
Minutes

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

The Board of Directors of the Regional Transportation Authority met on Thursday, June 12, 2025, pursuant to notice. Chairman Dillard called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. He then recited the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call – [watch video](#)

Board members present (13): Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Gathing, Sager

Approval of minutes from the meetings held on May 15, 2025 – [watch video](#)

No questions or comments from RTA Board members.

Director Lewis moved, and Director Groven seconded that the minutes from the public meeting held on May 15, 2025, be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

13 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Gathing, Sager

Public Comment – [watch video](#)

Juan Sebastian Arias submitted a written comment, and Dany Robles and Derek James provided public comment.

Director Gorman asked a question or provided a comment.

Executive Director's Report – [watch video](#)

Executive Director Leanne Redden provided an update on the fiscal cliff funding and legislation, federal legislative news, and the Section 5310 public comment period.

Chairman Dillard asked questions or provided comments following the report.

Presentation of the Semi-Annual Project Management Oversight Report – [watch video](#)

Violet Gunka Gurgul, Division Manager, Project Management, Oversight and Compliance, presented the semi-annual Project Management Oversight (PMO) report. The RTA PMO program performs project oversight for Service Board capital development efforts.

Transit is the Answer Update – [watch video](#)

Rob Nash, Director, Government Affairs, and Sarah Rubino, Principal Analyst, Budget and Treasury, provided a state legislative update, presented the federal legislative agenda, and the monthly financials.

Directors Coulson Gorman, Ryan, Kotarac, and Lewis asked questions or provided comments following the presentation.

Approval of Letters of Understanding with Indiana and Wisconsin for the 2025 Federal Funding Allocations and Amendment of the 2025-2029 Capital Program – [watch video](#)

Mary Ireland, Senior Analyst, Capital Programs and Brian Lowenberg, Manager, Capital Programs, presented two ordinances: the first proposed ordinance approved the attachments to the 2025 Federal Funding Allocation Agreements between Northeastern Illinois, Northwestern Indiana, and Southeastern Wisconsin and the second incorporated changes in projects, program revenue, and expenses for CTA, Pace, and Metra.

Director Lewis moved, and Director Mondero seconded that the proposed ordinances be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

13 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Gathing, Sager

ADA Paratransit Action Plan and 2025 Funding Options – [watch video](#)

Kevin Bueso, Chief Financial Officer, Doug Anderson, Manager, Budget and Business Analysis, Peter Kersten, Manager, Strategy and Policy, and Maulik Vaishnav, Senior Deputy Executive Director, Planning and Capital Programming, presented an ordinance to approve an Action Plan of proposed changes to the ADA Paratransit program and to authorize options for ADA Paratransit funding and budget amendments which will become necessary later this year.

Directors Carey, Mondero, Kotarac, Jenkins, Ryan, Ross, Gorman, Groven, and Executive Director Redden asked questions or provided comments following the presentation.

Director Mondero moved, and Director Kotarac seconded, removing Item 2 from the ordinance.

Director Mondero moved, and Director Kotarac seconded that the proposed ordinance be approved with the language removed. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

13 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Gathing, Sager

Ordinance Approving the 2026 Budget Call for the Annual Operating Budget, Two-Year Financial Plan, and Five-Year Capital Program– [watch video](#)

Mr. Bueso, Mr. Vaishnav, and Mr. Anderson, presented an ordinance that approved and released the 2026 Budget and Capital Program Call (the “Budget Call”). The Budget Call defines the schedule and information requirements that the Service Boards must follow for the development of the 2026 Budget, which includes the 2026 Operating Budget, 2027-2028 Two-Year Financial Plan, and 2026-2030 Five-Year Capital Program.

Directors Lewis, Carey, Mondero, Kotarac, and Mr. Bueso, Mr. Vaishnav, and Mr. Anderson asked questions or provided comments following the presentation.

Director Ross moved, and Director Yonan seconded that the proposed ordinances be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

13 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Gathing, Sager

Ordinance approving and releasing the RTA 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

Ordinance approving the Combining Financial Report and certifying compliance with the RTA Act recovery ratio requirement for 2024 – [watch video](#)

John Yu, Controller, and Bill Sarb, Partner, RSM and Maria Prado, Partner, Prado and Renteria, presented two ordinances. The first approved and released the RTA 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The second ordinance approved the 2024 Combining Financial Report for the RTA and the Service Boards and certified compliance with the RTA Act recovery ratio requirement for 2023.

Chairman Dillard asked questions or provided comments following the presentation.

For the ACFR, Director Carey moved, and Director Yonan seconded that the proposed ordinance be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

13 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Gathing, Sager

For the Combining Report, Director Groven moved, and Director Ryan seconded that the proposed ordinance be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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13 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Gathing, Sager

Contracts/Expenditure Items – [watch video](#)

Director Lewis moved, and Director Kotarac seconded the adoption of the following ordinances, as well as the approval of Board travel expenditures as submitted:

Ordinance Authorizing a Contract for RTA Joint Development Study

Ordinance authorizing a contract for professional services for Human Services Transportation Plan Update

Approval of travel expense reimbursement

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

13 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Gathing, Sager

New Business – [watch video](#)

Chairman Dillard announced the next RTA Board of Directors meeting is Thursday, July 24, at 9:00 a.m. He also announced the possibility of a special meeting on July 9, at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT – [watch video](#)

There being no further business to come before the public session of the Board, Chairman Dillard asked the Secretary to the Authority to cite the exceptions for the closed session. Ms. Silberhorn recited IOMA Section 2(c)(21).

Director Gorman then moved, and Director Carey seconded that the meeting move into Executive Session and adjourn from there.

The motion carried on the following voice vote:

13 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

The Board meeting ended at 12:31 p.m.

Joey-Lin Silberhorn

Joey-Lin Silberhorn
Secretary of the Authority