



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 23, 2024

1:30 p.m.

269 Melrose Street, Providence

Transportation Board Room

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

Absent Members: Marcy Reyes.

Also Present: Christopher Durand, Interim CEO; Christopher Fragomeni, Esq., Board Counsel; Roy Rivers, Executive Paralegal; members of RIPTA's staff; and members of the public.

Call to Order: Mr. Kells calls the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m., indicating that quorum was present.

Director Alviti enters the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: **To consider for approval the Draft Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of April 25, 2024.**

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2024, meeting. Mr. Lombardi seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Crowley; Mr. Masino; and Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 2: **Public Comment**

1. Patricia Raub:
 - Expresses concerns regarding Kennedy Plaza.
 - Advises that new hub location should not be considered until money is obtained to increase service.

2. Randall Rose:
 - Provides Resolution passed by Providence City Council and discusses same.
 - Advises that there was no public comment regarding moving the bus hub.
 - Advises that riders were not allowed to vote for Kennedy Plaza at the public outreach event.
 - Discusses project services agreement with Next Wave.
 - Reiterates importance of fixing Kennedy Plaza.

3. Daria Brashear:
 - Thanks RIPTA for a solution to the Bus Tunnel stops.
 - Expresses appreciation for option of bus hub being closer to the train station.
4. Barry Schiller:
 - Advises Board to not put out a request for a recruitment specialist in regards to the CEO search and provides alternative options including advertising in trade journals.
 - Advises that CEO Search Committee should include a member of the public.
5. Grant Dulgarian:
 - Expresses opposition to moving hub out of Kennedy Plaza.
 - Provides possible solutions to issues in Kennedy Plaza.
 - Advises that a study is needed prior to the consideration of relocating the hub.
 - Discusses issues with Thayer Street bus stops near the Bus Tunnel and provides possible solutions.
6. Walter Melillo
 - Advises that Interim CEO Durand is very receptive to issues and provides solutions.
 - Advises that the bus hub should remain in Kennedy Plaza.
 - Advises that Kennedy Plaza needs increased police presence.
 - Advises that Kennedy Plaza should be fixed.
7. Pam Jennings
 - Provides comments regarding the low-income pilot program, including immense gratitude.
 - Advises that the passes are game changing for recipients.
 - Advises that the current phase is serving less of the community.
 - Advises that public transportation is a lifeline for riders.

Agenda Item 3: CEO Report

Christopher Durand, RIPTA's Interim CEO, points out the items included in the CEO report: RIPTA at a Glance, Employee Spotlight, Financial Update, Service/Ridership Update, Low Income Pilot Update, and Transit Center Update. Interim CEO Durand discusses the public engagement events for the new bus hub. He provides a hiring update, and an update on repairs for Kennedy Plaza as well as increased customer service.

Agenda Item 4: Process for Executive Search Update

Steven Colantuono discusses the Memorandum provided to the Board regarding the Executive Search.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion for RIPTA to begin the procurement process and make a recommendation for a company, from the State of Rhode Island Master Price Agreement List, to

perform an executive search. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit; Mr. Lombardi; and Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 5: Request for Approval: Award of Contract for RFP 24-24 – Rider Survey

Sarah Ingle, RIPTA’s Executive Director of Planning, presents the request.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve the first survey only and for RIPTA to return to the Board prior to engaging any further surveys. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Crowley; Mr. Lombardi and Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 6: Request for Approval: Award of Contract for RFP 24-27 Comprehensive Operation Analysis

Sarah Ingle, RIPTA’s Executive Director of Planning, presents the request.

Mr. Lombardi makes a motion to continue the agenda item to the following meeting. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit; Mr. Masino; and Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 7: Request for Approval: API Upgrade – Conduent System

Gary Jarvis, RIPTA’s Chief Technology Officer, presents the request.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the request. Mr. Lombardi seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit; Mr. Masino; and Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 8: Low Income Pilot Update and Recommendation

Sarah Ingle, RIPTA’s Executive Director of Planning, presents the update and recommendation.

Mr. Kells makes a motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit; Mr. Lombardi; Mr. Masino and Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 9: Board Questions and Answers

No questions were asked.

Agenda Item 10: **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). Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public.**

Mr. Lombardi motions to enter executive session. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit; Mr. Masino; and Ms. Schey. The Board enters into Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(5) discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public.

The Board, Staff and Counsel enter into Executive Session at 3:23 p.m.

The Board, Staff and Counsel enter public session at 3:35 p.m.

Attorney Christopher Fragomeni reports that one vote was taken during Executive Session, to adjourn the Executive Session.

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

Agenda Item 11: **Adjournment – 3:37 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary