

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF Monday November 21, 2016

Board Members Present: Mr. Wayne Kezirian; Director Peter Alviti; Maureen Martin; Princess Sirleaf Bomba; Christian Capizzo; and Stephanie Ogidan Preston

Absent: Joshua Brumberger; Karen A. Santilli; and Mark Susa

Also Present: Raymond Studley, CEO; Benjamin Salzillo, Christian Capizzo, Malkia Brown, Cyndi Mason, Recording Secretary; and other members of RIPTA's staff, and members of the public.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the October 17,2016 Board Minutes

Mr. Alviti makes a motion to approve the October 17, 2016 Board meeting minutes as presented, Ms. Preston seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment

Mr. Arthur Morelli of RIPTA Riders Alliance discusses concern over Kennedy Plaza being poorly lit and shutting its doors at 7pm, putting its bus riders out in the cold and vulnerable to crime. Mr. Morelli says New York Metropolitan Transit Authority has doubled evening ridership and decreased crime by 87%, by having well lit waiting areas, access to intercoms and cameras. The Alex and Ani Skating Rink is a perfect fit for thousands of people who haven't been taking a bus.

Mr. Charlie Feldman of MHCA-RI Oasis discusses concern over the No Fare Program for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities no longer being available. The program has provided transportation to important appointments, helping individuals maintain their quality of life, which may also result in recovery.

Mr. Bill Flynn of Senior Agenda Coalition discusses concern over eliminating the No Fare Program for Seniors. Research shows isolation is the greatest single factor that threatens seniors' health and longevity. He asks the board to continue the program and look closely at the human cost of removing it, which will cause social exclusion for seniors.

Mr. Don Rhodes of RIPTA Riders Alliance discusses the promptness of the RIPTA Bus Pass/ID resolution: people could go to Elmwood Avenue or to Kennedy Plaza two days a week. North Providence Fitness Center received Kennedy Plaza blue bags from RIPTA which is given to the Special Needs Classes that swim at the facility. He discusses concern over the times the terminals in downtown Providence are open. With cold weather approaching for bus passengers, he feels it should be open during the time buses are in service. Lamar has taken responsibility of maintaining twenty-five shelters during the winter the past two years. He hopes they take responsibility over the shelters again this year.

Mr. Thomas Cute of ATU Local 618 wishes the Board a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

Ms. Cecile Sherman a Citizen/RIPTA Rider discusses concern over safety issues for the elderly and mothers with infants standing while other passengers sit, on the 19/17 line. She submitted a complaint regarding an elderly man who almost fell the other day. Ms. Sherman would like drivers to communicate with passengers about allowing elderly and mothers with infants a seat. She requests more runs be available for 19/17 line during the day.

Mr. Ray Gagne of RI Organizing Project discusses concerns over eliminating the No Fare Program on January 1, 2017, because there are 34,000 people in the state of RI that are elderly and disabled, that make less than eight hundred dollars a month.

Ms. Lee Ann Byrne of RI Coalition for the Homeless speaks about increasing fares for the buses which begins on January 1, 2017, because of the extreme poverty of the elderly and disabled.

Mr. Randall Ross of RIPTA Rider Alliance discusses concern over the No Fare Program changes, which will lead to isolation. He asks the RIPTA Board not to obstruct access to this program.

Agenda Item 3: CEO's Report

Mr. Studley discusses updates on customer service hours in Kennedy Plaza, Elmwood Avenue, Outreach Disability and Senior Centers for ID's, as well as pedestrian improvements in Kennedy Plaza. He presents a PowerPoint concerning the Pro Turn Alert Turning System, and a review of American Bus Benchmarking Group (ABBG) data.

Mr. Studley, CEO and Director Alviti, Board member, discuss questions regarding the American Bus Benchmarking Group (ABBG) data.

Agenda Item 4: Contract for Sole Source Award: Protran Technology Safe Turn Alert

Mr. Alviti requests an explanation of where this item will fall in the budget. Mr. Kezirian explains total cost and advises this is already in the budget for this particular system. Motion is approved by Mr. Alviti, and Ms. Preston seconds.

Agenda Item 5: Consideration of Approval of Board Meeting Schedule for 2017.

Mr. Alviti chooses to pass on this item. He advised the bylaws state a requirement to meet once per quarter. Will provide a report with an update for the next meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Consideration of Approval of Newport Transportation and Visitor's Center

Ms. Picchione presents this item for approval of the construction contract. Explains concerns over the deterioration, standing water, and pedestrian safety. Provides update on design work, discusses 10% penalty for executing project during tourism season, and explained timeline was pushed because of this and is within budget.

Discussion between Mr. Kezirian, Ms. Picchione and Mr. Marchotte over how costs were derived and remaining budget funds. Mr. Marchotte shows specific add on items and details the need for each. Mr. Fallon, Bus Operator, questions of any illumination plans included in the project. Ms. Picchione explains where the illumination is projected to be placed within the project.

Mr. Kezirian makes motion to approve base bid without additions. Ms. Preston seconds, and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 7: Presentation by RIPTA Planning Department on RIPTA's Fixed Route Fleet Planning

Ms. Pettine presents overview in packet. Ms. Preston asks description for peak pullout. Discussion between Ms. Pettine, Mr. Studley and Ms. Preston regarding peak time, maximum number of buses needed, and local match need of 20%. Mr. Kezirian and Mr. Studley discuss the Governor's office working with us. Ms. Preston and Ms. Pettine discuss whether the need for replacement buses stems from the lack of need in replacement buses in 2014/2015 year.

Agenda Item 8: Executive Session

Voted: To convene the Board into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws section §42-46-5(a)(2) related to litigation, collective bargaining and approval of executive session minutes from September 26, 2016. Mr. Capizzo reads the law to go into Executive Session.

Mr. Alviti moves to convene in Executive Session. Ms. Preston seconds, and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 9: Update of Implementation of Reduced Fares Bus Pass Program

Ms. Polichetti updates on Outreach Plan- notifying public of the requalifying process for the Reduced Fare Program. Discussion between Mr. Kezirian and Ms. Polichetti regarding calls about the requalification process, and the project going live on January, 1st, 2017 with: radio ads, flyers, email messaging to multiple agencies and services that work with the individuals that use the program, public service radio spots, snail mail if necessary, and email blasts to partner state agencies and private non-profit social service agencies.

Agenda Item 10: Adjournment

Mr. Kezirian makes a motion to adjourn. It passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Martin, Secretary