

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES of Monday March 6, 2017

**Board Members**

**Present:** Wayne Kezirian Board Chair; Director Peter Alviti; Maureen Martin, Board Secretary; Joshua Brumberger; Karen A. Santilli, Board Treasurer Mark Susa; Princess Sirleaf Bomba; and Stephanie Ogidan Preston, Board Vice Chair

**Absent:** None.

**Also Present:** Raymond Studley, CEO; Attorney Benjamin Salzillo, In-House Counsel; Attorney Christian Capizzo, Board Counsel; Elizabeth Silvestre, Confidential Executive Assistant; Other members of RIPTA's staff; and members of the public.

**Agenda Item 1:** **Approval of the December 19, 2016 Board Minutes**

Ms. Santilli makes a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2016 Board meeting. Mr. Brumberger seconds and it passes unanimously.

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

1. Tom Cute: Expresses concern over union contract negotiations.
2. Felicia Accioli: Expresses concern over the new cost of .50¢ for a reduced fare.
3. Katie Williams: Expresses concern over the new cost of .50¢ for a reduced fare.
4. Rachel Harris: Expresses concern over the new cost of .50¢ for a reduced fare.
5. Christine Reitman: Expresses concern over the new cost of .50¢ for a reduced fare.
6. Wendy Thomas: Expresses concern over the new cost of .50¢ for a reduced fare.
7. Donald Moreau: Expresses concern over the new cost of .50¢ for a reduced fare.
8. Randall Rose: Expresses concern over RIPTA's Strategic Plan.
9. Don Rhodes: Expresses concern over the new cost of .50¢ for a reduced fare.
10. Marjorie Watters: Expresses concern over the new cost of .50¢ for a reduced fare.

**Agenda Item 3:** **CEO's Report**

**1. Update on RIPTA's Strategic Plan**

Mr. Studley and Ms. Ingle, Principal Planner of RIPTA, discuss previously mentioned steps that will be implemented into the strategic plan. Ms. Ingle discusses possibly working with the Board members to begin implementation of the next steps. Mr. Kezirian, Mr. Brumberger, and Mr. Studley discuss the goals of the strategic plan, and the desired outcome. Mr. Alviti, Ms. Ingle and Mr. Studley discuss details of the 20-year plan. Mr. Alviti and Ms. Preston discuss the need for evaluation of the long term plan with outlined steps to provide guidance in the 3-year plan, in order to reach long term goals.

**2. Onboard Rider Survey Presentation**

Mr. Morgan from the Planning Department, discusses results of the onboard rider survey through a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Morgan mentions the regulatory requirements for survey, and that it provides better data for future decisions. He says the survey showed: about 25% of the riders had a license and vehicle at their disposal and could have rode alone to their destination, 22% of riders were going to work. Mr. Kezirian, Mr. Brumberger and Mr.

Morgan discuss cash paying riders who are going to work, and why they would not invest in a monthly card, and how these compare to other similar transit agencies who use American Bus Benchmarking Group (“ABBG”). The survey revealed a wide variety of purposes for the riders’ trips: shopping, medical, work, recreational, school, etc. For downtown, the busiest destinations were buildings immediately surrounding Kennedy Plaza, Providence Place Mall, and Universities. About half of surveyed riders live within 6 miles of the plaza. Ms. Santilli and Mr. Morgan discuss the timing of the survey, and what impact the season may have had on the survey (i.e. tourism, academic year, summer months).

**3. Kennedy Plaza Update**

Mr. Studley discusses the Kennedy Plaza update and collaboration with DOT and the City of Providence, how to reduce the volume in the plaza, and adjusting routes to do so. He discusses partnering with DOT in order to obtain this end goal, along with the potential for a tenant in the area. Ms. Santilli, Director Alviti, and Mr. Studley discuss what may occur with Kennedy Plaza as planning is taking place within the City of Providence for this property as well.

**Agenda Item 4:           **Consideration of Approval for Risk Management  
Department’s Request: Purchase of Commercial Property  
Insurance Policy from CHUBB Insurance Co.****

Mr. Salzillo presents a request of approval for purchase of commercial insurance and explains the purpose and requirements of the needed coverage. Discussion between Mr. Kezirian, Mr. Brumberger and Mr. Salzillo about procurement and valuation of the proposed coverage. Ms. Santilli makes a motion to approve, Ms. Preston seconds and it passes unanimously.

**Agenda Item 5:           **Presentation of Operating Statement and Debt Issuance: by  
Karen DiLauro, Executive Director of Finance and Budget,  
RIPTA****

Ms. DiLauro presents an Operating Statement for the Rhode Island Debt Issuance that is to be signed by the CEO, and advises the operating statement must be discussed at a Board meeting prior to the CEO’s signature. No action taken.

**Agenda Item 6:           **Consideration of Approval for Planning Department’s  
Request: Sustainable Fleet Transition Plan, RFP # 17-09****

Mr. McGrane, Contracts Manager of RIPTA, presents a request for approval of a contract to Gladstein, Neandross and Associates in an amount not to exceed \$135,000 for the purpose of researching trends and best practices relating to sustainable bus fleet development, sustainable vehicle propulsion technology recommendations, and a development of a transition plan for attaining a fully zero-emission fleet. Mr. Brumberger and Mr. Studley discuss how this ties into the VW settlement and how this will allow RIPTA to take a lead role in RI’s new Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan.

Mr. Brumberger makes a motion to approve, Ms. Martin seconds and it passes unanimously.

**Agenda Item 7:           **Consideration of Approval for Planning Department’s  
Request: Public Transit/Human Services Transportation  
Coordinated Plan, RFP #17-13****

Mr. McGrane, Contracts Manager of RIPTA, presents a request for approval of a contract to LSC Transportation Consultants in an amount not to exceed \$89,888.40 to prepare a Coordinated

Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan. Mr. McGrane explains this project is 80% federally funded and a 20% match will be provided through RIPTA's operating budget. Mr. Kezirian, Ms. Ingle and Mr. McGrane discuss the other bids presented, and the previous experiences of working with this company.

Mr. Brumberger makes a motion to approve, Ms. Martin seconds and it passes unanimously.

**Agenda Item 8:            Consideration of Approval for Planning Department's  
Request: Newport Transportation & Visitors Center Exterior  
Repairs and Resiliency**

Ms. Picchione, Director of Capital Development of RIPTA, introduces a request for the authorization of an additional \$525,000 in contingency funding for repairs and resiliency improvements to the Newport Transportation and Visitor Center. She explains the amount requested is within the project budget, and funded entirely with Federal Transit Administration dollars, as well as match dollars from the City of Newport and Discover Newport. Mr. Kezirian, Director Alviti, and Ms. Picchione discusses the progress on the project.

Ms. Bomba makes a motion to approve, Ms. Preston seconds and it passes unanimously.

\*Mr. Brumberger and Ms. Martin were not present for this vote.

**Agenda Item 9:            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 December 19, 2016.

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

Upon returning to open session Mr. Capizzo, Board Counsel reports, in accordance with Rhode Island General Laws section §42-46-4(b) that a unanimous vote was taken in executive session to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2016 meeting, and a unanimous vote was taken to seal those minutes. A motion is made by Mr. Brumberger to seal the minutes of the current executive session, Ms. Preston seconds and it passes unanimously. Mr. Kezirian announces that no other votes had been taken in executive session.

**Agenda Item 8:            Adjournment**

There being no other business to come before the Board, Ms. Preston makes a motion to adjourn, Ms. Santilli seconds, and it passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maureen Martin, Secretary