

**RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Transportation Conference Room  
269 Melrose Street, Providence  
Minutes of Wednesday, February 19, 2020  
1:30 p.m.

**Board Members**

**Present:** Normand Benoit, Board Chair; Michelle Wilcox, Board Treasurer; Maureen Martin, Board Secretary; and Peter Alviti.

**Absent:** Joshua Brumberger, Board Vice Chair; Robert Kells; Stephanie Ogidan Preston; and Jose Rosario.

**Also Present:** Scott Avedisian, Chief Executive Officer; Christopher Fragomeni, Board Counsel; Elizabeth Silvestre, Executive Assistant; members of RIPTA's staff; and members of the public.

**Call to order:** Mr. Benoit called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., indicating that a quorum was present.

**Agenda Item 1:      **To Consider for Approval the Draft Public Session Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2020.****

Ms. Martin makes a motion to approve the draft public session meeting minutes of January 22, 2020. Ms. Wilcox seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Alviti and Mr. Benoit.

**Agenda Item 2:      **Public Comment.****

1. Kevin Cole: Reads a statement from Tom Cute, President and Business Agent of ATU 618 and 618A, expressing opposition to the RIPTA-RIDOT merger.
2. Valerie Bacon: Asks questions on how a merger could benefit RIPTA.
3. Nick DeCristofaro: Asks why RIDOT cannot support RIPTA through collaboration, instead of a merger.
4. Grant Dulgarian: Follows up on his request for suggestion on ways to improve RIPTA service.
5. Barry Schiller: Suggests that a merger may be helpful with climate change initiatives and snow removal, and expresses concern over a lack of public involvement at RIDOT.
6. Susan Feeley: Concerns with RIDOT's lack of public input and possibility of highway funding absorbing everything while overlooking mass transit.
7. Randall Rose: Concerned with lack of transparency and suggests RIPTA and RIDOT collaborate on funding rather than merging.
8. Pat Fontes: Concerned with public losing its input, as RIPTA has implemented her suggestions in the past, but RIDOT has never responded to questions.
9. Liza Burkin: RIDOT has broken the trust of people who do not drive a car and has consistently denied public input.

**Agenda Item 3:      **CEO Report.****

Mr. Avedisian provides an update on the monthly report, UPASS ridership, Quonset

ridership, Fall River ridership, and DTC ridership.

**Agenda Item 4: Commendations for retired employees.**

Mr. Avedisian presents commendations to Amy Pettine, James Dean, and Lillian Picchione for their many years of public service at RIPTA.

**Agenda Item 5: Planning Department's Review of 2019 Initiatives.**

Gregory Nordin, Chief of Strategic Advancement of RIPTA, presents a review of the 2019 initiatives.

**Agenda Item 6: Adjournment 02:20 p.m.**

Ms. Martin moves to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Wilcox seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Alviti and Mr. Benoit.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maureen Martin, Secretary