



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 24, 2025

1:30 p.m.

**269 Melrose Street, Providence
Transportation Board Room**

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

Absent Members: Marcy Reyes.

Also Present: Christopher Durand, CEO; Larissa DeLisi, 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 1:31 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 26, 2025.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2025, meeting. Mr. Lombardi seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, Ms. Schey, Mr. Masino, and Mr. Georges.

Agenda Item 2: **Public Comment**

1. Walter Melillo

- Speaks about layoffs and service reduction – the extent of both not known at this time.
- States layoffs are a setback to the last two years of building the workforce.
- Asks Board to continue to advocate for RIPTA.

2. Joe Cole

- States that RIPTA is still facing a deficit and has no direct funding.
- States that public transit should be funded by the General Assembly.
- States that cutting service means less drivers and less service for passengers which creates a hardship for riders.

3. Cedric Ye

- Thanks the Board for the opportunity to speak.
- Urges the Board to work with State leadership for funding and to prevent service cuts.
- States that if he cannot ride the bus, it would cost him \$12,000.00 per year for a car and insurance.
- States that a 20% service cut and 25% fare increase would result in a 25% loss.

4. Randall Rose

- States concerns regarding service cuts and fare hikes; that it is not the Board's fault, but rather due to the General Assembly not giving RIPTA enough money.
- States that service cuts will result in a lot of unhappiness for Rhode Islanders.
- Hopes that funding gaps will be fixed.
- States that the CEO has done a good job.
- States that the proposal for fare hikes has not been announced in a transparent way and more hearings are necessary.

5. Barry Schiller

- Refers to a copy of correspondence regarding the Sierra Club.
- Discusses the possibility of the Governor calling the General Assembly back into session to address funding.
- Discusses the possibility of the utilization of CMAQ Funds.
- States that more notice is needed for service cuts.
- States that routes should have better times for easier recollection.

6. Liza Burkin

- States that she was in Kennedy Plaza at 11:15pm and that the 20 Bus was there, concerned that service cuts would not make that possible in the future.
- States that the RIDOT should flex funds to RIPTA.
- States that service cuts should be made if they are necessary, but not in order to fill a financial hole.
- States that the State Budget Director should free funds for RIPTA; Formula Funding for Federal Highway should be explored; obtain formula funding from Massachusetts for RIPTA lines going into Massachusetts; and increase RIPTA's share of the highway maintenance fund.

7. Grant Dulgarian

- States that he would like a meeting with Mr. Durand and Director Alviti.
- Discusses the possibility of State Legislature going into special session which could present an opportunity for funding.
- Discusses ideas to improve the traffic pattern in Kennedy Plaza.
- Discusses the option of light rail and the need for an EIS regarding the Washington Bridge.

Agenda Item 3: **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; and R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a)(7) A matter related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest. Public funds shall include any investment plan or matter related thereto, including, but not limited to, state lottery plans for new promotions.**

Mr. Crowley motions to enter Executive Session. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, Ms. Schey, and Mr. Georges.

The Board enters into 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; and (a)(7) A matter related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest. Public funds shall include any investment plan or matter related thereto, including, but not limited to, state lottery plans for new promotions.

The Board and Counsel enter into Executive Session at 2:07 p.m.

The Board and Counsel enter public session at 3:09 p.m.

Attorney DeLisi reports that only one vote was taken during Executive Session. A vote to adjourn Executive Session.

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

Agenda Item 4: **Service Changes**

Christopher Durand provides an overview of the proposed services changes.

No vote is taken.

Agenda Item 5: **Adjournment – 3:20 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary