Regional Transportation Authority

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, May 15, 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 (12): Carey, Coulson, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Mondero, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

4 Absent: Gathing, Lewis, Pang, Sager

Approval of minutes from the meetings held on April 17, 2025 – watch video

No questions or comments from RTA Board members.

Director Retondo moved, and Director Yonan seconded that the minutes from the public meeting held on April 17, 2025, be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

4 Absent: Gathing, Lewis, Pang, Sager

Public Comment – watch video

There were no public comments.

Executive Director's Report – watch video

Executive Director Leanne Redden provided an update on the bond series sale and a brief Federal legislative update.

Chairman Dillard asked questions or provided comments following the report.

Update on the activities of the RTA Transit Access Citizens' Advisory Board – watch video

Ryan Ruehle, the new Chairperson of the RTA Citizens' Advisory Board, provided an update on the work of the Board.

Presentation of the 2024 Community Planning Program of Projects – watch video

Michael Horsting, Manager, Local Programs, presented the nine projects selected as part of the RTA Community Planning program.

Directors Yonan and Ross asked questions or provided comments following the presentation.

Capital Programming Update: 2025 Asset Condition Report and Performance-Based Allocation Process – watch video

Maulik Vaishnav, Senior Deputy Executive Director, Planning and Capital Programming, Evan Laugen, Strategic Analyst, Strategic Planning, and Brian Lowenberg, Manager, Capital Programs, provided an overview of regional capital programming and funding allocation, an update on the 2025 Capital Asset Condition Report, and sought feedback on staff's development of an amendment to the 2021 Performance-Based Capital Allocation structure that details proposals to update the allocation methodology for set-aside funds and a policy to determine the use and distribution of any set-aside funds.

Directors Kotarac, Carey, Yonan, Ross, and Executive Director Redden asked questions or provided comments following the presentation.

Transit is the Answer Update – watch video

Tina Fassett Smith, Director, Communications, and Rob Nash, Director, Government Affairs, provided a communications and legislative update.

Directors Mondero, Kotarac, Gorman, and Chairman Dillard asked questions or provided comments following the presentation.

Resolutions certifying Financial results – First Quarter 2025 – watch video

Mr. Vaishnav, and Sarah Rubino, Principal Analyst, Budget and Treasury, presented resolutions certifying the operating financial results of CTA, Metra, Pace Suburban Service, and the Region as a whole, through the first quarter of 2025, and are in substantial accordance with the budget adopted on December 19, 2024. ADA Paratransit, was 1.6 percentage points unfavorable to budget.

Directors Mondero, Kotarac, Ryan, Groven, and Chairman Dillard asked questions or provided comments following the presentation.

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

14 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gathing, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Mondero, Pang, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Lewis, Sager

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ADA Paratransit 2024 Funding Amendment – watch video

Doug Anderson, Manager, Budget and Business Analysis, Michael VanDekreke, Director, Mobility Services, and Peter Kersten, Manager, Strategy and Policy, presented a proposed ordinance that amends the 2024 RTA operating funding amount for Pace ADA Paratransit and requires an Action Plan to mitigate future ADA funding shortfalls, and authorizes an additional $25.5 million for 2024 ADA Paratransit operations requested by Pace to be funded from the RTA's ADA Paratransit Reserve. The proposed ordinance also requires that the RTA and Pace develop a joint Action Plan to review the ADA Paratransit certification process and ADA Paratransit operations and recommend potential changes.

Directors Coulson, Gorman, Gathing, Kotarac, Mondero, and Chairman Dillard asked questions or provided comments following the presentation.

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

14 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gathing, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Mondero, Pang, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Lewis, Sager

Contracts/Expenditure Items – watch video

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

Ordinance authorizing a contract for RTA Fare Programs Administration

Ordinance authorizing the purchase of excess liability insurance coverage by the RTA's Loss Financing Plan/Joint Self-Insurance Fund

Approval of travel expense reimbursement

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

14 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gathing, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Mondero, Pang, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Lewis, Sager

New Business – watch video

Chairman Dillard announced the next RTA Board of Directors meeting is Thursday, June 12, at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT – watch video

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors Meeting, Director Groven moved and Director Ryan seconded that the meeting adjourn.

The motion carried on the following voice vote:

14 Ayes: Carey, Coulson, Gathing, Gorman, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Mondero, Pang, Retondo, Ross, Ryan, Yonan, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Lewis, Sager

The Board meeting ended at 11:25 a.m.

Joey-Lin Silberhorn

Joey-Lin Silberhorn
Secretary of the Authority