NITA
NORTHERN ILLINOIS TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The Board of Directors of the Northern Illinois Transit Authority met on Thursday, September 10, 2026, pursuant to notice. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. Everyone then recited the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call – watch video

Board members present (19): Alvarez, Atkins, Barclay, Brown, Dahl, Fears, Gordon, Hoskins, Kotarac, Mondero, Montgomery, Noak, Ortiz, Pileski (remote), Qaasim, Sager, Shah, Uribe (remote), Williams

1 Absent - Jenkins

Board member oath – watch video

Director Sager asked the Board members to recite an oath to commemorate their new positions as the NITA Board.

Remarks from Regional Leaders and Distinguished Guests on the occasion of the first NITA Board – watch video

Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle, Senator Ram Villivalam, Representative Eva-Dina Delgado, Representative Kam Buckner, Deputy Governor Bria Scudder, Mayor Johnson Chief of Staff Cristina Pacione-Zayas, Lake County Chair Sandy Hart, Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Gia Biagi, DuPage County Chair Deb Conroy, and Kane County Chair Corrine Pierog as read by Chief of Planning & Programming/Executive Director of Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors Heidi Files provided remarks on the inaugural meeting of the Board.

Director Jenkins arrived during the beginning of the remarks.

Introduction of the new Board Members – watch video

The 20 new Board Members introduced themselves and provided a brief bio and introduction.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 15, 2026

Appointment of Chair of the NITA Board of Directors – watch video

Director Tom Kotarac was nominated by Director Noak, and seconded by Director Sager.

Directors Mondero, Alvarez, Williams, and Montgomery provided comments or asked questions.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

19 Ayes: Alvarez, Atkins, Barclay, Brown, Dahl, Fears, Gordon, Hoskins, Jenkins, Mondero, Montgomery, Noak, Ortiz, Pileski (remote), Qaasim, Sager, Shah, Uribe (remote), Williams

1 Abstain - Kotarac

Director Kotarac was named the new Chair of the NITA Board and made comments.

Director Sager asked Senator Villivalam to recite the oath of office for Chair Kotarac.

Executive Session – watch video

Chair Kotarac asked Allison Noback, NITA General Counsel, to cite the exception for the closed session. Ms. Noback recited IOMA Section 2(c)(1).

Director Noak moved, and Director Brown seconded that the meeting move into Executive Session, and then return to the regular public session.

20 Ayes: Alvarez, Atkins, Barclay, Brown, Dahl, Fears, Gordon, Hoskins, Jenkins, Kotarac, Mondero, Montgomery, Noak, Ortiz, Pileski, Qaasim, Sager, Shah, Uribe, Williams

The Executive Session began at 10:38 a.m. and ended at 12:04 p.m.

Vote on the Appointment of an Interim Executive Director – watch video

The Secretary read the ordinance for appointing the Interim Executive Director.

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

Director Noak moved, and Director Williams seconded, that the ordinance be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

19 Ayes: Atkins, Barclay, Brown, Dahl, Fears, Gordon, Hoskins, Jenkins, Kotarac, Mondero, Montgomery, Noak, Ortiz, Pileski, Qaasim, Sager, Shah, Uribe, Williams

1 Nay: Alvarez

Interim Executive Director Jamie Rhee made comments following the vote.

Public Comment – watch video

Six people made public comments in-person: Ebony Henderson, Renee Taylor-Reeves, Kyle Lucas, Alishia Yarbrough, Adam Mack, W. Robert Schultz III, and Brian Gill.

Chief Transition Officer Report – **watch video**

Maulik Vaishnav, Chief Transition Officer, provided an overview of the Northern Illinois Transit Authority Act and identified near-term deadlines and updates.

Chair Kotarac provided comments.

Governance of the NITA Board – watch video

Parth Doshi, BCG, Ms. Noback, and Mr. Vaishnav presented an overview of the governance options for NITA, and discussed the formation of committees and future adoption of the NITA Board Bylaws.

Directors Noak, Fears, Williams, Montgomery, Chair Kotarac, and Sager asked questions or provided questions.

People over Parking Act (POPA) Map – watch video

Heather Mullins, Division Manager, Local Planning and Program Management, presented the draft map and methodology for the implementation of POPA.

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

Ordinance approving the creation of a Board Committee on Governance and Bylaws – watch video

Ms. Noback presented an overview of the Governance Committee. The four Board members appointed to the committee were: Natasha Jenkins, Rosa Y. Ortiz, David Pileski, and Diane Williams.

Directors Sager, Noak, Gordon, Pileski, Alvarez, and Ortiz asked questions or provided comments.

Director Sager moved, and Director Barclay seconded, that the resolutions be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

20 Ayes: Alvarez, Atkins, Barclay, Brown, Dahl, Fears, Gordon, Hoskins, Jenkins, Kotarac, Mondero, Montgomery, Noak, Ortiz, Pileski, Qaasim, Sager, Shah, Uribe, Williams

Ordinance authorizing approval of NITA's regional fare structure and rates, including the approval of fare pilots for a more seamless and affordable fare policy – watch video

Peter Kersten, Division Manager, Regional Planning, presented an ordinance that formalized the regional fare structure, with no changes to the current regular fares offered by CTA, Metra, and Pace, as well as approved two pilot special fare programs: streamlined student fares between CTA and Pace, and region-wide expansion of the Access Program currently offered to Metra riders.

Directors Williams, Alvarez, Chair Kotarac, and Sager sked questions or provided comments.

Director Noak moved, and Director Dahl seconded, that the ordinance be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

20 Ayes: Alvarez, Atkins, Barclay, Brown, Dahl, Fears, Gordon, Hoskins, Jenkins, Kotarac, Mondero, Montgomery, Noak, Ortiz, Pileski, Qaasim, Sager, Shah, Uribe, Williams

Approval of the National Executive Search Process for the permanent Executive Director of Northern Illinois Transit Authority – watch video

Mr. Vaishnav presented an overview of the national search for the permanent Executive Director.

Directors Mondero, Chair Kotarac, Gordon, Ortiz, and Uribe asked questions or provided comments.

Director Hoskins moved, and Director Noak seconded, that the ordinance be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

18 Ayes: Alvarez, Atkins, Barclay, Brown, Dahl, Fears, Gordon, Hoskins, Kotarac, Mondero, Montgomery, Noak, Ortiz, Pileski, Sager, Shah, Uribe, Williams

2 Absent: Jenkins, Qaasim

Approval of travel expense reimbursement(s) – watch video

Director Noak moved, and Director Dahl seconded, that the expenses be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following voice vote:

19 Ayes: Alvarez, Atkins, Barclay, Dahl, Fears, Gordon, Hoskins, Jenkins, Kotarac, Mondero, Montgomery, Noak, Ortiz, Pileski, Qaasim, Sager, Shah, Uribe, Williams

1 Abstain: Brown

New Business – watch video

Chair Kotarac announced the next NITA Board meeting is Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT – watch video

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

The motion carried on the following voice vote:

20 Ayes: Alvarez, Atkins, Barclay, Brown, Dahl, Fears, Gordon, Hoskins, Jenkins, Kotarac, Mondero, Montgomery, Noak, Ortiz, Pileski, Qaasim, Sager, Shah, Uribe, Williams

The Board meeting ended at 1:50 p.m.

Joey-Lin Silberhorn

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Secretary of the Authority