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# Transcript of Board Meeting 

Date: December 13, 2023
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## Transcript of Board Meeting

Conducted on December 13, 2023

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    Board Meeting, held at:
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        CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
        567 West Lake Street
        Chicago, Illinois 60661
        312.681 .3137
        Before Courtney Petros, a Certified Shorthand
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## Transcript of Board Meeting

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A P P E A R A N C E S
BOARD MEMBERS:
LESTER L. BARCLAY, CHAIRMAN
REV. DR. L. BERNARD JAKES, VICE CHAIRMAN
NEEMA JHA
MICHELE LEE
REV. JOHNNY L. MILLER
ROSA Y. ORTIZ

ALSO PRESENT:
DORVAL R. CARTER, Jr., CTA PRESIDENT
KENT RAY, GENERAL COUNSEL
GEORGETTE GREENLEE, SECRETARY

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P R O C E E D I N G S
MS. GREENLEE: Good morning. My name is
Georgette Greenlee. I'm secretary for the Transit Board for the Chicago Transit Authority. We are now going to have our regular Transit Board meeting for December the 13th, 2023.

Chairman Barclay.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Good morning. I would
like to call to order the meeting of the Chicago
Transit Board for December 13th, 2023.
Georgette, please call the roll.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.
DIRECTOR MILLER: Here.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.
DIRECTOR JHA: Here.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Here.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.
DIRECTOR JAKES: Here.
MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Here.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.
DIRECTOR LEE: Here.
MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, you have
a quorum.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you. Director Miller is suffering from a personal illness but wishes to participate in this meeting remotely. Is there a motion to permit Director Miller to participate in the CTA regular Transit Board meeting remotely?

DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.
MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
Lee, seconded by Director Ortiz that Director
Miller be allowed to participate in the regular
Transit Board meeting remotely. We'll take a roll call vote.

Director Jha.
DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.
DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.
DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

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MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.
Chairman Barclay, you can now proceed to
the next item.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: You received the agenda for this meeting in advance of the meeting. Are there any modifications or additions to the agenda?

DIRECTOR JAKES: Chairman Barclay, I move that the agenda be amended in that the executive session precede the President's report.

DIRECTOR LEE: Second the motion.
MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director Jakes and seconded by Director Lee that the agenda for this morning's meeting be amended and that the executive session, which is on the agenda subsequent to the President's report, precede the President's report. We'll take the roll call vote.

Director Miller.
DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.
DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

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MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.
DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.
DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: The motion to amend the agenda passes.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you. Our first order of business is public comment. Georgette.

MS. GREENLEE: Mr. Chairman, we have four public commenters. I'm sorry. I think we have three. We have five registered, but they're not all sitting in their seats, so I have lost track.

We have five who registered. I'm going to call their names. Joseph Michalski, Nik Hunder, Trudy Leon, Bill Morton, and Tyrone Moore. We also have a written public comment which will be distributed to the Board which has submitted by John Paul Jones of Sustainable Englewood Initiatives.

I would -- first of all, thank you for coming to make a public comment before the Chicago Transit Board. Please make sure that you keep

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your comments to three minutes. And we will call first Bill Morton.

MR. MORTON: Thank you.

Thank you, Chair, Board, Staff, President, Counsel. I appreciate the opportunity, as always, to speak here at the Board meeting.

Two constituent concerns. I'm the
president of the Rogers Park Chamber of Commerce and we represent the residents, businesses, organizations. Kathy Powers, one of our residents, she lives near the Morse Red Line. She can actually see the Morse Red Line from her house. But she can't use the Morse Red Line because it's not accessible to her. It frustrates her very much.

She is on a walker. She's a tall woman. And she has a special walker because she's tall, so she can stand up instead of going down. And she requests not only the ADA accessibility on the Morse and Jarvis lines, but, also, when it comes to the escalators and the elevators citywide -- I don't know if it's for the buses as well -- but they're geared towards the chair -- the other walkers and the wheelchairs, but they're not
geared towards her walker. She's having a hard time with a tall walker, and she wanted me to bring that to your attention.

I interviewed with her on $W Z R D$ on Monday, 88.3 out of Northeastern Illinois University, on the radio show. And she's just having a real difficult time with her situation and she'd like to see -- she'd like to have the ability to use the Morse Red Line station. It would make her life so much better.

And, also, she would like to have accessibility for people who are using all kinds of equipments. And she's having a hard time with hers in particular. I don't know the details about that in particular, but she wanted me to relay that to you as a constituent concern.

The second constituent concern is from Isaac Campbell, who $I$ believe is in the room right now. He has an issue with the shelter -- the bus shelter at Sheridan and Chase. He lives in the area. And that's in Rogers Park in the 49 th Ward.

And the particular bus shelter was removed when Joe Moore was alderman of the 49th Ward. It was a while ago, right towards the end of his

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term. And it's been gone for a while. He has to wait for the bus. He works -- he works at a Jewel, one of our Jewels, and he really wants to see that shelter back up.

So these are two constituent concerns. I'll go into more details when I get more details, maybe next time around, but $I$ just wanted to bring these to your attention. Thank you very much.

MS. GREENLEE: Our next public commentator is Joseph Michalski.

MR. MICHALSKI: This is my first time. Do
I just look at the camera?
MS. GREENLEE: Just look at them.
MR. MICHALSKI: Look at them. Okay. I wrote my concerns down. Most of it is like a proposal.

This is about the discontinued CTA route, the 49A South Western. I believe it should see revival in some capacity for many reasons. Pace, the sister bus company, states that the 349 South Western, which is the only bus route that serves South Western completely at this time, is its second most utilized bus route.

I talked with the southwest bus operator

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for the region of southwest for Pace bus, and that's what he said, it's the second most popular Pace bus route, however, the Pace 349 has issues with reliability that causes buses to be departing late from the terminal or other times the drivers simply call off.

This results in individuals, often groups of ten or more, as I have observed over several months, at popular stops like 79th or 95th and Western -- South Western being stranded for an hour or longer waiting for the next Pace 349 bus, often in commuter destination.

I believe the CTA 49A South Western should be brought back and synchronized to slightly offset the Pace 349 South Western and its departure times by five or ten minutes so that if the Pace 349 South Western bus is canceled or doesn't arrive on time, that CTA will have people covered with the 49A bus.

This strategy is already in place on Halsted with the Pace 342 bus having the offset of the CTA 108 bus in the event of malfunctions along the popular destination. I believe at this time the South Western adds security as well.

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I know approximately ten years ago, the 49A was a discontinued CTA bus route and it ran from 79th and Western to 135 th and Western in Blue Island. I propose that because of COVID and everything, that if the 49A were to be brought back, that it only serve the areas of high ridership where people are often stranded, which would be from 79th and Western to the terminal on 119th and Western.

There's already a CTA terminal there with the Route 119 bus, which I personally take very often. I find little to nobody waiting at the 119 or the 349 stops, but if they needed to go farther along South Western, then they could wait for the Pace bus there. But in my several months, I've never observed anybody there. It's just the popular destinations like 79th and Western, 95th and Western that people often get stranded because the Pace 349 does not arrive.

And that is why I propose that the CTA should consider bringing back the 49A South Western bus because there's often groups of ten waiting at those popular destinations and I believe it will bring income for CTA. And that

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concludes my comments for the Board. Thank you. MS. GREENLEE: Thank you.

DIRECTOR JAKES: Thank you, Joseph. MS. GREENLEE: Our next public commenter is Nik Hunder.

MR. HUNDER: Hi. Good morning, Board.
I'm going to say the word we and us a lot. I don't represent any organization. These are just the generalized experiences of community members who try to engage in a line of dialogue with the CTA.

I've come here to ask CTA leadership to work with the broader community and increase its transparency. CTA can work with citizens. I saw just yesterday when the Citizens Advisory Board received a great presentation from some of your employees who presented earlier today. But the Board and President have a different idea.

The last public interview President Carter did was in April 2023. A public session where citizens could ask questions to the CTA that hasn't occurred this year. This Board and President's attempt at public transparency is so poor that in January 2022, City Council had to
hold up transferring funding because President Carter was a no show at their meeting and had to apologize just to receive it.

He also stiffed alders in September of 2022 by getting paid by the City Club of Chicago to speak instead of showing up at a planned meeting. I and others keep showing up to these meetings, and we're not even getting paid to be here.

By me are so many hardworking employees in the CTA, but imagine if they stiffed their boss. That would easily result in their firing, so why is this behavior acceptable for a president upheld by this Board?

This is a government agency and the community pays your salaries. We're all looking for a hint of transparency, but it keeps getting denied. In fact, at the last Board meeting, Vice Chair Jakes noted how a significant portion of public comments at the 2024 budget meeting revolved around training, schedules, and quality of service.

We heard from President Carter that CTA has more rail operators than 12 months ago, but

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even that simple fact is not true. CTA's own dashboard shows operator head counts were at 746 in October of 2022 but dropped to 72812 months later. If you want to dismiss this comment because you think I'm providing false numbers, please increase your transparency. That's your own publically displayed info.

We're tired of sitting here and watching the President and the Board become annoyed that the general public is trying to hold you accountable. There's no wonder why all this criticism exists. Claims made by the CTA, intentionally or not, are being misrepresented and factually incorrect. You can't trust anything that comes out of the CTA's mouth.

President Carter's own words from the last Board meeting, quote, believe me, there's no one who wants to increase service levels more than me to alleviate criticisms I'm getting. Close quote.

If you want to fix that, talk to us, tell the truth, host a public information session where community members can ask questions. Talk to the press directly instead of through your spokespeople.

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Also, your poor officers are hardworking people, but they, like the CTA, drag their feet at answering our requests. It's gotten so bad that we've had to turn to the Illinois Public Access Counselor and a claim is going to be followed with the Illinois Office of the Executive Inspector General.

Until there's transparency, we are going to be at every meeting you have and are going to continue against your campaign of false information. And we will use all the tools available to hold you accountable. You can't use synonyms and make false claims to deceive the public of a lack of progress. Thank you.

MS. GREENLEE: Thank you. And I don't believe Tyrone Moore is here.

Okay. Mr. Chairman, there are no further public comments.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you to all of our public commenters who came out today.

Our next order of business is approval of the minutes of the regular Board meeting of November 15th, 2023. May I have a motion to approve?

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DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.
MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director Lee, seconded by Director Ortiz that the minutes of the regular Transit Board meeting of November 15th, 2023, be approved as submitted. We'll take a roll call vote.

Director Lee.
DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.
DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.
DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.
DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: The motion to approve the minutes passes.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you. Our next order of business is executive session. It's my understanding, Kent, there is an executive session

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today.
MR. RAY: Yes, Chairman. The Board will
moved into closed session pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 2C, Subsections 1, 8, 11, and 21.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will now entertain a
motion to recess into executive session for
reasons stated by Counsel.
DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.
MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
Lee and seconded by Director Ortiz that the Board move into executive session for the reasons stated by Counsel. We'll take a roll call vote.

Director Miller.
DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.
DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.
DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

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MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.

DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.
(Whereupon, the Board recessed to
executive session from 10:40 a.m. to 11:56 a.m.)
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will now entertain a
motion to return to open session.

DIRECTOR JAKES: So moved.

DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director

Jakes, seconded by Director Ortiz that we return
to open session. We will take a roll call vote.
Dr. Jha.

DIRECTOR JHA: Here.

MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.

DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

MS. GREENLEE: Director -- Chairman Barclay.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

MS. GREENLEE: The motion to return to
open session passes.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: We will now address

Board agenda item No. 4A. Kent.

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MR. RAY: Thank you, Chairman. In Item
5A, the Board addressed -- reviewed the closed meeting minutes from October the 13th, 2023.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you, Kent. May I
have a motion to approve the closed session minutes for October 13th, 2023?

DIRECTOR JAKES: So moved.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.
MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director Jakes, seconded by Director Ortiz that the minutes from the closed session meeting of October 13th, 2023, be approved. We'll take a roll call vote.

Director Jha.
DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.
DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: The motion to approve the minutes from the closed session meeting passed.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you. We will now address Board agenda item No. 4B. Kent.

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MR. RAY: Thank you, Chairman. Board
agenda item 5B involves the lawsuit of Joel Byrd, et al. versus the Chicago Transit Authority. Case No. 20-CV-3613. The Board discussed in closed session a recommended settlement of this case in the total amount of $\$ 1,664,608$.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you, Kent.
May I have a motion to approve the
recommended settlement in the case of Joel Byrd, et al. versus Chicago Transit Authority. Case No. $20-C V-3613$ in the total amount of $\$ 1,664,608$.

DIRECTOR JAKES: So moved.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.
MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
Jakes and seconded by Director Ortiz that the
Board approve the settlement award in the case of
Joel Byrd versus CTA. We'll take a roll call
vote.
Director Jha.
DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.
DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

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MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next item of
business on our agenda is our president's report, which will be given by President Dorval Carter.

PRESIDENT CARTER: Thank you,
Mr. Chairman, members of the Board.
Good afternoon. First, I'd like to say a few words about the latest developments following the incident on November 16 th in which a Yellow Line train collided with a piece of snow removal equipment.

Yesterday, the National Transportation Safety Board issued a preliminary report that lays out the facts of the incident. Notably, this report does not reveal analysis of this information, nor does it speculate as to the cause of the incident. This is because the NTSB's investigation is ongoing and their team is continuing to gather information related to the incident.

As we have said from the start, CTA is working closely alongside NTSB in their
investigation and assisting their team. This work includes a thorough review of all aspects of the Yellow Line, including the signal system, tracks, and equipment, as well as extensive testing of various aspects of Yellow Line operations.

As CTA president, the safety of CTA riders and employees is of absolute paramount importance to me. An incident like the one on November 16th warrants intensive reviews of various aspects of the Yellow Line operations. In this case, this has meant that the Yellow Line service remains suspended and three bus shuttles have been running as this review is completed.

I recognize that this creates an inconvenience for some riders. We are working with the NTSB as they gather further critical information in the coming days and are hoping to reach a point soon where we will be able to reopen the line. As has always been the case, safety will drive that decision. We will keep the public updated on those plans.

In anticipation of the Yellow Line's reopening, CTA has shared with NTSB a series of actions that are planned for the Yellow Line. As

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the NTSB shared yesterday, these actions include newly established speed reductions on the Yellow Line, extra cleaning of Yellow Line rails, additional oversight of communications regarding the presence of rail equipment on tracks being used in service, and increased communications and engagement with CTA employees on these measures. These are all steps that CTA will take out of an abundance of caution. NTSB has not directed these actions or issued any specific safety directive to CTA. But, nonetheless, we have in place this plan to mitigate certain potential safety risks presented by the unique environment and operating conditions of the Yellow Line.

As you know, I am very limited in what I can say about the investigation itself and what it has uncovered. The NTSB's longstanding protocol related to incidents is that the parties involved must not discuss any details of an ongoing investigation and that all media inquiries about the incident be directed to that agency.

We respect and will continue to follow NTSB's protocols. That said, I can tell you that we have analyzed our entire system and there are
no other locations equivalent to this section of the Yellow Line. Following the incident, we worked quickly to confirm that no other areas of the CTA rail system had the same design features as are indicated on the Yellow Line itself.

For this reason, as we await future visits and reviews of NTSB of certain important factors, we are focused on implementing mitigation efforts targeted on the Yellow Line and moving the investigation forward. We thank all the affected riders for their patience and trust as we continue to collaborate with the NTSB as their investigation continues.

The final Board meeting of this year is also a really good time for me to reflect on some of the other things that we have done as an agency, and I'd like to take a moment to really focus on a special point or period of time that we're facing here at CTA.

As you may know, we ask a lot of our chiefs and top-level executives. I make no apologies for that because we are an agency that runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And with these very important jobs comes a very tremendous
level of responsibility. But there is a special group of men and women, a fraternity or sorority of sorts, who rise to the occasion each and every day and who exemplify what public transit excellence is all about.

I believe that has never been truer of anyone who has walked our halls than Mr. Michael Connelly, our chief planning officer. Mike is retiring soon and to say that he will be missed is an understatement. For our entire staff, Mike has truly been one of CTA's great gentlemen; kind, humble, and always willing to share the credit for his team's successes. He is a consummate professional who is always prepared and more than willing to share this vast base of transit knowledge.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the role that our planning department plays at CTA, its importance cannot be overstated. Since assuming this role in early 2018, Mike has led a very capable team of men and women within that department as they plan our schedules, work on the planning of major projects, and help determine bus stop placement among many other things.

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So how did Mike become such a tremendous transit executive? He began his career as a bus operator in DeKalb, Illinois on the DeKalb Husky line and rose to management positions in transit both in Virginia and here at CTA.

Mike joined the CTA in 2001 and has served in a variety of capital and planning positions, including vice president of scheduling and service planning. In these roles, he has applied his wealth of transit experience to help move initiatives forward.

I would point out that I have always believed that Mike was the secret weapon for us getting the Democratic National Convention. Because as we took the train from O'Hare into downtown Chicago, it was Mike, through his rolling encyclopedia of knowledge, who kept the entire DNC committee engaged with all of his knowledge about our system, about the line, and about all the sites along the way as we came on board.

And, in fact, they were so impressed with Mike that he actually gave another tour of members of that committee for a trip on the Orange Line to go out to Midway Airport. After that tour that

Mike gave, $I$ heard directly from the representatives of the committee about how impressed they were with not only Mike's knowledge but his overall enthusiasm for public transit, certainly something that $I$ think had a positive impact on the overall perception that the committee had of the city, which, ultimately, as you all know, resulted in us getting the opportunity to host the Democratic National Convention this upcoming center.

Mike's career has mirrored some of our most storied and high-achieving employees, starting at the bottom with a long tenure with the agency and ending his CTA career in a key leadership position. He's had the kind of career of which he can and should be tremendously proud in retirement.

And, Mike, I wish you all the best. Wherever your next chapter takes you, you've left an indelible impression on me, your coworkers, and this agency.

Mike's daughter, Phoebe, has placed a three-minute video on YouTube from his retirement get-together, and I would encourage all of you to

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watch it when you have the chance so you can hear his gracious, warm, and funny remarks. They reflect his positive attitude, his passion for transit, and his ability to always lift people up.

During the video, Mike said to the people in this room, you're making history every day. Mike, you too made history here and left an indelible impression on all of us.

Congratulations. And on behalf of the entire CTA family of employees, I wish you all the best. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you. I want to also congratulate you, Mike, on your retirement. Your institutional knowledge, professionalism, and leadership are greatly appreciated by this Board, and the CTA is better because of your dedicated service.

Your optimistic, collaborative leadership style has played an integral role in helping CTA navigate through our challenges, like those we've experienced the past few years. And they've certainly been key to our great milestones, like the impressive progress on the Red Line Extension.

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I also appreciate your work with the ADA
Advisory Committee. You advised my office on appointments to the committee, and your guidance has resulted in an engaged group. Some previous ADA Advisory Committee members have become members of this Board, including Director Irvine and our current colleague, Director Lee.

Mike, on behalf of the Board, I want to thank you for your service to the CTA and wish you all the best in your retirement. Congratulations on a job well done.

I'd like to open it up to any other Board members who want to have a brief remark.

DIRECTOR ORTIZ: I want to say thank you for all of your contributions. I know I always have a lot of questions for you. So thank you for taking the time to walk through them, think through them, and provide feedback on all the various questions that we all have. So thank you for your continued service. Congratulations on your retirement.

DIRECTOR JHA: Thank you.
Congratulations. I'm always going to miss the wallpapers. I'm always looking forward to every

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time you do the briefing and the way you present and simplify things for folks who are not knee-deep. I appreciate all I've learned from you as well through these briefings. Thank you very much.

DIRECTOR JAKES: Mike, you have been a joy to work with these past few years. And it's good to know that your last presentation, you leave a great legacy and thumbprint when you talk about equity as it relates to all communities, especially underserved communities in the city.

And so, you know, those communities may not know you by name, but do know that when black and brown communities are able to access transportation like the rest of the city, that they have to give credit for you and your team for that.

So congratulations and thank you for the legacy you leave.

MS. GREENLEE: Can we turn Director
Miller's volume up, please?
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: I don't think it's registering on his end.

MS. GREENLEE: Okay. We're going to work

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on Director Miller's volume, but I think he's saying some very nice things about you.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you, President
Carter.
PRESIDENT CARTER: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: We will now address
Board agenda item 6, Board matters. Georgette, do we have any Board matters today?

MS. GREENLEE: Mr. Chairman, we have two Board matters for today. Number one, to approve a resolution changing the dates of our January and July 2024 Chicago Transit Board regular meetings and to pass a resolution honoring the life of Bill Mooney, III.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: May I have a motion to approve a resolution changing the dates of the January and July 2024 Chicago Transit Board regular meetings?

DIRECTOR JAKES: So moved.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.
MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director Jakes, seconded by Director Ortiz that the January and July 2024 Chicago Transit Board regular meeting dates be moved. We will take a roll call
vote.
Director Jha.
DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.
DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller. Still
working on audio.
The motion passes.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you, Georgette.
I'd now like to read into the record a resolution honoring the life of Bill Mooney, III.

Whereas, William R. Mooney, III was born in Chicago on August 25th, 1953, to his parents William R. Mooney and Margaret Regan Mooney;

And, whereas, Bill was raised in Chicago and was a proud graduate of Loyola Academy;

Whereas, Bill completed his undergraduate degree at Illinois Institute of Technology in civil engineering and his MBA at the University of Chicago while working at the Chicago Transit

Authority;
And, whereas, Bill had two beloved
children, Patrick Morton and William, IV, and was a devoted husband to Eileen Marie;

And, whereas, Bill committed to a career of public service following the tradition of generations before him who served with the Chicago Police Department, beginning as a police officer on the transit detail;

And, whereas, the transit detail was transferred to CPD, Bill stayed on with CTA and joined an accelerated management program transitioning from law enforcement to becoming a transit professional;

And, whereas, during his 34 years at the Chicago Transit Authority, Bill served as head of the paratransit program, rail operations and bus operations, and he ended his tenure as chief operating officer;

And, whereas, after leaving the CTA, Bill provided transit consulting services to agencies across the world;

And, whereas, Bill's legacy at CTA lives on not only due to his impressive service at CTA
but through his son William R. Mooney, IV, who has held a variety of roles at CTA, currently is CTA's chief infrastructure officer and has mirrored his father's standard of excellence;

And, whereas, Bill was also father-in-law to Leah Dawson Mooney, a consummate transit professional who recently ended her own accomplished run as CTA's director of strategic planning and policy, as well as uncle to Kathryn Ekstrom Dykas and Virgil Allen, both valued members of CTA's transit operations team;

And, whereas, Bill was a larger-than-life personality who was dedicated to his family and close friends, and he particularly loved being a grandfather to Lillian and William, V;

And, whereas, he was known for hosting epic holiday parties and always opening his home to others and loved traveling and taking his family on vacations, especially enjoying the trips he took with his beloved wife visiting the Holy Land, China, and other memorable places;

Whereas, Bill passed away peacefully at home on November 27th, 2023;

Whereas, Bill was known for his
generosity, warmth, faith, fierce loyalty, and he will be deeply missed by many of those lives he touched;

And, whereas, the Transit Board recognizes the positive impact that William R. Mooney, III had in both his personal life, professional life, including his substantial contributions to the Chicago Transit Authority.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Chicago Transit Board hereby celebrates the life of William R. Mooney, III and his significant contributions to the Chicago Transit Authority.

Be it further resolved that the Board recognizes William R. Mooney, III's accomplishments in his personal life and his professional life.

Be it further resolved that the Chicago Transit Authority expresses condolences to Mr. Mooney's family and close friends.

And I believe his wife is here with us. Let's give her a round of applause. Thank you for coming and sharing your husband with us. Thank you.

May I have a motion to adopt the

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resolution honoring the life of Bill Mooney, III?
DIRECTOR JAKES: So moved.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.
MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
Jakes and seconded by Director Ortiz that we adopt
the resolution honoring the life of Bill Mooney,
III. We'll take a roll call vote.

Director Jha.
DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.
DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.
(No response.)
MS. GREENLEE: The resolution passes.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of
business is a report from the Committee on Strategic Planning and Service Delivery, which will be presented --

MS. GREENLEE: By our vice chair, Director
Ortiz.

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CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Okay. Yes.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Thank you. The committee met earlier this morning and approved the May 10th, 2023, committee minutes. The committee entertained one report, a presentation on an initiative entitled Bus Vision by Mike Connelly, our CTA chief planning officer, and Elsa Gutierrez, CTA's vice president of service planning and traffic engineering.

That concludes my report, Chairman Barclay.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you. Our next order of business is a report from the Committee on Finance, Audit, and Budget, which will be presented by Director Jakes.

DIRECTOR JAKES: Mr. Chairman, the committee met earlier this morning and approved the November 15th, 2023, committee minutes and reviewed the finance report.

The committee reviewed two ordinances. One, review of an ordinance authorizing a first amendment to the sublease with the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. of the 12 th floor located at 567 West Lake

Street, Chicago.
Two, review of an ordinance authorizing
CTA's Innovation Studio program to pilot
innovative solutions and new technology in an expedited manner.

The committee also reviewed ten contracts.
The committee placed the two ordinances and the
ten contracts on the omnibus. The committee approved and recommended for Board approval two ordinances and the ten contracts. That concludes the report of the Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will now entertain a motion to approve the omnibus.

DIRECTOR ORTIZ: So moved.
DIRECTOR JAKES: Second.
MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director Ortiz and seconded by Director Jakes that the omnibus be approved. We'll take a roll call vote.

Director Jha.
DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

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DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.
DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: We can hear you. The motion to approve the omnibus passes.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you. Our next order of business is the construction report from Bill Mooney, our chief infrastructure officer, and JuanPablo Prieto, our director of diversity programs.

MR. MOONEY: Good afternoon. Once again, I am Bill Mooney, your chief infrastructure officer and joined by, always, my dear friend.

MR. PRIETO: JuanPablo Prieto, director of diversity programs.

MR. MOONEY: We are here with your abridged construction report for the month. We will start where we normally do, our Damen station project. We're moving forward to some photos here.

Framework for the building really is coming together here. You can see the main

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stairwell being poured, the concrete. This is on the far west edge of that wall. And, really, you can start to see the framework of the building itself coming together. The exterior wall ultimately would be the glass facade of the main building. And you can see kind of that setback view and get a sense of kind of the size and scale of the station. It will be a really beautiful kind of walkup on that west side and addition to our program.

Our next project is a nonrevenue vehicle facility. We move forward with a still tight schedule and budget. Looking to bring this project to conclusion probably late spring of next year.

A lot of the finishes are what's going on here. So here's a picture of the external storage shelter. So outside the main building I've been showing you, there are a series of auxiliary buildings that will support the operations that go out of here. And this is one of those buildings coming together.

And then a lot of the finishes inside. So here all the cranes are installed at this point.

So as we move around the large equipment and all the support products that go with it, there's a lot of support equipment that has to help. You can see some of that going on. This on the loading dock, so where we bring trucks in to be able to offload that equipment.

And we move forward to Canal, Barry, and Damen substations. I'll pause here. So Damen substation we've shown to you a lot. A lot of the facade is coming together. You can see the finished brickwork. It's a very dark black brick. It will be very rich.

This is one of the coolest views. This is actually from the platform at Damen station. One of the neat architectural features of this is you'll actually be able to see into the substation. This will be a glass facade on that point. And so from the platform there at the Blue Line station, you'll be able to look down and see the heavy duty electric equipment. Give you a little insight into the background of what happens, kind of what makes the train systems go. It's really a cool system from the substation as well looking out at the platform. I was out there

Friday. It's a really neat view.
We continue to move forward with
Haymarket. Here you can see them putting -prepping the substation for the second set of lineups. We are running on new equipment there that's been installed as part of this project. The second round of equipment is getting ready to be installed as we speak. And here you can see the preparatory work for that equipment being installed.

And then the most interesting thing that's happened since last month is we moved a whole tiebreaker house into the subway. Over a weekend line cut, we brought in 134 different pieces in almost a Lego set and assembled it in that little tunnel you can see off on the side here in the photo. That was actually a future expansion tunnel that was built with the Dearborn subway so that one day they could spread off to go underneath Lake Street with potentially another subway. It was a little dead end there. We are taking advantage of the space to be able to put in this tiebreaker house.

And here's the last picture with Canal,

Barry, Damen. This is at Barry, and it has sprouted out of the ground. So, last month, I showed you a bunch of the foundational work, and here you can see all the steel coming up. So you really get a sense of this. Again, there's going to be a significantly architecturally interesting building when it comes together.

And our last report on refresh and renew
for the year. We have finished all 14 bus
turnaround locations, 29 stations. As I mentioned before, though, we stopped reporting on it. We do actually go into our internal facilities, our employee-facing facilities. We do work throughout the winter in our garages and shop, very similar to what we do.

And as we come back with our public program in the new year, I'll show you some of those photos of the work we did over winter. And you'll see some of that.

But here's some of our last push for the year. This is on Pulaski and the Pink Line. You can see that curb appeal, the refresh kind of storefront look of the station there. The upgraded lighting and fresh painting really pops
out. As always, kind of our contrast on the stairs here between the upgraded lighting, refreshed, you know, paint there.

And what would be a refresh and renew photo without kind of the night shot of the LED lighting, right? I mean, that changes the dynamic of the feeling of our stations, but, also, that whole surrounding area and the amount of output we put on that footprint.

And then we do, again, the back of the house, as I've talked lots of times. This is up at Linden on the Purple Line. You can see this is the back of the house space that we use for agency personnel and support personnel. And you can see kind of that refreshed look back there.

And, you know, again, exterior lighting.
And I think this is actually one of the most interesting photos. We resurfaced the whole floor there. You can see pitting from all the use and abuse and the weathering of the -- this is the main station entrance here. They came through, they broke out all the broken concrete, and poured in new, refreshed concrete there. It really makes an impact when that customer walks in on Monday
morning, right?
And a couple looks at the last set of bus turnarounds here at the 31 st and Komensky. Kind of that refreshed look on the exterior of the bus turnaround itself and then we often do the bathrooms and other things there.

And that brings us to our RPM project. Went through another significant phase change I'm really happy to report at this point. Our entire revenue service on the Red, Purple Line, and the Brown Line are running on new structure exclusively, so we transitioned to what we call North Main Line Phase Three as part of the Red/Purple bypass area.

And we are now running on that new structure over a series of what we call cut and throw weekends where we take sections of track and tie it into the new structure. And so we are running our service on what is historically known as our two northbound tracks, tracks three and four. We're running one direction northbound and one direction southbound while they rebuild now the old one and two. But both up on the LPM corridor and the RPB quarter we are entirely on
new structure. And it is amazing and it is quiet and it is smooth as can be. So it's really exciting to get to this next level of milestone.

Here's, again, that cut and throw. You can see how we've tied the tracks over, put in that temporary curvature while we rebuild the tracks around it.

And up on the Lawrence and Bryn Mawr area, we're starting to build structure. So I've been showing you some caisson. You'll have some other photos of caissons. But here they are making that bridge, that tie-in point for where the segmental box structure starts to pick up. And you'll see the steel going in. This is close to Ardmore, which is the further northern portion of the project.

And what would be a photo of RPM without a caisson being drilled. So there are, you know, 80 some odd caissons in the second phase that are tied to the station or the main structures and those are moving along. We're about 40 percent complete on the caisson drilling at this point.

And we're starting to see columns again. So over the next few months, you'll see a lot more
columns popping up. The early part of next year, you'll see the gantry show back up again. With that, $I$ will turn it over to JuanPablo and just note that, as always, we are very proactively communicating with the communities we're working in as well as our partnerships with the Federal Government. We do a lot of tours with the FTA and other government agencies showing all the great work and really the investment we're making in the community here and the impact of that.

MR. PRIETO: Thanks, Bill. Here on the picture on the slide, that's from our -- another installment of our tracks to trades program that we hosted last month. This program is a collaboration between CTA, Walsh, Fluor, other subcontractors in RPM, building trade unions, and educational institutions to expose high school age and young adults to careers in construction in the industry and show them the different pathways that are available to them.

So we held three sessions at the Paul Simon Job Corps Center on November 13th, 15th, and 17th. Around 40 students heard about the RPM

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project, the opportunities that are available, and how to pursue a career in the building, trades, or in the professional services space in construction.

Speakers included representatives from Ironworkers Local 1, Local 63, Hire 360, Daley College, IBEW Local 134, two DBE firms that are working on RPM, the Bricklayers, and Wintrust Bank. We completed another session earlier this month that I'll cover in next month's report.

As of the end of November, 118 unique DBEs have been awarded over $\$ 268$ million between the design and construction packages on RPM phase one. 53 of those firms are new to CTA.

And on the workforce side, as of the end of November, 2,047 unique individuals have worked over 1.5 million labor hours and earned over \$87 million.

That concludes our report. Happy to answer any questions.

DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Any questions?
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.
DIRECTOR JHA: No questions. Thank you.

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MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: None. Thank you.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.
DIRECTOR JAKES: No. I'll see them
offline.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller. Any
questions, Director Miller?
DIRECTOR MILLER: No.
MS. GREENLEE: Okay. And Chairman
Barclay.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: No questions. Thank you very much.

Our final order of business is new business. Georgette, is there any new business?

MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, there is no new business.

PRESIDENT CARTER: Mr. Chairman, before we adjourn, can $I$ just say on behalf of the entire CTA staff, we want to wish you all a happy holiday and joyous celebration for the new year.

And if you get a chance, please take advantage of seeing either a holiday train or a holiday bus. All of the teams here at CTA and bus ops, rail ops, bus maintenance, rail maintenance,

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south shops and Skokie shops, electrical engineering put a lot of work into it and we would love for you all to get a chance to experience what it is like.

I can tell you, having been on it myself, it is a wonderful thing to watch the eyes of our customers light up when they see either one of those vehicles go by them. And I can't tell you how kids react. But if you get a chance, please try to enjoy it before the holiday season is over.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I can't tell you how kids react, but $I$ can tell you how adults react. It's my third year going. I go on the maiden voyage the day after Thanksgiving, and it is a wonderful experience. It has turned into a family tradition. So if you haven't had an opportunity to do so, please do so.

And it's just a wonderful thing that our employees volunteer their time -- that's what I learned -- to decorate the trains and to bring some joy into the hearts of so many of our citizens here in Chicago. So it's a wonderful experience. I would encourage you to take advantage of that. But $I$ want to thank them

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publically to commend them on the great job that they do every year on a voluntary basis. So thank them, please, for me.

Since there is no further business to come
before the Board, may I have a motion to adjourn the Chicago Transit Board meeting of December 13th, 2023?

DIRECTOR ORTIZ: So moved.
DIRECTOR JAKES: Second.
MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
Ortiz and seconded by Director Jakes that the Chicago Transit Board meeting of December 13th, 2023, be adjourned. We'll take a roll call vote.

Director Jha.
DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.
DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes. And happy holidays.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.
DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.
CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: Director Miller.
DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.
MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.


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CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed
this 14th day of December, 2023.


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