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, December 18, 2025, pursuant to notice. Chairman Dillard called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. He then recited the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call – watch video

Board members present (12): Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Groven, Kotarac, Mondero, Retondo (remote), Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

4 Absent: Gorman, Jenkins, Lewis, Ross

Approval of minutes from the meeting held November 20, 2025 – watch video

There were no questions or comments from RTA Board members.

Director Walker moved, and Director Groven seconded that the minutes from the public meeting held on November 20, 2025, be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

12 Ayes: Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Groven, Kotarac, Mondero, Retondo (remote), Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

4 Absent: Gorman, Jenkins, Lewis, Ross

Director Jenkins arrived after the vote.

Public Comment – watch video

There were no public comments submitted for this meeting.

Executive Director's Report – watch video

Executive Director Leanne Redden provided an update on the customer panel survey and a legislative update.

Director Lewis arrived after the report.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 15, 2026

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

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

Presentation of the Semi-Annual Project Management Oversight Report – watch video

AJ Nazem, Program Manager, Oversight Programs, presented on the semi-annual Project Management Oversight (PMO) report. The RTA PMO program performs project oversight for Service Board capital projects.

Directors Kotarac, Mondero, Lewis, Sager, Carey, and Chairman Dillard asked questions or provided comments.

Ordinance authorizing the amendment of the 2025-2029 Capital Program – watch video

Tara O'Malley, Principal Analyst, Capital Programs, presented an ordinance that recommends amending the 2025-2029 capital program.

Directors Alvarez, Mondero, and Sager asked questions or provided comments.

Director Sanoica motioned, and Director Walker seconded that the expenses be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

14 Ayes: Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo (remote), Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Gorman, Ross

Ordinance authorizing the amendment of the 2025 ADA Paratransit budget and the 2025 Regional operating budget – watch video

Doug Anderson, Manager, Budget and Business Analysis, presented ordinance recommends to amend the 2025 Pace ADA Paratransit operating budget, which increases projected ADA Paratransit expenses and incorporates the funding solution approved by the Board with the August ADA Paratransit funding amendment. Peter Kersten, Manager, Division Manager, Regional Planning answered questions.

Directors Groven, Mondero, Alvarez, and Carey asked questions or provided comments.

Director Carey motioned, and Director Sanoica seconded that the expenses be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

14 Ayes: Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo (remote), Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Gorman, Ross

Resolutions certifying Financial results - Third Quarter 2025 and Quarterly Performance measures – watch video

Maulik Vaishnav, Senior Deputy Executive Director, Planning and Capital Programming, and Sarah Rubino, Principal Analyst, Budget and Treasury, presented on the quarterly performance measures and resolutions that recommended certifying that the operating financial results of CTA, Metra, Pace Suburban Service, ADA Paratransit and the Region as a whole, through the third quarter of 2025, are in substantial accordance with budget.

Directors Walker, Lewis, Mondero, Carey, and Kotarac asked questions or provided comments.

Director Groven motioned, and Director Lewis seconded that the expenses be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

14 Ayes: Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo (remote), Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

4 Absent: Gorman, Ross

Ordinance Adopting the 2026 Budgets, 2027-2028 Financial Plans, and 2026-2030 Capital Programs of the Service Boards and Authority and Appropriating Funds for the 2026 Budgets – watch video

Kevin Bueso, Chief Financial Officer, and William Lachman, Treasurer, Budget and Financial Manager, presented the ordinance that recommended to adopt the 2026 Operating Budgets, 2027-2028 Financial Plans, and 2026-2030 Capital Programs of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra, Pace, and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

Directors Lewis, Coulson, Kotarac, Alvarez, and Sager asked questions or provided comments.

Director Sanoica motioned, and Director Alvarez seconded that the expenses be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

13 Ayes: Alvarez, Carey, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo (remote), Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

1 Nay: Coulson

2 Absent: Gorman, Ross

Resolution Amending RTA Board meeting schedule – watch video

Director Walker motioned, and Director Mondero seconded that the expenses be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

14 Ayes: Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo (remote), Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Gorman, Ross

Approval of travel expense reimbursement – watch video

Director Sager motioned, and Director Lewis seconded that the expenses be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

14 Ayes: Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo (remote), Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Gorman, Ross

New Business – watch video

Chairman Dillard announced the next RTA Board of Directors meeting is Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Directors Kotarac and Carey had comments.

ADJOURNMENT – watch video

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

The motion carried on the following voice vote:

14 Ayes: Alvarez, Carey, Coulson, Groven, Jenkins, Kotarac, Lewis, Mondero, Retondo (remote), Ryan, Sager, Sanoica, Walker, and Chairman Dillard

2 Absent: Gorman, Ross

The Board meeting ended at 11:39 a.m.

Joey-Lin Silberhorn

Joey-Lin Silberhorn
Secretary of the Authority