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2	CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
3	MAY 2023 FINANCE, AUDIT AND BUDGET
4	COMMITTEE MEETING
5	
6	Held Via Videoconference
7	on
8	May 10th, 2023
9	at
10	9:37 a.m.
11	at
12	567 West Lake Street, 2nd Floor,
13	Chicago, Illinois 60661
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16	STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS via
17	videoconference had in the above-entitled cause
18	held at the Chicago Transit Authority Headquarters,
19	567 West Lake Street, 2nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois,
20	L. Bernard Jakes, presiding.
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23	REPORTED BY: Margaret E. Mecklenborg, CSR
24	LICENSE NO.: 084-004495



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     BOARD MEMBERS:
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         MR. LESTER L. BARCLAY, Director;
         DR. L. BERNARD JAKES, Chairman;
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         MS. NEEMA JHA, Director;
         REV. JOHNNY L. MILLER, Director;
         MS. ROSA ORTIZ, Director;
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         MR. DORVAL R. CARTER, JR., President;
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         MR. KENT S. RAY, General Counsel;
         MS. GEORGETTE L. GREENLEE, Secretary.
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     ABSENT:
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         MS. MICHELE A. LEE, Director.
 8
     PRESENTERS:
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         MR. JEREMY FINE, Chief Financial Officer;
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         MS. MICHELE CURRAN, Vice President,
         Budget & Capital Finance;
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         MR. JOSEPH HARMENING, Director, Real Estate.
12
     ALSO PRESENT:
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         MR. DONALD BONDS, Chief Transit Officer;
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         MS. DENISE BUNCH, Board Liaison;
15
         MR. JAY CHAROENRATH, General Manager,
         Bus Engineering and Heavy Maintenance
16
         and Instruction:
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         MR. MICHAEL CONNELLY, Chief Planning Officer;
18
         MS. THERESA FLETCHER-BROWN,
         Director of EEO and Compliance Programs;
19
         MR. ANDREW FULLER, Chief Internal Auditor;
20
         MS. CAROLINE GALLAGHER,
         Chief Strategy, Data and Technology Officer;
21
22
         MS. SONJA HARGROVE, General Manager,
         Strategic and Business Operations;
23
         MS. NORA LEERHSEN, Chief of Staff;
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1	ALSO PRESENT:
2	MR. STEVEN MASCHERI, General Manager, Capital Construction;
3	
4	MS. ELLEN MCCORMACK, Vice President of Purchasing and Supply Chain;
5	MR. THOMAS MCKONE, Chief Administrative Officer;
6 7	MS. DEBORAH MILOSLAVICH, Senior Coordinator, Fare Systems;
8	MS. APRIL MORGAN, Chief of Staff, Office of the Chairman;
9	MŖ. HERB NITZ,
10	Director, Technology Engineering;
11	MS. GRACE OHS, Vice President of Construction on RPM;
12	MS. LATRICE PHILLIPS-BROWN,
13	Community Liaison, RPM;
14	MS. MOLLY POPPE, Chief Innovation Officer;
15	MR. JUANPABLO PRIETO, Director, Diversity Programs;
16	MR. BRIAN STEELE,
17	Vice President of Communication and Marketing;
18	MR. MICHAEL THIRY,
19	Manager, Fare Systems Program Management;
20	MS. NANCY-ELLEN ZUSMAN, Chief Safety & Security Officer.
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(Whereupon the meeting 1 convened at 9:37 a.m. 2 3 as follows:) 4 SECRETARY GREENLEE: At this point we are ready 5 to start the meeting of the Committee on Finance, 6 Audit and Budget. 7 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Good morning. I would like to call to order the May 10th, 2023 meeting of the 8 Committee on Finance, Audit and Budget. Georgette, 9 will you, please, call the roll? 10 11 Director Jha? SECRETARY GREENLEE: 12 DIRECTOR JHA: Here. 13 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Ortiz? 14 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Here. SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller? 15 16 DIRECTOR MILLER: Here. SECRETARY GREENLEE: And Chairman Jakes? 17 18 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes. 19 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman Jakes -- Chairman 20 Jakes. Director Jakes, Chairman Jakes, you do have 21 a quorum. 22 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Our first order of business is 23 the approval of the committee minutes of 24 April 12th, 2023. May I have a motion to approve?



1 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved. 2 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second. SECRETARY GREENLEE: It's been properly moved 3 4 and seconded that the committee minutes of 5 April 12th, 2023 be approved. Director Jha? 6 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes. 7 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Ortiz? 8 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes. 9 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller? 10 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes. 11 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes? 12 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes. 13 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes, the motion 14 is approved -- the motion is approved and passed. 15 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Our next --16 SECRETARY GREENLEE: I now move to agenda item 17 number 3. CHAIRMAN JAKES: Our next order of business is 18 19 the finance report. Jeremy Fine? 20 MR. FINE: Good morning. I'm Jeremy Fine, your 21 Chief Financial Officer. And today I'll walk 22 through the results for March as well as 23 year-to-date numbers. On the first page here we 24 have our March revenues. We continue to see a



similar trend of what we've seen for the first couple of months of the year where we see fare and pass totals coming in positive by \$300,000 versus the budget. Reduced fare subsidy coming in as expected and non-farebox totals coming in about \$600,000 better than expected. Which leads us for the month of March about \$900,000 of positive variance versus the budget and about 3 million dollars better than March of 2022. On the next page you see the year-to-date numbers with regard to system-generated revenues. Again we have fare and pass totals coming in slightly above 4 million dollars positive to the budget. Reduced fare subsidy coming in as expected and non-farebox totals coming in almost 3 million dollars better than expected which leaves us on the first quarter of 2023 a little over 7 million dollars better than budget and a little over 17 million dollars better than the first quarter of 2022.

On the next section we talk about our expenses. We see here for the month of March we have positive favorability on labor. A little over 10 million dollars there. Materials coming in essentially at budget. Fuel is coming in a little



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bit better than budget with about a million dollars of favorability there. Power essentially at budget slightly down. Injuries and damages and security services either coming in flat or slightly down. And other expenses coming in about 2.7 million dollars better than expected which leaves us for the month of March almost 14 million dollars of positive variance. 13.8. And when you couple that with our revenues, we're net about 14.7 million dollars for the month of March.

On the next page you see our year-to-date expense numbers. Again following a similar form of what I walked through with regard to the monthly totals. I saw a drop to the bottom line here with regard to total operating expenses for the first quarter coming in about 29.2 million dollars favorable to the budget. When you couple that with our revenues, that leaves us about 36.3 million dollars better than budget on a system-generated revenue and expense basis.

with regard to our public funding, we'll turn to the next section. And you can see here now we have received the first installment of sales tax for calendar year 2023. So we have received the



January allocation which was 2.9 million dollars better than budget. PTF which is regarding the April distribution is 2.3 million dollars better than budget and we see the RETT and the PTF on RETT because of the impact of higher interest rates and the damping effect on real estate sales those numbers are coming in unfavorable about 2.3 million dollars down to budget regarding the March allocation and about a million dollars down regarding PTF for -- on RETT for April. So overall, monthly, you know, public funding is about 1.9 million dollars better than budget.

On the next page you see the year-to-date numbers. Again only seeing one month of distribution for sales tax. You know, we see about 3 million dollars of positive variance there. A little over 7 for PTF and 11 million dollars down for the real estate transfer tax and the PTF on RETT about 2 million. So that leaves us year-to-date essentially flat on a percentage basis but down a little under 3 million dollars. But again we've only received one month of sales tax so far for the year. We continue to keep a very keen eye on sales tax, you know, as there's continued



rumblings as there has been for a while with regard to weakness in the economy but knock on wood, sales tax at least through January has continued to perform very strongly.

On the next page you see our federal relief funding draws for the month. We see a little over 19 million drawn against the three remaining grants that we have. CRRSAA, ARP and ARP discretionary. We continue to keep all three grants active. And to date we've drawn down a little over 35 percent of the total allocation which means that we have a little over 1.2 billion remaining. So we remain on track for having these funds last through 2025 and into the early part of 2026.

In the final section we talked about the three commodities that we purchase: Fuel, power and natural gas. You'll notice here that we now are fully locked in for '23 and '4. For 2025 we're at 65 percent and we'll report on next month an additional allocation that we were able to lock in at the later part of last week for some remaining portion of 2025. But this strategy has worked very well for us in locking in at very low prices and



also creating that budget certainty we're looking for as well. And then we'll look for selective opportunities on power and natural gas as we continue to move forward. So that concludes my report and glad to answer any questions.

CHAIRMAN JAKES: Jeremy, correct me if I'm wrong. You said we've -- that last month or I guess this year we've drawn down 19 million from the -- from the -- the pandemic funds?

MR. FINE: Correct. For the month, you know, we've drawn down about 19. That's been around the numbers that we've had of the prior months for 2023.

CHAIRMAN JAKES: Okay. So if we're 1.9 million better than budget, what do you -- what are you using the 19 million for?

MR. FINE: So as part of the '23 budget we had always assumed that there would be a gap, you know, based on the fact that, you know, as -- as we as the industry at large continues to attract back riders there has always been a gap expected and that is what we're essentially drawing the additional funds for is to close that gap. You know, as part of the budget we had assumed that it



would be, you know, a little under 400 million dollar gap and, you know, again we continue to draw down, you know, the Delta between, you know, our overall expenses for the month as well as the revenues and that's what we're drawing down on a monthly basis here.

CHAIRMAN JAKES: Okay. So --

MR. FINE: So while we -- I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN JAKES: Go ahead. No. Go ahead, Jeremy.

MR. FINE: So -- yeah. So while we, you know, continue to perform very well with regard to, you know, our revenues and our expenses, you know, it does diminish the amount that we're -- that we're drawing on a monthly basis but we still need to draw. And -- and that -- that underscores kind of the critical nature of the federal emergency relief funding, how important it is to try to preserve that as long as possible. You know, because again we do need those funds. And -- and it's also critical and underscores the need for, you know, a -- you know, a systemic fix to this problem with, you know, regard to our public funding as we move forward and that's what we're continuing to work



with the state, you know, and -- and the other transit advocates out there with regard to additional funding because there is a gap. There's a structural gap because of where we stand in terms of, you know, recovery from the pandemic. So again that's why we -- why we have -- why we were allotted the federal funding to start with and why we need to have kind of a -- you know, a structural fix as we continue to move forward because those funds are needed, are critical and, you know, provide a lifeline for us as -- as we continue to move forward.

CHAIRMAN JAKES: So then if -- if this is going to last us until 2025 roughly -- and I know you're not a fortune teller. How will the gap be filled after 2025?

MR. FINE: Yeah. So that's a great question.

And one that we've been working with the other service boards as well as the RTA and transit advocates and, you know, identified through the Transit is the Answer Plan at the RTA. CMAP is also working on a similar type plan but we've identified various revenue sources through that plan that could potentially be tapped in to to help



close that structural gap and, you know, again we're -- we're working with, you know, the State, you know, both the Senate and House Committees on identifying different revenue streams. You know, at the end of the day we're agnostic as to the actual revenue stream. We just need the additional revenue to help continue to provide service that our constituents are really looking for and need. You know, as we talked about before, you know, transit really, you know, became clear that it's an essential service for the region and as such it needs to be funded accordingly. So I think that again the -- the Transit is the Answer has identified several different buckets of potential funding. And, you know, we continue to make the need known to the folks in Springfield and elsewhere as well as potential options for helping close that gap but again we're agnostic at the end of the day with regard to what revenue is actually associated as long as the revenue is there.

PRESIDENT CARTER: Director?

CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes.

PRESIDENT CARTER: Just to put a finer point on what Jeremy is saying. You're -- you're asking the



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exact right question. What happens after 2025? And the more direct answer that we can give you is we don't know. We can tell you what we will have to do after 2025 if we're not able to get some sort of structural fix as -- as Jeremy has pointed out and that is basically you're looking at Draconian service cuts or huge fare increases to basically deal with the type of gap that we'll be facing. Now there are two things that I can tell you are working in parallel that we hope will help with this to some degree. One, are all the measures that Jeremy pointed out which are basically focused on revisiting the overall formula for funding transit in this region. So it's a -- not just a CTA solution. It's a Metra, Pace and CTA solution. we knew even before the pandemic hit that we had a structural problem with our -- with our operating funding for this region. It was not keeping up with increasing costs associated with running the transit system. The pandemic exacerbated that issue tenfold. The other part of the equation that we need to work on and what you've been hearing us talk about around ridership. The reason that Jeremy has to -- to draw down the -- the funding



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that -- that we're taking from the emergency relief fund is because there is a gap between what our fare revenues are providing, what our sub- -- our existing subsidies give us and what our actual costs are. So when Jeremy talks about a -- a favorable budget variance, he's really comparing that to what we budgeted in terms of our cost and revenues but that -- the cost and revenues budgeted always contemplated a gap between what our total costs would be and what our subsidies would be to support that. And so the -- the emergency relief fund is actually filling that gap today. If we weren't doing that, you could -- you could take 20 million dollars off of our budget in terms of where we would actually be in terms of what our budget would look like because that would be the amount of money that we would be able to fill. And actually I'm -- I'm oversimplify it because there are other implications because of farebox recovery ratios and other things about what else we could spend, what else we could use to even fill and cover the costs that we are incurring. The good news is that we have until 2025. And we're not facing a -- you know, a tough decision this year.



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But we need to get moving on figuring out the long-term solution. And that's exactly the work that we're doing in Springfield right now. There are literally conversations occurring as we speak today with the leadership and -- and with the key members of -- of the legislature in Springfield as well as the Governor's office about what we're going to need to fix this problem and ultimately starting to talk through what solutions would make the most sense.

I should also point out that at the federal level we've also raised this issue. It's not a unique issue at CTA or this region. It is a unique issue throughout the entire industry. We're all facing a fiscal cliff. We're all facing a similar problem. The gaps may be different depending upon what size agency you have but the impacts are the same. Whether you're a big agency like CTA or New York MTA or Boston or -- or Philadelphia or a small -- you know, a small entity like, you know, Birmingham or Charlotte or anyone else, we're all facing gaps. Our ridership is not coming back as quickly as we need it to to fill those gaps. So between the two strategies we



1 hope -- we have to. I said hope. We have to find 2 a solution to fix this because the options are not 3 pleasant. And we're certainly making that case as 4 we speak today. 5 DIRECTOR BARCLAY: So wouldn't you say that

we've all -- we've had a problem for many years.

PRESIDENT CARTER: Yes.

DIRECTOR BARCLAY: And the pandemic sort of exacerbated, you know, that but -- but the bottom line is the formula needs to be reworked --

PRESIDENT CARTER: Correct.

DIRECTOR BARCLAY: -- for public transportation not only in this region but throughout the nation.

PRESIDENT CARTER: Well, it needs to be reworked in this region because with the operating formulas are unique to -- to us here. Other transit agencies in other states get funded in different ways. So I'm not speaking as an industry issue around the formulas to fix it. When I talk about the industry challenge, I'm talking about the overall impact of the pandemic. So everyone is facing these types of fiscal cliffs. What their solutions are can be very different depending on what your -- what your subsidy sources are and what



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the -- what the support is from one, you know, state to another. Here in Illinois that focus is not in writing. So in our -- our formula would subsidize us and how we can ultimately address that formula to basically provide a stable financial and funding source that would not only support our current expenses but our expenses as they continue to grow. The other thing that's -- that's a part of that equation are issues like free fares and other things that we talk about that, you know, as a policy matter I have no objection to but that require funding to support it. Because as I -- as I like to tell people, free fares aren't free.

DIRECTOR BARCLAY: Right.

PRESIDENT CARTER: We have a cost that we have to incur whether you're riding for free or whether you're paying a fare. And I need to have some way to cover that cost. And so I think as we move forward down to Springfield you're going to be hearing a lot of conversations about not just what our formula should look like and how we're going to get funded but also what other things people want us to do as part of a service that we provide. I actually think that's a positive conversation.



And -- and it ultimately will support the benefit of public transportation and ultimately the reason for why, you know, public transportation accessibility is such an important part of the overall economic, you know, engine of the City of Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. But you can't disconnect those two conversations. If you got to talk about one, you got to talk about the other. And -- and my task is to make sure that we're having both conversations at the same time and end up at the end of the day with not only a robust funding source to subsidize our operations but also a -- a series of policy changes that actually maybe benefit the community and our ridership and those who are most transit dependant in ways that ultimately provide things to the level of services that we want to provide.

DIRECTOR BARCLAY: Well, at some point I would like to hear a briefing of progress that's being made because it's one thing to say we're having this discussion in Springfield and DC but, you know, are we actually making progress so that the hammer doesn't fall.

PRESIDENT CARTER: Right.



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CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: So I mean I -- I know we still have some time but -- but still I'd like to know that there is steady progress being made in where we are.

No. I'm happy to do that PRESIDENT CARTER: and -- and that progress as -- as indicated isn't just CTA but it's RTA. It's Metra. It's Pace. It's CMAP. There actually will be some action with CMAP happening in the next month or two with regards to their recommendations for what we should be doing about this. But we can plan on giving a board -- the Board a briefing and bringing in the appropriate parties and talk about what we're doing, what the plan is, what the reaction to that plan has been. As you can appreciate from a -- from a political standpoint progress is something that's not easy to measure. With the legislature you -- you kind of know it when it's happening type of thing. But we certainly can get you up to date on who we've been talking to, what their response has been, what the plans are and what the status of -- of the discussion is as it moves forward. And I think the key point here is that everyone is aware of the problem and everyone



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is aware that there needs to be a solution. would say as a broader statement there has been a positive reception to that reality. The hard question, which is the one that we ultimately need to get an understanding to, is: Okay, so what's the solution? What are the funding sources that we want to pursue? Who -- you know, what is it going to take to put those funding sources in place? Some of those may be very difficult conversations politically depending upon what ultimately gets decided here. But as -- as Jeremy indicated, we're somewhat agnostic around the funding sources but what we're really focused on from our prospective is that the sources whether it's one or multiple services will provide a subsidy stream that we know will actually support the real cost of running a transit system in this region and that will grow consistent with the expectations for the service that we're supposed to provide in this region going forward.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

SECRETARY GREENLEE: The floor is open for other questions. Director Miller?

DIRECTOR MILLER: I -- I concur with Chairman



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Barclay because that also give us as a board, you know, politically who to talk to and what -- what we can do to help. So since this situation started prior to the pandemic what you're saying is is that we need funding beyond what they have given when it expires in '25?

PRESIDENT CARTER: Oh, yes. Yeah. The -- the funding that we have in 2025 is really a stopgap fix that the federal government gave to transit systems around the country. We were fortunate to actually get a significant portion of that money both in terms of the formula funding that was provided to us but also in terms of discretionary grants that were given to this region and were given to CTA in particular. So were sitting in -- in actually relatively good shape for the next couple of years because of that. But yeah. We -- the -- the conversation that we're having started at the local and regional level before the pandemic hit and it's been -- you know, it's been accelerated by the pandemic and it is now being held together by the federal funding that we receive. Otherwise we would have been having the conversation I'm saying we're having in 2025 we'd



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be having that conversation right now. 1 2 Okay. Thank you. DIRECTOR MILLER: 3 Director Ortiz? SECRETARY GREENLEE: 4 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: No further questions. Thank 5 you. 6 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jha? 7 DIRECTOR JHA: No question. But -- but I 8 think, you know, this also is a really great 9 opportunity to think about alternative sources of 10 I know that we have a ton of real estate revenue. 11 properties around the train stations and, you know, 12 there's a way for us to figure out community 13 engagement and something that is not always tied -- you know, like how do you create it. 14 15 PRESIDENT CARTER: Yeah. 16 DIRECTOR JHA: That would be a really 17 good -- I'm sure you guys --18 PRESIDENT CARTER: No. And I'm glad you raise that because your -- you and -- and the chairman 19 20 and others have raised questions around that and 21 some of the challenges around our ability to do 22 that is really tied to what our own legal authority 23 is. To actually pursue real estate development for



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lack of a better word. I certainly believe as part

of the broader conversation we're going to have around subsidies and revenue sources. That could be a part of that conversation. And it can open up as we discussed the ability for CTA to be a much more active player in the community revitalization conversations that happen particularly around our infrastructure. We currently are somewhat limited in terms of how much that we can do. You know, there's no reason why that can't be a broader package of solutions for a long term -- you know, for long-term success for the organization.

If you look at other transit systems around the world, I think of Hong Kong in particular. If you've ever been to Hong Kong, their transit system is basically a real estate company that operates public transportation. The entire — the entire density around Hong Kong is focused on providing public transportation access. And if you've ever been on their system, the number of people that they carry on a daily basis it's amazing. It is — you know, it is, you know, two or three times more than New York carries.

And — and the whole system is efficiently laid out in a way that allows you to move very easily and



seamlessly between the residential and business operations and the public transit system itself. So, you know there are business models out there that certainly support that type of approach. know, in -- in the United States the business models are very different in terms of -- of how -- you know, how public transit systems have grown in support of themselves. But there's no reason particularly in the conversation we're having right now that we can't put all those things on the table. And to be quite honest with you, given the challenges that may be around the traditional funding formulas that -- that -- or subsidies that may exist and the political realities of what is or is not doable, those conversations may make a lot more sense in terms of a broader range of tools that we can have in our toolbox that can allow us to basically protect ourselves against the downside of some of the subsidies that we get today. You heard Jeremy talk about the real estate transfer tax which is one of our subsidies. The problem with the real estate transfer tax is that it's a very volatile subsidy. As goes the real estate market, so goes that tax.



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And when they have a good month, you know, when something -- you know, when there is a big sale of some commercial property we get a really nice look at our -- you know, a bump in our real estate transfer tax. But if we go into a recession or some other economic downturn, that's a subsidy source that can really hurt us. And so what we want are stable subsidy sources or a combination of stable subsidy sources and other tools that we can use that can really protect us against the downside and allow us to feel confident that we're going to have the financial support to continue to provide the services that -- that the community is asking us to do.

I can tell you that CTA has been in this position in its entire history. We have always been in a negative, you know -- you know, operational environment and have had to basically do more with less as a result of that. I'm hoping that in this conversation we're having now and -- and the pandemic I believe has really given us a very unique opportunity to have a real conversation about what it really takes to -- to support a public transportation system and



hopefully get to a formula or an approach that we ultimately can all rely on going forward that will prevent us from having to worry about doomsday budget scenarios or other things that have sort of been a pattern of our history over the course of the last seventy-five years.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: One -- one last thing I'll say. We also have to bear in mind that we reduced fares during the pandemic to attract the ridership back. And I'm hoping the public is as kind to us and -- and remembers the fact that we were able to do that. Although consumers don't -- they don't give, you know, very easily but -- but the bottom line is -- and it is something that we did to attract riders to come back reduce the -- the fares.

PRESIDENT CARTER: That's correct. And along with a number of other things we pursued over the last, you know, year or so which is obviously paying dividends for us because we are seeing ridership growth. And the other benefit of having this emergency relief funding is that it allowed us to basically do that and not face some of the other economic challenges that we might face under a



normal environment. But as you pointed out, you know, that doesn't last forever. And, you know, what I -- what I would love to be in the condition to say to you is that, you know, the two billion dollars worth of emergency relief money isn't some anomaly but is basically what we see in our budget on a regular basis. And it allows us to pursue the types of programs we're talking about. It allows me to offer up free -- free fares and reduced fares to certain categories of riders and so on and so forth, you know, along with having a little bit of a rainy day fund for when -- you know, when things may go south. You know, in -- in a perfect world that's what our budget would look like. In a world that we -- that we operate in we basically -- we operate on the margins. You know, we make sure that our budget is balanced but there isn't any extra money around to basically just go do anything that we want to do. And so we're constantly trading off one for the other in order to basically pursue the things we want to pursue and it's been a question of prioritization and what we have the money to pay for. Certainly I think that there is an appetite for a much broader



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discussion around those issues. There is a lot of momentum around other policy objectives that people want public transportation to provide. And I think, you know, we can use that momentum to basically drive a conversation around the level of funding that will ultimately support these initiatives so that we are in a position to not only provide the services that we want but to also know that we're financially stable at the same time.

DIRECTOR BARCLAY: Okay.

CHAIRMAN JAKES: So we'll moving forward -- and I understand the whole piece of hiring and, you know, the need for employees and you got to give a lot just to get a little. At some point will the hiring bonus be off the table to stop the -- to kind of help stop that bleed?

PRESIDENT CARTER: Yeah. I mean I think, you know, incentives -- no matter what package they are they're intended to address a particular problem. When the problem no longer exists and you got a pipeline that's supporting the -- the hiring that we need, you don't necessarily need the incentives anymore to -- to engage in that. And so yeah. It



would be my expectation that at some point in time we -- we normalize our workforce and get our service back working at the efficiency that we want it to work at that there won't be a need for the incentives. Particularly when you look at all the other things we are trying to put in place to support our employees and to -- and to make the case for why a job at CTA is a -- is a wonderful opportunity and wonderful career for people who are looking for those opportunities. And so yeah. will see that at some point in time adjust accordingly but it is something that we're keeping a very close eye on right now. And clearly we believe that it is having an impact as we sit here today in terms of increasing and boosting the number of people that we're -- we're getting through the door and ultimately the number of people we're able to hire.

DIRECTOR JHA: Well, then it's also about then retention because I know retention has -- it's not a new problem, right?

PRESIDENT CARTER: No.

DIRECTOR JHA: Retention has always been a chronic problem.



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1 PRESIDENT CARTER: Yeah. 2 So maybe the resources that you DIRECTOR JHA: 3 are focusing on now in terms of just getting more people through the door will probably shift and be 4 5 like how do we -- because training, onboarding, hiring has a cost associated with it. So that cost 6 7 can be offset by reducing -- you know, so improving 8 your retention rate --PRESIDENT CARTER: Absolutely right. 9 DIRECTOR JHA: -- that's where your funds are 10 11 going to go. 12 Yeah. PRESIDENT CARTER: 13 DIRECTOR JHA: But it does make sense. 14 PRESIDENT CARTER: It does make sense. 15 DIRECTOR JHA: Kind of going in that circular motion of the bleeding is here. Let's stop that 16 17 for now and then once you have a good pipeline of 18 folks coming in then you move your resources 19 towards more retention so you can avoid the cost up 20 front to keep people longer. 21 PRESIDENT CARTER: Yeah. And -- and as you may 22 have already heard from Tom, we're already doing 23

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DIRECTOR JHA: Yeah.

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PRESIDENT CARTER: -- on that side. And so you're right. There is -- there is a cost of losing employees. Particularly early. You know, historically CTA has been one of those places where people work for thirty or forty years --

DIRECTOR JHA: Yeah.

PRESIDENT CARTER: -- and then retire. But the pandemic has had a significant impact on that. And, you know, we've had to really focus a whole lot more on what we're doing to support our employees. And those -- those programs are not And we are going to do more of that as we continue to make sure that we're incentivizing the reason for why CTA is a good employer and a good place to work and providing the type of benefits to our employees that ultimately, you know, keeps them and we don't lose them to our competitors. Particularly those who have commercial driver's licenses because that is a very, very lucrative market from a recruitment standpoint. And so we have to appreciate and understand that in our overall strategies around what we're doing for our employees. So you're right. It won't be -- there is a doubt -- you know, it's not dollar to dollar

1 but there is an investment we're making on the 2 other side. That investment will continue unlike the incentives that I'm talking about for hiring. 3 4 Those investments will continue and will probably 5 grow over the long term as we continue to make sure that we're holding on to the employees that we 6 7 spend as -- as you guys point out an extensive amount of money to bring them onboard and to put 8 them in a position to perform these services for 9 10 CTA. 11 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes, if there 12

are no further questions, you can proceed to agenda item number 4.

CHAIRMAN JAKES: Our next order of business is an ordinance amending ordinance 002-141 approving the fiscal years 2023 through 2027 Capital Improvement Program. Jeremy Fine?

MR. FINE: Thank you. I'm Jeremy Fine, the Chief Financial Officer. And I'm joined with the Deputy and Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller Michele Curran who will go through this.

Good morning. MS. CURRAN: I'm Michele Curran, Deputy CFO and Comptroller. I'm here today to present an amendment to the 2023 to 2027 Capital



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1 Improvement Program or CIP. In February, the Board approved the 3.87 billion dollar amended CIP and 2 3 we're now proposing an additional amendment based on additional known changes. First, the amendment 4 will incorporate the final fiscal year 2023 federal 5 6 formula fund allocation which is an increase of 1.7 percent over the fiscal year 2022 federal 7 8 appropriation but is about 828,000 or 0.2 percent lower than the original RTA planning estimate. 9 10 Second, to repurpose 40.8 million of prior CTA and 11 rebuild Illinois state bond funds to provide 12 funding for work on the Forest Park Blue Line 13 branch and, third, to realign funding sources and 14 timing of program funds for certain projects. 15 net increase in funding due to this amendment is 40 million dollars bringing the 2023 to 2027 CIP to 16 17 3.91 billion. I'd be happy to try to answer any 18 questions you may have. 19 CHAIRMAN JAKES: I have no questions, 20

Georgette.

SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jha?

No questions. DIRECTOR JHA:

SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

No questions at this time. DIRECTOR ORTIZ:



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1	SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller?
2	DIRECTOR MILLER: No question.
3	SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?
4	DIRECTOR BARCLAY: No questions.
5	SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes?
6	CHAIRMAN JAKES: May I now have leave to place
7	this item on the omnibus for Board approval?
8	DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.
9	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.
10	SECRETARY GREENLEE: It's been properly moved
11	and seconded that the item be placed on the omnibus
12	for Board approval. Director Jha?
13	DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
14	SECRETARY GREENLEE: Direct Ortiz?
15	DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
16	SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller?
17	DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.
18	SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes?
19	CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes.
20	SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes, we may now
21	proceed to agenda item number 5.
22	CHAIRMAN JAKES: Our next order of business is
23	an ordinance authorizing a University Pass, the
24	U-Pass Program agreement for 2023 through 2028 for



participating colleges, universities and other 1 2 certificate granting schools. Jeremy Fine? 3 MR. FINE: All right. Thank you. Again I'm Jeremy Fine, your Chief Financial Officer. And 4 5 today for your consideration I present a proposal 6 for a new five-year U-Pass contract that will be in 7 effect from August of 2023 through the summer of 8 2028. The current five-year agreement expires at 9 the conclusion of the summer terms of 2023. 10 Colleges and universities have experienced dramatic 11 and unique enrollment changes since March of 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic arose. The CTA was 12 successful in making adaptations to the U-Pass 13 14 program to ensure its continued success. This new agreement continues the flexibility of certain 15 16 U-Pass contract provisions put in place during and 17 after the Covid-19 pandemic that have allowed 18 schools to continue participation in the U-Pass Due to these changes, CTA has offered 19 20 schools the flexibility of selectively enrolling 21 students who want a U-Pass for a given term instead 22 of mandatory participation required in the U-Pass 23 contract. The new agreement also makes permanent 24 provisions -- permanent previous board actions on



contract amendments to encourage increased participation in the program. First tier pricing will continue. Students enrolling 100 -- or schools enrolling 100 percent of students will pay daily reduced rate of a dollar per student. Schools enrolling less than 100 percent of students will continue to pay the daily rate of \$1.25 per student per day. And schools enrolling 90 percent of the students or more may apply to the CTA for a hardship exemption to be considered for the reduced rate. The second is part-time enrollment is added to the contract and is defined as any student taking over four credit hours per quarter or over six credit hours per semester. And, third, students learning on-line are now eligible to purchase a U-Pass. The CTA's U-Pass program has been successful since its implementation over twenty years ago. The U-Pass program demonstrates that participating schools recognize the value of offering discounted pass pricing to their student population. And, in fact, peer transit agencies have seen the success of the program and it has been replicated across many agencies across the country. The CTA is excited to continue this



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popular program which provides low-cost fares for 1 2 students and encourages them to use CTA during and after their academic careers. I'm glad to answer 3 4 any questions that you may have on this contract. 5 I have no questions, Jeremy. CHAIRMAN JAKES: 6 SECRETARY GREENLEE: The floor is open for 7 questions. Director Jha? 8 DIRECTOR JHA: No questions. 9 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Ortiz? 10 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: None. Thank you. 11 Director Miller? SECRETARY GREENLEE: 12 DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions. 13 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay? 14 **DIRECTOR BARCLAY:** None. 15 Director Jakes? SECRETARY GREENLEE: 16 CHAIRMAN JAKES: May I now have leave to place 17 this item on the omnibus for Board approval? 18 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved. 19 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second. 20 SECRETARY GREENLEE: It's been properly moved 21 and seconded that this item be placed on the 22 omnibus for Board approval. Director Jha? 23 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes. 24 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?



1 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes. 2 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller? 3 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes. SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes? 4 5 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes. 6 SECRETARY GREENLEE: The motion passes. 7 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Our next order of business is 8 an ordinance authorizing a sublease to Cruz Blanca Brewery, LLC of a portion of property located at 9 120 North Racine Avenue in Chicago. Jeremy Fine? 10 11 That's to Joe Harmening, MR. HARMENING: 12 Director of Real Estate. 13 Joe Harmony(sic) -- Harmening. CHAIRMAN JAKES: 14 MR. HARMENING: Joe Harmening. Yes. Thank 15 Good morning. Staff is recommending transit 16 board authorization for a sublease to Cruz Blanca 17 Brewery, LLC for 300 square feet of office space on 18 a month-to-month basis located at 120 North Racine. 19 Chicago, Illinois. Pursuant to an existing lease 20 between the Authority and Sterling Racine, LLC for 21 the first and second floors of the CTA-owned 22 control center at 120 North Racine, Sterling Racine 23 must obtain the Board's authority for subleasing



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any leased space. Also pursuant to the lease, CTA

- 1 may not unreasonable withhold its consent. 2 provisions of the lease between CTA and Sterling 3 Racine will remain in effect. Sterling Racine will 4 continue to be responsible for all rent. 5 expenses -- and expenses under its current lease agreement with the Authority including its share of 6 7 operating expenses, applicable taxes, utilities and 8 will continue to require indemnification of the
- 9 Authority and permit termination by the Authority
  10 should Sterling Racine default. I'd be happy to
  11 take any questions at this time.
  - PRESIDENT CARTER: Chairman, just to clarify, there is not a brewery that's going in at 120 North Racine in case anyone was wondering.
- 15 DIRECTOR MILLER: Okay.
- 16 CHAIRMAN JAKES: I have no questions.
- 17 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jha?
- 18 DIRECTOR JHA: No questions.
- 19 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?
- 20 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: No. Thank you.
- 21 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller?
- 22 DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions.
- 23 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?
- 24 DIRECTOR BARCLAY: No questions.



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Director Jakes? 1 SECRETARY GREENLEE: 2 May I now have leave to place CHAIRMAN JAKES: this item on the omnibus for Board approval? 3 4 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved. 5 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second. 6 SECRETARY GREENLEE: It's been properly moved 7 and seconded that this item be placed on the 8 omnibus for Board approval. Director Jha? 9 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes. SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Ortiz? 10 11 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes. 12 Director Miller? SECRETARY GREENLEE: 13 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes. 14 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes? 15 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes. 16 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Motion passes. CHAIRMAN JAKES: Our next order of business is 17 18 an ordinance authorizing payment of relocation expenses arising from the acquisition of property 19 20 located at 401 West 111th Street in Chicago for the 21 Red Line Extension Project. Jeremy Fine? Or this 22 is Joe again. 23 MR. HARMENING: Sure. Correct. Yes. 24 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Joe? Okay.



1 Thank you. Thank you, Chair MR. HARMENING: 2 Barclay. Joe Harmening, Director of Real Estate. 3 Staff is recommending Transit Board authorization 4 of relocation expenses related to the accusation of 5 property located at 401 West 111th Street, Chicago, Illinois for the Red Line Extension Project. 6 Pursuant to a previous ordinance, the Transit Board 7 authorized the acquisition of 401 West 111th Street 8 9 where its owner Potterich, LLC owned and operated Southside Auto Services. Pursuant to the Uniform 10 11 Relocation Act staff has confirmed relocation 12 expenses in the amount of \$211,496.50 for the removal and/or relocation of equipment at Southside 13 14 Auto Services. Pursuant to a previous ordinance. the chief infrastructure officer with the approval 15 16 of the general counsel has been authorized to pay 17 relocation expenses up to \$100,000 per instance without prior Board approval. Staff recommends the 18 19 payment of these relocation expenses to the owner. 20 I'd be happy to take any questions at this time. 21 Joe, you said up to 100,000 we CHAIRMAN JAKES: 22 didn't need to approve. This is 200-plus thousand. So is this -- are we talking 300-and-some-odd 23 thousand or are you just giving information?



MR. HARMENING: The ordinance -- the enabling 1 2 ordinance for -- for this project allows up to \$100,000 in relocation expenses without prior Board 3 4 consent. Because this exceeds that amount --Gotcha. 5 CHAIRMAN JAKES: 6 MR. HARMENING: -- the threshold has been 7 surpassed and we do need to come back to the Board 8 for Board authority to make the payment for 9 relocation expenses. 10 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Thank you. Understood. No 11 further questions, Georgette. 12 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller? 13 DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions. 14 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Ortiz? 15 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: (Inaudible) 16 Director Jha? SECRETARY GREENLEE: 17 DIRECTOR JHA: No questions. 18 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay? 19 DIRECTOR BARCLAY: No questions. 20 CHAIRMAN JAKES: May I now have leave to place 21 this item on the omnibus for Board approval? 22 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved. 23 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second. It's been properly moved 24 SECRETARY GREENLEE:



- 1 and seconded by Director Jha and Director Ortiz
- 2 | respectively that the item be placed on the omnibus
- 3 | for Board approval. Director Miller?
- 4 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.
- 5 | SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?
- 6 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
- 7 | SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jha?
- 8 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
- 9 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes?
- 10 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes.
- 11 | SECRETARY GREENLEE: The motion passes.
- 12 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Our next order of business
- 13 | today is the review of contracts number B-1 through
- 14 B-3, infrastructure contracts. I have no
- 15 questions.
- 16 | SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jha?
- 17 DIRECTOR JHA: No questions.
- 18 | SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?
- 19 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: None.
- 20 | SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller?
- 21 DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions.
- 22 | SECRETARY GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?
- 23 DIRECTOR BARCLAY: No questions.
- 24 | SECRETARY GREENLEE: Our next order of business



today is the review of contract number H-1, 1 2 contract awards for safety. I have no questions. Director Miller? 3 SECRETARY GREENLEE: 4 DIRECTOR MILLER: No questions. 5 Director Ortiz? SECRETARY GREENLEE: 6 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: No. 7 Director Jha? SECRETARY GREENLEE: 8 DIRECTOR JHA: No questions. 9 Chairman Barclay? SECRETARY GREENLEE: 10 DIRECTOR BARCLAY: No questions. 11 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Since there are no further 12 questions on the contracts, may I have leave to 13 place the four contracts on the omnibus? 14 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved. 15 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second. 16 It's been moved by SECRETARY GREENLEE: 17 Director Jha and seconded by Director Ortiz. We 18 will now take the vote. Director Jha? 19 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes. 20 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Ortiz? 21 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes. 22 Director Miller? SECRETARY GREENLEE: 23 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.



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SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

1 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes. 2 The motion to place the SECRETARY GREENLEE: 3 items on the -- the contract items on the omnibus 4 passes. Since there's -- I'm sorry. 5 CHAIRMAN JAKES: 6 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Jakes, you may 7 proceed to agenda item number 9-B. 8 All right. Since there is no CHAIRMAN JAKES: 9 further business to come before the committee, may I have a motion to approve the omnibus and 10 11 recommend the omnibus for Board approval? 12 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved. 13 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second. 14 SECRETARY GREENLEE: It's been properly moved 15 and seconded by Director Jha and Director Ortiz. 16 Let's take the vote. Director Jha? 17 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes. 18 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Ortiz? 19 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes. 20 SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller? 21 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes. 22 Director Jakes? SECRETARY GREENLEE: 23 CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes. 24 Director Jakes, the vote SECRETARY GREENLEE:



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You may now proceed to committee agenda
 1
     passes.
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     item number 9.
         SECRETARY GREENLEE: And, finally, may I have a
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     motion to adjourn?
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         DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.
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         DIRECTOR ORTIZ:
                          Second.
 7
                              It's been properly moved
         SECRETARY GREENLEE:
     and seconded that this meeting of the Committee on
 8
     Finance, Audit and Budget be adjourned.
9
                                               Director
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     Jha?
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         DIRECTOR JHA:
                        Yes.
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                              Director Ortiz?
         SECRETARY GREENLEE:
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         DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
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         SECRETARY GREENLEE: Director Miller?
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         DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.
         SECRETARY GREENLEE: And Director Jakes?
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         CHAIRMAN JAKES:
                          Yes.
                              The meeting is adjourned.
18
         SECRETARY GREENLEE:
                              (Whereupon, the meeting
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                              adjourned at 10:23 a.m.)
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1 2 3 4 5 STATE OF ILLINOIS ) 6 ) SS: 7 COUNTY OF C O O K ) 8 9 MARGARET E. MECKLENBORG. as an Officer of the Court, says that she is a Certified Shorthand 10 11 Reporter doing business in the State of Illinois; that she reported in shorthand the proceedings of 12 said meeting, and that the foregoing is a true and 13 14 correct transcript of her shorthand notes so taken 15 as aforesaid, and contains the proceedings given at said meeting via videoconference. 16 17 IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF: I have hereunto set my verified digital signature this 12th day of 18 19 May , 2023. 20 Margaret E. Mecklenborg 21 22 Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporter 23



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