

## CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES OF September 6, 2024.

**Noticed: 11:00 AM. Commenced: 11:14 AM.**

**AGENDA:** The posted agenda for the meeting can be found at [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com), "About CTA" "Transit Board Meetings", "Meeting Notices, Agendas, and Minutes", "11/14/2024", "Citizens Advisory Board", "Agenda".

**ROLL CALL:** Katanya Raby; Robert Johnson; Robert Castaneda; Peter Henderson; Sonia Del Real, Caroline Pavlecic; Tracy Powell, Danielle Stanley.

Student Citizen Advisory Board Members: Emmanuel Garcia and Aiden Keefe.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order by Katanya Raby, Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Board. The roll was called, and all members of the CAB were present with the exception of Ryan McCray and Kirby Scott Ven Der Weele. It was established that there was a quorum with 8 out of 10 voting members in attendance.
- II. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Chairperson Raby acknowledged the four victims of the Blue Line shooting that took place a few days prior to the meeting. The tragedy was heartbreaking. She requested a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims. She thanked the board for participating in the moment of silence and expressed condolences to the families of the victims and all in the CTA community who was personally impacted by the tragedy.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There was one public commentator who showed up at the end of the meeting: Mr. Michael Flournoy. He was allowed to speak for three minutes.
- IV. **MINUTES** from the CAB Meeting of June 7, 2024, were introduced for approval. It was moved by Peter Henderson and seconded by Robert Castaneda that the minutes from the CAB meeting of June 7, 2024, be approved as presented. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.
- V. **CTA COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTATION:** Chairperson Raby introduced Bill Mooney, the CTA Chief Infrastructure Officer. He gave a presentation on the Red Line Extension Project.

**Role and Responsibilities:** The Infrastructure Division is responsible for our core construction engineering programs, the Red/Purple Modernization project on the north side, the Red Line Extension program on the south side, the real estate portfolio, public art, and maintenance. The Infrastructure Division is responsible for ensuring that everything works at our stations, tracks, power, signal, structure, 69 miles of elevated structure and the medians.

He encouraged the CAB to watch the August 2024 CTA Board Meeting on YouTube. [https://www.youtube.com/live/vily8zMdNnE?si=s7\\_Od9SO-MRiWsvS](https://www.youtube.com/live/vily8zMdNnE?si=s7_Od9SO-MRiWsvS) There was an RLE presentation made at the August CTA Board Meeting and many of the residents from the far south side of Chicago gave testimony at the meeting about the positive and welcomed impact of the RLE.

**Red Line Extension Project Overview:** The RLE is a collection of lots of little projects.

- It is a 5.6-mile extension from the current terminus at 95<sup>th</sup> Street down to the historic Altgeld Gardens.
- It is the realization of a promise made almost 60 years ago in 1969 by Mayor Daley at the ribbon cutting for the 95<sup>th</sup> Street Station at which he stated that the CTA would “go to the city’s edge.”
- It is four (4) new planned stations, one at 103<sup>rd</sup>, one at 111<sup>th</sup>, Michigan Avenue and the terminus at 130<sup>th</sup> Street within historical Altgeld Gardens – which was the first example of a public housing project in the United States – and has landmark status.
- All of the stations will have new interline bus and parking connections: parking lots, ark and ride facilities and the main terminal will have a parking garage.
- There will be interconnectivity with Divvy stations, bike – walkup connections, bike parking, et al.
- There will be a new train yard to park trains that are not in use on the system.
- There will be a new train storge yard at 120<sup>th</sup> as well as a new shop.

**Red Line Extension Benefits:**

- At its heart – this is an equity project.
- 24% of the population that lives in the RLE service project area is below the poverty line for the City of Chicago compared to the greater whole of the city.
- Transit accessibility is a huge issue for this segment of our population.
- The paucity of transit accessibility for this community has caused them to be disconnected from markets, educational opportunities, downtown Chicago, jobs.
- 22% of the RLE households do not own a car.
- The RLE will create economic opportunity. For every dollar that is invested in transit nationally, we see a \$5 reinvestment in the economy around it.
- The RLE will combat climate change and greenhouse gas emissions by getting people out of their cars and getting over 1,000 cars off the road.

**Construction Investment Benefits:**

- For every dollar we put into the program it will spit out direct construction jobs and indirect construction jobs.
- This investment is roughly \$5 billion dollars.
- That equates to about 12,512 construction jobs.
- Downstream jobs: the service industry. A project that goes on for five (5) years helps a lot of people in the neighborhood.

**The Project within the Project:**

- The project doesn’t begin when we break ground. The project truly begins the day we cut the ribbon and start running service.
- There is another 25,000 additional job opportunities that we anticipate will be actualized once the service begins because of transit-orientated development.
- The CTA worked with the Department of Planning and Development and did a transit supportive development plan where CTA went out with the community and did studies about the real estate housing and business stock and available property within the quarter mile, within the ½ mile, within the mile and within the mile and ½.
- Issue: How to leverage the investment to build in-fill housing? How to leverage the investment to build new retail developments? How can we re-envision the community and help the community see a new vision today?

- This vision was codified by the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development and the City Council into the planning code.
- The Transit Supportive Development Plan was ultimately the groundwork for them to use as they approve new investments being made in the community as a result of the RLE.
- At one of the key corners on Michigan Avenue the city put out a Request for Proposals under the “Invest South-West” program. They have received bids and they are looking to catalyze new developments in that area.
- In the years to come – 20 years downstream – we are going to see a boom in real estate activity and that could be as big as \$1.7 billion in investment.

Following the presentation there were questions from the CAB members in attendance and discussion.

The questions focused on the following topics:

1. The creation of the Robin Hood TIF and the impact of that TIF on other the communities over the next several years.
2. DBE participation and mentorship of DBE firms to grow them to primes.
3. Unbundling large scale contracts so DBE’s can participate.
4. Procurement, diversity and outreach plans
5. Service area economically disadvantaged goals (there are about 14 zip codes in the area of Cook County that have an average household income of below \$40,000, which is the Federal limit for what is considered an economically disadvantaged area. So this then sets aside jobs within this contract that have to come from those communities as opportunity.)
6. How CTA will monitor and manage the DBE goals it has set for the project
7. How to get a 10% professional service goal from an economically disadvantaged community for architectural design (because if you are an engineer or an architect, you’re probably not living in an EDA)
8. Scholarship programs; internships; apprenticeships and STEM programs in the areas elementary and high schools
9. Community Job Fairs – increasing turnout and getting the community to show up
10. RLE on social media (Tik Tok; Instagram; Facebook; email registries)
11. The RLE engagement in local chambers of commerce and business roundtables; the Urban League
12. What will “success” look like on the south side? It’s not going to be the same as the West Loop.
13. How doe the CTA reconcile the costs of this expansion project with the looming fiscal cliff?
14. If citizens want to see the CTA do more expansion projects citywide, how do they get involved?

Chairperson Raby remarked as the discussion came to a close that the RLE project is really awesome and amazing. She stated that she has been a part of the Red Line Extension realm for a while and the project and its projected impact is HUGE for the south side.

She also publicly commended President Carter for his tenacity and for all he has gone through to secure billions of dollars of funding for this project. Adding to this project will build more opportunity for Chicago and even beyond Chicago. She celebrated and stated that she was looking forward to continuing to be a part of RLE work. She thanked Bill Mooney for the presentation.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The CAB reviewed the results of a survey that they completed that gleaned their ideas regarding the mission and vision for the CAB and in which they identified the committees they

wanted to work with while CAB members.

The also discussed the cadence of their meetings in 2025. Rob Johnson moved that the CAB meet 6 times in 2025 or every other month – not including CAB committee meetings. The motion was seconded by Tracey Powell.

The motion to increase the cadence of the CAB meetings from quarterly to bi-monthly passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**ETHICS:**

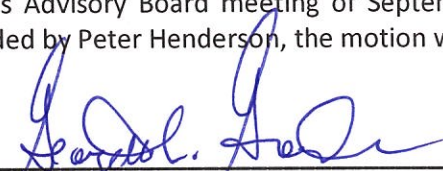
The CAB members also received the CTA Discrimination, Harassment and Bystanders Training Manuals and Acknowledgement Forms to review and complete.

**CTA Safety and Security:** Robert Castenada stated for the record, that in light of some of the serious criminal activities, violent crimes and murders that have taken place on the CTA system, he thinks that the CTA should look into moving away from relying on the Chicago Police Department for security and should restore the CTA Police Department.

Chairperson Raby agreed and asked whether the CAB could have a further conversation with the safety and security team.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to come before the CAB, Chairperson Raby asked for a motion to adjourn the Citizens Advisory Board meeting of September 6, 2024. After being moved by Robert Castenada and seconded by Peter Henderson, the motion was approved with eleven yes votes at 1:02 p.m.

By:   
Secretary of the CTA Transit Board

Date: 12/06/2024