October 27, 2026. Chicago Transit Board Regular Meeting Minutes.

Noticed for 11:00 a.m. Commenced at 11:00 a.m.
YouTube Link to View Video of Meeting

AGENDA: The posted agenda for the meeting is available at www.transitchicago.com, "Chicago Transit Board", "Meeting Notices, Agendas, and Minutes", (10/27/2026) (Regular Board Meeting), "Agenda".

ROLL CALL: Chairman Lester Barclay called the October 27, 2026, meeting of the Chicago Transit Board to order at 11:01 a.m. He asked Georgette Greenlee, Secretary of the CTA Board to call the roll. The following directors were present: Oswaldo Alvarez, Michael Eaddy, Lester Barclay, Neema Jha, Ann Kalayil, Tom Kotarac and Nedra Sims Fears. Secretary Greenlee announced that there was a quorum with seven board members present.

SAFETY BRIEFING: The Chicago Transit Authority's Fire Marshal Tim Taylor presented a safety and security briefing to the meeting attendees.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE DEATH OF CTA EMPLOYEE JULIAN MOBLEY: Chairman Barclay stated that the Board would begin the meeting by acknowledging the tragic loss of one of the Chicago Transit Authority's employees, Mr. Julian Mobley. On behalf of the CTA Board, he extended condolences to Mr. Mobley's family, friends, CTA colleagues, and the many employees across the agency who are grieving the loss of Julian Mobley. He stated that the Board's thoughts and prayers are with everyone who grieves his transition during this incredibly difficult time.

> *"When we lose one of our own, the impact is felt throughout the agency by the people we serve and across our city. These tragedies remind us of the human toll of violence and why the work we are doing to improve safety and security on our system is so important."*

He then requested that the meeting attendees offer a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Mobley.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Secretary Greenlee advised that the Board Office received five (5) requests for public comments prior to the board meeting. She advised each of the registered speakers in attendance that they would be given three (3) minutes with which to talk and a prompt 2 minutes and 30 seconds to let them know to wrap up their remarks and bring them to a close.

Of the five (5) people who submitted requests to give public comments the following persons were present and are as follows:

- Darlene Hale: concerned about safety and accessibility for disabled riders, the three-month certification process for para-transit riders and senior citizens
- Sean Clayton: concerned about his termination from employment with the Chicago Transit Authority
- Phil Bronson: concerned about "fraud, corruption with CTA and audits" related to the payment of Target Electric
- Michael Kozuchowski: concerned with cancellations from flaggers and communication between CTA and ComEd that is impacting his commercial development project

MINUTES: Chairman Barclay requested a motion to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of September 22, 2026. Director Eaddy moved, and the motion was seconded by Director Kotarac. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

CONSENT AGENDA: Chairman Barclay introduced the "Consent Agenda," and set forth the rationale for the Board utilizing the tool in the meeting.

> *"As the Board of Directors of this agency, we have a responsibility to exercise sound judgment, provide effective oversight, and ensure that the business of this organization is conducted in a manner that is both thorough and efficient. Given the scope of this agency's operations and the importance of the services we provide to the metropolitan region, it is essential that we make the best use of our time while maintaining the highest standards of accountability and public transparency.*
>
> *To that end, the Consent Agenda is intended to allow the Board to consider and act upon several routine matters collectively, rather than addressing each item individually when separate discussion is not necessary. These matters may include routine resolutions, ordinances, contract approvals, and other administrative or operational items that are appropriate for consolidated consideration.*
>
> *The items included on the Consent Agenda have been presented to the Board for review in advance. If any Board member wishes to discuss a particular item separately, request additional information, or have an item considered independently, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and addressed separately, consistent with our governing procedures.*
>
> *Are there any items that a Board member wishes to have removed and set over to New Business for separate consideration and discussion?"*

Director Nedra Fears commented that she felt that the Board needs to be transparent and that lumping two, three, five, eight ordinances together "does not encourage transparency." She stated that she did not agree with utilizing the consent agenda.

Director Tom Kotarac expressed appreciation that the October 2026 CTA Board Agenda had links to the meeting materials (ordinances, staff recommendations, minutes and resolutions) which the public could click on and see what the board was acting on. He stated that he appreciated that the process would be going forward and that the production of an agenda with links and detailed information aligns with the current practices employed by the other service boards.

There was discussion and debate on whether publishing the agenda with links to meeting materials prior to the board meetings would be an equitable and inclusive way to inform the public about the ordinances, contracts and agreements that will be considered by the board. There was also discussion about how far in advance the agendas are published? There were questions about where the agenda is posted (physically in CTA headquarters at 567 W Lake Street and on the CTA website: www.transitchicago.com)

Director Tom Kotarac made a motion to move the Consent Agenda to New Business after Item Number 8 on the agenda and before Item Number 9. The motion was seconded by Director Eaddy. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Acting President Leerhsen began her report by providing context regarding how the report was structured. She would focus on key performance metrics as well as key topics. She advised that the format of the President's Report was evolving. She invited board members to provide feedback as she continues to work towards improving the content.

> *(**Note**: Slides with charts and graphs for specific areas were used to provide visual support. Links to the report slides may be found at: https://www.transitchicago.com/assets/1/6/5_-_Oct2026_-_Ridership___Marketing_Update.pdf)*

KEY METRICS

1. Service Delivery: Bus, Rail, Slow Zones
    a. Rail service delivery had a 12-month high during the month of September exceeding 91% of CTA's scheduled service, which is the highest it has been since 2019
    b. CTA currently has 886 staffers working in rail operator positions, which has exceeded our pre-pandemic level of 880 rail operators
    c. Red & Blue Lines: Service delivery on the Red Line and Blue Line reached a 12-month high, over 90% on the red line and just under 90% on the Blue Line
    d. Hiring is the primary driver for keeping CTA's workforce levels high and sustained

e. Factors that Impact Service:
    i. Management decisions around service delivery
    ii. Disturbances on the system are at an all-time low
    iii. Crime levels are very low
    iv. Bus service is impacted by the need for infrastructure improvements across the region. Hence, the recent Michigan Avenue bus lane announcement is an indication of the commitment of the region to improving CTA's best service
    v. Chicago Department of Transportation two-week closure of the Lake Street Bridge. Acting President Leerhsen thanked CTA staff and volunteers for assisting with the Green Line shuttles during the closure. "An incredible amount of planning goes in not just to executing [the closure / bridge repair] and to deplaning it precisely so that it can be done in that timeframe successfully." There was nearly a 93% service delivery rate on the Pink Line during the closure, which is an example of how the CTA doubles down to ensure strong service delivery when work like this happens.

f. Slow Zones:
    i. Slow zones have declined percentage points from a year ago.
    ii. The CTA is grateful for funding from NITA to make sure throughout the summer of 2026 the Authority could work on slow zones throughout the system

2. Ridership:
    a. Crime Update
        i. There has been a 30% major crime drop across the entire CTA system with the Authority's rail system sustaining a steeper drop
        ii. The rail system also had a drop of nearly 40% on the train system
        iii. CTA's dashboard links to the Chicago Police Department data around crime
        iv. There have been sustained drops of 30% of major crime across the system
        v. CTA will continue to focus on the numbers through our partnerships with the Chicago Police Department, the Cook County Sheriff's Office and with out safe ride specialist team
    b. Ridership Update
        i. September 2026 was the highest ridership month since 2019
        ii. New and returning riders are coming onto the CTA system and ridership is continuing to increase
    c. The Bank of America Marathon
        i. The marathon is always one of the CTA's highest ridership days of the year
        ii. Chicago Marathon Sunday 2026 was the CTA's highest Sunday rail ridership in 25 years; and overall Marathon Sunday was CTS's highest Sunday since 2019
        iii. These figures indicate that riders trust in the CTA system and believe in CTA's

future. It also indicates the positive strength of CTA's 25-year partnership with Bank of America in support of the annual marathon

SAFE RIDE SPECIALIST – UPDATE

- The Safe Ride Specialists program launched in early October 2026 and is unprecedented in the history of the CTA
- The Street Samaritans are on the Forest Park Blue Line branch, along with the Metropolitan Peace Initiaive Group on the Red Line at Roosevelt.
- Acting President Leerhsen encouraged all the board members to come and see the work that is being done by the specialist
- The presence of these specialists on CTA's system de-escalates negativity on the system for all riders.
- Acting President Leerhsen spoke about the feedback she has received from riders regarding the activities of the safe ride specialists and noted the incredible amount of work from the CTA Innovations Team in designing the program.

SECURITY / CRISIS INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS UPDATE:

- Acting President Leerhsen invited CTA's Chief Planning and Innovations Officer Molly Poppe and CTA's Chief of Security, Joe Bird to present on the deployment of the Crisis Intervention Specialists.
- Molly Poppe provided a quick overview of the marketing and outreach that has been done for the safe ride specialists program:
    - The CTA has been using digital displays to show what the safe ride specialists are as well as how the safe ride specialist fit into the CTA ecosystem: (a) Refresh and Renew (ie. clean /well-lit stations); (b) Cultural activations; (c) Concession spaces; (d) the presence of Chicago Police and Cook County Sheriff on the system; (e) Safe Ride Specialists and (f) Outreach partners who are funded through DFSS
    - She presented signage that CTA will have throughout the system where the safe ride specialists are located and when riders can find them
    - Safe ride specialists have CTA handouts and informational brochures from the programs that they represent
    - METRICS & KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:
        - There is a robust set of KPIs that CTA is tracking across seven (7) main areas of focus
        - There are 35 different KPIs; for example:
            - Service disruptions
            - Customer surveys
            - Employee surveys
            - Number of referrals provided

- Smoking cessation
- Customer complaints

Following this presentation by Molly Poppe there were questions and discussion from / with members of the board.

Vice Chair Jha requested that in lieu of percentages being used, the report include actual numbers so that the board can understand the scale of the impact. She wants the board to easily ascertain the scale of the issue and the impact of the program.

Vice Chair Jha also requested data that was more transparent regarding "real service delivery." She requested that anecdotal data regarding the experience people are having day-to-day on the system be included in the reports. She requested that the service delivery report be "believable."

There was more discussion from members of the board regarding the organizations and agencies that the CTA is contracting with to provide safe ride specialists and crisis intervention specialists.

Chairman Barclay requested that in a couple of months representatives from CTA's CVI and SRS programs come before the Board and share what they have learned.

Director Kotarac stressed how important the work that CTA is doing is important to the formation of the ambassador program that is in the NITA Act.

Director Eaddy requested that when presenting on security, the visual presentation display the incidents of crime that are occurring on the different rail lines.

<u>CTA SURVEYS:</u>

- CTA's Chief Planning and Innovations Chief, Molly Poppe invited Emily Drexler, CTA's Director of Market Research, to assist.
    - Ms. Drexler explained that in a broad sense CTA does an overall Customer Perspective Survey in the fall and one in the spring to ask riders a host of questions about their service experience.
    - CTA also participates with NITA to conduct a regional survey that is conducted every three (3) years. This survey conducts test points with CTA riders to ascertain their general experience, and CTA also does a targeted outreach. For example, CTA just completed a survey about bus stops to inform a conversation with the Chicago Department of Transportation about bus stop design.
    - She then presented a look at results of the customer survey conducted since 2023:
        - Fall surveys tend to show a higher level of satisfaction, while spring surveys

show a lower level of satisfaction;

- She then highlighted survey results from a survey conducted in April of 2026 for accuracy, reliability, wait times and ease of accessibility

There were questions and discussions. Vice Chair Jha asked why it took six (6) months for the survey results to be presented to the board? She requested that there be a quicker turnaround once the results of a survey have been ascertained in the presentation of those results to the board. She also asked whether staff were using AI to do any of the groundwork for the survey?

Emily responded that some of tools have AI built in, but that they were not really using AI. They have seen "mixed results" when they tried to use AI.

There was a request from Director Fears for survey results from differently abled persons on accessibility and their experience riding the system. There was a request from Director Kalayil for desegregated data on security on the rails and what is driving the responses.

There were more discussions. Director Alvarez asked how the surveys engaged riders to participate. He wondered whether the safe ride specialist would be useful in promoting the surveys.

Director Kotarac inquired whether it was possible to overlay the third layer of real observed data (things like bus speed improvements or wait time decline) and track those as survey results come online?

Chairman Barclay inquired whether the CTA is in an active conversation with the city about revenue sharing from bus lane enforcement cameras?

That concluded Molly Poppe's report.

FINANCE REPORT: CTA's Chief Financial Officer, Tom McKone, presented the monthly financial results from the month of August. There were questions and there was discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: CTA's Acting General Counsel Sisavanh Baker advised that there was a need for the Board to recess to an Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1); (c)(2), (c)(11); and 2(21).

Director Eaddy moved the Board recess to the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Director Kotarac. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. The board moved into Executive Session at 12:38 p.m.

At 1:40 p.m. the Board moved from the Executive Session back into the Boardroom. Director Eaddy

moved for the Board to reconvene. The motion was seconded by Director Kotarac. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Director Eaddy moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes from September 22, 2026. The motion was seconded by Director Kotarac. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA: Vice Chairperson Neema Jha assumed the position of Chair of the meeting. She recognized Director Kotarac, who moved to amend the agenda and move Item 8 (ii) -Board Matters - on the Agenda behind Item 9 – New Business. Director Eaddy seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Director Kotarac then moved to remove items I and J, as well as section K(b)(1) and section G (2) off the Consent Agenda. Director Eaddy seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Finally, Director Kotarac moved to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda via voice vote. Those remaining items on the Consent Agenda were the following:

A. A Resolution Changing the Date and Time of the October 2026 Chicago Transit Authority Regular Board Meeting

B. An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Cybersecurity Insurance Coverage for Policy Year November 1, 2026, through October 31, 2027

C. An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Blanket Railroad Protective Liability Insurance for Policy Year November 1, 2026, through October 31, 2027

D. An Ordinance authorizing an agreement with CPS Chicago Parking, LLC for the operation, management, and maintenance of certain Authority parking facilities

E. An Ordinance authorizing an easement over real property located at 2717 West St. Georges Court, Chicago, Illinois for the All-Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP) – Blue Line

F. An Ordinance authorizing a lease to De Volon Pin Pon, LLC of retail concession space located at 3528 South Leavitt Street, Chicago, Illinois (Orange Line)

G. An Ordinance authorizing a first amendment to an agreement to sell real property located at 5426-5446 South Calumet Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, to City Colleges of Chicago

H. An Ordinance authorizing an intergovernmental agreement with Cook County for the Sheriff to provide groundskeeping and maintenance work on Authority property

The approved contracts per the Consent Agenda were the following:

1.	Contract Number B21OP00706R2:	$	0.00
2.	Contract Number B19OP04590RABC:	$	0.00
3.	Contract Number B22OP00101:	$	120,000.00
4.	Contract Number B25OP00221:	$	400,000.00
5.	Contract Number B22OP04418:	$	360,000.00
6.	Contract Number B22OP80127:	$	0.00
7.	Contract Number B21OP80369:	$	20,000.00
8.	Contract Number B24OP04887:	$	139,555.03
9.	Contract Number B19OP04192:	$	170,290.00

The motion was seconded by Director Kalayil. The six remaining members of the board said "Aye" in unison.

NEW BUSINESS: The following ordinances and contracts were presented on the "Non-Consent Agenda" under New Business:

a. CTA's Khristin Willis, the Director of EEO and Compliance Programs and the Authority's CDL Officer and Kimberly Hill, CTA's Chicago Administrative Officer presented an ordinance to approve the Authority's 2026 Title VI Program Triennial Report and authorizing submittal to the Federal Transit Administration. There were no questions and there were no discussions.

Director Kalayil moved to approve the ordinance, and Director Eaddy seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

NOTE: *It was 1:30 p.m. and Chairman Barclay left the meeting due to a prior engagement.*

b. CTA's Chief Infrastructure Officer, Bill Mooney, presented an ordinance to approve the Forest Park Program – Track Design – Illinois Medical District to 1-290 Bridge, excluding the segment from Kedzie Avenue to Keeler Avenue.

Vice Chairperson Jha voiced her excitement about the track design program.

Director Fears moved to approve the ordinance and Director Kotarac seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

c. CTA's Chief Infrastructure Officer, Bill Mooney, presented an ordinance to approve the construction services for the All-Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP) Logan Square Line – California Station Project.

There was a question from Director Alvarez and there was discussion about (1) how and why the California station was chosen and (2) how many stations remain to have elevators installed under the "All Stations Accessibility Project."

Director Eaddy moved to approve the ordinance and Director Fears seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

d. CTA's Chief Innovation and Planning Officer, Molly Poppe, presented an ordinance to authorize a pilot program agreement with Sensonic U.S. to incorporate safety pilot with Sensonic U.S. to incorporate a safety pilot on the Chicago Transit Authority Innovation Studio Program.

There were no questions and there was no discussion.

Director Eaddy moved to approve the ordinance and Director Fears seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

e. CTA's Vice President of Fare Systems, Nicolas Krohne, presented an ordinance authorizing a five-year fare payment agreement with United Airlines for use of the CTA Blue Line train between Cumberland and O'Hare Airport stations.

There were questions, comments and discussion.

Director Kalayil asked if we had looked at the impact of this agreement on the City of Des Plaines and whether the city of Des Plaines has been working on Transit Orientated Development around the Cumberland Metro? She requested that VP Krohne speak to the City of Des Plaines and find out whether there is any impact or conflict and whether there is any flexibility in the contract with United Airlines?

VP Krohne stated that he would investigate the query and respond at a later date.

NOTE: It was 2:00 p.m. and Vice Chairperson Jha left the meeting due to a prior engagement. Director Tom Kotarac assumed the position as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Director Eaddy moved to approve the ordinance and Director Fears seconded the motion. There was discussion on the motion between Director Kalayil and Director Kotarac. Director Kalayil stressed that she wanted to amend the motion to require staff to speak with the City of Des Plaines regarding any conflicts. Following the discussion there was a vote on the motion.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

f. CTA's Chief Infrastructure Officer, Bill Mooney, presented an ordinance to approve a contract to repair, rebuild and maintain various boiler, valves and boiler control systems for a period of up to three (3) years with two unfunded one-year options with Stanton Mechanical.

There were no questions or discussions on the presentation.

Director Eaddy moved to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Director Kalayil and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

g. CTA's Chief of Strategy, Data and Technology, Caroline Gallagher with CTA's VP of Purchasing/Supply Chain, Ellen McCormack, presented an ordinance to approve a contract with CTG, Inc. of Illinois dba Novanis to "piggyback" on the State of Illinois contract for Trellix Cybersecurity Products and Services for 84 months.

Director Fears requested that the "piggyback" construct be explained. Following the explanation by Caroline Gallagher there were no additional questions or comments.

Director Eaddy moved to approve the ordinance to approve the contract and the motion was seconded by Director Fears. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

BOARD MATTERS: Secretary Greenlee, in the absence of the Chair Lester Barclay, advised that there was a discussion at the last board meeting about CTA Board Committees (formation and assignments) and that Chairperson Barclay had requested that the Board Office conduct surveys with the Board to resolve the issue of which committees will be organized and who will sit on the committees.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Director Kotarac asked for a motion to adjourn the October 27, 2026, Chicago Transit Board meeting.

After being moved by Director Eaddy and seconded by Director Fears, the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

Secretary of the CTA Board of Directors

Date: 11/16/2026