
Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Transition to NITA

August 26, 2026

Welcome! Meeting Starts at 9am

Meeting Agenda

<https://www.rtachicago.org/about-rta/boards-and-committees/meeting-materials>



Ad Hoc Committee on NITA Transition

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of minutes from August 13, 2026
4. Public comment

5. NITA Transition Report



NITA's 20 Board Members

Shared Appointments with: *: CTA **: Pace *** : Metra

<u>Governor</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Cook</u>	<u>DuPage:</u> David Pileski**
Nedra Sims Fears*	Oswaldo Alvarez*	Tom Kotarac*	<u>Kane:</u> Brian Dahl**
Rosa Ortiz**	Lester Barclay*	Rory Hoskins**	<u>Lake:</u> Gary Gordon***
Bashir Qaasim***	Natasha Jenkins**	Luis Montgomery**	<u>McHenry:</u> Brian Sager***
Nirali Shah	Dennis Mondero***	Romayne Brown***	<u>Will:</u> John Noak**
Vanessa Uribe	Dee Atkins	Diane Williams***	

NITA Transition Consultant: 2026 Work Plan



6. Information Items

6a. Best Practices in Governance to Deliver NITA Act's Vision



NITA Board's Governance Opportunity

- **NITA starts with an unusual combination of broad regional authority and a clean slate** creating an opportunity to rethink how decisions are made across the region.
- **Realizing that potential will require intentional evolution** to change funding, capital and decision-making approaches that support a more integrated regional system.
- **Decisions made** in the next 12-18 months will chart the course to determine if NITA becomes a national model in transit governance.

NITA Board's Three Decision-Making Pathways

1

NITA Board decides directly, with required consultation

- Executive Director appointment
- Strategic Plan
- Service standards
- Operating funding allocation
- Fare structure
- Regional public safety strategy

2

NITA sets the framework, Service Boards provide proposals, NITA Board decides

- Regionwide Service Plan
- 5-Year Capital Program
- Budget and financial plan

3

Service Board decides or executes, with NITA oversight or approval

- Day-to-day operations, staffing, training, maintenance
- Employment contracts and Service Board ED appointment

Key Items for Discussion

- **Grounding principles for effective decision making**
 - Decide for the region, not a single service area
 - Focus on a small set of outcomes and act when performance falls short
 - Use committees to deepen the work, not duplicate the Board
 - Revisit the governance model as responsibilities evolve

Committees and Councils

Required:

- Safety
- ADA Advisory Council
- Rider Advisory Council
- Transition Working Group

At Board's Discretion:

- Finance and Audit
- Service & Fares
- Capital Planning & Delivery
- Executive Committee

September Board Decisions

- **NITA Board should meet first, setting a clear agenda for the regional transit system**
 - Elect a Chair
 - Propose/adopt by-laws
 - Form committees
 - Advance executive search process
 - Approve key policy items with immediate deadlines or new responsibilities

2026 Board Calendar for Discussion

					
September		Between Sep 1- Sep 10	Wed Sep 16	Wed Sep 16	Wed Sep 16
October		Thu Oct 15	Wed Oct 21	Wed Oct 21	Wed Oct 21
November	Regional Budget				
December					

7. New Business



Adjournment

Appendix



The act expands NITA's mandate across six key areas



One network, one timetable, one ticket

NITA sets fares, schedules, and fare collection so six counties operate as a single network for riders¹



Safety and customer experience

NITA sets regional safety standards and leads a transit ambassador program⁴



Funding and capital programming

NITA controls the regional budget and capital program, and shifts allocations toward service-based allocation²



Accessibility and language access

NITA must expand access for riders with disabilities and non-English speakers⁵



Strategy and service planning

NITA sets the strategic plan and, from 2029, Service Boards operate to NITA's service plan³



Transit-supportive development

NITA gains power to acquire, build, own, and operate development near stations and routes⁶

Principles behind proposed governance structure

1

Start with what the statute requires

- The ADA and Riders Advisory Councils, and the Safety Committee

2

Add standing committees where NITA holds decision rights

- Budget, capital program, service standards and fares

3

Use peer transit boards as a cross-check

- Across eight benchmarked authorities,¹ Finance appears in all eight, Audit and Capital in five

4

Consolidate adjacent responsibilities

- Combine Finance and Audit into a single committee

Board benchmarking

Most prevalent committees are Finance, Audit, Capital

	#	Governance	HR	Finance	Audit	Capital	Operations	Safety	Divisions	Other committees
Direct Operators										
MTA	10	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	Diversity
SEPTA	4			✓			✓			Admin; Pension
WMATA	3			✓ ^d		✓ ^d	✓ ^e	✓ ^e		Exec. (ethics; officer review)
Regional Coordinating Authorities										
GTEA	5			✓			✓			Comms; Admin; Regional Tech; Regional Transit Planning
ARTM	4	✓ ^a	✓ ^a	✓ ^b	✓ ^b	✓ ^c				Tech ^c ; Ethics ^a ; Service quality
Integrated Regional Authorities										
TfL	7		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Land & Property
Metrolinx	5	✓ ^h	✓ ^h	✓ ⁱ	✓ ⁱ	✓			✓	Risk Mgmt ⁱ ; Real Est.; Customer, Community & Payments
TransLink	4	✓ ^f	✓ ^f	✓ ^g	✓ ^g					Planning, Communities & Comms; IT



Note: Matching superscript letters = one combined committee spanning multiple functions. Board committees only; citizen and advisory bodies excluded. Names simplified; lists may not be exhaustive. WMATA's Exec. Cttee doubles as Ethics Cttee and handles GM/Secretary/IG appointment and review (audit via OIG). MTA has no agency-wide Ops cttee; ops oversight sits in its four divisional cttees. GTEA was created by GA HB 297 (12 May 2026), dissolving GRTA and recasting the ATL; board cut 16→13 and structure may still be in transition. TfL restructured cttees and panels eff. 9 Sep 2024.
Sources: Agency governance pages, bylaws, board manuals and 2026 committee calendars; GA HB 297. As of Aug 2026

Balance representation and expertise on committees

Guiding principles for all committees

- 1 Design committees to produce regional decisions, not to represent constituencies
- 2 Balance representation across appointing authorities so every part of the region can trust the outcome
- 3 Avoid concentrating members who also serve on a single Service Board in any one committee
- 4 Match members' professional expertise to the decisions the committee owns
- 5 Keep committees as small as practical, subject to statutory requirements

Safety Subcommittee

Rider and workforce safety;
policing and social services;
incident and performance data

Finance and Audit

Public finance and budgeting;
audit, controls and independent oversight

Capital Planning and Delivery

Large capital programs;
construction delivery
and procurement

Service Standards and Fares

Service planning; fare policy;
rider experience