
Minutes

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MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE TRANSITION TO THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS TRANSIT AUTHORITY (NITA)

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Transition to NITA of the Board of Directors of the Regional Transportation Authority met on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, pursuant to notice. Director Kotarac [called the meeting to order](#) at 9:01 a.m.

Director Kotarac established the membership of the committee, with the following RTA Board members selected to serve:

- City of Chicago: Director Kotarac and Director Mondero
- Collar Counties: Director Sager

Director Kotarac will serve as Chairman of the committee.

Roll call – [watch video](#)

Committee members present: Kotarac, Mondero (remote), Sager

Also in attendance: CTA Chairman Lester Barclay and Acting President Nora Leerhsen; Pace Directors Noak, Smith, Wells, (all remote) and Executive Director Melinda Metzger; Metra Chairman Joseph McMahon (remote) and Directors Brown, Gordon, Shanahan, and CEO/Executive Director Jim Derwinski and Deputy Executive Director, External Affairs/Chief of Staff Janice R. Thomas; RTA Directors Coulson, Gorman, Retondo, Ross, and Sanoica (all remote) and Chairman Dillard and Director Jenkins.

Public Comment – [watch video](#)

There were no public comments submitted for this meeting.

Transition Report – [watch video](#)

Maulik Vaishnav, Chief Transition Officer, presented an update on the progress of the transition to NITA.

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Metra Director Gordon, Ms. Thomas, RTA Directors Kotarac, Sager, and Chairman Dillard provided comments or questions after the presentation.

2027 Budget Process and Proposed Public Funding Update – [watch video](#)

Tom McKone, Chief Financial Officer and Maulik Vaishnav, Senior Deputy Executive Director, Planning and Capital Programming, presented an update on the 2027 Budget process in alignment with the NITA Act and discussed available regional public funding for operating and capital budgets with proposals for allocating funds to NITA, CTA, Metra, and Pace.

Metra Chairman McMahon, Director Gordon, and CEO/Executive Director Derwinski, RTA Directors Kotarac, Sager, Chairman Dillard, Pace Executive Director Metzger, and CTA Acting President Leerhsen, provided comments or questions after the presentation.

Transit Supportive Land-use Provisions in the NITA Act – [watch video](#)

Heather Mullins, Division Manager, Local Planning and Program Management, presented the work done so far on the joint development program, other land-use projects, and reviewed the transit supportive land-use provisions outlined for NITA, including the People Over Parking Act requirements.

RTA Directors Kotarac, Sager, and Chairman Dillard, Mr. Vaishnav, CTA Chairman Barclay, Acting President Leerhsen, Pace Executive Director Metzger, Director Noak, and Metra CEO/Executive Director Derwinski, Ms. Thomas, Directors Shanahan, Gordon, and Brown provided comments or questions after the presentation.

New Business – [watch video](#)

There was no other business brought to the committee.

ADJOURNMENT – [watch video](#)

There being no further business to come before the Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Directors Meeting, Director Sager moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn.

The motion carried on the following voice vote:

3 Ayes: Kotarac, Mondero, Sager

The Committee meeting ended at 10:53 a.m.

Joey-Lin Silberhorn

Joey-Lin Silberhorn
Secretary of the Authority