



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 25, 2024
1:30 p.m.
269 Melrose Street, Providence
Transportation Board Room

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

Absent Members: Robert Kells, Heather Schey, and 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: Director Alviti calls the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m., indicating that quorum was present.

Agenda Item 1: **To consider for approval the Draft Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of June 27, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2024, meeting. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Lombardi.

Agenda Item 2: **To consider for approval the Draft Executive Session Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of June 27, 2024.**

Mr. Masino makes a motion to approve the executive session minutes of the June 27, 2024, meeting. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Lombardi.

Agenda Item 3: **Public Comment**

1. Daria Brashear
 - Comments regarding issues with the East End bus stops. Advises that buses are not stopping consistently.

2. Randall Rose

- Comments regarding issues with current contracts before the Board. Inquires why RIPTA would pay Init if it could be done in-house.
- Requests that RIPTA look into possible legal action for previous work done to the East Side Bus Tunnel. Inquires why more testing was not completed prior to starting the repair work. Asks if RIPTA is documenting the sequence of events. Asks what is done to ensure Bentley is held accountable.

3. Patricia Raub

- Comments that RIPTA struggled to persuade state legislature to contribute this year and advises that next year it will be a heavier lift. Advises that the mindset needs to change to promote public transit and RIPTA needs to work with more outside groups. Suggests that RIPTA needs to find new sources of funding.
- Advises that the efforts in Kennedy Plaza are appreciated, including the clock panel, electric boards, and extended hours. Suggests that a full-time security person is needed in Kennedy Plaza.

4. Grant Dulgarian

- Wants answers to questions raised at previous meetings.
- Suggests making Washington Street a two-way street for buses only and making Fulton Street a two-way street for everyone; and relocating four shelters to improve issues in Kennedy Plaza.
- Advises of issues regarding the East side Bus Tunnel stops and that he conferred with the City, and it would be no issue to relocate them.
- Inquired as to why his check was returned regarding the one-day cash receipts for East Bay Bus Routes that traverse the Washington and Henderson Bridges.
- Made additional comments regarding the Washington Bridge issues.

Agenda Item 4: CEO Report

Christopher Durand, RIPTA's Interim CEO, points out the items included in the CEO report: RIPTA at a Glance, Employee Spotlight, Commendations, Financial Update, Service/Ridership Update, On Time Performance Update, Low Income Pilot Update, and Transit Center Update.

Agenda Item 5: Tunnel Project – Change Order

Jack Plouffe, Project Manager, presents the request.

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

Agenda Item 6: Maintenance Contract – Change Order

John Chadwick, Executive Director of Procurement and Inventory, 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. Leach, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Masino.

Agenda Item 7: Board Questions and Answers

No questions were asked. Mr. Lombardi commented that with regards to the Executive Search, he believes a more local search as a first step is a better idea.

Agenda Item 8: 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)(2). Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation.

Mr. Lombardi motions to enter executive session. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Leach, Mr. Masino, and Mr. Benoit. The Board enters into Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2), Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation.

The Board, Staff and Counsel enter into Executive Session at 2:40pm.

The Board, Staff and Counsel enter public session at 2:57pm.

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. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Leach, Mr. Crowley, and Mr. Benoit.

Agenda Item 9: Adjournment – 2:58pm

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary