn't
22 find out that we were even blamed or something until
23 2021. We found that out on the internet. Last week, or
24 last month I was here, we were respectfully seeking

1 \$150 million. Today, we seek \$250 million. We believe
2 that what happened to us should have never happened as
3 relates to what happened in the court system. There
4 was a degree of secrecy going on with Ardridge
5 Electric and CTA. We were blamed for something, and
6 they actually, again, besmirched our company. We're
7 here because, again, we were part of the mentor-
8 protege program working with Ardridge. We worked with
9 Ardridge Electric. Ardridge grew from 2004 to 2013,
10 and all of a sudden, this was going on in secrecy.
11 CTA had an attorney representing them. I guess they
12 called it quid pro quo or whatever. They were
13 colluding and caused our company financial hardship.
14 Again, the \$250 million we seek from owners of CTA is
15 regarding our name, our brand, our reputation.

16 MS. GREENLEE That's time, Mr.
17 Bronson.

18 MR. BRONSON Is that it?

19 MS. GREENLEE Yes, it is.

20 MR. BRONSON Thank you, CTA board
21 members. We look forward to hearing from you. Again,
22 I'm Phil Bronson. I started an initiative called Phil
23 Positive. Take a look at my website,
24 philpositiveglobal.com. I'm looking to inspire people

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1 to change America. Thank you.

2 MS. GREENLEE Chairman Barclay, that
3 concludes our public comments for today.

4 MR. BARCLAY Thank you to all of our
5 public commenters who came this morning. Our next item
6 of business on the agenda is our acting president's
7 report, which will be given by Nora Leerhsen.

8 MS. LEERHSEN Thank you, chairman and
9 directors. Before I begin my regular update, I want to
10 recognize that CTA lost a beloved member of our
11 employee family just over a week ago, longtime switch
12 worker Kevin Barlow. This tragedy has hit home for
13 many of our employees who knew Mr. Barlow and worked
14 alongside him. And I want to take this moment to honor
15 his nearly 18 years of dedicated service to our agency
16 and recognize how much he meant to so many people here
17 and in his life. We are thinking and praying for his
18 family, his loved ones, and all of his co-workers.
19 From our report today, I want to begin by recognizing
20 the extraordinary work of our staff over the past
21 several weeks as they've managed through intense heat,
22 storms, and other challenges to ensure that millions
23 of Chicagoans can celebrate and glory in their summer.
24 If you look at Pride Day, just recently on Sunday,

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1 June 28th, it's one of our highest ridership days of
2 the year. Nearly 800,000 riders in a single Sunday,
3 which is about 100,000 more riders on a Sunday than we
4 usually have. We take immense pride at CTA in our
5 service delivery across that day, beginning nearly 4
6 a.m. in the morning with teams meeting to discuss the
7 plans for the day, and lasting far into the evening, a
8 stretch of a marathon of a day that was executed
9 flawlessly by our operations team, our maintenance
10 team, our infrastructure team, and I just want to
11 commend every level of management across all of those
12 departments that makes days like that happen. You were
13 complimented across the city for our employees and for
14 our service delivery, and that was no small feat on a
15 day like that. The following weekend, the 4th of July
16 weekend, we moved nearly 2 million people from Friday
17 to Sunday to celebrate the 4th of July and make
18 lifelong memories that would not happen without CTA as
19 the backbone of that work. And this is not easy work
20 by our teams, and I want to recognize that and thank
21 them for their professionalism, their expertise, and
22 the sophistication of the work that happens 24 hours a
23 day in our system. As I've done in the past few
24 months, I also want to update you on the recent trends

1 in our crime data. And key to what I want to convey
2 today is that our strong progress in this area has
3 continued and deepened throughout the month of June.
4 Crime on transit is down for the 6th straight month,
5 and down 9 out of the last 11 months. I'll walk
6 through some statistics to highlight the scale of that
7 income. Major crime on CTA, according to CPD's most
8 recent statistics in June, was down 45% from last
9 June. And that means that major crime across the
10 entire system year to date is down 30%. Violent crime
11 on CTA saw an even steeper drop in June, and marked a
12 58% drop from the same period in 2025. On the red
13 line, compared to June of last year, all crime has
14 been cut nearly in half, with a 47% drop. Major crime
15 has dropped 69% on the red line, and violent crime was
16 down again, a striking drop of 76%. As I've said, and
17 many people say on this topic, one single crime is one
18 too many. And the perception of safety on CTA is
19 affected by every single incident we have. But given
20 the importance of our system to the vitality and
21 strength of our city, it's incredibly important to me
22 that we still stop and note this progress, which is
23 real and is continuing to sustain itself. I know I can
24 see and feel the effects of this work as a daily

1 rider, and the week before last I went out at night on
2 the red line to hear directly from our employees that
3 worked that night shift about their experiences, what
4 they appreciate, and what they want to hear more
5 about. Work of this importance continues 24 hours a
6 day in a dedicated partnership with law enforcement
7 and with the addition of new resources coming on later
8 this summer in our Safe Ride Specialists, and we will
9 continue to stay focused on it. The progress is coming
10 directly out of our close partnership and
11 collaboration with the Chicago Police Department, and
12 I want to take a moment to congratulate Superintendent
13 Snelling (phonetic) on his retirement, and thank him
14 for the partnership and collaboration that has
15 directly resulted in reducing crime on the CTA. I look
16 forward to our continued collaboration with the
17 Chicago Police Department through our work with the
18 incoming Interim Superintendent Fred Waller and First
19 Deputy Superintendent Antoinette Urcity. I also want
20 to welcome Joe Bird to the CTA team as the Chief of
21 Security. Joe is a veteran of the Chicago Police
22 Department who has worked directly on issues of
23 transit security throughout his career, and I'm
24 excited about what he will accomplish here at CTA in

1 collaboration with our security team. Moving from
2 security, I want to highlight two key items that the
3 Board approved today that really show marked progress
4 in both our rail system and our bus system. Today's
5 Board vote to authorize an agreement with the Illinois
6 Department of Transportation that will allow us to
7 secure more than \$18 million to move the Forest Park
8 Branch rebuild forward is something I'm incredibly
9 excited about, about what it means for the communities
10 that it serves. This corridor is in dire need of
11 attention, as Mr. Mooney referenced in his remarks. It
12 is a place where we've lost riders because of slow
13 zones and the slow ride that they've had on the Blue
14 Line. I know as a Green Line rider, I hear people
15 transferring off into the Green Line because of the
16 slower Blue Line on the west side. This is a need, and
17 this is a significant, important step in investing in
18 that corridor. This funding lets us begin designing
19 the next phase of track and drainage work between the
20 Illinois Medical District and the Forest Park
21 stations. And it's a direct investment in faster, more
22 reliable service, and builds on the momentum that
23 began in 2023, when we rebuilt nearly three miles of
24 track between LaSalle and IND, and gave the Racine

1 station a complete transformation. Racine reopened
2 last year as a fully accessible station, and it's
3 become a great example of the kind of modernization we
4 are committed to bringing to the entire branch. The
5 agreement's also a testament to the partnerships and
6 what they can accomplish. The Illinois Department of
7 Transportation secured the funding on CTA's behalf and
8 found a way to deliver even more value back to CTA
9 through this agreement, and I want to thank them for
10 that collaboration. I'm also excited about what
11 opportunities like this mean under the new NEDA
12 structure and the regional impact of this work. The
13 \$28.2 million design phase for this project kicks off
14 later this year, and I'm excited that it's going to
15 bring us closer to a Forest Park branch with faster
16 trips, more reliable service, and full accessibility
17 at every station. On the bus side, I want to recognize
18 the notable increase in scale of our automated bus
19 lane enforcement program that the Board is approving
20 today. We are moving from a program of six camera-
21 equipped buses to 52. And when bus lanes and bus stops
22 are blocked by illegal parking, our operators can't
23 safely deploy ramps, and that's not a main fine or
24 inconvenience. For many riders who use mobility

1 devices, it can be the difference between a trip
2 that's possible and one that's not. And this expansion
3 is about giving every rider that same reliable,
4 predictable access to our system. Even with the six
5 cameras we have in place right now, we're already
6 seeing an impact. Between October and May of this past
7 year, these systems have captured nearly 22,000
8 warnings and violations, keeping lanes and stops clear
9 where it matters most. Scaling to 52 buses means that
10 impact grows significantly, with stronger enforcement
11 on the No. 20 Madison, the No. 36 Broadway, the No.
12 66 Chicago Avenue, and the No. 8 Halstead. This is a
13 program that's built in partnership with the Chicago
14 Department of Transportation and the City's Smart
15 Streets pilot, and with new funding through the NEDA
16 Act. So it's a true testament to partnership and
17 investment in better transit service across our
18 region. The bus lane enforcement cameras are a major
19 development in our commitment to our bus service, and
20 I was excited to meet recently with the Chicago
21 Department of Transportation Commissioner Cheeks and
22 begin conversations dedicated to ensuring our agencies
23 work closely together to move the City forward in the
24 enhancement of bus street infrastructure to support

1 bus travel. Having now reached 90% of pre-pandemic
2 levels of ridership on our bus system, we know that it
3 is thriving and ready for support and ready to grow
4 even further. In closing, I want to highlight some
5 events that have happened over the past few weeks and
6 will be coming forward in the next coming weeks. We
7 were excited to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our
8 Pink Line with a festive party at the Damen Pink Line
9 station. For the opening of the Obama Presidential
10 Center, we unveiled the No. 10 extension supported by
11 this board and highlighted the use of transit to
12 access this new, exciting destination for our city.
13 The Red Line Jazz program continues with our second
14 show that occurred last week at 35th and Sox, even in
15 the heat to please riders and people passing by. As we
16 close out Pride Month, we kick off Disability Pride
17 Month, and we will be participating in the Disability
18 Pride Parade and are excited about promoting
19 activities in that important issue as well. We will
20 also be participating in the Bud Billiken Parade early
21 in August, as that's one of the most exciting parades
22 for CT to participate in throughout the year. For the
23 Red Line extension, we'll be launching an RLE-focused
24 podcast later this week that features key members of

1 our RLE team, Tanishia Marshall and Patrice Phillips-
2 Brown, as well as Andrea Reid, the Executive Director
3 of the Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce. And I
4 want to note that just yesterday, the RLE Community
5 Office hosted its first ever Workforce Connections
6 program, inviting people from the community every
7 first Tuesday of the month to come learn about jobs in
8 the construction trades. And now, in a moment, I'm
9 going to be turning it over to Kim Robinson, our Vice
10 President of Training and Workforce Development, to
11 talk about the program we've highlighted today, our
12 Chicago YouthWorks program, our internship program in
13 the summer here. This is the heart and soul of our
14 summer work here at CTA. We have a record number of
15 students and young people involved this year. We have
16 two interns in my office, Charles and Love, who we're
17 enjoying working with and taking along to everything
18 we do in the President's Office. So I want to invite
19 Kim up, and everyone that's supporting your
20 presentation, to get an overview of the work that's
21 done. And I want to thank her and her team as she
22 comes up for the year-round preparation that goes into
23 this program, which, in my unbiased opinion, is the
24 best of the best in the city in this program.

1 So, thank you, Kim.

2 MS. ROBINSON Good morning, and thank
3 you, Acting President Leerhsen, Chairman Barclay,
4 Board Directors, Acting President Leerhsen, CTA
5 leadership, and other attendees. As mentioned, my name
6 is Kim Robinson, and I proudly serve as the Vice
7 President of Training and Workforce Development. I am
8 thrilled to present for the July CTA Board Meeting and
9 provide an overview of CTA's Chicago YouthWorks
10 internship for the summer of 2026. As many of you are
11 aware, this dynamic program is a huge initiative for
12 the CTA and Mayor Brandon Johnson. In early spring of
13 this year, Mayor Johnson rebranded our treasured one-
14 summer Chicago to Chicago YouthWorks. As we eloquently
15 call it, the CYW. I am joined today by two
16 participants in the program. Both will address the
17 Board to describe their experience with the CYW
18 program. Next slide.

19 The CTA is celebrating our 13th year of being a
20 corporate sponsor with the Mayor's Office for our
21 summer high school internship. Chicago YouthWork is a
22 gateway to youth employment opportunities across the
23 city. This program connects young people each year
24 with enriching work opportunities, helps them gain

1 valuable paid work experience, develop new tools for
2 success, and make a difference in their communities.
3 We had over 1,000 applicants for our highly
4 competitive program. After finalizing the list of
5 recommended candidates, we still had 600 on our
6 waiting list waiting to join this very impactful
7 program. Our goal for 2026, from the initiative from
8 our Acting President and the President's Office, was
9 to continue to increase the number of interns and
10 externs in this program. We are proud to announce that
11 we have the highest number of participants since the
12 inception of the program with a total of 310. These
13 interns represent 120 schools and over 65 zip codes in
14 the Chicagoland area. Next slide. After months of
15 preparation, we kicked off our program. As you can
16 see, our Acting President was eager to meet and
17 interact with our interns. Acting President Leerhsen
18 cleared her extremely busy schedule to personally meet
19 and welcome 300 interns over a two-day orientation.
20 She encouraged the interns to ask questions, build
21 connections, and to make the most of the experience
22 ahead. I can only imagine how memorable this day was
23 for our intern to not only start or return as an
24 intern, but to be greeted and have one-on-one

1 engagement with Acting President Leerhsen, who leads
2 the second largest transit agency in the U.S. Acting
3 President Leerhsen's history of public service and
4 starting her career as a college intern has been an
5 amazing inspiration to our interns. Thank you for your
6 continuous support. Next slide. The Chicago Youth
7 Program offers many program benefits, including seven
8 weeks of a paid internship. Utilizing both in-person
9 and hybrid work environments, access to employee
10 benefits, including free transportation on a CTA, ~~pace~~
11 and ~~measure~~, CTA-issued iPads, the internet, and
12 teleworking benefits. I will note that the mayor's
13 objective is for this program to be six weeks. We
14 offer a seven-week program. Next slide.
15 Excuse me. Go back. Sorry. The CTA is proud to offer
16 paid internships for our high-performing high school
17 students. Our interns participate in a hybrid
18 internship experience that includes an innovative
19 approach to CTA's hallmark program, focusing on hands-
20 on, real-world experience at the nation's second
21 largest public transit system. Our mission is to
22 provide professional development, illuminate career
23 and educational pathways for students as they grow
24 into young professionals. The things that we seek to

1 accomplish with our program is to increase the
2 confidence of our young professionals, expose interns
3 and externs to the transit industry and a variety of
4 career opportunities, expand career readiness skills
5 and ability to navigate through a professional world,
6 and last but not least, grow a network of peers and
7 mentors. The best way to describe our internship
8 program is utilizing our rail system route as a guide.
9 We will start with our ~~green line~~, which is our route
10 to workforce. For our green line, interns are provided
11 information related to employee benefits that expand
12 beyond their pay, including retirement benefits,
13 deferred savings accounts, and building for future
14 goals. Next slide. Our ~~purple line~~, this is our route
15 to wellness. Interns engage in activities including
16 mental health, physical wellness, managing stress, and
17 prioritization. This year, we started a new leadership
18 cohort that included 22 graduated seniors that focuses
19 on decision-making, social and emotional learning, and
20 elevating their voices, all skills that are required
21 as they start college in the fall. Next slide.
22 For our brown line, it's our route to financial
23 freedom. Through various seminars, our interns are
24 exposed to the element of financial literacy,

1 including crediting, budgeting, and loans. This is the
2 first job for most of our interns, and we want them to
3 understand how practical discipline can build wealth
4 and help manage debt. Next slide. Our pink line, route
5 to professional development. Interns gain professional
6 development skills and learn from instructor-led
7 modules on emotional intelligence, leadership,
8 professionalism, professional branding, networking,
9 and interviews. We continue to partner with Hire360 to
10 also expose our interns to other career paths that
11 includes construction, hospitality, manufacturing,
12 because we are continuing to highlight trades and
13 certification outside of general higher education.
14 Next slide. For our red line, our interns are focusing
15 on giving back to the community with various service
16 projects, inclusive of beautification projects, and
17 volunteering at the Greater Food Depository. The
18 interns will elevate their voices about food and
19 security on tomorrow and Friday as they are scheduled
20 to report to the Greater Food Depository. Next slide.
21 Next slide. Our blue line is our route to higher
22 education. Interns attend weekly classes over the
23 summer as we have partnered with Imperial Washington
24 College. These courses, we have changed our courses

1 that we usually provide based on the feedback from our
2 interns. So we are now offering criminal justice with
3 an emphasis on juvenile justice, human genetics, and
4 personal finance. The interns are paid to participate
5 in our internship while receiving college credits.
6 This route also includes various college tours as we
7 are scheduled for our next tour on tomorrow. Next
8 slide. Next slide. The yellow line, this is our route
9 to career pathways. Our interns interact directly with
10 leaders to learn more about career pathways. Next
11 slide. Next slide. These virtual meetings are called
12 career rides. We identify four units based on last
13 year's intern survey. We have completed two of our
14 career rides, one with infrastructure construction,
15 allowing our interns to explore various pathways.
16 Two days ago, we welcomed Director Jakes and Chairman
17 Barclay. Both participated in a video shoot and
18 Chairman Barclay joined us virtually for an hour
19 describing his role, the role of the CTA Board, and
20 his career journey from intern to CTA Board Chair
21 while answering very thoughtful questions from our
22 interns. Many remained unanswered due to the time.
23 It was a variety of questions. So an hour just wasn't
24 enough time. The questions are amazing as you can see

1 on the screen. Chairman Barclay left us with these
2 encouraging words, interns are destined for greatness.
3 And I will state also during one of his responses that
4 CTA has good (indiscernible). We are using every
5 opportunity to steer our interns to achieve future
6 goals with professional development, mentorship,
7 career exploration, and networking. And none of this
8 could happen without our CYW partners. We are excited
9 to announce two new partners. We partnered this year
10 with Digital Scholars from the University of Chicago.
11 It's a program for engineering, computer science,
12 coding, app design, and programming and we are
13 thrilled to announce that this cohort will pitch their
14 project design to Apple on July the 30th. We also have
15 partnered with the City Colleges of Chicago School of
16 Engineering. It is a bridge program focusing on math,
17 chemistry, and college coursework that will lead to a
18 four-year university. Our third year partnership with
19 Southside Occupation Academy are our CYW Externs with
20 Diverse Needs. If you remember, last year our externs
21 had a pop-up sale with various items that were
22 handmade in CTA's lobby. It was a grand success and we
23 can't wait to see them again next Tuesday on July the
24 th. And here is a list of our remaining external
partners, including one internal partner that is

1 Lesbis DTA's wellness team. None of this could be
2 possible without the team that leads. So I would like
3 to introduce you to our Internship and Educational
4 Programs team. I am excited to lead a team of amazing
5 training and transit professionals who are passionate
6 about youth recruitment, engagement, mentorship, and
7 career pathway. Please meet our TWD unit of Internship
8 and Educational Awareness. This outstanding program
9 includes a director, a manager, one manager, two
10 coordinators, one for high school and college, one
11 training specialist, a staffing specialist, and a
12 business coordinator. I am proud of the work performed
13 to continue to imagine what this program would be with
14 a very small group of seven. I would be remiss if I
15 did not highlight eight women running our internship
16 program. Diverse backgrounds and different levels of
17 experience here from the CTA from one year to 25
18 years, including different generations, which have
19 allowed us to further reimagine how we see and outline
20 this program. But none of this can be done without our
21 college interns, as we call our cohort conductors. As
22 you can see, they have been assigned to our various
23 lines as described. We have additional cohort
24 conductors that are assigned to our new partners,

1 digital scholars, and our dual enrollment programs 
2 We have four amazing interns that are assigned
3 specifically to training and workforce development. We 
4 have two project manager interns and two digital media
5 interns, and I will highlight that one of our digital
6 media interns is who produce and direct the video with
7 Director Jakes and Chairman Barclay 
8 certainly not least, none of this can be done without
9 the support of our internal partners. Helping with
10 onboarding, payroll, programming, you can see the list
11 of departments, along with our mentors. We have 13
12 departments, inclusive of the president's office, that
13 are mentoring 60 interns. That means that they still
14 have to do their day-to-day activities, including the
15 president's office, but also take time to mentor our
16 interns and give them special projects 
17 Now, I am thrilled to have with us, from our CTA, CYW
18 externship, and from Southside Occupational Academy,
19 we have Micha Massie, who will provide us with remarks
20 about his experience this summer.

21 MR. MASSIE Good morning, CTA. Good
22 morning, members. My name is Micha Massie. I'm a
23 student from Southside Occupational Academy. I just
24 want to say thank you for partnering with our students

1 in the school to create all these types of
2 internships. As you may know, I was like four years
3 old when I first got into the CTA, when I was taken on
4 the train to White Sox game with my father. We would
5 just go see a baseball game, and it was incredible.
6 From our school, we just did our computer science and
7 horticulture. We devalue all the things that our
8 students and myself included in how we're doing.
9 We just want to say thank you for partnering with our
10 school and our entire staff. It's been a blessing and
11 an honor to be a part of this amazing program. When we
12 did this, we said to ourselves, who do you think we
13 should be, and what kind of an intern that CTA could
14 offer. We just said, okay, we can do this. I just want
15 to thank you for making this program possible, because
16 my classmates and I have spent the summer working
17 together. We've been doing quite hard work, like
18 learning new skills, learning new assignments that we
19 need to face. Riding the CTA and learning about it
20 connects our city and our country as well. One of the
21 things that I want to highlight for you guys today is
22 this. What does it mean to be a CTA intern and how it
23 develops our community? What does it mean to do stuff
24 like that? Thank you. I also have one question.

1 Is there any opportunities of how much of a job that
2 the CTA could be, or how do you offer jobs for the
3 CTA? How does it affect their school?

4 MS. GREENLEE Mr. ~~Massey~~, we will
5 absolutely get answers to both of those questions,
6 which are great questions from our board members back
7 to you. It's about employment opportunities and also
8 the different pathways to be a part of the CTA team
9 for life.  Thank you.

10 MS. ORTIZ I think the other
11 question was about how does an internship also help
12 connect with the communities that we are all a part
13 of.

14 MS. GREENLEE Both questions. 

15 MS. ROBINSON Thank you, Michael. 
16 We also have Naima Turner. She is from our Redline
17 95th Street Special Projects Unit. Naima?

18 MS. TURNER Good morning, Chairman
19 Barclay, Acting President Leerhsen, and CTA board
20 members and guests. My name is Naima Turner, and I am
21 a fourth-year intern working in the Redline 95th
22 Street Special Projects Cohort within the Internship
23 and Educational Programming Division, better known as
24 IEP, of the Training and Workforce Development

1 Department. My summer mentors, managers, are Laurel
2 Miskovic (phonetic) and Siguali Riaz (phonetic). When
3 I first joined the CTA High School Internship Program,
4 it was the summer right after I first graduated eighth
5 grade, and for the most part, I did expect to gain
6 work experience, but what I didn't expect was how much
7 the program would shape the way I not only see myself,
8 but my future in the professional world. Over the past
9 four summers, I had the opportunity to participate in
10 college visits, professional development workshops,
11 financial literacy, business development, college
12 courses, service projects, career expectation
13 activities, and presentations that challenged me to
14 step outside of my comfort zone. Every summer has
15 introduced me to new experiences, new people, new
16 lessons that I continue to carry with me. One thing I
17 appreciate the most about this program is that it
18 doesn't just prepare interns for a job, but it also
19 prepares us for adulthood. I've learned how to
20 communicate professionally, collaborate with people
21 from different backgrounds, manage my time, and
22 represent myself with confidence in professional
23 settings. This summer has especially been meaningful
24 to me because while participating in CTA, I'm also

1 completing a dental assisting internship at an
2 orthodontic office, so being able to balance both
3 opportunities has strengthened not only my time
4 management, but my responsibility, and most
5 importantly, my work ethic, by allowing me to grow
6 into completely different professional environments.
7 The CTA internship has had a lasting impact on me and
8 my life because it helped me realize that every
9 opportunity teaches me something valuable, even if it
10 isn't directly connected to my career. My long-term
11 goal is to become an orthodontist on my own
12 orthodontic practice, become a published book author,
13 and also be able to speak professionally and to
14 inspire young people as once people inspired me.
15 Although the careers at CTA and dentistry are very
16 different fields, the professionalism, the leadership,
17 the communication, and confidence I've developed
18 through CTA will stay with me throughout my career.
19 One lesson this program reinforced is that success is
20 built through consistency. Every summer I return, I
21 grow a little bit more confident, I grow a little bit
22 more assertive, I ask better questions, and I also
23 became more comfortable with speaking with other
24 professionals in every field that CTA has to offer.

1 This has helped me to gain strong confidence in not
2 only my communication, but also how I learned how
3 important it is for relationships, teamwork, and
4 accountability are in the workplace. What I've learned
5 the most throughout this internship and throughout
6 high school is that success is not about perfection
7 because when you're too focused on being perfect,
8 you'll never get anything done, but it's about showing
9 that consistently, staying disciplined while giving
10 yourself grace, and also continuing to move forward
11 even when things aren't ideal for you. Looking back, I
12 don't think I ever succeeded because everything was in
13 place for me, but I believe I succeeded because I
14 never let anything take me out of place. What I
15 enjoyed the most about meeting people, well, what I
16 enjoyed the most about this internship is meeting
17 people from across the organization from different
18 types of backgrounds, whether they work at the
19 terminal, or inside the tech department, or operate
20 the trains. Everyone has shown me that they genuinely
21 care about helping young people and young
22 professionals succeed. Their encouragement has
23 reminded me that mentorship can change someone's
24 future, and it definitely changed my future. I would

1 like to sincerely thank the CTA board for continuing
2 to invest in this internship program year after year.
3 Your support creates opportunities that extend far
4 beyond just one summer. You are helping students gain
5 confidence, professional experience, and clearer
6 vision for their future. Thank you for believing in
7 young people and recognizing the value we bring when
8 we're giving opportunities to learn, contribute, and
9 to grow. Too often, decisions about what teens and
10 young professionals need are being made without us
11 being a part of that conversation, but by allowing
12 interns like me to share our experiences through
13 programs like this, you're showing me that our voices
14 matter and that the perspectives on young people are
15 worth listening to. I would like to also thank the
16 Training and Workforce Development Department, and
17 especially Siguali-Riaz (phonetic), Melanie Ware,
18 Delaney Hayes, Catherine Anderson, and everyone who
19 works behind the scenes to make this program possible.
20 Your guidance, encouragement, and dedication have made
21 a lasting impact on my journey as well as others here.
22 Finally, thank you for trusting me to represent this
23 year's intern cohort. It is truly an honor, and I hope
24 to continue carrying the lessons I've learned here

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1 into college, my future career, and every opportunity
2 that follows me in this journey. Thank you.

3 MS. ROBINSON Thank you, Naima, and
4 thank you, Micha. We will conclude our presentation
5 earlier soon during her social media post about our
6 program. Investing in Chicago's young people means
7 investing in the future of our city and our workforce.
8 Thank you.

9 MS. LEERHSEN Thank you so much, Kim
10 and Micha and Naima, and that concludes the
11 president's report today.

12 MR. BARCLAY Thank you, Acting
13 President Mearson, for your report. I am pleased to
14 learn about how we conducted ourselves during the
15 celebration of Pride and Disability Pride that's
16 coming up, as well as the anniversary of the 20th
17 anniversary of the Pink Line as well. And it's also
18 commendable the 4th of July, as you indicated, we
19 carried almost 2 million riders during that time
20 And certainly the Obama Presidential Center and the
21 grand opening and the role that CTA has played in that
22 by assisting the public. You highlighted the progress
23 that we're making with respect to security. The crime
24 is down overall 30%. Very pleased to hear that. But as

1 you know, one crime on CTA is one crime too many. Our
2 goal is to be the safest mass transit system in
3 America and nothing less than that will do. Our
4 customers, as well as our employees, deserve to feel
5 safe and they should never feel unsafe. It is
6 certainly a tragic loss for Mr. Barlow and his family,
7 and not only for them, but for the CTA family and the
8 city of Chicago. We come to work thinking that you
9 will go home to see your family, and our prayers go
10 out to his family at this time and his co-workers as
11 well. I really want to speak to the Chicago Youth
12 Works Program, which we just heard that presentation,
13 which was absolutely amazing. You know, when I see
14 young people who are in that training mode, that
15 development on the stage, it warms my heart because
16 all of us as board members were in that position at
17 one time, and all it took was for an adult or a group
18 of adults to provide a little direction and just say
19 that they care. So it's good to see that the
20 investment that your staff has made, Ms. Robinson, a
21 wonderful job and your staff commendable, that you're
22 doing a good work and working with these young people
23 and molding and shaping them for the future. When I
24 heard them speak, I saw future leaders of America, and

1 so I'm so pleased with Micha and Naima. Thank you for
2 your warm presentations this morning. And that goes to
3 all of the students that participated in the program.
4 You know, it's starting to become a coveted position
5 at this point where just to, you know, when you turn
6 it down, people, and you can't, you know, meet the
7 full wait list there, then that tells you that we have
8 something of value that is good. So thank you for the
9 job that you do with these young people in terms of
10 shaping and molding them. I want to thank you for your
11 leadership with respect to that as well as all of
12 these board members that support the program. I'm
13 going to leave the room for my colleagues to share
14 comments as well.

15 MS. GREENLEE Comments from other
16 members of the board?

17 MS. ORTIZ Yes. Thank you for
18 sharing your talents, your knowledge, your expertise,
19 your hope, your dreams with all of us at CTA.
20 We are happy to be part of your journey, honored and
21 humbled to be there with you along your journey. Thank
22 you for giving yourself the opportunity to believe in
23 yourselves, to believe in each other, to believe in us
24 as well because we definitely believe in you and know

1 there are great things ahead with you in the lead. So
2 thank you to everyone for helping support all these
3 efforts. I also want to take a minute to acknowledge
4 and send our best to the family of our last employee,
5 Mr. Barlow, and just continue to be there for him, for
6 his family, and everyone else in terms of team members
7 who are obviously still very heavily impacted, all of
8 us, whether we knew and worked with him every day or
9 not. So to the extent that we can continue to be there
10 for him and the rest of the team members, that would
11 be incredibly helpful. I also want to recognize that
12 we continue to have a lot of loss of human life due to
13 mental illness, and so I want to just really continue
14 to encourage all of our support to ensure in whatever
15 way we can to support, whether it's individuals within
16 our staff or others or partnerships where we've always
17 talked about partnerships in terms of how can we be a
18 little bit more assertive or more intentional about
19 the impacts that we have on the loss of life. On our
20 systems, it impacts everyone, and obviously, one life
21 is too many to lose. So to the extent that we can
22 continue to advocate for mental health and support for
23 our residents, our staff members, and everyone else, I
24 continue to support those efforts. Otherwise, thank

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1 you again. Great job.

2 MS. GREENLEE Director Jakes?

3 MR. JAKES I echo the sentiments of
4 Director Ortiz. Job well done.

5 MS. GREENLEE Director Diego-Johnson?

6 MS. DIEGO-JOHNSON Yeah, also echoing the
7 sentiments of Director Ortiz who really said things
8 that I also really feel. I think that I want to
9 specifically speak to if there are people in
10 YouthWorks that have disabilities that are apparent or
11 non-apparent, I just want you all to continue pushing
12 and advocating for yourselves. If you hold any kind of
13 if you're part of any group that has been discounted
14 along the way, please know that there are options and
15 even if it feels tough, things can change and things
16 can get better and we here at CTA are here to support
17 in the ways that we can.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. GREENLEE Director Eaddy?

20 MR. EADDY Yes, I definitely want
21 to join with the others in applauding this wonderful
22 presentation that we just were able to enjoy. It
23 really speaks to the fact that a lot of times things
24 are elevated about ~~team~~ takeovers. There's been a lot

1 of focus on that, but what this program focuses on is
2 team excellence. And just to see the young people or
3 to know the young people, the numbers of hundreds of
4 them that are participating in this Chicago Youth
5 Works and then the wonderful presentations that we
6 witnessed here from these two fine young people. It
7 just warms my heart to know that these are the kinds
8 of things that really need to be elevated and
9 celebrated and it's proof positive that there is far
10 more things that are moving in a positive direction
11 than not. And so I just want to celebrate the
12 director, certainly the acting president, and these
13 two fine representatives from Chicago Youth Works.
14 Thank you for demonstrating youth excellence. Thank
15 you so much.

16 MR. BARCLAY Thank you. Our next
17 order of business is the approval of the minutes of
18 the regular board meeting of June 10th, 2026. May I
19 have a motion to approve?

20 MS. DIEGO-JOHNSON So moved.

21 MS. ORTIZ Second.

22 MS. GREENLEE It's been moved by
23 Director Daniel Johnson, seconded by Director Ortiz
24 that the board approve the minutes from June 10th,

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1 2026. We'll take a roll call vote. Director Ortiz?

2 MS. ORTIZ Yes.

3 MS. GREENLEE Chairman Barclay?

4 MR. BARCLAY Yes.

5 MS. GREENLEE Director Jakes?

6 MR. JAKES Yes.

7 MS. GREENLEE Director Diego-Johnson?

8 MS. DIEGO-JOHNSON Yes.

9 MS. GREENLEE Director Eaddy?

10 MR. EADDY Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE The motion passes.

12 MR. BARCLAY Thank you. Our next

13 order of business is the construction report from Bill

14 Mooney, our chief infrastructure officer, and Juan

15 Pablo Prieto, our director of the diversity program.

16 MS. GREENLEE We should be playing the
17 Jefferson theme song. We're moving on up. We moved you
18 all the way up here.

19 MR. MOONEY All right. The focus
20 project is at the very end of this month, so it takes
21 a second to get to that part of the deck. Okay.

22 So we're going to talk a little bit about something
23 Mr. McKone mentioned kind of in his remarks as well as
24 acting president Leerhsen last month discussed the

1 investment that the NEDA funds are creating for the
2 CTA. And the first projects kind of out of the gate
3 are related to some of the slow zone mitigation work
4 that we've been doing and the improvements around
5 that. Sorry. The mouse is weird. So we're kind of
6 coining this as up to speed. It's kind of the moniker
7 around this activated program of about \$10 million
8 budget investment in tactical slow zone projects.
9 The first one we worked on was the State Street subway
10 work which occurred over a series of weekends. The
11 last bit of that work actually occurred last night
12 kind of cleaning up the punch list per se and the slow
13 zones about 3,000 feet of it will be coming off this
14 Friday improving the customer experience. This work
15 was focused on the northern portal. It's a ballast
16 inception track. It's in the stone area before you
17 actually get to the subway portion. From Armitage to
18 north and Clyburn as the subway starts to go down.
19 This is an exceptionally challenging space to get into
20 based on kind of the walls of the subway kind of
21 growing up. You've got elevated brown line tracks
22 above you. You're kind of buried between two
23 residential streets on either side and so it's been a
24 very challenging spot to maintain for many years.

1 Following up on this we will have some work that
2 actually the first of which is going on this weekend
3 on the Jackson Park branch where we will be actually
4 renewing about the entire southbound track from about
5 61st Street all the way around the curve out to
6 Cottage Grove. It's ultimately about 2,000 feet of
7 track. Some of that track is some of the oldest track
8 we have on our system. It's close to 80 years old in
9 some spots and so it's a pretty significant area for
10 us to be able to improve upon. And then there's a
11 project up on the north side between Nagel
12 Interlocking and River Road Interlocking. We'll be
13 doing some special track work out there. That's the
14 unique kind of track that allows us to be able to
15 switch the train from one side to the other. So these
16 are emergency crossovers out there and then we'll be
17 doing some work up near the airport and the big
18 sweeping curves you go through as you get towards the
19 subway there that we call the old Mannheim curves. So
20 we'll be replacing a bunch of rail up there.
21 All said and done this is about 25,000 feet of track
22 that we'll be working on and be executing this work
23 throughout the remainder of this year to clear us out.
24 The last two projects deal with a grade crossing

1 renewal on the yellow line and some work up at what's
2 called Church Curve which is just south of Sedgwick
3 Station before Chicago on the brown line. It's kind of
4 that big curve that goes around a church. So when they
5 built the original brown line they actually could not
6 condemn the church and take the property as it's
7 existence so they had to build the train tracks around
8 it. So it's kind of a unique curve that has some real
9 challenges around it as well. So again the first piece
10 of work here you can see the before picture here. This
11 is right in the tunnel area of the subway corridor.
12 Again you can see the elevated brown line tracks above
13 there so there's very low clearance even to bring in
14 stuff via crane so everything kind of had to be
15 trucked all the way back up to Armitage and lowered
16 down over the active tracks to the street at Armitage
17 there. And then you can see the after there so you can
18 see kind of the big impact that work made.
19 This was done over three weekend reroutes where we
20 actually ran the red line trains over on top of the
21 brown line tracks and came in here and so here you can
22 see the work going on so we did this with in-house
23 crews so here they are working on a rail-borne piece
24 of equipment that's called a tie inserter. So it's a

1 mechanical, I don't know what's going on with this
2 mouse. Let's do it this way because it keeps moving
3 too much. So here you can see the yellow machine, it's
4 called a tie inserter. So what it does is it will
5 actually grab the rails and it will pick them up
6 slightly and it will grab that tie, that wood piece
7 that we bolt the rails down to, pull it out and then
8 we'll actually shove in a new tie. So this is
9 something we'll go through, they operate through. Over
10 each weekend our goal was about, we were hoping for
11 300 ties a weekend and we actually got 600 each
12 weekend so they had really great weekends and the
13 first two weekends knocking out 1200 feet and then
14 that third weekend was an operation called tamping in
15 which they go through with another set of machinery
16 and fluff the stone and compact it kind of underneath
17 it and then groom the track from there. So here you
18 can see the kind of work in between there where it
19 then becomes a very labor intensive driven thing where
20 we actually have to attach the rail to the ties
21 themselves. So this now becomes a much more manual
22 operation with the crews out there, they're driving in
23 spikes through the plates and putting clips on the
24 rail so these are things that actually hold the plate

1 to a rail that ultimately is how we secure it to the
2 ties so you can see them working out here throughout
3 the nights and weekends. The acting president did a
4 site visit out there, she even helped drive in a
5 couple spikes to tie down the railroad. It was an all
6 hands on deck thing to make sure we made our AM rush
7 hour on a Monday morning and here you can see some of
8 that other equipment that we use out there to prep
9 this track.

10 So in the photos here you actually have the tamper on
11 the photo on the left side of the screen which is
12 going through again that compresses the stone and sets
13 the alignment of the track and then the machine on the
14 right is called the ballast regulator and that's
15 actually commonly called the broom. So it's got a big
16 almost like a, you go through a car wash broom type
17 thing that actually pushes the stone and clears it
18 away from the track and helps groom kind of the
19 ballast around it and levels it out around it. We also
20 took a huge advantage of the shutdown as we did when
21 we had the closure of the loop to make an impact in
22 the stations. So it's not very often that we can get
23 into the subway and the level of access that we had
24 with these reroutes and so it was really every crew we

1 had available sending them down here so here you can
2 see some masons doing work in replacing damaged tile
3 at Chicago Avenue as well as this is the granite
4 flooring on the platform itself. This is work that's
5 really hard to do around passenger traffic because
6 where he's working there on the left is right where a
7 door boarding typically would be and that has to sit
8 in a mortar and set over a period of time so it really
9 can only happen under these types of closures. We also
10 took advantage so here you can see a full relamping of
11 Jackson Station, so again, this is very time consuming
12 and we're trying to do it on traffic working around
13 passengers and trains being able to get in there, be
14 able to do all these lights-- and then the kind of
15 small picture there is the grates at the stairwells--
16 so as you get rain water coming down we have sewer
17 grates that collect that water. These get clogged with
18 other debris that happens kind of just-- carbon that
19 gets built up in that water so being able to get in
20 there, suck out those grates, clear those but you've
21 got to take the stairwell out of access when you do
22 that and it impacts how these stations work and so
23 this was a great opportunity to do something that's
24 really preventive maintenance work here. Then one of

1 those other big things is unfortunately our subways do
2 see an artist's chemistry that we may not welcome and
3 so we have to get down there and clear some of this
4 and so this again is a challenge you can see the
5 painter on the right side here working right directly
6 next to the third rail in this case it's been isolated
7 out as we were doing work down there but trying to do
8 this under traffic with train movement is very time
9 consuming, very challenging. We had a bunch of other
10 crews down there power washing the subway portal walls
11 in station areas so that area not necessarily the
12 stations get power washed routinely but getting on the
13 tracks and power washing those walls, changing the
14 lighting out there that the customer often is staring
15 at that waiting for a train, right, and that's part of
16 that experience so we try and get through those every
17 couple of years and shutdowns like this really create
18 an advantageous situation for us. And that kind of is
19 what I have on the stage 3 closure so we have work
20 coming up you'll start to see this showing up over the
21 next six months as we complete this program and we'll
22 talk about those projects as they're occurring and the
23 work that's ongoing with a lot of our in-house folks
24 that do work day in and day out for us and helping

1 maintain the system in a way that we often don't talk
2 about. We talk about the big program stuff but this is
3 some of the most important work we do.

4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER Thanks Bill. We wanted
5 to provide the board a final report out for RPM as
6 that project is closing out. Throughout the entire
7 project, so this includes the design build and all
8 supporting contracts, over 224 unique DBEs were
9 awarded over \$427 million. 99 of those DBEs were new
10 to CTA so we're really proud about the outreach that
11 we did to make sure that all DBEs that were interested
12 in working on that project knew how to get in touch
13 with the prime contractors. There were various prime
14 contractors that we dealt with from the beginning
15 advance work to the construction management team to
16 the actual design builder. Currently, as a whole, the
17 project is attaining 24.42% DBE participation. As we
18 close out all those contracts, we're anticipating
19 coming in around 23, 23 and a half percent. Moving on
20 to RLE, again, as a program, as a whole, we currently
21 have 160 unique DBE firms that have been awarded over
22 \$295 million. As work is starting on the design build,
23 you'll start seeing workforce numbers in these slides
24 to give you an idea of how the contractor is attaining

1 against those workforce goals. On the design
2 specifically, we have 24 unique DBEs that have been
3 ~~awarded~~ \$8.1 million. Seven of those firms are new to
4 CTA, so we continue to work with the design builder as
5 opportunities progress, as the design is progressing
6 to make sure those packages are being advertised on
7 the construction site now that the design is
8 progressing. The event that we wanted to highlight for
9 you this month is an award that we received for RPM
10 from the Federation of Women Contractors, or FWC, at
11 their Women Rock Awards. This happened on June 10th at
12 Navy Pier. RPM was awarded the Infrastructure Impact
13 Award, and that was because of how many DBEs we had on
14 the project and the outreach, the extensive outreach
15 that we did in support of programming that we provided
16 for those DBEs, so we were happy to receive that award
17 on June 10th.

18 MR. JAKES Congratulations.

19 UNKNOWN SPEAKER That concludes our
20 report. We're happy to answer any questions.

21 MR. JAKES How does it feel being
22 moved up the agenda?

23 MR. MOONEY It's refreshing, yes.
24 Caught us by surprise.

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1 MS. GREENLEE Now we have to fix the
2 house.

3 MR. BARCLAY Thank you very much.
4 Anyone else? Any comments? Thank you very much. Thank
5 you. Our next item on the agenda is Executive
6 Sessions. This is Sisavanh Baker. It's my
7 understanding that today we do not have an Executive
8 Session.

9 MS. BAKER That is correct. No
10 Executive Sessions today.

11 MR. BARCLAY Thank you. May I have a
12 motion to amend the agenda to defer the Executive
13 Session and the consideration of the minutes from the
14 closed session of June 10th, 2026 to the next month?

15 MS. DIEGO-JOHNSON So moved.

16 MS. ORTIZ Second.

17 MS. GREENLEE It's been moved by
18 Director Diego-Johnson, seconded by Director Ortiz to
19 amend the agenda to defer the Executive Session and
20 the consideration of the minutes from the closed
21 session of June 10th, 2026 to the next month. We'll
22 take a roll call vote. Director Ortiz?

23 MS. ORTIZ Yes.

24 MS. GREENLEE Chairman Barclay?

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1 MR. BARCLAY Yes.
2 MS. GREENLEE Director Jakes?
3 MR. JAKES Yes.
4 MS. GREENLEE Director Diego-Johnson?
5 MS. DIEGO-JOHNSON Yes.
6 MS. GREENLEE Director Eaddy?
7 MR. EADDIE Yes.
8 MS. GREENLEE The motion passes.
9 MR. BARCLAY We will now address
10 Board Agenda Item 7, Board Matters. Georgetta, do we
11 have any Board Matters today?
12 MS. GREENLEE Mr. Chairman, there are
13 no Board Matters for today.
14 MR. BARCLAY Our next order of
15 business is a report from the Committee on Finance,
16 Audit, and Budget. Director Jakes?
17 MR. JAKES The Committee met
18 earlier this morning and approved the June 10th, 2026
19 Committee Minutes and reviewed the Finance Report. The
20 Committee reviewed the following eight ordinances.
21 One, review of an ordinance authorizing a co-
22 promotional agreement with the City of Chicago
23 Department of Fleet and Facility Management. Two,
24 review of an ordinance authorizing an

1 intergovernmental agreement with the City of Chicago
2 through its Department of Planning and Development for
3 tax increment financing, funds for Division Austin bus
4 turnaround improvements. Three, review of an ordinance
5 authorizing one permanent easement agreement with both
6 Comcast and Astound and one permanent easement
7 agreement with Comcast for the Red Line Extension
8 Project. Four, review of an ordinance authorizing an
9 intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois
10 Department of Transportation for design engineering
11 for improving the Blue Line Forest Park Branch.
12 Five, review of an ordinance authorizing an
13 intergovernmental agreement with RTA for consolidating
14 a commuter benefits program. Six, review of an
15 ordinance amending the CTA's Innovation Studio Program
16 overview and procedures. Seven, review of an ordinance
17 authorizing an agreement with City Year Inc.
18 for volunteer service activities. And eight, review of
19 an ordinance authorizing an intergovernmental
20 agreement with the City of Chicago through its
21 Department of Police for the Voluntary Special
22 Employment Program. The committee also reviewed eight
23 contracts. The committee placed the nine ordinances
24 and eight contracts on the omnibus. The committee

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1 approved and recommended for board approval nine
2 ordinances and eight contracts. This concludes the
3 report of the committee on finance audit and budget.

4 MR. BARCLAY Thank you, Director
5 Jakes. I will now entertain a motion to approve the
6 omnibus.

7 MS. DIEGO-JOHNSON So moved.

8 MS. ORTIZ Second.

9 MS. GREENLEE It's been moved by
10 Director Diego-Johnson, seconded by Director Ortiz
11 that the omnibus be approved by the board. We'll take
12 a roll call vote. Director Ortiz?

13 MS. ORTIZ Yes.

14 MS. GREENLEE Chairman Barclay?

15 MR. BARCLAY Yes.

16 MS. GREENLEE Director Jakes?

17 MR. JAKES Yes.

18 MS. GREENLEE Director Diego-Johnson?

19 MS. DIEGO-JOHNSON Yes.

20 MS. GREENLEE Director Eaddy?

21 MR. EADDY Yes.

22 MS. GREENLEE Motion passes.

23 MR. BARCLAY Our final order of
24 business this morning is new business. Georgette, is

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1 there any new business?

2 MS. GREENLEE Mr. Chairman, there's no
3 new business, but I think we should say
4 congratulations to Naima Turner for also graduating
5 from Proviso East High School and attending Alabama
6 State University in the fall 

7 MR. BARCLAY Congratulations. You're
8 going to be a fine lawyer.

Director Eaddy: Congratulations

9 MS. GREENLEE He's going to be looking
10 for ~~your--~~ 

11 MS. ORTIZ If I may, I'll take it
12 up a notch if you support me on this one. I see the
13 next president of the United States, so hey, let's do
14 this.

15 MR. BARCLAY The sky's the limit.
16 Thank you. Since there's no further business to come
17 before the board, may I have a motion to adjourn the
18 Chicago Transit Board meeting of July 8, 2026?

19 MS. DIEGO-JOHNSON So moved.

20 MS. ORTIZ Second.

21 MS. GREENLEE It's been moved ~~and~~
22 ~~seconded by Director Ortiz. At~~  the meeting of July 8,
23 2026 of the Chicago Transit Authority, Board of
24 Directors be adjourned. We'll take a roll call vote.

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1 Director Ortiz?

2 MS. ORTIZ Yes.

3 MS. GREENLEE Chairman Barclay?

4 MR. BARCLAY Yes.

5 MS. GREENLEE Director Jakes?

6 MR. JAKES Yes.

7 MS. GREENLEE Director Diego-Johnson?

8 MS. DIEGO-JOHNSON Yes.

9 MS. GREENLEE Director Eaddy?

10 MR. EADDY Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE Mr. Chairman, the motion

12 passes.

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14 (Off the record at 11:55:58 a.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC

2 I, William Pantoja, the officer before whom
3 the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby
4 certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing
5 proceedings were fully sworn; that the proceedings
6 were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to
7 typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said
8 digital audio recording of said proceedings are a true
9 and accurate record to the best of my knowledge,
10 skills, and ability; and that I am neither counsel
11 for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to
12 this case and have no interest, financial or
13 otherwise, in its outcome.

14
15
16
17
18 
19 _____

20 WILLIAM PANTOJA,
21 NOTARY PUBLIC FOR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
22
23
24

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, Patrick Owen, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding; that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

Patrick Owen

PATRICK OWEN

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