



Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 18, 2024

10:00 a.m.

**Transportation Conference Room
269 Melrose Street, Providence, RI**

Members Present: Peter Alviti, Board Chair; Robert Kells, Board Vice Chair; Patrick Crowley, Board Secretary; James Leach; Normand Benoit; and Heather Schey.

Absent Members: Marcy Reyes and Michele Wilcox.

Also Present: Scott Avedisian, CEO; Christopher Fragomeni, Esq., Board Counsel; Christopher Durand, Chief Financial Officer; Jamie Pereira, Chief of Security; Steven Colantuono, Chief Legal Counsel; Kathy Nadeau, Chief of Human Resources; Roy Rivers, Executive Paralegal; members of RIPTA's staff; and members of the public.

Call to Order: Mr. Alviti calls the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., indicating that quorum is present.

Agenda Item 1: Public Comment / Board Discussion

1. Barry Schiller: Expresses his hope that the proposed new transit center is not moving to Clifford Street. He advises the Board to not take on additional debt and to not commit to spending bond money for unintended purposes. He suggests that if Dorrance Street cannot be utilized, then the hub should remain in Kennedy Plaza.
2. Daria Brashear: Advises that creating a hub further away from downtown is not useful to riders.

Board Member James Leach enters the meeting at 10:11 am.

3. Grant Dulgarian: Speaks about past suggestions and has two requests. The first, asking RIPTA to provide the cost associated with mailing a bus schedule to everyone located within their respective service radius. The second, asking RIPTA to provide the cost associated with adding heaters to bus shelters. Mr. Dulgarian also advises that Kennedy Plaza should remain the central hub and RIPTA should address issues with Kennedy Plaza and suggests possible resolutions.

Mr. Dulgarian makes additional public comment after Executive Session and suggests to the Board that RIPTA offer free fares to riders on routes affected by the Washington Bridge shutdown.

4. Randall Rose: Advises that the proposed new bus hub location is a bad idea, that the RFP does not protect RIPTA, and that the public has been kept out of the loop and has no knowledge of the details.
5. Enrique Sanchez, State Representative, District 9: (Comment given after Executive Session) Speaks about the potential plan to move the bus hub and expresses opposition as it creates a conflict of interest and has potential negative effects. He advises that the central hub should be expanded in downtown Providence.

Agenda Item 2: **Executive Session: Executive Session to consider, discuss and act upon such matters as may be closed to the public pursuant to: R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(5), and (7).**

Mr. Kells motions to enter executive session. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Alviti, Mr. Benoit, Mr. Leach and Ms. Schey. The Board enters into Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(5) to discuss or consider the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public; and § 42-46-5(a)(7) to discuss matters related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest.

The Board, Staff and Counsel enter into Executive Session at 10:29 a.m.

Board Member, Patrick Crowley exits the meeting at 11:10 am.

The Board, Staff and Counsel enter public session at 11:41 a.m.

Attorney Fragomeni reports that only one vote was taken during Executive Session: to adjourn Executive Session.

Mr. Leach makes a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mr. Benoit seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Alviti, Mr. Kells, and Ms. Schey.

Mr. Alviti re-opens public comment. State Representative Sanchez makes public comment (see above), and Mr. Dulgarian makes additional public comment (see above).

Agenda Item 3: **Adjournment – 11:49 a.m.**

Mr. Leach makes a motion to adjourn. Ms. Schey seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Alviti; Mr. Benoit and Mr. Kells.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary