
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 Thursday, August 13, 2026, pursuant to notice. Director Kotarac called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Roll call – watch video

Committee members present: Kotarac, Sager

Also in attendance: CTA Chairman Lester Barclay and Acting President Nora Leerhsen; Pace Directors Smith, Noak (remote), Wells (remote) and Executive Director Melinda Metzger; Metra Chairman Joseph McMahon (remote) and Directors Brown, Gordon, Shanahan, and CEO/Executive Director Jim Derwinski; RTA Directors Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Retondo, and Sanoica (all remote) and Chairman Dillard and Director Ryan.

Approval of minutes from the meeting held July 22, 2026 – watch video

There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Director Sager moved, and Director Kotarac seconded that the minutes from the public meeting held on July 22, 2026, be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

2 Ayes: Kotarac and Sager

1 Absent: Mondero

Director Mondero arrived after the vote.

Public Comment – watch video

There was one letter from Elevated Chicago read into the record, and four people who made a public comment in person: Amy Rynell, Audrey Wennink, Kyle Lucas, and Keith Hill.

Transition Report – watch video

Maulik Vaishnav, Chief Transition Officer, presented an update on the progress of the transition to NITA, including branding and early NITA engagements.

RTA Chairman Dillard provided comments or questions after the presentation.

NITA Act's Requirements for Transit Safety and Customer Experience – watch video

Mr. Vaishnav presented an update on the various transit public safety requirements and timelines included in the NITA Act, including the law enforcement taskforce, coordinated safety response council, transit ambassadors, and NITA's new office of transit safety and experience.

Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart and Brad Curry, Chief of Staff and Yvette Loizon, Cook County State's Attorney Office also presented.

RTA Chairman Dillard, Directors Ryan, Kotarac, Mondero, CTA Acting President Leerhsen, Chairman Barclay, Metra Directors Shanahan and Brown, and Chicago Police Department Commander Albert O'Seguera provided comments or questions after the presentation.

Current State of Public Safety on the Transit Network – watch video

Mr. Vaishnav, CTA Acting President Leerhsen and Chief Security Officer Joe Bird, Metra CEO/Executive Director Derwinski and Chief of Police Daniel O'Shea, and Pace Executive Director Melinda Metzger and Chief Operating Officer Lindsey Umek presented rider survey sentiment on transit, the current protocols and processes to respond to quality of life and public safety issues on CTA, Metra, and Pace, and the status of new initiatives and pilots to reduce crime and improve rider experience.

RTA Directors Kotarac, Ryan, Sager, and Mondero, CTA Acting President Leerhsen and Mr. Bird, Metra Directors Gordon and Shanahan, Executive Director Metzger, and Commander O'Seguera provided comments or questions after the presentation.

New Business – watch video

There was no other business brought to the committee. The next Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, August 26 at 9:00 a.m.

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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 11:59 a.m.

Joey-Lin Silberhorn

Joey-Lin Silberhorn
Secretary of the Authority