

Transcript of Committee On Finance, Audit and Budget

Date: March 13, 2024 **Case:** Chicago Transit Authority Board Meeting, In Re:

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WORLDWIDE COURT REPORTING & LITIGATION TECHNOLOGY

1	BEFORE THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD
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7	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, AUDIT AND BUDGET
8	Chicago, Illinois
9	Wednesday, March 13, 2024
10	9:38 a.m.
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22	Job No.: 519610
23	Pages: 1 - 44
24	Reported By: Courtney Petros, RPR, CSR

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Meeting, held at: Geting, held at: CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY Soft West Lake Street Chicago, Illinois 60661	
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13 Before Courtney Petros, a Certified Shorthar	nd
14 Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter i	n
15 and for the State of Illinois.	
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1	APPEARANCES
2	BOARD MEMBERS:
3	LESTER L. BARCLAY, CHAIRMAN
4	REV. DR. L. BERNARD JAKES, VICE CHAIRMAN
5	NEEMA JHA
6	MICHELE LEE
7	REV. JOHNNY L. MILLER
8	ROSA Y. ORTIZ
9	
10	ALSO PRESENT:
11	DORVAL R. CARTER, Jr., CTA PRESIDENT
12	KENT RAY, GENERAL COUNSEL
13	GEORGETTE GREENLEE, SECRETARY
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Good morning. I'd like
3	to call to order the meeting on the Committee on
4	Finance, Audit, and Budget for Wednesday, March
5	13th, 2024.
6	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: So moved.
7	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will take the roll.
8	Director Jha.
9	DIRECTOR JHA: Here.
10	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
11	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Here.
12	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
13	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Here.
14	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.
15	DIRECTOR MILLER: Here.
16	MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.
17	DIRECTOR LEE: Present.
18	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, we do
19	have a quorum, but I believe that there is another
20	matter that we have to address.
21	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: The Chair recognizes
22	Director Ortiz.
23	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Good morning. I would
24	like to request for Director Jakes to participate

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1	via Zoom due to conflicts with business matters.
2	MS. GREENLEE: Is there a second?
3	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Can someone second?
4	DIRECTOR MILLER: Second.
5	MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
6	Ortiz and seconded by Director Miller that this
7	body would permit Director Bernard Jakes to
8	participate remotely due to conflicts with his
9	business schedule. We'll take the roll call vote.
10	Director Lee.
11	DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.
12	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.
13	DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.
14	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
15	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
16	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
17	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
18	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.
19	DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
20	MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes. We
21	would ask technology to please allow Director
22	Jakes into the meeting remotely. And we do need
23	to see him on the screen.
24	Good morning, Director Jakes.

1	DIRECTOR JAKES: Good morning.
2	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: At this time, I would
3	like to move to relinquish the chair to Director
4	Jakes.
5	DIRECTOR JAKES: Thank you, Chairman
6	Barclay. Good morning. I would like to call to
7	order the March 13th, 2024, meeting of the
8	Committee on Finance, Audit, and Budget.
9	Georgette, would you please call the roll.
10	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes, we have
11	called the roll. We can now proceed to agenda
12	item No. 2.
13	DIRECTOR JAKES: Thank you. Our first
14	order of business is the approval of the Committee
15	minutes on February 14th, 2024. May I have a
16	motion to approve?
17	DIRECTOR MILLER: So moved.
18	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.
19	MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
20	Miller, seconded by Director Ortiz. We'll take a
21	vote.
22	Director Jha.
23	DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
24	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.

1	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
2	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
3	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
4	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.
5	DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.
6	MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.
7	DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.
8	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.
9	DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.
10	MS. GREENLEE: The motion to approve the
11	minutes passes.
12	DIRECTOR JAKES: Thank you. Our next
13	order of business is the finance report.
14	Jeremy Fine.
15	MR. FINE: Good morning. I'm Jeremy Fine,
16	your chief financial officer. And I'll present
17	the results for January.
18	All right. So for the variance for
19	revenues are shown here on the first page. We see
20	farebox coming in a little bit below budgeted
21	expectations. This is probably primarily driven
22	from the polar vortex that we experienced in
23	January as well as, you know, some potential for
24	how we spread budget, but we'll keep an eye on

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1	that.
2	But passes outperformed budgeted
3	expectations by about a million dollars. So,
4	overall, on a percentage basis, we're essentially
5	flat but slightly down by about \$600,000 but we're
6	above where we were in January of '23 by \$100,000
7	on fare and pass totals. Reduced fare subsidy is
8	coming in as expected. Nonfarebox totals
9	outperformed budgeted expectations by \$400,000.
10	So, overall, for the month we see
11	essentially flat on a percentage basis but down by
12	about \$200,000 to budgeted expectations. But it
13	is important to note that we're above January of
14	'23 by about \$600,000.
15	With regard to our expenses, we see labor
16	continuing to come in as we ramp up hiring
17	efforts, but it's coming in positive here to
18	budgeted expectations by about 9.3 you know,
19	favorable to budgeted expectations by about
20	\$9.3 million.
21	Materials are coming in as expected,
22	slightly positive. Fuel and power continue to be
23	strong performers for us. Injuries and damages
24	coming in as expected. Security services are

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1	coming in essentially as expected, a little bit
2	unfavorable.
3	And then other expenses, as we close out
4	one year and start another, we typically see some
5	variance there and essentially we're
6	essentially flat but slightly negative on a dollar
7	basis.
8	But, overall, for the month of January, we
9	see outperformance to budget, so we're favorable
10	by about \$10.4 million.
11	With regard to our public funding, the
12	receipts for the month in aggregate are positive
13	by about \$1.7 million. We see sales tax for
14	November coming in about \$3.7 million to the
15	positive. PTF coming in about 1.6 million to the
16	positive.
17	And then RET, you know, we obviously have
18	higher interest rates, which are having a
19	dampening effect on real estate sales in general,
20	and that is showing up in negative numbers for
21	both RET and PTF on RET. But, again, overall,
22	positive to budget by about \$1.7 million.
23	With regard to 2023 totals, we now have
24	received everything through the end of the year

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1	except for sales tax. Sales tax we still have one
2	more month to receive. But through November and
3	through December for the other various line items,
4	we're positive by about \$12.4 million. Again,
5	with still December sales tax still to be
6	received.
7	With regard to our 2024 totals, we're
8	seeing, you know, the PTF coming in positive by
9	about 2.2 and then negative for RET and PTF on
10	RET. We have, again, yet to receive any sales tax
11	for January. So, right now, without receiving any
12	sales tax for 2024, we're essentially flat on a
13	percentage basis but down by about 1.5 million in
14	total budgeted dollars.
15	With regard to the Federal Emergency
16	Relief Funds, as per prior years, we see larger
17	draws at the beginning of the year. Here, for the
18	month, we're drawing down about 19 million, 18.9
19	million for the month. This means that we'll now
20	draw in about 54 percent of the total allocation.
21	But it is important to note that we still
22	have over a billion dollars remaining. And based
23	on current projections, we assume that these
24	dollars will last through the end of 2025 and into

1	the early days of '26. But, obviously, this is
2	dynamic, and we'll continue to keep the Board
3	apprised.
4	With regard to the three commodities that
5	we purchase, fuel, power, and natural gas, we're
6	where we need to be locked in for the foreseeable
7	future, at least through '24 on all three
8	commodities. We continue with the RFP process for
9	power, and we'll continue to update the Board as
10	that develops. But, again, we're locked in for
11	outer years for fuel and natural gas. And once we
12	complete that RFP process, we'll do the same for
13	power.
14	So that completes my report for January,
15	and I'm glad to answer any questions.
16	DIRECTOR JAKES: Jeremy, can you go back
17	to the first slide for me?
18	MR. FINE: Yes.
19	DIRECTOR JAKES: Thank you. Can you
20	explain when you said you made a statement
21	regarding adjusting the budget when it looks
22	like the variance to January '23 and the variance
23	to budget. Can you explain that? When you say
24	you have to adjust the budget, if you adjust the

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1	budget, then why is it still unfavorable?
2	MR. FINE: So we make estimates based on
3	prior year trends with regard to how we spread our
4	expected revenues and expenses. And this is we
5	do so on each budgeted line item. So for farebox
6	and for passes, we make assumptions based on
7	different trends.
8	You know, this year, obviously, we kind of
9	broke through that longer-term trend with the
10	polar vortex period that we had. We had a
11	several-day period there that was extremely cold,
12	and that had a dampening effect particularly on
13	farebox, you know, but pay per use, you know,
14	people elected to stay home during that period and
15	not travel, you know, to work or other events.
16	Passes, you see, outperformed our budgeted
17	expectations because, again, you buy those passes
18	in advance. But, you know, that polar vortex
19	period obviously had an impact on our overall
20	ridership and had an impact on pay per use.
21	You know, we try to factor in some of that
22	into those longer-term, you know, trend lines in
23	our budget. But, again, if it's pretty severe,
24	like it was for a couple of days, that pierces

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1	through that.
2	We think that that is the predominant
3	share of why we underperformed in farebox, but,
4	you know, we also you know, we also are making
5	guesses, you know, based on those longer-term
6	trend lines with regard to each of these budgeted
7	line items.
8	So, you know, again, we think that that
9	was the reason behind that differential this
10	month, but we'll continue to keep an eye on that
11	and continue to keep the Board apprised if there
12	is longer-term, you know, differentials on a
13	month-to-month basis.
14	DIRECTOR JAKES: So as in times past, as
15	the weather we've had a great winter, which
16	means I'm presupposing that next month we'll
17	see a change in these numbers because we've had
18	milder weather?
19	MR. FINE: Yeah. That is you know,
20	based on what we typically see, when weather is
21	better, people are riding more. That would,
22	again, lead us to believe we have not yet
23	received the numbers for farebox here for
24	February, but we would, you know, likely see an

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1	increase over to the budgeted expectations. But,
2	if not, we'll obviously update the Board next
3	month as to why.
4	DIRECTOR JAKES: And, Jeremy, one last
5	question. And it may require a long answer. And
6	if it does, then we can talk later.
7	With the Federal Relief draws, supposing
8	we did not have that money, where would we stand
9	as an agency?
10	MR. FINE: So the Federal Relief Funding
11	has been very critical for us to continue to build
12	back service. And that's been a critical lifeline
13	for CTA and for other agencies across the country.
14	And I think that the Congress really recognized
15	that and afforded us that critical lifeline.
16	Because if we did not have that, you know,
17	we would have a budget gap, you know, to the tune
18	of what we've been talking about in that \$4 or
19	\$500 million type range that we're using those
20	critical emergency relief funds for. And when we
21	have gaps, that relates directly onto service.
22	So, again, it's critical for us to
23	continue to drive our service levels back to
24	prepandemic levels as we continue to hire folks

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1	back onto the workforce. And, again, if we did
2	not have those critical dollars, that is you
3	know, that directly relates back to service
4	levels.
5	PRESIDENT CARTER: Mr. Chairman.
6	DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes, Mr. President.
7	PRESIDENT CARTER: Just to put a finer
8	point on what Jeremy is saying here. Both the
9	emergency relief money and the legislative relief
10	that we got down in Springfield on a recovery
11	ratio are basically what are allowing us to
12	continue to operate service at the levels that we
13	are and certainly would have been the basis for
14	any return of service that we are planning for
15	this year.
16	Absent these funds, we would not be having
17	a conversation about returning service to
18	prepandemic levels; we would be having a
19	conversation about how much more we're going to
20	have to cut our service in order to basically
21	balance our budget. So these have been critical
22	funds to allow us to get back to a prepandemic
23	level.
24	They've also been critical for allowing us

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1	to do some things around fare policies and other
2	things that we would not have been able to do
3	budgetarily but for the fact that we had, for lack
4	of a better word, a safety net that has allowed us
5	to experiment, to do some other innovative things
6	to bring our ridership back that we probably would
7	have had more challenges around it had we not had
8	this funding available for us.
9	DIRECTOR JAKES: Okay. So we are really
10	still in a position where by 2026 there has to be
11	some work done to make sure that once all that
12	money is gone, that we're able to stay afloat.
13	Because if we don't and these are my words
14	we really would then need to look at doing service
15	cuts? Am I hearing that correctly?
16	PRESIDENT CARTER: Yeah. You summarized
17	it very well. We have enough funding, as Jeremy
18	has indicated, to get us, we believe, through
19	2025.
20	By 2026, if we have not found a more
21	sustainable funding solution and let's be
22	clear, not just CTA but for Metra and Pace, and, I
23	would suggest, for other transit systems around
24	the state, this is not a localized issue in terms

1	of the challenges that we're facing you will be
2	facing a very different budget conversation for
3	2026 than we've experienced over the last several
4	years.
5	DIRECTOR JAKES: Okay. Well, Jeremy,
6	
	thank you for your report. I appreciate it. No
7	further questions, Georgette.
8	MS. GREENLEE: Thank you. We'll take
9	questions of the other Board members.
10	Director Lee.
11	DIRECTOR LEE: Thank you, Jeremy. No
12	questions.
13	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.
14	DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions.
15	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
16	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Just one question. I
17	think we touched on it briefly, but just want the
18	public to hear.
19	You know, the Governor is proposing the
20	elimination of the grocery tax, and we're largely
21	dependent upon sales tax for operations of
22	revenue. How might that impact the CTA?
23	DIRECTOR JAKES: So that's a great
24	question. You know, I can just highlight a couple

1	of things.
2	One is, is that it's currently a proposal.
3	We are monitoring it very closely ourselves along
4	with our partners at RTA and working with the
5	State on how that may manifest itself and what
6	type of impact it would have to CTA.
7	Right now or, historically, I should
8	say, we don't we, as an RTA entity, don't have
9	a lot of transparency into which particular line
10	items kind of aggregate up to the total. We get a
11	total number, but we don't see this is how much is
12	coming from groceries or whatnot.
13	It is important to note as well is that
14	unlike the general State sales tax of six and a
15	quarter, the grocery tax has historically only
16	been one percent. And, you know, that was
17	temporarily paused from July of '22 until June of
18	'23 and then that rolled off and then, again, it's
19	been proposed in the Governor's budget.
20	So we continue to work with RTA. We'll
21	continue to keep the Board apprised as to what the
22	materiality is on the proposal.
23	It's important to note that during that
24	prior pause, that entities across the state were

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1	held harmless, you know, so that the amounts that
2	they would have otherwise received still flowed
3	through from other State funding.
4	I don't know if that's how that you
5	know, again, we're working with RTA, working with
6	the State, and seeing if that's how this would
7	this would, you know, be the way that it would
8	work going forward.
9	It's also important to note that the RTA's
10	percentage, of which we receive a portion, of one
11	and a quarter percent was not impacted previously
12	and is expected not to be impacted under the
13	current proposal either. But a lot of things are
14	very dynamic.
15	Unfortunately, we have not had,
16	historically, a lot of transparency, but we are
17	working with our partners over at RTA and the
18	State trying to get some more details to
19	understand what the contours of the proposal are
20	and how they would impact us.
21	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.
22	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
23	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: No questions. Thank you.
24	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Director Jha.

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1	DIRECTOR JHA: No questions. Thanks.
2	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes, there are
3	no further questions. You may proceed to agenda
4	item No. 4.
5	DIRECTOR JAKES: Our next order of
6	business is an ordinance authorizing an update to
7	Ordinance No. 023-131 approving the fiscal years
8	2024 through 2028 Capital Improvement Program.
9	Jeremy Fine.
10	MR. FINE: And this is, again, Jeremy
11	Fine, your chief financial officer. I'm joined
12	today by Michelle Curran, the deputy CFO and
13	comptroller.
14	MS. CURRAN: Good morning. I'm Michelle
15	Curran, deputy CFO and comptroller. And I'm here
16	today to present a proposed amendment to the 2024
17	to 2028 Capital Improvement Program or CIP.
18	The Board previously approved the \$3.6
19	billion CIP and we're proposing a first amendment
20	based on known changes. This amendment will
21	incorporate an award from CMAP through the carbon
22	reduction program for \$100 million for the Red
23	Line Extension project. In addition, existing
24	funds totaling \$20.3 million will be reprogrammed

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1	for the Ventra 3.0 upgrade project.
2	The net increase in funding due to this
3	amendment is \$120.3 million bringing the 2024 to
4	2028 CIP to 3.7 billion.
5	I'd be happy to answer any questions you
6	may have.
7	DIRECTOR JAKES: No. I don't have any
8	questions. I'm just excited about the
9	environmental justice that's going to take place
10	as it relates to the RLE project. Thank you.
11	PRESIDENT CARTER: Mr. Chairman, in that
12	regard, you may have seen the news reports that
13	came out this week about the President's proposed
14	budget. I'm very excited that the President has
15	proposed the first year of funding for the RLE
16	project under the full-funded grant agreement that
17	we expect to execute later this year of \$350
18	million. That's consistent with what our
19	expectations were.
20	We were very happy to see that in the
21	proposed budget for the President's fiscal year.
22	Obviously, that process still needs to get
23	approved by Congress that authorizes
24	appropriations for those. But, historically, with

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1	regard to the Capital Investment Grant program,
2	the recommendations of the President are what end
3	up in the final budget.
4	And so that portends very well for our
5	ability to launch the project and get construction
6	underway as we head into next year with the
7	expectations of signing the grant agreement with
8	the Federal Government later this year.
9	MS. GREENLEE: All right.
10	DIRECTOR JAKES: And this President
11	Carter, this the monies that have been approved
12	for the RLE project has nothing to do with the
13	infrastructure grant of 11 million that is going
14	to the Blue Line or does some of that money have
15	to be assigned to the Blue Line?
16	PRESIDENT CARTER: No. That's separate
17	and also good news for those of us who are working
18	to address and improve the Forest Park branch of
19	the Blue Line. That was a separate grant that
20	we're receiving that's really focused on track
21	renewal, which is, you know, a critical challenge
22	for that branch, and it's certainly impacting our
23	ability to provide more reliable service. And
24	that has nothing to do with the funding that we

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1	got for the Red Line Extension.
2	So it was a good week for CTA. We got 11
3	million for that project. We also got a
4	\$1 million grant for the Cicero station grade
5	crossing, which is money that we were hoping to
6	get that allows us to make improvements there. So
7	a good week overall for us on the capital side in
8	addition to, obviously, the adjustments that we're
9	making here with the proposed amendment.
10	DIRECTOR JAKES: Thank you.
11	MS. GREENLEE: Other questions.
12	Director Jha.
13	DIRECTOR JHA: No questions. Thanks.
14	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
15	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: No. Thank you.
16	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
17	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: No questions.
18	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.
19	DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions.
20	MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.
21	DIRECTOR LEE: No questions. Thank you.
22	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes, there are
23	no further questions. We may proceed to agenda
24	item No. 5.

1	DIRECTOR JAKES: Back to No. 4. May I now
2	have leave to place this item on the omnibus for
3	Board approval?
4	DIRECTOR MILLER: So moved.
5	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.
6	MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
7	Miller and seconded by Director Ortiz that the
8	ordinance be placed on the agenda for that the
9	ordinance be placed on the omnibus for Board
10	approval. We'll take a roll call vote.
11	Director Lee.
12	DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.
13	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.
14	DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.
15	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
16	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
17	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
18	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
19	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.
20	DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
21	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.
22	DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.
23	MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.
24	DIRECTOR JAKES: Thank you.

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1	We will now review an ordinance
2	authorizing a license agreement with the Chicago
3	Film Archives for property located at 4750-4758
4	West Lake Street, Chicago, Illinois, which is the
5	Green Line.
6	Bill Mooney.
7	MR. MOONEY: Good morning. Bill Mooney,
8	your chief infrastructure officer. Staff
9	recommends approval of an ordinance authorizing a
10	license agreement with the Chicago Film Archives
11	for property located at 4750 to 4758 West Lake
12	Street.
13	Under a short-term agreement, Chicago Film
13 14	Under a short-term agreement, Chicago Film Archives has been using space at the CTA Green
14	Archives has been using space at the CTA Green
14 15	Archives has been using space at the CTA Green Line Cicero Station to display a montage of
14 15 16	Archives has been using space at the CTA Green Line Cicero Station to display a montage of historical films provided to it by local residents
14 15 16 17	Archives has been using space at the CTA Green Line Cicero Station to display a montage of historical films provided to it by local residents for the benefit of CTA customers.
14 15 16 17 18	Archives has been using space at the CTA Green Line Cicero Station to display a montage of historical films provided to it by local residents for the benefit of CTA customers. The parties wish to continue their
14 15 16 17 18 19	Archives has been using space at the CTA Green Line Cicero Station to display a montage of historical films provided to it by local residents for the benefit of CTA customers. The parties wish to continue their arrangement and have agreed to a two-year license
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Archives has been using space at the CTA Green Line Cicero Station to display a montage of historical films provided to it by local residents for the benefit of CTA customers. The parties wish to continue their arrangement and have agreed to a two-year license agreement set to commence on March 15th, 2024, and
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Archives has been using space at the CTA Green Line Cicero Station to display a montage of historical films provided to it by local residents for the benefit of CTA customers. The parties wish to continue their arrangement and have agreed to a two-year license agreement set to commence on March 15th, 2024, and ending on March 14th, 2026, at no cost to CFA.
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Archives has been using space at the CTA Green Line Cicero Station to display a montage of historical films provided to it by local residents for the benefit of CTA customers. The parties wish to continue their arrangement and have agreed to a two-year license agreement set to commence on March 15th, 2024, and ending on March 14th, 2026, at no cost to CFA. Either party may terminate the license

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1	maintain insurance at all times. CTA may
2	terminate the agreement immediately if the area is
3	needed for operation.
4	I'd be happy to take any questions on this
5	item.
6	DIRECTOR JAKES: I have no questions,
7	Bill.
8	MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.
9	DIRECTOR LEE: No questions.
10	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.
11	DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions.
12	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
13	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: No questions.
14	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
15	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: No questions. Thank you.
16	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.
17	DIRECTOR JHA: No questions. Thank you.
18	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.
19	DIRECTOR JAKES: May I now have leave to
20	place this item on the omnibus for Board approval?
21	DIRECTOR MILLER: So moved.
22	DIRECTOR JHA: Second.
23	MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
24	Miller, seconded by Director Jha that this

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1	ordinance be placed on the omnibus for Board
2	approval. We'll take the roll call vote.
3	Director Jakes.
4	DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.
5	MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.
6	DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.
7	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.
8	DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.
9	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
10	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
11	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
12	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
13	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.
14	DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
15	MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.
16	Director Jakes, you may now proceed to
17	agenda item No. 6.
18	DIRECTOR JAKES: We will now review an
19	ordinance authorizing an intergovernmental
20	agreement with the City College of Chicago for
21	commercial learner's permit training.
22	Tom McKone.
23	MR. MCKONE: Good morning, Directors. Tom
24	McKone, chief administrative officer.

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1	This ordinance will establish an
2	intergovernmental agreement with City Colleges of
3	Chicago to create an ongoing training program for
4	our bus operator job applicants at Olive-Harvey
5	College.
6	In 2022, as one of the many initiatives we
7	put in place to accelerate bus operator hiring, we
8	piloted this program with Olive-Harvey to help
9	address barriers our bus operator applicants were
10	facing.
11	The program provides two weeks of
12	commercial learner's permit prep training at no
13	charge to our applicants. Furthermore, for those
14	who successfully complete the program, we cover
15	the cost of taking the permit test.
16	The program is modeled after a similar
17	program we have with Olive-Harvey for our second
18	chance program participants.
19	We offer this program to bus operator
20	applicants who have successfully completed the
21	hiring process and whose remaining step is to
22	obtain a commercial learner's permit. This is the
23	final step before receiving a formal offer of
24	employment as a bus operator.

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1	During the initial phase, we successfully
2	hired 145 employees from this program or 80
3	percent of those who completed it, which exceeded
4	our expectations. As you are aware, we had a
5	record-breaking hiring year last year with over
6	1,000 bus operators hired. This program was one
7	important component in delivering those results.
8	This agreement would establish the program
9	for the next two years and continue to support our
10	bus operator hiring pipeline. We will hold nine
11	classes in 2024 with each class having space for
12	up to 25 students. We reimburse City Colleges at
13	the tuition rate associated with each student. We
14	are seeking your approval to continue this program
15	to sustain a robust hiring.
16	I'm open for any questions.
17	DIRECTOR JAKES: I have no questions, Tom.
18	MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.
19	DIRECTOR LEE: That's a great program. No
20	questions. Thank you.
21	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.
22	DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions.
23	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
24	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Just a comment.

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1	Mr. McKone, thank you. This was a huge
2	undertaking from the number of positions we needed
3	to fill to streamline the logistics of training
4	and onboarding for new hires. This is a great job
5	in terms of execution of this effort and exceeding
6	the bus hiring goals.
7	I know we've told this story, but I think
8	we need to keep telling this story. We hired over
9	1,000 bus drivers. I shared with President Carter
10	that we were challenged last year when someone
11	said that's almost impossible to do. And so I
12	think your team needs to be commended for the
13	efforts that they've made to make this a turnkey
14	kind of operation.
15	And the other point that I want to
16	highlight is working with a sister agency like
17	City Colleges of Chicago, you know, that's awesome
18	just to work with Olive-Harvey and with City
19	Colleges to make this happen to streamline this
20	whole process to allow us to hire 1,000 bus
21	operators. I know the net effect; we lost some,
22	but we gained 1,000. So I think it's moving in
23	the right direction. And I applaud you for your
24	efforts. And I hope we continue to move in this

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1	direction.
2	MR. MCKONE: Thank you. It's really been
3	a team effort. We've had a great team working on
4	this program, so I really appreciate it.
5	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
6	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yeah. Same. I have a
7	comment agreeing very much with the comments that
8	have been made.
9	Just working with the City Colleges, I
10	think it's an incredible opportunity to connect
11	with other sister agencies but also really be able
12	to embrace all of the different needs that we have
13	as an agency in terms of getting the right team
14	members into our agency.
15	And just, you know, if there are
16	opportunities for expansion of that program into
17	other City Colleges, happy to see that as well.
18	MR. MCKONE: Thank you.
19	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Thank you.
20	DIRECTOR JHA: Just a quick question. Can
21	you talk a little bit about the result metrics
22	that you shared in terms of last year's successes
23	and how many people went through the program, the
24	percentage of success versus what we hired?

1	MR. MCKONE: Yeah. Absolutely. So we
2	have roughly 180 people successfully complete the
3	program. And of those, we hired 145 of them, so
4	an 80 percent hiring rate.
5	And a lot of that is due to the fact that
6	not only were they going through the course during
7	the two-week program, but we were completing the
8	other steps required in this hiring process while
9	they were going through the program. So that on a
10	Friday, when they completed and there's
11	actually a class underway this week that will
12	complete this Friday we'll give them the
13	stipend to go ahead and take the test at the
14	Secretary of State's Office.
15	They can get those results and they can
16	start as early as the next Monday so that they can
17	just go seamlessly from the training program to
18	starting, which I think really helps support that
19	hiring rate of 80 percent that we had afterwards.
20	So a really strong completion. We had a
21	lot of folks that were interested in the program.
22	And to have 80 percent successfully hired upon
23	completion is a really high result.
24	DIRECTOR JHA: Awesome. And then you said

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1	each class is up to 25, nine classes. Do we know
2	what is the rate of enrollment? Last year, how
3	was it? Was every class full?
4	MR. MCKONE: For the most part. Every
5	class was fully enrolled. Our completion rate
6	was, I think, slightly better than 90 percent in
7	terms of completion rate. And, usually, you have
8	24 to 25 students per class.
9	DIRECTOR JHA: Awesome. Thank you.
10	MS. GREENLEE: No further questions,
11	Director Jakes.
12	PRESIDENT CARTER: One other thing. You
13	asked a question about future opportunities for
14	the City Colleges. And I do want you to know that
15	we are in conversations with the City Colleges
16	about other programs that we may enter into
17	agreements with them about particularly as it
18	relates to the employee continuing education.
19	And I've had a conversation with Juan, the
20	CEO of City Colleges program. He's very much
21	interested in finding ways that CTA can partner
22	with their institutions. And there are some
23	things we're doing both from their standpoint,
24	some opportunities that we're pursuing, that we'll

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1	be bringing to the Board in the near future, but,
2	also, some opportunities from our standpoint with
3	employees that I think will be beneficial to CTA
4	and a relationship that I certainly hope and will
5	encourage to continue to grow and develop as we
6	move forward.
7	DIRECTOR JAKES: President Carter and
8	Tom and maybe this is for another session
9	how do you with all of the new bus hires and
10	those to come, how do you diversify where the
11	drivers go? So is the south side getting access
12	as much as the north side, northwest?
13	Because, you know, I see that you know,
13 14	Because, you know, I see that you know, we had the report last month of how bus is the
14	we had the report last month of how bus is the
14 15	we had the report last month of how bus is the numbers are doing much better, you know, in
14 15 16	we had the report last month of how bus is the numbers are doing much better, you know, in comparison to rail. But, right now, I'm not
14 15 16 17	we had the report last month of how bus is the numbers are doing much better, you know, in comparison to rail. But, right now, I'm not talking about rail; I'm talking about bus.
14 15 16 17 18	<pre>we had the report last month of how bus is the numbers are doing much better, you know, in comparison to rail. But, right now, I'm not talking about rail; I'm talking about bus. So, now, my question, again, is how do you</pre>
14 15 16 17 18 19	<pre>we had the report last month of how bus is the numbers are doing much better, you know, in comparison to rail. But, right now, I'm not talking about rail; I'm talking about bus. So, now, my question, again, is how do you select, you know, who gets the lion's share of</pre>
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	<pre>we had the report last month of how bus is the numbers are doing much better, you know, in comparison to rail. But, right now, I'm not talking about rail; I'm talking about bus. So, now, my question, again, is how do you select, you know, who gets the lion's share of public transportation on the bus side?</pre>
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	<pre>we had the report last month of how bus is the numbers are doing much better, you know, in comparison to rail. But, right now, I'm not talking about rail; I'm talking about bus. So, now, my question, again, is how do you select, you know, who gets the lion's share of public transportation on the bus side? PRESIDENT CARTER: Well, the initial</pre>
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<pre>we had the report last month of how bus is the numbers are doing much better, you know, in comparison to rail. But, right now, I'm not talking about rail; I'm talking about bus. So, now, my question, again, is how do you select, you know, who gets the lion's share of public transportation on the bus side? PRESIDENT CARTER: Well, the initial assignment of bus operations to come out of</pre>

1	manpower and scheduling needs and making decisions
2	on where they need to deploy those individuals
3	based on those criteria.
4	We can certainly give the Board a more
5	detailed briefing of both how that works and also
6	what the numbers have looked like in terms of
7	where we have distributed those operators. But,
8	primarily, it's looking at where you have manpower
9	shortages in a garage and, as such, where do you
10	need to deploy new resources to help support those
11	efforts.
12	Obviously, the shortages may be much
13	greater than the manpower coming out of any one
14	particular class, but there is a process by which
15	the operations department makes those decisions
16	relative to what we're trying to do in terms of
17	meeting service.
18	MR. MCKONE: And I would say as we've
19	increased training, every garage is getting
20	operators, right, to support the training and to
21	support the capacity that we've increased for
22	this.
23	So when we have a class of, say, 50 come
24	on board every two weeks, when they go out to

1	learn their routes, some of those 50 are going to					
2	every garage, so it's getting spread evenly across					
3	all the area just to support that capacity.					
4	DIRECTOR JAKES: Okay. And I would you					
5	know, I can't speak for the rest of my colleagues,					
6	but I would like to see reports on that, you know,					
7	periodically to see where the bus operators are					
8	being disbursed in the city. So, thank you. I					
9	think that was it.					
10	So may I now have leave to place this item					
11	on the omnibus for Board approval?					
12	DIRECTOR MILLER: So moved.					
13	DIRECTOR JHA: Second.					
14	MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director					
15	Miller and seconded by Director Jha that this					
16	ordinance be placed on the omnibus for Board					
17	approval. We'll take a roll call vote.					
18	Director Lee.					
19	DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.					
20	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.					
21	DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.					
22	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.					
23	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.					
24	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.					

1	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.				
2	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.				
3	DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.				
4	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.				
5	DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.				
6	MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.				
7	Director Jakes, you may now proceed to				
8	agenda item No. 7.				
9	DIRECTOR JAKES: Our next order of				
10	business today is the review of contract Nos. B-1				
11	through B-4, infrastructure.				
12	I have no questions, Georgette.				
13	MS. GREENLEE: We will are there any				
14	other questions?				
15	Director Jha.				
16	DIRECTOR JHA: No questions.				
17	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.				
18	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: No.				
19	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.				
20	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: None.				
21	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.				
22	DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions.				
23	MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.				
24	DIRECTOR LEE: No questions.				

1	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes, you may now				
2	proceed to agenda item No. 8 I'm sorry you				
3	may now proceed to contract C-1.				
4	DIRECTOR JAKES: Our next order of				
5	business today is the review of contract No. C-1,				
6	contract awards for finance.				
7	I have no questions.				
8	MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee, any				
9	questions?				
10	DIRECTOR LEE: None.				
11	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.				
12	DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions.				
13	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.				
14	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: None.				
15	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.				
16	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: No.				
17	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.				
18	DIRECTOR JHA: No.				
19	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes, you may now				
20	proceed to contract F-1.				
21	DIRECTOR JAKES: Our next order of				
22	business today is the review of contract No. F-1,				
23	contract award for administration.				
24	No questions.				

1	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha, any				
2	questions?				
3	DIRECTOR JHA: No questions.				
4	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.				
5	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: No.				
6	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.				
7	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: None.				
8	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.				
9	DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions.				
10	MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.				
11	DIRECTOR LEE: No questions.				
12	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes, you may now				
13	proceed to contracts G-1 through G-4.				
14	DIRECTOR JAKES: Our next order of				
15	business today is the review of contracts numbered				
16	G-1 through G-4, contract award for technology.				
17	I have no questions.				
18	MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee, any				
19	questions?				
20	DIRECTOR LEE: None.				
21	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.				
22	DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions.				
23	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.				
24	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: No questions.				

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1	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.					
2	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: No.					
3	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.					
4	DIRECTOR JHA: No questions.					
5	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes, you may now					
6	proceed to contracts H-1 through H-2.					
7	DIRECTOR JAKES: Our next order of					
8	business today is the review of contracts numbered					
9	H-1 and H-2, contract awards for safety.					
10	I have no questions.					
11	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha, any					
12	questions?					
13	DIRECTOR JHA: No questions.					
14	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.					
15	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: No.					
16	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.					
17	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: No questions.					
18	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.					
19	DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions.					
20	MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.					
21	DIRECTOR LEE: None.					
22	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes, there are					
23	no further contracts.					
24	DIRECTOR JAKES: Since there are no					

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1						
1	further questions on the contracts, may I have					
2	leave to place the 12 contracts on the omnibus?					
3	DIRECTOR MILLER: So moved.					
4	DIRECTOR JHA: Second.					
5	MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director					
6	Miller, seconded by Director Jha that the					
7	contracts be placed on the omnibus for Board					
8	approval. We'll take a roll call vote.					
9	Director Jha.					
10	DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.					
11	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.					
12	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.					
13	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.					
14	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.					
15	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.					
16	DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.					
17	MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.					
18	DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.					
19	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.					
20	DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.					
21	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes, the motion					
22	passes.					
23	DIRECTOR JAKES: Thank you. Since there					
24	is no further business to come before the					

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1	Committee, may I have a motion to approve the				
2	omnibus and recommend the omnibus for Board				
3	approval?				
4	DIRECTOR MILLER: So moved.				
5	DIRECTOR JHA: Second.				
6	MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved that the				
7	omnibus be recommended for Board approval. We'll				
8	take a roll call vote.				
9	Director Jakes.				
10	DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.				
11	MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.				
12	DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.				
13	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.				
14	DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.				
15	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.				
16	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.				
17	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.				
18	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.				
19	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.				
20	DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.				
21	MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.				
22	DIRECTOR JAKES: And, finally, may I have				
23	a motion to adjourn?				
24	DIRECTOR MILLER: So moved.				

1	DIRECTOR JHA: Second.					
2						
	MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director					
3	Miller, seconded by Director Jha that this meeting					
4	be adjourned. We'll take a roll call vote.					
5	Director Jakes.					
6	DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.					
7	MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.					
8	DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.					
9	MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.					
10	DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.					
11	MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.					
12	CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.					
13	MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.					
14	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.					
15	MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.					
16	DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.					
17	MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.					
18	DIRECTOR JAKES: Thank you.					
19	(Off the record at 10:14 a.m.)					
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						

1	CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER				
2					
3	I, Courtney Petros, Registered				
4	Professional Reporter and Certified Shorthand				
5	Reporter, the officer before whom the foregoing				
6	proceeding was taken, do hereby certify that the				
7	foregoing transcript is a true and correct record				
8	of the testimony given; that said testimony was				
9	taken by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting				
10	under my direction; that reading and signing was				
11	not requested; and that I am neither counsel for,				
12	related to, nor employed by any of the parties to				
13	this case and have no interest, financial or				
14	otherwise, in its outcome.				
15	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed				
16	this 14th day of March, 2024.				
17					
18					
19	Court Petras				
20	COURTNEY PETROS, RPR, CSR				
21					
22					
23					
24					

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