

July 8, 2026. Chicago Transit Board Regular Meeting Minutes.

Noticed for "Immediately following the finance, Audit and Budget Committee Meeting." Commenced at 10:39 a.m.

AGENDA: The posted agenda for the meeting is available at www.transitchicago.com, "Chicago Transit Board", "Meeting Notices, Agendas, and Minutes", (07/08/2026) (Regular Board Meeting), "Agenda".

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by CTA Board Chairman Lester Barclay at 10:39 a.m. There was a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL: Directors: Lester L. Barclay (Chairman), L. Bernard Jakes, Rosa Y. Ortiz, Michael Eaddy and Lily Diego-Johnson. There was a quorum with four (4) members present.

The Board was advised by Secretary Greenlee that Director Michael Eaddy wanted to attend the meeting remotely due to a family emergency. Director Diego-Johnson moved to admit Director Eaddy into the meeting remotely and Director Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. This brought the quorum for the meeting to a total of five (5) attendees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Barclay advanced the agenda to Public Comments. Secretary Greenlee advised that the Board Office received four (4) requests for public comments and that a written comment had been submitted by John Paul Jones.

Three of the four people who submitted requests to give public comments were present and gave remarks:

- Delilah Martinez
- Eric Poders
- King Israel
- Phil Bronson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Acting President Leerhsen began her report by recognizing that CTA lost a beloved member of the CTAA family just over a week prior to the Board Meeting, switch worker Kevin Barlow. The tragic loss of Kevin Barlow hit home for many CTA employees who knew Mr. Barlow and worked alongside him. She honored his nearly 18 years of dedicated service to the Agency and recognized how much he meant to so many people at CTA and in his life. Acting President Leerhsen stated that the entire CTA family was thinking and praying for Kevin Barlow's family, his loved ones and all of his co-workers.

Next, Acting President Leerhsen recognized the extraordinary work of the CTA staff over the past several weeks as they managed through intense heat, storms, and other challenges to ensure that millions of Chicagoans could celebrate and glory in their summer.

Pride Day on June 28, 2026 was one of CTA's highest ridership days of the 2026 year. There were nearly 800,000 riders on a single Sunday, which was about 100,000 more riders on a Sunday that we usually have. "We take immense pride at CTA in our service delivery across that day, beginning at nearly 4:00 a.m. with teams meeting to discuss the plans for the day, and lasting far into the evening." That marathon-like day was executed flawlessly by CTA's operations team, maintenance team, and infrastructure team. Leerhsen thanked and commended every level of management across all of those departments that make days like Pride Day happen.

The following weekend, the 4th of July weekend, the CTA moved nearly 2 million people from Friday to Sunday to celebrate the 4th of July and make lifelong memories that would not happen without CTA as the backbone of that work. The work undertaken by CTA teams is not easy work. Acting President Leerhsen recognized that and thanked them for their professionalism, their expertise and the sophistication of the work that happens 24 hours a day in our system.

CRIME DATA & TRENDS

Acting President Leerhsen updated the board members on the recent trends in our crime data. Key to her message was that CTA's strong progress in this area has continued and deepened throughout the month of June 2026. Crime on transit is down for the 6th straight month, and down 9 out of the last 11 months.

She then went through some statistics to highlight the scale.

- Major crime on CTA, according to CPD's most recent statistics in June, was down 45% from last June.
- Major crime across the entire system year-to-date is down 30%
- Violent crime on CTA saw an even steeper drop in June, and marked a 58% drop from the same period in 2025
- On the Red Line, compared to June 2025, all crime has been cut nearly in half with a 47% drop
- Major crime has dropped 69% on the Red Line, and violent crime was down again – a striking drop of 76%

She acknowledged that one single crime is one too many, and the perception of safety on CTA is affected by every single incident we have. Given the importance of our transit system to the vitality and strength of our city, it is incredibly important that we note our progress in decreasing criminal

activity. This is progress that is sustaining itself.

Two weeks ago Leerhsen went out at night on the Red Line to hear directly from CTA employees who worked the night shift about their experiences, what they appreciate and what they want to hear more about. Crime reduction work which is important, continues 24 hours a day in a dedicated partnership between CTA and law enforcement. New resources will be coming on later this summer with our Safe Ride Specialists, and we will continue to stay focused on reducing crime.

This progress is coming directly out of CTA's close partnership with the Chicago Police Department. Leerhsen took a moment to congratulate Superintendent Snelling on his retirement as Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department. She thanked him for the partnership and collaboration that has directly resulted in reducing crime on the CTA. She stated that she looked forward to the CTA's continued collaboration with the Chicago Police Department and our work with incoming Interim Superintendent Fred Waller and First Deputy Superintendent Antoinette Urcity. She also welcomed Joe Bird to the CTA team as the Chief of Security. Joe Bird is a veteran of the Chicago Police Department who has worked directly on issues of transit security throughout his career.

CTA'S Rail System & Bus System Progress

- The CTA Board voted to authorize more than \$18 million to move the Forest Park ranch rebuild forward. Leerhsen is incredibly excited about what that will mean for the communities that station serves. This funding will allow the CTA to begin designing the next phase of track and drainage work between the Illinois Medical District and the Forest Park stations.
- On the bus side she recognized the notable increase in scale of our automated bus lane enforcement program. The CTA is moving from a program of six camera equipped buses to 52. Scaling to 52 buses means that impact grows significantly with stronger enforcement on the No 20 Madison, the No. 36 Broadway, the No. 66 Chicago Avenue and the No. 8 Halsted. This is a program that's built in partnership with the Chicago Department of Transportation and the City's SMART Street pilot.

Featured Past & Upcoming Events:

- The CTA celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Pink Line with a festive party at the Damen Pink Line station
- For the opening of the Obama Presidential Center the CTA unveiled the No. 10 extension
- The Red Line Jazz Program continues with the CTA's second show at 35th and Sox Park
- As we close out Pride Month, we kick off Disability Pride Month and the CTA will be participating in the Disability Pride Parade
- The CTA will also be participating in the Bud Billiken Parade on August 8th

- For the Red Lined Extension, the CA will be launching an RLS-focused podcast later on this week that features key members of the RLE team, TaNesheha Marshall and Patrice Phillips-Brown, as well as Andrea Reid, the Executive Director of the Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce.
- The RLE Community Office hosted its first ever Workforce Connections Program, inviting people from the community every first Tuesday of the month to come and learn about jobs in the construction trades.

Acting President Leerhsen then invited Kimberly Robinson, CTA's Vice President of Training and Workforce Development, to present the Chicago YouthWorks Program which is our summer internship program for high school students.

Acting President Leerhsen then concluded her remarks.

Chairman Barclay thanked Acting President Leerhsen for her report and commended her team on the continued progress the CTA is seeing in ridership recovery numbers, particularly on the bus side. He noted that the recovery milestones are significant and reflect years of work across the agency to build a workforce, service and schedules to strengthen ridership confidence.

He noted that the ridership trends were particularly encouraging as the CTA heads into the summer months and hoped that the positive momentum would continue into the months ahead.

He also acknowledged the early indicators of progress that Leerhsen reported with respect to security and commended the team and the CTA's sister agencies for their partnership and collaboration in advancing the efforts.

He implored leadership to closely monitor the data and feedback from riders and employees to evaluate progress. *"Success will require continuous evaluation, accountability and a willingness to refine CTA's approach based on what the data and the feedback tell us."*

He closed with noting that the new NITA law took effect at the beginning of June, and that as Board Chairperson he is committed to working collaboratively with the Authority's regional partners and fellow service boards to support the law's goals of greater coordination and integration across the region. He stated that effective regional coordination depends on strong local agencies. *"While collaboration will be essential to achieving the vision of a more integrated transit network, the CTA Board's responsibility will be to govern the Authority and advance its' mission of providing safe, reliable and accessible service to the residents, workers and visitors of [Chicago]."*

Following the remarks made by Chairman Barclay there were comments and questions made by

Director Jakes, Director Eaddy, Director Diego-Johnson, Director Jha, Director Ortiz and Director Requejo. There was also discussion.

MINUTES: Chairman Barclay asked for a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes from May 13, 2026. Director Ortiz moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Director Diego-Johnson. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CTA's Acting General Counsel Sisavanh Baker stated that the Board would recess into Executive Session pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Section 2 (c) (21) (1) and (3).

Director Ortiz moved that the Board recess into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Director Diego-Johnson and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 11:07 a.m.

At 12:17 p.m. Director Ortiz moved that the Board recess from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Director Diego-Johnson. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Director Ortiz moved to adopt the Executive Session Minutes from April 8, 2026. The motion was seconded by Director Diego-Johnson. Director Diego-Johnson abstained from voting. The motion passed by a vote in the affirmative from Chairman Barclay, Director Jha, Director Ortiz, Director Jakes, Director Eaddy and Director Requejo.

Director Ortiz moved to adopt the Executive Session Minutes from May 13, 2026. The motion was seconded by Director Diego-Johnson. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

BOARD MATTERS: Chairman Barclay asked whether there were any Board Matters? Board Secretary Georgette Greenlee responded that there was one Board Matters for consideration which was to approve an ordinance appointing a trustee and an alternate trustee to the Board of Trustees of the Retirement Plan for the Chicago Transit Employees. A copy of the ordinance may be found at: <https://www.transitchicago.com/board/presentations/>

Director Ortiz moved to adopt the ordinance and Director Diego-Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, AUDIT AND BUDGET: The Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee report was presented by Director Bernard Jakes. The committee reviewed the monthly finance report and approved the May 13, 2026, FAB committee meeting minutes. Director Jakes stated that all

Committee agenda items, listed on the Board agenda, were presented, reviewed, discussed, and recommended by the Committee, for Board approval. The Finance Audit and Budget Committee received the report of the independent auditor for 2025. Director Jakes stated that the committee approved of the following six (6) ordinances:

1. An ordinance adopting an amended budget for calendar year 2026.
2. An ordinance amending Ordinance 025-118, approving the fiscal years 2026 through 2040 Capital Improvement Program.
3. An ordinance authorizing the chief financial officer/treasurer to execute a natural gas contract.
4. An ordinance authorizing a permanent easement agreement with Comcast and Astound for the Red Line Extension Project.
5. An ordinance consenting to the Bryn Mawr landmark history, which includes Chicago Transit Authority property located at 1113-15 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, on the Red Line Extension Project.
6. An ordinance authorizing the purchase of primary and excess property insurance coverage for policy years 2026 and 2027.

The Committee also reviewed nine (9) contracts.

The Committee placed six ordinances and 9 contracts on the omnibus. The Committee approved and recommended for Board approval six ordinances and 9 contracts.

Director Jakes concluded the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee Report.

Director Ortiz moved the approval of the omnibus, and the motion was seconded by Director Diego-Johnson. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of seven Board members.

CONSTRUCTION REPORT: The Construction Report was presented by Bill Mooney, CTA's Chief Infrastructure Officer and JuanPablo Prieto, CTA's Director of Diversity Programs and can be found at: <https://www.transitchicago.com/board/presentations/>

The report was a video of the Red Line Extension Groundbreaking. The video has been broadcast on YouTube and other social media channels. The video highlights the celebration and the historic significance of the Red Line Extension Project.

Prior to the video being shown, Director Jha asked whether the Red Line Extension team will run a miniseries or live share from the Red Line Extension construction field?

Acting President Leerhsen suggested that the Construction Department should do more videos given

the abundance of opportunities. Jha responded that the team should capitalize on activities that occur on a round-the-clock basis or during the overnight hours.

Following the video presentation Director Jakes commended the team that worked on the Red Line Groundbreaking Ceremony and said that it was a “great time.”

JuanPablo Prieto reported that CTA’s Diversity team got through the recent reevaluation process with the IFR and the Illinois UCP. The department is not back to setting DBE goals and tracking DBE participation. The team is also fully engaged with CTA’s private contractors to ensure that they are meeting their contractual commitments.

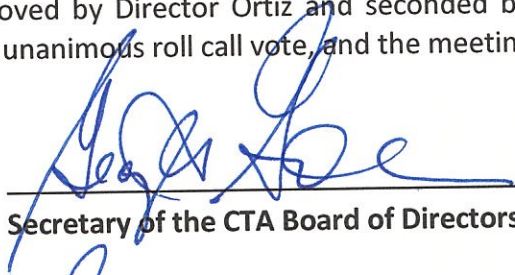
NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Barclay congratulated Merresa Topps-Akindele and Rovaughn Graham for their appointments to the CTA Retirement Plan Board.

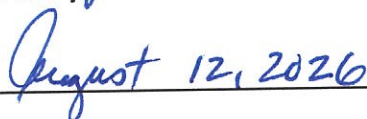
MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chairperson Barclay asked for a motion to adjourn the June 10, 2026, Chicago Transit Board meeting.

After being moved by Director Ortiz and seconded by Director Diego-Johnson, the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

APPROVED: _____


Secretary of the CTA Board of Directors

Date: _____


August 12, 2026