

November 13, 2024. Chicago Transit Board Regular Meeting Minutes.

Noticed for 10:00 a.m. Commenced at 11:40 a.m.

AGENDA: The posted agenda for the meeting is available at www.transitchicago.com, "Chicago Transit Board", "Meeting Notices, Agendas, and Minutes", (11/13/2024) (Regular Board Meeting), "Agenda".

There was a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL: Directors: Lester L. Barclay (Chairman), Rosa Ortiz, Roberto Requejo (remote), Neema Jha, Michele Lee and Bernard Jakes. Director Micheal Eaddy was absent.

There was a quorum with 6 members present.

ADMISSION OF DIRECTOR REQUEJO FOR REMOTE PARTICIPANTION: After calling the roll for the Board members who were in person, the Chair recognized Director Ortiz who was standing.

Director Ortiz moved that Director Roberto Requejo be allowed to participate in the meeting remotely due to a work commitment that prevented him from participating in person. Director Jha seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of the members who were present in-person: Chairperson Barclay, Director Ortiz, Director Jha, Director Jakes and Director Lee.

Director Requejo was admitted to the meeting via Zoom.

MINUTES: Chairman Barclay asked for a motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes from October 9, 2024. After being moved by Director Ortiz and seconded by Director Jha, the minutes were approved with six (6) votes by roll call vote.

CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD REPORT: The CAB Vice Chairperson Rob Johnson, gave the report on behalf of the Citizens Advisory Board. He reported that during the September 6th, 2024, meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board the meeting began with a moment of silence in recognition of the tragic shootings of the four passengers in Forest Park on the Blue Line. Afterwards the CAB Heard a presentation by Bill Mooney, CTA's Chief of Infrastructure on the Red Line Extension project. He reported that it was a very good presentation and that the discussion that followed was lively and informative. A lot of new information was shared by Mr. Mooney with the members.

After the presentation the CAB finalized a survey of the board members regarding their interests and which subcommittees they would like to serve on for the balance of their term. The four areas

that resonated most were: safety, service planning, service delivery and innovation.

The focus of the October 18, 2024, meeting was the 2025 budget. The CTA's Chief Finance Officer, Tom McKone presented the budget and was accompanied by Lisa Smith, the CTA's Budget Director and Jeff Overcash, the CTA's Vice President of Finance and Budget. The CAB members engaged in a very "healthy and spirited discussion."

A lot of the focus of the discussion was on safety and security. The CAB had questions about the increase in the budget line item for those areas, and beyond the impact of the increase in the budget the CAB had questions about other programming choices that could be made to bolster either the actual safety/security [of CTA's bus and rail service] or the perception of safety/security. Some of the other tools that were discussed were community-based tools like violence interrupters, transit ambassadors and a CTA dedicated transit police force that would impact the intergovernmental agreement that CTA has with the Chicago Police Department.

The other big item that was discussed was not the 2025 budget but the budget challenges that the CTA will be facing in 2026 and where the additional revenue will come from for that budget whether it be by the transit board, the state legislature, or a federal source.

That ended CAB Vice-Chairperson Johnson's report on behalf of the CAB.

Director Jha asked whether the CAB had any specific requests of the CTA Board? She also inquired whether they had a list of items that they are tracking or any recommendations?

Vice-Chairperson Johnson replied that the most specific, concrete "ask" was that CTA explore different programming options for safety and security. He stated that they would like to hear information about different options.

In response to the CAB report, Director Ortiz stated that the CAB and the CTA board are in alignment regarding their expressed opinions about safety and security.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Barclay advanced the agenda to Public Comments. Secretary Greenlee advised that the Board Office had received six (6) requests for public comments:

- Patricia Fuentes
- Diego Fruasto
- Michael Overstreet, Amalgamated Transit Union 308
- Antoine Trimuel, CTA employee / Union rep and Member of the CTA Bi-Partisan Safety Team

- Jeffrey Collord, Vice President of Operations of Haymarket Center and
- Sam Guardino, Director of the Homeless Outreach Program at Thresholds

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

CTA President Dorval Carter reported on service improvements that have been made as we draw close to the end of the calendar year. At the beginning of the year, he made commitments about what CTA was going to do with regards to service, both on bus and rail.

- CTA has recently added over 20 percent of board service hours to the rail system which puts us in line with a return to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2024.
- Rail service is more reliable and has reached 96% of our scheduled service on a regular basis.
- During the first four (4) weeks of the new fall rail schedule, CTA provided 93.2% of the scheduled service, which is comparable to 92.5% that was delivered in 2019 pre-pandemic.
- During the first four (4) weeks of the new fall rail schedule CTA delivered 1,920 average daily trips which is 41 more trips than the 1,879 average daily trips that were provided in 2019. This means that the agency is providing more service at the same level of reliability that was provided pre-pandemic.
- On the bus side there were commitments made which were achieved earlier in 2024.
- The agency has continued the hiring process and now is in a position to be fully staffed with bus service and bus operators.
- On the rail side by the end of the year the agency will reach the goal of hiring 200, or training 200 more additional rail operators to operate on CTA's system.
- The 2025 budget is going to continue to support adding additional rail service and bus service.
- The expansion of service alone with the capital budget and the improvements make 2025 a promising year for the agency.
- In 2025 the first phase of the RPM (Red Purple Modernization) will be finished.
- In 2025 construction of the Red Line Extension will begin.
- In 2025 the agency will construct the new Operations Control Learning Center and there will be an expansion of job opportunities from all of the [new] conductors who will be trained.

"All in all, it is an exciting time to be at CTA."

The President of CTA concluded his remarks.

- Chairman Barclay thanked President Carter for the budget process which can be challenging. He further thanked him for being receptive and responsive to the concerns that were raised during the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee Meeting, which was held prior to the Board

Meeting.

- The Chairman reiterated that the most critical issue facing CTA, as far as the board is concerned is security and safety. The board wants the passengers to feel safe. The board also wants CTA employees to feel safe.
- He thanked Tom McKone and CTA staff for adjusting the budget to reflect some pilot projects that will ensure this is brought to fruition.
- Chairman Barclay acknowledged the gains that have been made in ridership but concluded with stating that the board wants to see improvements in the area of security and will support both innovative things as well as practical strategies that make the system safer.

Following Chairman Barclay, Director Ortiz commended President Carter on the great milestones that he shared. She stated that said milestones were neither simple, nor were they small. She thanked everyone on the CTA team who worked on the milestones mentioned.

Director Jakes inquired to whom do CTA employees bring forth concerns so that it does not seem like their concerns are falling on deaf ears?

President Carter responded that CTA has a Joint Labor Committee, which is federally mandated for all transit agencies across the country. There are also town halls, rap sessions and other things that occur at CTA's facilities for the employees to talk about concerns. In many cases strategies that are implemented come out of these discussions with employees.

Director Requejo reiterated his concern that CTA look at the agency's human infrastructure and in-house capacity to engage the public. He is aware that we have an Equity and Engagement Officer and team. However, he thinks CTA needs to "double-down on those resources" to make sure the agency reaches out to all the partners who are banging at the door and saying that they want to be of assistance. He also queried what it would look like for CTA to have a proactive and inspiring, equitable transit-orientated development (ETOD) strategy?

President Carter said he would be happy to follow up with the board on an ETOD strategy. He stated that thus far CTA's ETOD strategy has been very project-focused on certain activities. There are tools needed from Springfield [legislative mandates] that would allow the CTA to engage in ETOD from a broader perspective and in a manner that may ensure financial stability for the agency in the future.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Executive Session was deferred to the December 2024 meeting.

BOARD MATTERS: There were no Board Matters.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, AUDIT AND BUDGET: The Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee report was presented by Director Bernard Jakes. The committee reviewed the monthly finance report and approved the October 9, 2024, FAB committee meeting minutes. Director Jakes stated that all Committee agenda items, listed on the Board agenda, were presented, reviewed, discussed, and recommended by the Committee, for Board approval. Director Jakes stated that all the approved committee items, 7 ordinances and 7 contracts, were placed on the omnibus for approval by the Board. Director Jakes concluded the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee report.

Director Ortiz moved that the omnibus be approved, and the motion was seconded by Director Jha. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

All approved November 13, 2024, Board ordinances are available online, at www.transitchicago.com, "Chicago Transit Board", "Board Ordinances", Ordinance numbers 024-141 to 024-153.

CONSTRUCTION REPORT: The Construction Report was given by Bill Mooney, IV, Chief Infrastructure Officer. He was joined by JuanPablo Prieto, Director of Diversity Programs.

CONSTRUCTION REPORT: The Construction Report was presented and can be found at: <https://www.transitchicago.com/board/presentations/>

There were questions following the presentation and discussion.

NEW BUSINESS: None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chairperson Barclay asked for a motion to adjourn the November 13, 2024, Chicago Transit Board meeting. After being moved by Director Ortiz and seconded by Director Jha, the motion was approved with six (6) yes votes and the meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

APPROVED: _____


Secretary of the CTA Board of Directors

Date: _____

12/11/2024