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Transcript of Chicago Transit Authority Board Meeting

Date: April 9, 2025

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BEFORE THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD

BOARD MEETING
Chicago, Illinois
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
10:59 a.m. CT

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Pages: 1 - 44
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Transcript of Chicago Transit Authority Board Meeting
Conducted on April 9, 2025

1 Board Meeting, held at:

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CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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567 West Lake Street

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Chicago, Illinois 60661

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(312) 681-5019

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Before Brianna Bramlett, Certified Electronic

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Reporter in and for the State of Illinois.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

BOARD MEMBERS:

- LESTER L. BARCLAY, CHAIRMAN
- REV. DR. L. BERNARD JAKES, VICE CHAIRMAN
- ROSA Y. ORTIZ
- MICHAEL EADDY
- ROBERTO REQUEJO
- NEEMA JHA

ALSO PRESENT:

- GEORGETTE GREENLEE, SECRETARY
- NORA LEERHSEN, ACTING PRESIDENT
- KENT RAY, GENERAL COUNSEL

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. GREENLEE: You can please have your
3 seats. Thank you very much.

4 IT, can you all count us in, please?

5 And our stenographer for the day --

6 What's your name?

7 THE REPORTER: Brianna.

8 MS. GREENLEE: Brianna has asked that for
9 those who will be speaking, if you could please
10 announce yourself so that she can get your full name.
11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Good morning. I would
13 like to call to order the meeting of the Chicago
14 Transit Board for April 9th, 2025.

15 Georgia, please call the roll.

16 MS. GREENLEE: Director Requejo?

17 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Present.

18 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

19 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Here.

20 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

21 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Here.

22 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

23 DIRECTOR JAKES: Here.

24 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha?

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1 DIRECTOR JHA: Here.

2 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, you have a
3 quorum.

4 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: We were advised prior to
5 the meeting that Director Eaddy will be unable to
6 attend this meeting in person due to a work issue.
7 The Chair will entertain a motion to permit Director
8 Eaddy to participate remotely.

9 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

10 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

11 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
12 Jha, seconded by Director Ortiz that Director Eaddy
13 will be allowed to participate in the meeting
14 remotely. We'll take a rollcall vote.

15 Director Requejo?

16 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

17 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

18 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

19 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

20 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

21 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

22 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

23 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha?

24 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

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1 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

2 Director Eaddy, can you hear us?

3 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes, I can.

4 MS. GREENLEE: Welcome.

5 DIRECTOR EADDY: And thank you very much.

6 MS. GREENLEE: You're welcome.

7 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of
8 business is public comment.

9 Georgette?

10 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, we have
11 one public comment.

12 Mr. Isaiah White?

13 Oh, we have no public comments. Mr. Isaiah
14 White's not here. Is Mr. Isaiah White here? Going
15 once.

16 Chairman Barclay, you may move on.

17 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next item of
18 business on the agenda is our president -- acting
19 president's report, which will be given by Acting
20 President Nora Leerhsen.

21 MS. LEERHSEN: Thank you, Chairman,
22 directors, and thanks for the opportunity to give you
23 an update on a few key initiatives and activity over
24 the past month and moving forward.

1 So first, I want to thank Chairman Barclay,
2 Directors Lee, and Director Eaddy for attending our
3 Austin Green Line event on March 31st to celebrate
4 the groundbreaking of the Austin Green Line Stop and
5 making it accessible. It was a really great event to
6 kick off that project, that \$25 million project.
7 He's a symbol of really our commitment to
8 accessibility across the agency.

9 It's a really exciting year on that front.
10 We're going to have six new stations that are going
11 to be announced as newly accessible: Austin a year
12 from now, as well as Racine on the Blue Line, and
13 four RPM stations later this year. So a great start
14 to celebrate that. We were also joined by Mayor
15 Brandon Johnson, the commissioner from the Mayor's
16 Office of People with Disabilities, Congressman Danny
17 Davis, Illinois Senate President Don Harmon, and
18 other dignitaries. And it was a great day.

19 We followed up yesterday, also attended a
20 press conference with the mayor regarding the city's
21 kicking off of the construction season. So another
22 infrastructure announcement in which CTA was also
23 highlighted for that work, particularly the RPM work.
24 And ultimately, at the end of the year, our

1 groundbreaking for the Red Line extension. So two
2 events that really highlight, you know,
3 infrastructure moving forward and exciting views on
4 that front as well.

5 April is Second Chance Month, so I
6 don't -- I want to take the opportunity to also take
7 a few minutes to talk about our program and celebrate
8 its successes. We, of course, have a national model
9 on that front that helps participants remove barriers
10 to employment and continue building a strong
11 foundation for personal and professional growth. In
12 honor of this month, CTA throughout the month is
13 hosting a series of workshops, empowering workshops,
14 for program participants.

15 We, just last week, hosted an expungement
16 workshop here at CTA headquarters where a group of 70
17 Second Chance apprentices participated in a day of
18 learning and empowerment, including hands-on
19 assistance, navigating the expungement process. So
20 one of the things I want to highlight about our
21 program, you know, as it should, over the past
22 decade, the law has really evolved to advance and
23 require employers to not consider criminal
24 backgrounds in the way that they used to. So that's

1 great. And our Second Chance program remains,
2 however, you know, a shining star in this realm
3 because of the wraparound services and the support
4 that we give through workshops like this.

5 So I actually had a really moving
6 experience yesterday on the Red Line coming back from
7 69th Street where I walked on the train, introduced
8 myself to someone who was clearly a CTA employee, and
9 he's a rail janitor apprentice, started in January
10 and getting a lot out of the program, very
11 enthusiastic. And as we spoke, a gentleman sitting
12 next to us said, Excuse me, I just applied to the
13 Second Chance program through the Cara Collective,
14 and introduced himself and talked about his brother
15 being in the program. So we spent time on the train
16 discussing it.

17 I connected the two of them to discuss kind
18 of how they -- he successfully got into the program
19 and tips for, you know, completing that process. And
20 it was quite a special experience kind of to see that
21 happen and shows how much the program is valued by
22 people and known throughout Chicago for the
23 opportunities it provides.
24 I also want to highlight on Second Chance,

1 you know, the key -- one of the key successes of the
2 program is when employees become permanent employees
3 here at CTA. And so far this year, we've actually
4 made nearly 30 apprentices who have become permanent
5 employees at CTA. In a past year by this time of the
6 year, we would have about eight. So we're working at
7 a pace unseen before in terms of accomplishing that,
8 and that comes from the work of people across
9 departments in supporting the apprentices and moving
10 them up in the agency. So we're really proud of
11 that, and it's something I'm keeping eye on and I
12 want to celebrate.

13 April is also Autism Awareness Month. And
14 we executed a campaign that we've had in the works
15 for a long time that we're really excited about. So
16 since April 1st, if you've been at a CTA rail
17 station, you may have heard the voice of a child
18 across the loudspeakers promoting Autism Awareness
19 Month. This is part of a collaboration we have with
20 the Autism Transit Project that's worked with transit
21 agencies across the country to raise awareness around
22 autism during April through announcements at rail
23 stations. And we're really excited about it.
24 I actually think it's a great step in a

1 direction of thinking about ways to improve the
2 experience at our station through sound and even
3 smell and the experience overall. So in addition to
4 celebrating this month, I think it's an interesting
5 kind of pilot activity in working with our
6 announcement system because you kind of witness
7 people smiling as soon as they hear this child
8 speaker across the loudspeaker and kind of create a
9 cheerful, welcoming environment on CTA from a
10 listening perspective.

11 Also, with regards to youth, two key
12 updates. Our One Summer Chicago application is open,
13 and we're promoting that. You all know that's a
14 program we're really proud of. Additionally, we
15 really go above and beyond here at CTA in supporting
16 the high school students throughout the summer. So
17 that application is open, and we're excited about
18 that.

19 We also hosted a pre-apprenticeship fair at
20 South Suburban College in South Holland on Friday,
21 March 28th. This was free and open to the public.
22 It was attended by 261 individuals, and it's
23 targeting young people, primarily South Suburban high
24 school juniors and seniors. We've done these

1 pre-apprenticeship fairs before but never in the
2 suburbs. So it's also kind of an example of us
3 reaching out to our full region to engage
4 stakeholders and people that would be interested in
5 transportation careers, letting them know how that
6 works.

7 There were 18 exhibitors at the fair,
8 including CTA staff, workforce development partners,
9 contractors, trade unions, and pre-apprenticeship
10 training providers. So we're really excited about
11 that.

12 One of the things that, you know, I've been
13 updating you on is my outreach and work with other
14 elected officials. One of the alderman I met with
15 was Alderman Hall of the 6th Ward in the past month.
16 He's very interested in youth involvement and making
17 connections with our agency from the high school
18 level. And it's something I am looking closely at.
19 We have a history of lots of initiatives we've done
20 at CTA, but I think there's a lot of opportunity
21 there that certainly is a pillar of the mayor's
22 policy stance and also, just given my background as a
23 high school teacher, something I'm particularly
24 interested in, kind of making those connections even

1 more deeply across our city.

2 On Tuesday, March 18th was Transit Employee
3 Appreciation Day. I had the honor and excitement to
4 travel around the city for essentially the whole day
5 thanking employees. I went to several locations, met
6 with over 150 employees throughout the day. It was a
7 great sunny, exciting day at CTA to celebrate
8 employees. I continued to travel the system outside
9 of that day as well, and it's a key component to my
10 approach to leadership here is staying in touch with
11 employees, making sure they see me and hearing from
12 them.

13 You know, as I mentioned to you before,
14 they really know the system, and they understand our
15 needs and our challenges and have great ideas. And,
16 you know, some of the best things are also seeing
17 veteran employees who have been here for decades
18 educating me kind of on what they thought were things
19 that worked well 25 years ago that they'd like to see
20 instituted, wondering where those programs went. And
21 I have great conversations around how to support
22 employees. As we know, we have a lot of new
23 employees. So having those conversations and having
24 people see me and understand that the agency cares

1 about them and it knows they're such an important
2 part to us achieving our mission is a really
3 important aspect of my approach.

4 This also includes a new podcast that I
5 mentioned last week that we got off the ground,
6 Moving Experiences: Stories of the CTA. For the
7 inaugural episode, I interviewed director of bus
8 operations, Arlana Johnson, and vice president of
9 rail operations, Jeannie Alexander, in honor of
10 Women's History Month. It was a great success. We
11 have hundreds of downloads and follows already.

12 One of the things I felt when I went
13 through it was, you know, we're always on a schedule
14 here, we're always kind of rushing around. We never
15 stop for an hour to talk to each other. And just
16 having an hour to talk to these women, hear their
17 experiences as CTA employees, and to be able to then
18 broadcast that and share with the city and the agency
19 has been quite special, and also seeing employees
20 talk about it in the field. So as soon as we posted
21 it, you know, then when I was out in the field, you
22 see people come up to you like, I listened to the
23 podcast this morning. And I just think it's a really
24 useful way for us all to connect. We're all over the

1 city, 11,000 of us, doing all these things. And so
2 I'm really excited about that tool and look forward
3 to talking with more employees and other stakeholders
4 as a part of that.

5 I also want to give an update. I know in a
6 lot of people's minds is our designation of the \$3
7 million for new security initiatives in the budget
8 this year. So as you all know, a key component of
9 that was making sure there's stakeholder engagement
10 preliminarily before taking any action in designing a
11 pilot. That is the stage we're in, kind of wrapping
12 up at this point. So we do plan on giving you an
13 update on the plan for stakeholder engagement next
14 month. But I know that's on people's minds, so I
15 wanted to recognize that and indicate, you know, that
16 is moving forward. Laura Castillo is putting
17 together that plan. We'll be meeting with the ADA
18 Advisory Committee and other entities as we continue
19 to move that forward.

20 There's a lot of overlap with that in the
21 legislative conversation. A lot of key themes kind
22 of come up in both places. So I am kind of
23 monitoring how that might play into commitments that
24 I know legislators are looking for us to make on this

1 front and discussions we've had today in terms of
2 innovative ways to look at improving the customer
3 experience.

4 Lastly, I just want to -- before I get to
5 the legislative update -- want to let the Board know
6 our upcoming Clean and Green Spring Service tour,
7 which is happening on the morning of Saturday, April
8 26th. This is our annual volunteer community service
9 project at CTA where we find key work locations and
10 staff volunteers on that morning to clean up the area
11 around the work location as well as the neighboring
12 community. I'll be there. We'll be sure to send you
13 all the information about it to make you aware of
14 that as well.

15 So to close out, I gave you all an update
16 but want to share publicly, you know, the latest on
17 the legislative front. I know that's on everyone's
18 mind and obviously, kind of the key initiative for
19 CTA in many ways right now. So March 27th, I
20 presented to the RTA Board these scenarios that we
21 walked through with you. And thank you for all that
22 input. As a reminder, the RTA had asked all the
23 service boards to come forward with details on what
24 service impacts would look like if funding was not

1 received and also if funding was received at the
2 level we're requesting and also information about
3 efficiencies that we have as an agency. And so we
4 walked through that.

5 You know, as we've discussed previously,
6 the service cut scenario is painful to see. We're
7 working very hard to never have any of that come to
8 fruition. But the RTA meeting I think did present an
9 opportunity to have a good robust discussion on the
10 realities of what is at stake here across all of our
11 agencies and what funding would provide as well.
12 Following that, on April 2nd, I testified along with
13 the service boards at a Senate Transportation
14 Committee hearing in Springfield. It was another
15 good discussion of the service impacts as well as
16 what service would be provided if funding was
17 received.

18 I continue to have good conversations with
19 legislators. Key meetings are taking place on these
20 topics, as well as, you know, I've held some meetings
21 with people who may be designated on the other side
22 of the issue. Right? And I want to make sure we're
23 building bridges across opinions on this subject.
24 Everyone that's talking about transit cares about

1 transit. We share a lot of goals, and I think we can
2 get somewhere where we agree upon the right way to
3 move our region forward. So I'll continue to keep
4 you updated on that front.

5 I think the public and the legislators are
6 aware of how severe the issue is. And we're working
7 hard to make sure CTA's interests are protected
8 throughout this process.

9 So with that, I'll conclude and happy to
10 discuss anything further.

11 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you, Ms. Leerhsen.
12 Thank you for your report. I'd like to commend you
13 and your team again on the successful rollout of the
14 bus frequency initiative. We received an update on
15 its progress during briefings. And I'm pleased with
16 the results.

17 As I mentioned at the briefings, this is a
18 story that needs to be told of a promise made and
19 promise that has been delivered. This isn't a
20 mission accomplished as we realize we need to expand
21 the frequency of other routes. I do want to
22 acknowledge the success of the program and its
23 rollout.

24 I want to give special acknowledgement to

1 the operations team, Mr. Bonds and his team, for
2 their hard work to ensure that we're delivering the
3 promise of more frequency. The hiring and behind the
4 scenes of coordination that went into this effort
5 played a big role. And on behalf of the Board, I
6 want to say thank you and you've done great job here
7 as well. I look forward to hearing more positive
8 feedback on this effort and seeing additional routes
9 added to the network.

10 I'm also pleased to hear about recent
11 security efforts implemented to directly address
12 persistent customer concerns around security,
13 particularly smoking on trains, which is a top
14 customer concern, as we discussed earlier this
15 morning. I'm encouraged by the anti-smoking mission
16 pilot and recommend that the team expand those
17 efforts to increase visibility and awareness to our
18 customers to show that we're not only listening but
19 we're acting with urgency.

20 As you know, summer is quickly approaching,
21 and we want our customers to feel safe and
22 comfortable when they ride CTA and enjoy the
23 city -- and enjoy all the city has to offer. I would
24 also encourage the team to continue to explore other

1 approaches to addressing smoking and security
2 concerns and consider adding those approaches to
3 build on the missions currently underway. I
4 understand that we will receive updates on additional
5 security approaches and community engagement next
6 month. I look forward to those developments.

7 Another date that's quickly approaching, as
8 you mentioned, is the end of the legislative session
9 in Springfield. And I know you and your team have
10 been working diligently to engage with legislators to
11 make the case for sustainable and equitable transit
12 funding. These discussions are critical for ensuring
13 our message is heard loud and clear the work we're
14 doing to improve service is not only underway; it's
15 working. And funding is essential to continue to
16 make progress in this area.

17 Again, thank you to you and your entire
18 leadership team for your commitment and your hard
19 work. We stand with you in these efforts and
20 encourage the team to continue highlighting success
21 stories and outcomes.

22 At this point, I'll open up to any other
23 board members for comments.

24 MS. GREENLEE: Director Requejo?

1 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Just wanted to join the
2 chairman in congratulating the team on the success of
3 the Frequent bus network. For those less familiar,
4 this is a promise deliver frequency at 10 minutes or
5 less between buses, which is going well. And as the
6 chairman mentioned, we love to see celebrated,
7 communicated, and expanded.

8 And then on the legislative front, at some
9 point, this is going to come down to identifying
10 funding sources, right, and how we want to bridge the
11 gap that exists in the budget.

12 So I'm curious, Nora, as to how we approach
13 this in a way that is not tunnel vision crises mode,
14 one-time problem solved, but then we have the problem
15 next year and next year. So how do we get out of
16 that window of addressing a crisis that sometimes
17 does not allow us to think big and to think about,
18 you know, long-term, multi-generational solutions?
19 And what is CTA's role in being proactive around
20 identifying some sources that could be helpful that
21 we do not use that other cities around the country
22 use -- the other cities around the world use, and we
23 haven't even started to explore including, of course,
24 TOD as one of the opportunities and many others?

1 So just curious as to how are you all
2 applying this both crisis mode and also long term,
3 and what are some of the ideas circulating already as
4 to how can we bridge this gap or what are some of the
5 values behind the ideas that were explained?

6 MS. LEERHSEN: Absolutely. I think part of
7 my approach in the weeks taking this on, you know,
8 there's been this tension between reform and funding,
9 what should we talk about first. Right? And I think
10 we can talk about it all at the same time, I think.
11 And part of it is recognizing the issues and the
12 things that people want improvements across the
13 region. We can do that. And in doing that,
14 let -- then we can jump in more deeply into the
15 funding conversation and engage on both.

16 So we have advocated very clearly for
17 sustainable, reliable funding that provides the level
18 of service that we know this region needs. Those are
19 the general principles of it that we brought to the
20 table. There are conversations underway with regards
21 to what those exact sources would be, of course the
22 CMAP PART report laid out, some of those specific
23 sources, and those all are generally still under
24 discussion.

1 But I agree with you that CTA really needs
2 to be a, you know, front and center and a leader on
3 this to make sure that the funding doesn't just get
4 us kind of a band aid but gets us moving forward in
5 the way that we need. And that's been a lot of the
6 approach in terms of the 1.5 billion and advocating
7 for service beyond what we have now. I see some
8 appetite for discussion around that, that I'm excited
9 about. And we're going to take those conversations
10 and run through -- we have analysis of those funding
11 sources that we have underway and have shared with
12 key people in terms of making sure we're looking at
13 that -- those specific sources responsibly and in a
14 smart way. And we're going to continue that.

15 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Thank you. One thing I
16 wanted to point out and the reason I wanted CTA to be
17 more upfront about ideas and have some more
18 leadership on this is that we have made a commitment
19 to equity in this agency at a very clear -- in a very
20 clear and public way. That is not always the case
21 for everybody. And some of the sources that are
22 being circulated out there are not going to be
23 equitable ways of paying for this, meaning the ones
24 who make less will pay more than the ones who have

1 more.

2 And so I think it's important that we lead
3 not only because we have ideas as to how to bridge
4 the gap but also because the ideas that we bring to
5 the table look first as to who would be carrying or
6 paying the most for this and who would not be
7 burdened farther by this measure. So I wanted to
8 point that out.

9 And also, as you all work with the
10 legislators, I wanted to point out that the public
11 culture is really important to bring into the
12 conversation. I am not quite sure that people know,
13 understand how much it costs to run transit, what the
14 benefits are, how that compare with other things we
15 pay for, like car-oriented infrastructure. So I
16 wonder also what the team could do to help
17 communicate to the public, Hey, here's the gap, this
18 is why, and this is how much we pay for transit in
19 comparison with other things to help us also make the
20 case, because it's great to have that asset, to
21 have -- to be able to walk to a train station, to a
22 bus stop, wherever you are in Cook County, pretty
23 much.
24 And yet I'm not sure people, again,

1 understand, you know, what that costs and what the
2 savings are for their wallets and the impacts would
3 be if that disappeared overnight and had to rely
4 exclusively on cars, Lyft, Uber, so on and so forth.
5 That's (indiscernible). That's the reason why I'm
6 pushing for CTA to do more upfront (indiscernible).

7 MS. LEERHSEN: Yeah, understood. And I
8 think those are really important points to deepen the
9 conversation around what those sources are and who
10 gets impacted if one is chosen over the other, as
11 well as, you know, the affordability of transit and
12 the impact to people financially on an individual
13 basis if those cuts are made. So I definitely agree.

14 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: I'll give you one
15 example. When we were hearing about the pilot, the
16 regional pilot, it was a clear message to me in that
17 conversation that was, if you live in the region and
18 if you are walking distance to a train station or a
19 bus stop, for \$9.50, you can access for 24 hours
20 whatever you want throughout the region. That is a
21 great message to put out there, especially when you
22 compare to what would happen if that station wasn't
23 there, you know.
24 Sowhat would it take in terms of wallet,

1 dollars for somebody rather than having those -- that
2 opportunity to pay 9.50 and arrive from wherever you
3 are in Cook County and beyond to downtown if you have
4 to use a car, you know. How much will you pay in
5 gas? How much will you pay in parking? And all
6 that. That kind of comparison messaging has been
7 missing, and I think it's time to ramp it up.

8 MS. LEERHSEN: Yeah, no, I agree. I mean,
9 I think also just reminding people -- we're talking
10 about getting non-riders back, reminding people how
11 affordable we are. They may forget how low our fare
12 is and, you know, get used to buying those \$7 Ubers
13 more than once a day over and over again. Starting
14 to calculate for people the impact of that, I agree
15 is an important part of this.

16 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: So again, just coupling
17 that with our frequency, I think could be a really
18 great story line. Again, congratulations on our
19 increased frequency for buses particularly. Yeah,
20 I've always felt that we're decently well in our
21 trains, but there's a lot of areas in our city who
22 could benefit from a lot more frequency and not just
23 loop but across our city, farther west.
24 So thank you, and really excited to the

1 team for making that possible.

2 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

3 DIRECTOR JAKES: No questions.

4 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha?

5 DIRECTOR JHA: No questions. Thank you.

6 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

7 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes. I want to first
8 commend Madam President on your (inaudible)
9 legislative (inaudible). And even as you gave us an
10 update on the other day, saying that it appears just
11 being embraced in a positive vein. And so we're
12 happy about hearing that, that moving in the right
13 direction.

14 But let me just -- I guess, question. You
15 raised up about the Second Chance program. And could
16 you maybe help me better understand what the path is
17 for, say, more advanced opportunities? We know what
18 it provides, you know, at the entry level. But what
19 is the path to something more elevated, more -- you
20 know, a broader participation within CTA? What is
21 that path?

22 MS. LEERHSEN: So, Director, once an
23 apprentice works here, their path, you know, through
24 the agency would be similar to any employee that we

1 have. The key is that initial period of support
2 through several agencies that we work with as well as
3 a very robust program we have internally to support
4 apprentices in their -- that initial first role they
5 have. And then they can apply to positions like any
6 other employee and use their successful CTA
7 experience to make -- obtain those positions. And
8 you will see throughout the agency, people work
9 across departments that are former apprentices in
10 various positions.

11 And we can get you more data kind of over
12 the years of the paths that individual apprentices
13 have taken and trends that you'd see. It's permanent
14 positions in the role that they took on as
15 apprentice, as well as various positions throughout
16 the agency.

17 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yeah. Yeah, I would be
18 curious to see that. Certainly, it's probably
19 important as people moving through their life and
20 just upgrade their quality of living. So glad to
21 know that, and I would want to see that.

22 But secondly, you know, we hear often about
23 (indiscernible) said about the 29,000 summer jobs
24 that his administration has been able to provide.

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1 What numbers has CTA participated in that summer job
2 program?

3 MS. LEERHSEN: Sure. I believe last year
4 it was 200 One Summer Chicago interns that we had,
5 and we're going to plan to meet that number again
6 this summer.

7 DIRECTOR EADDY: Okay. You kind of broke
8 up. Did you give a number?

9 MS. LEERHSEN: Sure. Yeah, it's 200,
10 Director Eaddy. Two hundred per summer.

11 DIRECTOR EADDY: Oh, hundred, okay.

12 MS. LEERHSEN: Yeah. And you know, we're
13 proud of that number. It's a big number. I think
14 it's similar to our Second Chance program. What's
15 key to understanding is we really stand out amongst
16 One Summer Chicago programs across the city in terms
17 of the additional curriculum we provide, skills
18 training, discussions about, you know, obtaining a
19 job, and get really creative in terms of thematic
20 work around CTA and the work that they do here.

21 So we'll continue to talk to you about
22 that. But I think we look at the number and we look
23 at the breadth of the program to determine, you know,
24 what we're most proud of.

1 DIRECTOR EADDY: So are you saying the 200,
2 is that on a ceiling, by choice?

3 MS. LEERHSEN: It's the floor. Yeah, we
4 can grow from there. And what we're always assessing
5 is, you know, the resources that we have around it
6 and building that up to make sure we can, you know,
7 adequately support every intern in the way that we
8 have previously. So we're always looking to expand
9 it.

10 And like I say, the application is open for
11 CTA. And we can keep you updated and look to grow
12 the program further.

13 DIRECTOR EADDY: Okay. Thank you.

14 Okay. Can I be heard?

15 MS. GREENLEE: Yes. We can hear you,
16 Director Eaddy.

17 DIRECTOR EADDY: I might getting some -- I
18 was just getting some interference on this end.

19 And then the last thing is concerning the
20 podcast that I heard you talk about. That's
21 primarily for the employees, correct?

22 MS. LEERHSEN: It's publicly posted on
23 anywhere you can listen to podcasts. I've never said
24 that sentence before, but that's what I hear people

1 say about podcasts. So it's publicly available.

2 DIRECTOR EADDY: Okay. Because I
3 would -- yeah.

4 MS. LEERHSEN: But it's very much focused
5 on employees. And -- yeah.

6 DIRECTOR EADDY: And the reason why I
7 raised that up is I just thought that'd be a
8 wonderful opportunity for employees. Also, get some
9 feedback from the riders.

10 And so I didn't know exactly how that is
11 being utilized in that way.

12 MS. LEERHSEN: Yeah, it's not going to be
13 limited to employees. That's kind of the initial
14 phase. We've seen other transit agencies launch
15 podcasts that are -- opted to focus on their
16 employees and celebrating their experiences and
17 learning from them. So that's my first focus.

18 But it's also been marketed already as
19 something that's going to bring on stakeholders and
20 talk about transit issues more broadly. So
21 absolutely, it's going to be also discussing the
22 rider experience and transit from many different
23 perspectives.

24 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yeah, because I'm certain

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1 that would be very helpful to the employees just
2 hearing firsthand from the riders, positive or
3 negative. You know, it's just all good feedback.

4 MS. LEERHSEN: Yeah.

5 DIRECTOR EADDY: So those are --

6 MS. LEERHSEN: Thank you.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you, Director Eaddy.

8 DIRECTOR EADDY: So thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of
10 business is approval of the minutes of the regular
11 Board meeting on March 12th, 2025. May I have a
12 motion to approve?

13 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

14 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: I'll abstain. I wasn't
15 here at the last meeting.

16 DIRECTOR JAKES: Second.

17 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
18 Jha, seconded by Director Jakes, that the minutes
19 from the regular Board meeting of March 12th, 2025 be
20 approved. Will take a rollcall vote.

21 Director Requejo?

22 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

23 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

24 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Abstain.

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1 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

2 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

3 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

4 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

5 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha?

6 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

8 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

9 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

10 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of
11 business on the agenda is executive session.

12 Kent Ray, it's my understanding that we
13 have an executive session today.

14 MR. RAY: Yes, Chairman. The Board will
15 recess in a closed session pursuant to the Illinois
16 Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120, Section 2(c)(1) to
17 (11) (indiscernible).

18 MS. GREENLEE: Motion?

19 MR. RAY: Motion.

20 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: May I have a motion on
21 the executive session as stated by Counsel?

22 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

23 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

24 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director

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1 Jha, seconded by Director Ortiz, that the Board
2 recess into executive council for the reasons stated
3 by Counsel. We'll take a rollcall vote.

4 Director Requejo?

5 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

6 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

7 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

8 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

9 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

10 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

11 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

12 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha?

13 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

14 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

15 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

16 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes, Chairman
17 Barclay.

18 (A recess was taken from 11:34 a.m. to
19 12:25 p.m.)

20 MS. GREENLEE: Yes, we are back on.

21 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will now entertain a
22 motion to return to open session.

23 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

24 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

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Conducted on April 9, 2025

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1 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
2 Jha, seconded by Director Ortiz, that the Board
3 returned back -- be returned to open session. We'll
4 take a rollcall vote.

5 Director Requejo?

6 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

8 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

9 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

10 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

12 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha?

14 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

15 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

16 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

17 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

18 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: We will now address

19 Board agenda item 6-A.

20 Kent?

21 MR. RAY: The item 6-A, the Board reviewed
22 the closed session meeting minutes for March 12th,
23 2025.

24 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: May I please have a

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1 motion to approve the closed-session minutes from
2 March 12th, 2025?

3 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

4 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Second.

5 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
6 Jha, seconded by Director Requejo, that the
7 closed-session minutes from March 12th, 2025 be
8 approved as submitted. We'll take a rollcall vote.

9 Director Requejo?

10 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

12 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Abstain.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

14 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

15 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

16 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

17 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha?

18 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

19 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

20 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

21 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

22 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: We will now address
23 Board agenda item 5-B.
24 Kent?

1 MR. RAY: Thank you, Chairman. In item
2 5-B, the Board reviewed an ordinance authorizing
3 execution of a collective bargaining agreement
4 containing the terms of tentative agreements with the
5 International Association of Machinists and Aerospace
6 Workers, District 8.

7 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will now entertain a
8 motion to approve the ordinance authorizing executive
9 session -- the execution, I'm sorry, of a collective
10 bargaining agreement containing terms of tentative
11 agreements with the International Association of
12 Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District Number 8.

13 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

14 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

15 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
16 Jha, seconded by Director Ortiz, that the ordinance
17 authorizing the collective bargaining agreement be
18 approved. We'll take a rollcall vote.

19 Director Requejo?

20 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

21 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

22 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

23 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

24 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

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1 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

2 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

3 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha?

4 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

5 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

6 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

7 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

8 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: We will now address
9 Board agenda item 6, Board matters.

10 Georgette, do we have any Board matters
11 today?

12 Chairman Barclay, there are no Board
13 matters.

14 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of
15 business is a report from the Committee on Finance,
16 Audit, and Budget.

17 Director Jakes?

18 DIRECTOR JAKES: Hold on one moment. I'll
19 pull this up in a second. Let's see.

20 Thank you. The Committee met earlier this
21 morning and approved the March 12th, 2025 Committee
22 minutes and reviewed the finance report. The
23 Committee reviewed three ordinances: one, review of
24 an ordinance amending Ordinance 024-143, approving

1 the Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029 Capital
2 Improvement Program; two, review of an ordinance
3 authorizing a co-promotional trade agreement with the
4 City of Chicago through its Department of Cultural
5 Affairs and Special Events for 2025; three, review of
6 an ordinance authorizing an amendment to an
7 intergovernmental agreement with RTA, Metra, and PACE
8 for the Regional Day Pass pilot program.

9 The Committee also reviewed six contracts.
10 The Committee placed three ordinances and six of the
11 contracts on the omnibus. Committee approved and
12 recommended for Board approval three ordinances and
13 six contracts. This concludes the report Finance,
14 Audit, and Budget.

15 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will now entertain a
16 motion to approve the omnibus.

17 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

18 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

19 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
20 Jha, seconded by Director Ortiz, that the omnibus be
21 approved. We'll take a rollcall vote.

22 Director Requejo?

23 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

24 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

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Conducted on April 9, 2025

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1 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

2 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

3 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

4 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

5 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

6 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha?

7 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

8 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

9 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

10 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

11 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Georgette, I believe
12 that we have -- we're going to going to defer the
13 construction report.

14 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay would love
15 to take a motion to defer the construction report.

16 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Chair will entertain a
17 motion to defer the construction report to next
18 month.

19 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

20 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

21 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
22 Jha, seconded by Director Ortiz, that the
23 construction report be deferred to next month. We'll
24 take a rollcall vote.

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Conducted on April 9, 2025

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1 Director Requejo?

2 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

3 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

4 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

5 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

6 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

8 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

9 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha?

10 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

12 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

13 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

14 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our final order of
15 business is new business.

16 Georgette, is there any new business?

17 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, there's no
18 new business.

19 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Since there's no further
20 business to come before the Board, may I have a
21 motion to adjourn the Chicago Transit Board Meeting
22 of April 9th, 2025?

23 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

24 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

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1 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director
2 Jha, seconded by Director Ortiz, that the meeting be
3 adjourned. We'll take a rollcall vote.

4 Director Requejo?

5 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

6 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

7 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

8 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

9 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

10 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

11 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

12 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha?

13 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

14 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

15 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

16 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

17 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Meeting is adjourned.

18 Thank you.

19 (Off the record at 12:31 p.m.)

20

21

22

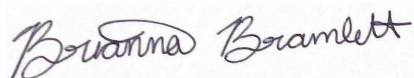
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4 certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing
5 proceedings were fully sworn; that the proceedings
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12 parties to this case and have no interest, financial
13 or otherwise, in its outcome.

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19 BRIANNA BRAMLETT,
20 NOTARY PUBLIC FOR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

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BONNIE TORREZ, CET-1213

April 16, 2025

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Conducted on April 9, 2025

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