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Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting

Date: June 11, 2025

Case: Chicago Transit Authority Board Meeting, In Re:

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BEFORE THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD

BOARD MEETING
Chicago, Illinois
Wednesday, June 11, 2025
11:46 a.m. CDT

Job No.: 582102

Pages 1 - 52

Reported by: Kristine Wesner, CVR

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CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING, held
at:

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
567 West Lake Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661
312.681.3137

Pursuant to agreement, before Kristine
Wesner, Certified Verbatim Reporter, and Notary
Public in and for the State of Illinois.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

PRESENT:

- LESTER L. BARCLAY, Chairman
- REV. DR. BERNARD JAKES, Vice Chair
- ROSA Y. ORTIZ, Director
- MICHELE A. LEE, Director
- MICHAEL EADDY, Director
- ROBERTO ROQUEJO, Director

ALSO PRESENT:

- Nora Leerhsen, Acting CTA President
- Georgette L. Greenlee, Board Secretary
- Kent Ray, General Counsel

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Good morning.

(Chorus of good mornings.)

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I'd like to call to order the meeting of the Chicago Transit Board for June 11th, 2025.

Georgette, please call the roll.

MS. GREENLEE: Director Roquejo?

DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Present.

MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Here.

MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Here.

MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

VICE CHAIR JAKES: Here.

MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

DIRECTOR LEE: Here.

MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

DIRECTOR EADDY: Here.

MS. GREENLEE: Director -- I mean, Chairman Barclay, you have a quorum.

I will note for the record that Director Neema Jha is absent.

CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you. Our next

1 order of business is public comment.

2 Georgette?

3 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, we do
4 have four public comments, and I will call the
5 first person.

6 Ms. Betty Pittman? Is Betty Pittman
7 here?

8 MS. PITTMAN: Debbie.

9 MS. GREENLEE: I'm sorry.

10 MS. PITTMAN: Debbie Pittman.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Okay. Debbie Pittman.

12 Debbie Pittman, you have three minutes.

13 I ask that you come up to the chair. Can you come
14 up to the chair, where the microphone is?

15 Let me help you.

16 (A discussion was held off the record.)

17 MS. GREENLEE: Okay. Ms. Pittman, you
18 may begin.

19 MS. PITTMAN: I want to thank you for
20 the opportunity to speak. I want to thank this
21 board and also to Molly for working on the braille
22 bus stop signs that are being improved on, and I
23 look forward to see those signs, and I'm here on
24 behalf of the National Federation of the Blind of

1 Illinois. And we thank you for listening to our
2 concerns.

3 MS. GREENLEE: Is that it, Ms. Pittman?

4 MS. PITTMAN: Yes.

5 MS. GREENLEE: Okay. Thank you very
6 much.

7 MS. PITTMAN: Thank you.

8 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Thank you so much.

9 MS. LEERHSEN: Thank you, Ms. Pittman,
10 for attending. I know you work with Ms. Poppe,
11 but I'd encourage you to continue to partner with
12 her for further feedback on our work. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

14 VICE CHAIR JAKES: Thank you,
15 Ms. Pittman.

16 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you.

17 Our next speaker is Patricia Puentes.

18 MS. PUENTE: Puente. Thank you for the
19 chair.

20 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you. You have
21 three minutes.

22 MS. PUENTE: Thank you for letting me
23 speak today. My name is Patricia Puente. I'm
24 here because of the bus, 157 and -- in the city of

1 Chicago -- the one that's in front of City Hall, I
2 went to the meeting and I told them that if they
3 could please stop putting their cars -- city cars
4 parked in the side where the bus passes. And this
5 was their response: Well, CTA needs to paint the
6 lanes of the bus stop in order for -- something,
7 you know, they just said CTA needs to paint the
8 lanes of the bus stop.

9 I am going back to City Hall because I
10 have a picture where the -- the cars are parked,
11 and they are parked there the whole day. The bus
12 drivers are having a hard time -- how do you say
13 it -- they're having a hard time getting --
14 letting people in and out --

15 (Simultaneous speech.)

16 MS. PUENTE: -- show you a picture --

17 MS. GREENLEE: -- if you can e-mail me
18 the picture -- I see it. Please e-mail it to us.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. PUENTE: And the people can't get
21 out off the car because they will hit the CTA
22 car -- I mean, the -- yeah. The CTA car. Oh, no.
23 The City's car.

24 Another thing, the bus 6 -- 62 bus on

1 the terminal, I noticed that the one on Harlem and
2 Archer. I'm not sure, but the barbershop that's
3 on the corner, I think they're selling drugs to
4 the bus drivers. If you guys check on that, you
5 know, just because that's -- I saw it, but I guess
6 that the lights that you have -- the cameras that
7 you have, they should show that because the
8 barbers have the key to get into their bathrooms.
9 And I'm, like, how can the barbers have the key to
10 get into the bathrooms? So that's where they
11 deliver, I guess, whatever they deliver.

12 The other thing is -- I had something
13 else, something on the -- oh, the bus -- the
14 buses, can they do their preops and postops when
15 they get to the terminals? Because I noticed that
16 a lot of the buses, the back door doesn't work.
17 So then if there's an emergency, you can't get out
18 of the bus. You have to wait until you go all the
19 way in the front, and a lot of people don't know
20 how to swish the red part --

21 MS. GREENLEE: That's time, Ms. Puente.

22 MS. PUENTE: -- get out through the
23 window. That's it. Thank you very much. I had
24 more, but next meeting. Thank you, and have a

1 nice one.

2 VICE CHAIR JAKES: Thank you,
3 Ms. Puente.

4 MS. PUENTE: And thank you for a good
5 job.

6 MS. LEERHSEN: Thank you for being here
7 and with your additional comments. With regards
8 to planning and bus service, you can speak with
9 Molly Poppe on our planning team and as well as
10 Donald Bonds, our Chief Transit Officer around
11 other operational issues.

12 MS. GREENLEE: Brian Adams. Welcome.

13 MR. ADAMS: Thank you.

14 MS. GREENLEE: You have three minutes.

15 MR. ADAMS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
16 members of the board, everybody else, I guess,
17 watching. My name is Brian, spelled differently
18 than the Canadian rock artist. I come from
19 Bridgeport, and I'm here to speak on Route 31.
20 Route 31 serves Bridgeport, the CHA
21 assisted-living that is on the I-95, a bit of the
22 Sox stadium that's also serviced by Route 35, and
23 the IIT campus at the edges of Bronzeville.

24 It runs approximately from 7 a.m. to

1 7 p.m., Monday through Friday every 30 minutes.
2 Along this route, there is only, like, along this
3 4-mile route, there is three grocery stores --
4 Jewel on MLK Drive, there is a Cermak on Halsted,
5 and there is a Mariano's on Ashland. In between
6 the Halsted and the MLK grocery store, there is
7 essentially nothing, and it would be of great help
8 if the bus service was -- the timetables were
9 shortened to at least, like, every 15 minutes.

10 And if there is room in the budget,
11 hopefully, serving on the weekends. And if
12 there's even more room even going into, like, a
13 night shift -- not to, like, it -- not 24 hours,
14 but just, like, a third shift, if -- that's all.

15 That's my request. Yeah.

16 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you. Thank you
17 very much.

18 MR. ADAMS: Thank you.

19 MS. LEERHSEN: Thank you, Mr. Adams.

20 And you also can speak with our planning team.
21 Molly Poppe is here. That's exactly the type of
22 feedback we're gathering from riders right now, so
23 thanks a lot.

24 MS. GREENLEE: Is Steve Hastalis here?

1 Mr. Chairman, that concludes our public
2 comments for today.

3 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

4 Our next item of business on the agenda
5 was the report for our Citizens Advisory Board,
6 which was to be given by Rob Johnson, Vice
7 President of the Citizens Advisory Board.
8 However, due to timing issues, which have impacted
9 scheduling, we need to defer the report to our
10 July board meeting.

11 May I have a motion to defer the
12 report?

13 DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.

14 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Second.

15 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by
16 Director Lee, seconded by Director Roquejo to
17 defer the Citizens Advisory Board report to
18 July 2025. We'll take a roll call vote.

19 Director Eaddy?

20 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

21 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

22 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

23 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

24 VICE CHAIR JAKES: Yes.

1 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

2 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

3 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

4 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

5 MS. GREENLEE: Director Roquejo?

6 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yes.

7 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

8 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next item of
9 business on the agenda is our president -- acting
10 president, Nora Leerhsen's, report, which will be
11 presented at this time.

12 MS. LEERHSEN: Thank you, Chairman,
13 Directors. Nice to be with you this morning.

14 I'll start with what I know is top of
15 mind for everyone, which is an update
16 legislatively on what occurred in the past spring
17 session. As we all know, the end of the session
18 ended without a transit bill being passed by law
19 and what this means for us is that we've entered a
20 new phase in this search for our funding for 2026.
21 And, specifically, what this new phase will bring,
22 as we've discussed, is now more heightened
23 specific conversation around the potential impacts
24 if funding is not received for CTA and for

1 agencies in our region.

2 What will drive that, in large part,
3 we'll be RTA's budget process. So what we have
4 occurring this week, tomorrow, is RTA's next board
5 meeting, where what will be finalized are a lot of
6 plans around the budget. But what I can tell you
7 is that, already, RTA is asking agencies to
8 prepare two separate budgets, one that assumes
9 funding is coming at the levels that we need, but
10 one that also prepares for what would occur if
11 funding was not received. And, certainly, that
12 latter proposition is severe and sobering for all
13 of us and hard to stomach.

14 But I do mention the two scenarios
15 because that will be a lot of what we'll be
16 functioning like in the coming weeks and months to
17 prepare for potential realities, and I'd add a
18 third scenario, that we are always looking at
19 here, which is if we got the funding we have
20 requested, which is 1.5 billion for the region,
21 what kind of service enhancements that would bring
22 us because we always need to keep that in mind as
23 well.

24 There was a lot of activity in the

1 final week of the spring session, but what we saw
2 was some progress, particularly with regards to
3 funding. We saw, for the first time, packages put
4 forth that recognized the need for the region from
5 a financial perspective, and that was welcomed
6 news. We saw some recognition of CTA's share of
7 the funding and what was needed there as well, and
8 that was also welcomed news.

9 We saw substantial proposed changes
10 with regards to governance, and I know we've
11 talked about that and we will continue to talk
12 about that in the coming weeks. And what I see,
13 what lies ahead, is an opportunity to now engage
14 more deeply and what has been proposed across the
15 board as an agency with what we now see the latest
16 in terms of what members have put forth.

17 It's obviously an historic,
18 unprecedented time for our industry and our
19 region, and I am going to approach that, as the
20 acting president, in terms of the opportunity it
21 presents. I think we see people activated across
22 all levels of government, across advocacy groups
23 about public transit, and I see a strong appetite
24 that we're going to connect with in terms of

1 elevating the importance of what we do and what we
2 bring to communities during this time, and be at
3 the table, as an agency, to contribute into what
4 we know that we've -- has been my message
5 throughout this, that we welcome reform that is
6 focused on the outputs for our riders and the
7 people we serve. And we'll continue to contribute
8 what we can to guide that reform in a way that,
9 then, keeps the focus on what riders need to see
10 most.

11 You heard us mentioned earlier during
12 the service planning committee, and I want to be
13 very clear: Our 2025 service plan remains in
14 place. We have had exciting plans for this year
15 that you, as a board, approved in our 2025 budget.
16 We've seen that happen in our service committee
17 today. We've seen it with the introduction of the
18 Frequent Network that's continuing to grow.

19 And that will proceed because I think
20 it's incredibly important that members of the
21 legislature and the public are also reminded of
22 what we can do with the money when we do receive
23 it and also reminded of what we've achieved in the
24 past few years in terms of our hiring and our

1 workforce and what we're ready to do when that
2 money does come our way. Because we stand ready
3 to execute for the communities that we've
4 committed these service commitments to and we'll
5 continue with that plan.

6 Where the sobering, more serious
7 information will lie is in the plans that we will
8 potentially have to implement in 2026. And over
9 the summer and into the fall, you will start to
10 see public hearings and engagement with the public
11 that will, more specifically, consider those
12 outputs and consequences, and I'll continue to
13 keep you updated on what that looks like.

14 As I mentioned, the RTA budget process
15 will kick off with discussions this week from
16 their board and the directions to the agencies,
17 and that will precipitate responses from the
18 agencies in that regard. But what I want to make
19 clear is that through this process, we will never
20 abandon our values as an agency in terms of
21 equity, access, and servicing our riders in the
22 best way possible.

23 And a pillar of my leadership during
24 this time has been engagement with people and

1 organizations that we will now more deeply
2 continue, which we even kicked off yesterday with
3 something that I'll give in my further report of
4 our CTA Chats Initiative, where we are out with
5 riders on a regular basis hearing from them and
6 what they want to see from CTA. So everything
7 that crosses my desk and our table now, I see with
8 fresh eyes in terms of the importance that it
9 plays on the legislative front.

10 I do want to take a few minutes to
11 thank the people that got us through to the end of
12 the legislative session. Our Government and
13 Community Relations team has worked tirelessly
14 throughout that period to engage with members,
15 supported by staff across departments -- our
16 finance and legal departments, our planning
17 departments. You know, we're going to roll up our
18 sleeves and continue that work now, that we're
19 continuing to fight for this funding, but I want
20 to take a moment to reflect on all the work that
21 went into that session as well.

22 Also our labor partners worked
23 tirelessly. The Amalgamated Transit Union
24 leadership organized seven trips over the course

1 of that session, brought hundreds of employees in
2 a way that was also supported by our operations
3 team to allow for those employees to take time off
4 of their schedules to go advocate on behalf of our
5 employees and our transit industries. So I also
6 want to take them for their leadership during that
7 period as well, and, certainly, we're all rolling
8 up our sleeves to continue it now.

9 What I will walk through is a few
10 updates across the pillars -- the principles that
11 I focused on last time when I give you a report,
12 that my vision is that CTA is people driven,
13 performance focused, centered in welcoming places,
14 and rooted in those dynamic partnerships that
15 we've talked about.

16 So first with people, I am excited to
17 announce the launch of the CTA Chats Engagement
18 program, which started last night at Union
19 Station. I was there as part of it talking to
20 riders, and this is something we already had
21 planned in place as part of our strategic plan.
22 But we've now broadened it to make sure we are now
23 immediately engaging with riders about the fiscal
24 cliff, about what we're hearing, that we want to

1 make sure they want to see from both investments
2 in the future and what they value in their service
3 that they currently have that we keep in mind and
4 top of mind. It was a great cheerful event, and I
5 look forward to future ones throughout the season
6 as well.

7 I also want to note our One Summer
8 Chicago program will launch this month. On
9 June 23rd, we're welcoming 250 One Summer Chicago
10 interns, and I'm incredibly excited about that.
11 As someone that started their career in public
12 service 20 years ago, as a teacher, I've been
13 priming my teacher voice to talk with them and
14 hear from them as well. And, as we always do, we
15 will engage with you, the Board, and as you can
16 see the dynamic program we have in place.

17 Last week, we also welcomed 21 leaders
18 in transit from across the country as part of the
19 Lead Program, which is an organization that brings
20 transit leaders together from across the country
21 to talk about issues they're facing. And I have
22 to say for me, personally, it couldn't have been
23 better time to come back home from Springfield and
24 talk with people across the country about the

1 shared issues that so many of us are facing in
2 terms of COVID relief running out and looking for
3 new revenue sources to assist with that.

4 I also want to recognize TaNesheha
5 Marshall, the Vice President of the Red Line
6 Extension, and Gus Lastinao (phonetic), our Vice
7 President of the Control Center Operations and Bus
8 Service Management, who are the participants this
9 year from CTA in the Lead Program, and we're
10 excited about what they will accomplish there.

11 We're performance focused, and I want
12 to particularly give an update on the impressive
13 ridership numbers that we're seeing from our
14 Frequent Bus Network. So the J14, which is such a
15 key route in our system, for example, since
16 launching the Frequent Bus Network on the J14,
17 we've seen a 20 percent weekday service increase,
18 a 35 percent weekend service increase that's
19 resulted in 40,000 additional riders year-to-date
20 on that route, and that's an exciting
21 accomplishment.

22 I also want to thank, throughout all
23 these reports, our operations team, our bus
24 supervision that are key to making the Bus

1 Frequent Network run effectively.

2 The No. 60 Blue Island route saw a
3 45 percent increase in service on the weekends,
4 and a 20 percent growth in ridership year-to-date.
5 And the No. 95, for example, saw a 20 percent
6 weekday service increase and a 30 percent weekend
7 service increase, resulting in 16,000 more riders
8 on that route.

9 And this is a message that I bring to
10 Springfield and legislators as well, that when you
11 add service, the ridership follows. And that's
12 where we're going to see transformational change
13 in our reason in terms of our access to transit.

14 Ridership, overall, has some
15 interesting positive developments. We're seeing a
16 4 percent year-over-year annual growth, which
17 means we're consistently hitting approximately
18 1 million rides per day in the middle of the week,
19 which is an exciting trend to have stay constant
20 throughout our system.

21 The Kennedy construction is an
22 interesting example both of partnerships as well
23 as performance increase. So I worked closely with
24 Secretary Biaggi at the Illinois Department of

1 Transportation when this construction started to
2 make sure that we were coordinating additional
3 service, as well as promotion of CTA, to help
4 lessen the burden of the traffic from the
5 construction. And we've seen a thousand
6 additional daily rides on our Blue Line that we're
7 attributing to that work and that partnership.

8 We've been coordinating our messaging
9 to ensure the commuters are aware of the
10 alternative service options, and our
11 infrastructure and operations teams have been
12 working very closely with the construction crews
13 at IDOT to coordinate track access for the
14 construction work. So this is an example of
15 partnership across several departments to execute
16 a promotion of transit ridership, and we've seen
17 great success in that as well.

18 Weekends and special events continue to
19 be strong ridership performers for us. Suenos
20 Festival added 90,000 riders over two days, the
21 Beyoncé and AC/DC concerts combined added 20,000
22 additional rides at Roosevelt Station alone, and
23 an interesting statistic is that weekend ridership
24 itself is well-above 80 percent of pre-COVID

1 levels. So we're seeing strong ridership in many
2 particular facets that is a promising indication
3 of the efforts across the way.

4 With regards to being centered in
5 welcoming places, I want to focus on two specific
6 initiatives related to the security pilots that I
7 know the board approved for this year, and this is
8 specifically with reference to the concept of
9 crime prevention through environmental design that
10 we've talked about with you. In two ways, we're
11 kicking off a pilot with regards to elevator
12 access, trying out -- and this is something
13 Director Lee specifically talked with us about and
14 we've seen other agencies do -- trying out holding
15 our elevator doors open for longer and seeing how
16 that may deter activity that we don't want to
17 occur in our elevators, particularly something
18 that -- like, urination or other activities that
19 takes a lot of manpower and work to clean up and
20 address. So we're excited to kind of initiate
21 that at several stations, see how that works, if
22 we do see a decrease in the activity that we want
23 to see in our system.

24 Another area similar to that, and this

1 is place in terms of our railcars -- the same
2 concept, crime prevention through environmental
3 design is adjusting spaces to deter activity that
4 you don't want to occur -- and riders of our rail
5 system will be very familiar with this as I am --
6 there is an area across from the motor cab on our
7 railcars that we often see activity occurring,
8 particularly smoking, when -- in our system that I
9 want our staff to pilot initiatives to close that
10 off. Because I think that that one activity will
11 deter a lot of activity in our system that we
12 don't want to see, and I just use those two
13 examples as something that might seem small, but
14 could have a big impact on activity.

15 And I use it as an example of, you
16 know, with our places at CTA, we have major
17 announcements coming soon in terms of the opening
18 of our RPM stations. And we also have these
19 smaller-scale activities that we can think about
20 our places that could, hopefully, improve the
21 experience for riders across the board.

22 In terms of partnerships, you know, I
23 think we've been talking about it today, but
24 really want to celebrate the Narcan pilot

1 partnership that has come about from a lot of hard
2 work across several departments at CTA -- a lot of
3 great advocacy, and I'm really excited to see
4 where that goes. I think the Narcan pilot is also
5 just a symbol of who we are as an agency. We have
6 a huge responsibility in terms of the people that
7 we have on our system, what they bring onto our
8 system, and what we need to do to help them in
9 every way we can, and I'm excited about what that
10 will bring.

11 And I'll also say, partnerships, you
12 know, after the bill didn't pass in Springfield,
13 the first thing I did was reach out to the
14 partners that we've created through that --
15 through that advocacy during that time. So groups
16 like Active Transportation Alliance, the
17 Metropolitan Planning Council, Access Living --
18 I'm already seeing the fruits come bearing from
19 those partnerships that I know will impact us in a
20 positive way as we face the months ahead. And I'm
21 excited about being focused on that in this time
22 as well.

23 So I'll pause there, and I appreciate
24 the time to give you those various updates.

1 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you,
2 Ms. Leerhsen, for your report and for the work
3 that you and your team have done, not just over
4 the past few weeks, but consistently over the past
5 year and half. The effort that the President's
6 Office and Governmental Relations team has put
7 into ongoing engagement with lawmakers, attempting
8 to educate them on the reality of our current
9 funding structure, and advocating for the needs of
10 our system have not gone unnoticed.

11 The proposed change to the funding
12 structure under the proposed legislation is a
13 prime example of this effort. You successfully
14 brought attention to the inequities built into the
15 current form and the long-term impact that
16 underfunding has had on our system and the
17 communities we serve.

18 That is important work and I want to
19 acknowledge the leadership and persistence of the
20 team in advancing those conversations. Of course,
21 when the urgency of the critical fiscal challenge
22 we faced, it is concerning that the funding
23 legislation was not resolved in the spring
24 session. We're now in an even more critical time

1 crunch to reach and resolve the issue of
2 transportation funding. Without it, CTA, our
3 sister transit agencies as well, will be forced to
4 consider draconian cuts and will significantly and
5 negatively impact services for our riders.

6 That said, I remain optimistic.
7 Positive outcome from this session's discussions
8 that we've seen a shift even more -- even
9 more so than before towards an acknowledgment that
10 funding is, indeed, necessary. That emergent
11 consensus is important and gives me hope that all
12 parties involved will come back to the table with
13 a shared commitment to producing a workable
14 solution in a timely manner.

15 As has been noted, another significance
16 of the proposed legislation is reform. I agree
17 that accountability is needed, and we should all
18 be committed to transparency at the highest
19 standards for service. However, some of the
20 proposed reforms in the legislation that passed
21 out in the Senate are concerning, especially those
22 that would centralize authority in a way that only
23 hindered Transit Authority's ability to respond
24 effectively and efficiently to the public that we

1 serve.

2 These kinds of structural changes risk
3 undermining the very operations they are meant to
4 improve. It is important that both legislatures
5 and the public fully understand how proposed
6 reforms might affect the day-to-day provisions of
7 service. I would do my part to ensure that
8 awareness is raised and potential impacts are
9 fully considered. As we move forward, I look
10 forward to working with all stakeholders, our
11 agency colleagues, our partners in government, and
12 our communities on a solution that ensure
13 accountability and maintains our ability to
14 deliver quality service. Most of all, we need a
15 solution that centers the needs of the public and
16 truly benefits them as well.

17 Thank you very much for the hard work
18 that you and your team have done to lead us
19 through this period, and we thank you for your
20 report this morning as well.

21 Any other directors want to make
22 comments at this time?

23 DIRECTOR EADDY: I would just want to
24 commend you for personally participating in one of

1 those meetings with the general public they're
2 saying over at the Union Station. I think it's
3 very -- vitally important and you being in the
4 role that you're in, your presence means a lot to
5 those that come to those meetings. I would like
6 to participate and be a part of one --

7 MS. LEERHSEN: Absolutely.

8 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yeah. So I don't know
9 where the schedule -- has it been posted?

10 MS. LEERHSEN: Yes. We'll get that to
11 you. We're building it out for the next couple of
12 months as well and had intended to engage with you
13 and make sure you have an opportunity to attend,
14 so thanks for mentioning.

15 DIRECTOR EADDY: And from what you
16 heard, and a lot of times, we hear certain things
17 in board meeting, but to get out there with the
18 public -- is there any particular thing that you
19 have heard that resonated that kind of rung a
20 bell --

21 MS. LEERHSEN: Yeah.

22 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yeah.

23 MS. LEERHSEN: Yeah. I heard twice
24 yesterday discussions of what we actually kind of

1 talked about in the service planning meeting, but
2 people having to rush out of work because they're
3 aware that the frequency of a bus route reduces
4 after a certain time. So people wanting that
5 frequency to last later into the evening --

6 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yeah.

7 MS. LEERHSEN: -- was something I heard
8 from a few people last night that really, you
9 know, validated another message that I've also
10 been saying to legislators, which is, like, when
11 people look at a CTA map, they see a route
12 spanning across the region. What you don't
13 necessarily see is that, given our budget
14 constraints, the ends of those routes, or sections
15 of them, they reduce frequency after a certain
16 time, and it forces people to have to consider how
17 to adjust their plans and schedules. So I heard a
18 lot about frequency last night when I was out
19 there, and it just kind of put the message even
20 further on what we need to focus on in funding.

21 DIRECTOR EADDY: That's it for me.

22 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

23 DIRECTOR LEE: This is a lot, but okay.

24 Well, thank you for your leadership in

1 Springfield, but I know we have a lot of work
2 ahead of us, and continually keep us updated in
3 how we can -- and also the public -- how we can
4 continue to support public transit as -- as -- and
5 I know you're trying to embrace the positive.

6 I'm a little nervous. I'm pretty
7 scared. You know, this is people's way of getting
8 from A to B and how to live their lives in
9 Chicago. So it's scary to me, and I appreciate
10 leadership, but I know we're at a critical point,
11 and just got to stick to it, I guess. But thank
12 you for that.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

14 VICE CHAIR JAKES: No, I have no
15 comment.

16 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

17 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Thank you again for
18 your leadership. This is no easy task under
19 normal -- on a normal setting, but right now, it's
20 even that much more critical to be out there. So
21 thank you for bringing your skills to the table.

22 On the concept of it's going to take
23 all of us to get the right funding, I wonder what
24 kinds of messages we can put on our system to

1 encourage the public, in general, to also continue
2 to put pressure on their elected officials to make
3 sure that funding is appropriately delivered for
4 us to continue the services that are desired. So
5 if there's any opportunity for that, I do think
6 it's going to take all of us. And so the more
7 people we get aware and to activate, I think the
8 better we can all be in terms of knowing that
9 we've, you know, done every bit of approach to
10 encourage this.

11 MS. LEERHSEN: I appreciate that.
12 We'll keep you updated on our plans about how
13 we're engaging riders and groups and getting all
14 the voices at the table.

15 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yeah. Thanks.

16 MS. GREENLEE: Director Roquejo?

17 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yeah. I'd like to,
18 first of all, thank all of you who had to do
19 double duty, both running the system and being in
20 Springfield with thousands of CTA folks, where --
21 doing both folks, advocating in Springfield, folks
22 analyzing things, you know, late at night, no
23 weekends, et cetera. So thank you for all that
24 hard work.

1 Three things that you mentioned that
2 are really important and I wanted to offer myself
3 as others are offering themselves here. Moving
4 forward, one is, centering our values and you
5 already mentioned a few, like equity,
6 collaboration, transparency. I think if we focus
7 on those and keep those alive, I am optimistic,
8 like the chairman is, on success.

9 There's another part that is about the
10 message and the story that we need to tell, and
11 then as important as the message is backing that
12 up with actual results, right? We cannot tell a
13 story that is not based on reality, so we need to
14 figure out how do we communicate the success and
15 the improvements and how that translates into
16 funding. But, again, the messaging is something
17 that I'm worried about because even as you were
18 describing the scenarios that RTA is going to
19 present to CTA, you mentioned that they, per law,
20 we have to develop a scenario with the funds that
21 we need, and another one with the cuts, right?

22 And I would like to start, all of us,
23 reframing this because the cut scenario we have to
24 do per legislation, but the other one, I wouldn't

1 call it the funding that we need. I would call it
2 business as usual, and business as usual has not
3 worked well for anyone.

4 So I want to call the third scenario
5 the one that is the money that we need, and
6 two years ago, 26 organizations, representing very
7 broad spectrum, from labor to businesses to
8 community-based organizations, transit experts --
9 we all agreed that the ballpark that we need is
10 \$1.5 billion. So I would like to lead with that
11 being the ask -- that is the funding that we need.
12 And the rest are, A, the business as usual budget
13 that, every year, we do and we all know is not
14 enough, and then the even worse scenario, which is
15 having to make those draconian and impossible cuts
16 that we have to do.

17 So I wanted to, again, encourage
18 everybody to keep that in mind, know that you
19 have, as you mentioned, many advocates behind you
20 on the proper funding, which is, again, at
21 minimum, \$1.5 -- that billion dollars, and just
22 use the opportunity that we have right now to
23 educate folks on what would it take to expand
24 every bus line to ten minutes, as Brian was

1 mentioning today? Or what would it take to
2 eliminate all the slow zones in the system? Or
3 how much is a train car? You know, all of those
4 things, people just don't know. You know, we have
5 to do better at communicating that.

6 But, again, my main concern is, as to
7 being pushed into this corner of either/or --
8 these two scenarios, the cuts or the business as
9 usual, instead of centering also this other third
10 scenario, which is, to me, is Scenario No. 1, not
11 the third, which is, we need \$1.5 billion minimum
12 to deliver.

13 And, by the way, this state of Illinois
14 has a GDP equal, or exceeding, that of
15 Switzerland, and we're still fighting over this
16 basic funding. And if you were to divide by the
17 number of people who live in the metropolitan
18 area, what we're asking is \$0.40 per resident of
19 the metropolitan area every day. So you have \$.40
20 every day to put into your system is what we're
21 asking to -- residents and to legislators,
22 governor, et cetera.

23 So, anyway, just wanted to make sure
24 that we focus on those three scenarios and I,

1 personally, will be pushing for number one being
2 the funding that we need, which is, again, not
3 covering that gap that we have, that when we need
4 to have the frequencies that we deserve, the
5 security that we deserve, the customer experience
6 that we deserve. So count on me for those
7 conversations, and I will join in those
8 conversations with -- with riders, but also any
9 conversation with legislators that you need me to
10 be part of -- be happy to.

11 MS. LEERHSEN: Thank you. Appreciate
12 that.

13 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you again.

14 Our next order of business is the
15 approval of the minutes of the special board
16 meeting of May 8th, 2025. May I have a motion to
17 approve?

18 DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.

19 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Second.

20 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by
21 Director Lee, seconded by director Roquejo that we
22 approve the minutes from the May 8th special board
23 meeting. We'll take a roll call vote.

24 Director Roquejo?

1 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yes.

2 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

3 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

4 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

5 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

6 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

7 VICE CHAIR JAKES: Yes.

8 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

9 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

10 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

11 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

12 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

13 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: We also need to
14 approve the minutes of our regular board meeting
15 of May 14th, 2025. May I have a motion to
16 approve?

17 DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.

18 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Second.

19 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by
20 Director Lee, seconded by Director Roquejo. We'll
21 take a roll call vote.

22 Director Eaddy?

23 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

24 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

1 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

2 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

3 VICE CHAIR JAKES: Yes.

4 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

5 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

6 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

7 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

8 MS. GREENLEE: Director Roquejo?

9 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yes.

10 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

11 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: The next item on the
12 agenda is executive session.

13 Kent Ray, I understand that, today, we
14 do have an executive session.

15 MR. RAY: Yes, Chairman. There will be
16 an executive session today, pursuant to the
17 Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5-ILCS 120,
18 Section 2(c)(11) and (21).

19 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Now, I'll entertain
20 a motion to recess into executive session for
21 reasons stated by counsel.

22 DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.

23 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Second.

24 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by

1 Director Lee, seconded by Director Roquejo that
2 the board will move into executive session. We'll
3 take a roll call vote.

4 Director Roquejo?

5 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: 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 VICE CHAIR JAKES: Yes.

12 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

13 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

14 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

15 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

16 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

17 (There was a recess to executive
18 session in the proceedings.)

19 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will now entertain
20 a motion to return to open session.

21 DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.

22 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Second.

23 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by

24 Director Lee, seconded by Director Roquejo that

1 the board return to open session. We'll take a
2 roll call vote.

3 Director Roquejo?

4 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yes.

5 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

6 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

8 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

9 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

10 VICE CHAIR JAKES: Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

12 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

14 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

15 MS. GREENLEE: Motion passes.

16 Chairman Barclay, I think that you
17 would be asking Kent Ray --

18 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

19 MR. RAY: In Item 6a, Chairman, the
20 board reviewed the closed session meeting minutes
21 for April 9th, 2025.

22 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: May I please have a
23 motion to approve the closed session minutes for
24 April 9th, 2025?

1 DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.

2 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Second.

3 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by
4 Director Lee, seconded by Director Roquejo that
5 the closed session minutes from April 9th, 2025,
6 be approved. We'll take a roll call vote.

7 Director Roquejo?

8 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yes.

9 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

10 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

12 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

14 VICE CHAIR JAKES: Yes.

15 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

16 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

17 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

18 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

19 MS. GREENLEE: Motion passes.

20 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: We will now address
21 board Agenda Item 6b.

22 Kent?

23 MR. RAY: Chairman, in Item 6b, the
24 board reviewed a proposed settlement of the

1 lawsuit captioned, Bianca Murphy, Independent
2 Administrator for the Estate of Sherry Fisher,
3 Deceased, v. Felicia Gage & Chicago Transit
4 Authority, Case No. 2024 L 002673, pending in the
5 Circuit Court of Cook County, in the amount of
6 \$6 million.

7 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Now, I'll entertain
8 a motion to approve the settlement in the amount
9 of \$6 million in the lawsuit entitled, Bianca
10 Murphy, Independent Administrator of the Estate of
11 Sherry Fisher, Deceased, v. Felicia Gage & Chicago
12 Transit Authority, Case No. 2024 L 002673, pending
13 in the Circuit Court of Cook County.

14 DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.

15 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Second.

16 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by
17 Director Lee, seconded by Director Roquejo that
18 the board will approve the settlement in the
19 amount of \$6 million in the lawsuit of Bianca
20 Murphy, Independent Administrator for the Estate
21 Sherry Fisher, Deceased, v. Felicia Gage and the
22 Chicago Transit Authority.

23 We'll take a roll call vote.

24 Director Eaddy?

1 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yeah.

2 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

3 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

4 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

5 VICE CHAIR JAKES: Yes.

6 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

7 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

8 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

9 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

10 MS. GREENLEE: Director Roquejo?

11 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yes.

12 MS. GREENLEE: Motion passes.

13 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: We will now address

14 board Agenda Item 7, Board Matters.

15 Georgette, do we have any board

16 matters?

17 MS. GREENLEE: Mr. Chairman, there are

18 no board matters.

19 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of

20 business is a report from the Committee on

21 Strategic Planning and Service Delivery.

22 Director Ortiz?

23 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes, thank you.

24 The committee met earlier this morning

1 and approved the September 11th, 2024, committee
2 minutes. The committee reviewed two ordinances:
3 The first one, the review of an ordinance
4 authorizing a route realignment of bus routes --
5 No. 53 Pulaski, No. N53 Pulaski Owl; and No. 53A,
6 South Pulaski; and the review of an ordinance
7 authorizing the implementation of Sunday service
8 and an extension of Bus Route No. 93
9 California/Dodge.

10 The committee placed the two ordinances
11 on the omnibus. The committee approved and
12 re-recommended the board -- for board approval the
13 two ordinances.

14 That concludes my report,
15 Chairman Barclay.

16 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you, Director
17 Ortiz.

18 I will now entertain a motion to
19 approve the omnibus.

20 DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.

21 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Second.

22 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by
23 Director Lee, seconded by Director Roquejo to
24 approve the omnibus. We'll take a roll call vote.

1 Director Eaddy?

2 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yeah.

3 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

4 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

5 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

6 VICE CHAIR JAKES: Yes.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

8 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

9 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

10 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Director Roquejo?

12 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yes.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Motion passes.

14 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of

15 business is a report from the committee on

16 Finance, Audit, and Budget.

17 Director Jakes?

18 VICE CHAIR JAKES: The committee met

19 earlier this morning and approved the June 11,

20 2025, committee minutes and reviewed the finance

21 report. The committee reviewed 13 ordinances.

22 Number 1, review of an ordinance

23 amending Ordinance 024-143, approving the fiscal

24 years 2025 through 2029 Capital Improvement

1 Program; number 2, review of an ordinance
2 authorizing a first amendment to a license
3 agreement with Pace for the use of parking spaces
4 at the Rosemont Park and Ride line for Pace VanGo
5 vehicle program; 3, review of an ordinance
6 authorizing payment of relocation expenses arising
7 from the acquisition of property located at
8 11900 South Cottage Grove Avenue for the RLE
9 project.

10 4, review of an ordinance authorizing
11 the purchase of real property located at
12 411-413 West 105th Street, Chicago, for the RLE
13 project; 5, review of an ordinance authorizing the
14 purchase of real property located at
15 12200-12256 South Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago,
16 for the RLE project; 6, review of an ordinance
17 authorizing the purchase of real property located
18 at 401-407 West 104th Street, Chicago, for RLE
19 project.

20 7, review of an ordinance authorizing
21 an intergovernmental agreement with the
22 Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater
23 Chicago for the RLE project; 8, review of an
24 ordinance declaring surplus and authorizing the

1 sale of real property located at
2 5426-5446 South Calumet Avenue, Chicago, to City
3 Colleges of Chicago; 9, review of an ordinance
4 authorizing intergovernmental license agreement
5 for CTA's use of Metra's bathroom facilities at
6 504 East 115th Street in Chicago with the Frequent
7 Network project.

8 10, review of an ordinance authorizing
9 a pilot program agreement with Sensonic U.S., Inc.
10 for safety pilot through the CTA Innovation Studio
11 program; 11, review of an ordinance authorizing
12 the purchase of primary and excess property
13 insurance coverage for policy year 2025 through
14 2026; 12, review of an ordinance authorizing an
15 amendment to a contract with CRRC Sifang America
16 JV for railcars.

17 13, review of an ordinance authorizing
18 a license agreement with the County of Cook,
19 through the County of Cook Health and Hospital
20 system, to install, operate, and maintain
21 public-health vending machines on CTA property
22 dispensing Narcan at rail stations. The committee
23 also reviewed 10 contracts. The committee placed
24 the 13 ordinances and 10 of the contracts on the

1 omnibus. The committee approved and recommended
2 for board approval 13 ordinances and 10 contracts.

3 This concludes the report of the
4 Finance, Audit, and Budget committee.

5 A Thank you, Director Jakes.

6 I will now entertain a motion to
7 approve the omnibus.

8 DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.

9 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Second.

10 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by
11 Director Lee, seconded by Director Roquejo that
12 the omnibus be approved. We'll take a roll call
13 vote.

14 Director Eaddy?

15 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

16 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

17 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

18 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

19 VICE CHAIR JAKES: Yes.

20 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

21 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

22 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

23 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

24 MS. GREENLEE: Director Roquejo?

1 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yes.

2 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

3 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order on
4 the -- order of business is the construction
5 report, which we are going to defer this month.

6 Georgette, do we need a motion?

7 MS. GREENLEE: Yes.

8 DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.

9 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Second.

10 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by
11 Director Lee, seconded by Director Roquejo that
12 the construction report be deferred.

13 We'll take a roll call vote.

14 Director Eaddy?

15 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

16 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

17 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

18 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

19 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

20 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

21 VICE CHAIR JAKES: Yes.

22 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

23 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

24 MS. GREENLEE: Director Roquejo?

1 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yes.

2 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

3 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our final order of
4 business is new business.

5 Georgette, is there any new business?

6 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, there
7 is no new business.

8 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Since there's no
9 further business to come before the board, may I
10 have a motion to adjourn the Chicago Transit Board
11 meeting of June 11th, 2025?

12 DIRECTOR LEE: So moved.

13 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Second.

14 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by
15 Director Lee, seconded by Director Roquejo that
16 the meeting of June 11th, 2025, be adjourned.
17 We'll take a roll call vote.

18 Director Roquejo?

19 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yes.

20 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

21 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

22 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

23 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

24 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

1 VICE CHAIR JAKES: Yes.
2 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?
3 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.
4 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?
5 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yeah.
6 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.
7 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Meeting is
8 adjourned. Thank you.
9 (Off the record at 12:48 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC

I, Kristine Wesner, CVR, the officer before whom the foregoing proceeding was taken, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the testimony given; that said testimony was taken by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that reading and signing was not requested; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this proceeding and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 19th day of June, 2025.

Kt w



My Commission Expires: July 02, 2025

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

A			
abandon	24:6, 24:21, 25:2, 30:12	42:20	47:9, 47:18
16:20	act	advancing	ahead
ability	38:17	26:20	14:13, 25:20, 31:2
27:23, 28:13	acting	advisory	alive
about	3:11, 12:9, 14:20	11:5, 11:7, 11:17	33:7
14:11, 14:12, 14:23, 18:15, 18:23, 18:24, 19:10, 19:21, 19:24, 20:10, 23:10, 23:13, 24:19, 24:23, 25:1, 25:9, 25:21, 30:1, 30:18, 32:12, 33:9, 33:17	activate	advocacy	all
absent	32:7	14:22, 25:3, 25:15	8:18, 10:14, 12:17, 13:12, 14:22, 17:20, 18:7, 20:22, 27:11, 27:17, 28:10, 28:14, 31:23, 32:6, 32:8, 32:13, 32:18, 32:23, 33:22, 34:9, 34:13, 35:2, 35:3
4:23	activated	advocate	alliance
absolutely	14:21	18:4	25:16
29:7	active	advocates	allow
ac	25:16	34:19	18:3
22:21	activities	advocating	alone
access	23:18, 24:19	26:9, 32:21	22:22
16:21, 21:13, 22:13, 23:12, 25:17	activity	affect	along
accomplish	13:24, 23:16, 23:22, 24:3, 24:7, 24:10, 24:11, 24:14	28:6	10:2
20:10	actual	affixed	already
accomplishment	33:12	52:15	13:7, 18:20, 25:18, 33:5
20:21	actually	after	also
accountability	29:24	25:12, 30:4, 30:15	3:10, 5:21, 9:22, 10:20, 13:10, 14:8, 15:21, 15:23, 17:22, 18:2, 18:5, 19:7, 19:17, 20:4, 20:22, 24:18, 25:4, 25:11, 30:9, 31:3, 32:1, 35:9, 36:8, 37:13, 47:23
27:17, 28:13	adams	again	alternative
achieved	9:12, 9:13, 9:15, 10:18, 10:19	31:17, 33:16, 34:17, 34:20, 35:6, 36:2, 36:13	22:10
15:23	add	agencies	always
acknowledge	13:17, 21:11	13:1, 13:7, 16:16, 16:18, 23:14, 27:3	13:18, 13:22,
26:19	added	agency	
acknowledgment	22:20, 22:21	14:15, 15:3, 16:20, 25:5, 28:11	
27:9	additional	agenda	
acquisition	9:7, 20:19, 22:2, 22:6, 22:22	11:4, 12:9, 38:12, 41:21, 43:14	
46:7	address	ago	
across	23:20, 41:20, 43:13	19:12, 34:6	
14:14, 14:21, 14:22, 17:15, 18:10, 19:18, 19:20, 19:24, 22:15, 23:3,	adjourn	agree	
	50:10	27:16	
	adjourned	agreed	
	50:16, 51:8	34:9	
	adjust	agreement	
	30:17	2:22, 46:3, 46:21, 47:4,	
	adjusting		
	24:3		
	administrator		
	42:2, 42:10,		

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>19:14 amalgamated 17:23 amending 45:23 amendment 46:2, 47:15 america 47:15 amount 42:5, 42:8, 42:19 analyzing 32:22 announce 18:17 announcements 24:17 annual 21:16 another 7:24, 23:24, 27:15, 30:9, 33:9, 33:21 any 28:21, 29:18, 32:5, 36:8, 43:15, 50:5, 52:11 anyone 34:3 anyway 35:23 appetite 14:23 appreciate 25:23, 31:9, 32:11, 36:11 approach 14:19, 32:9 appropriately 32:3 approval 36:15, 44:12, 48:2 approve 36:17, 36:22, 37:14, 37:16,</p>	<p>40:23, 42:8, 42:18, 44:19, 44:24, 48:7 approved 15:15, 23:7, 41:6, 44:1, 44:11, 45:19, 48:1, 48:12 approving 45:23 approximately 9:24, 21:17 april 40:21, 40:24, 41:5 archer 8:2 area 23:24, 24:6, 35:18, 35:19 arising 46:6 around 9:10, 12:23, 13:6 artist 9:18 ashland 10:5 asking 13:7, 35:18, 35:21, 40:17 assist 20:3 assisted-living 9:21 assumes 13:8 attempting 26:7 attend 29:13 attending 6:10 attention 26:14 attributing 22:7</p>	<p>audit 45:16, 48:4 authority 1:1, 2:1, 2:4, 27:22, 42:4, 42:12, 42:22 authority's 27:23 authorizing 44:4, 44:7, 46:2, 46:6, 46:10, 46:13, 46:17, 46:20, 46:24, 47:4, 47:8, 47:11, 47:14, 47:17 avenue 46:8, 46:15, 47:2 aware 22:9, 30:3, 32:7 awareness 28:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <hr/> <p>back 7:9, 8:16, 19:23, 27:12 backing 33:11 ballpark 34:9 barbers 8:8, 8:9 barbershop 8:2 barclay 3:3, 4:2, 4:4, 4:12, 4:13, 4:21, 4:24, 5:3, 6:13, 11:3, 12:1, 12:2, 12:8, 26:1, 36:13, 37:4, 37:5, 37:13, 38:4, 38:5, 38:11, 38:19,</p>	<p>39:8, 39:9, 39:19, 40:7, 40:8, 40:16, 40:18, 40:22, 41:11, 41:12, 41:20, 42:7, 43:6, 43:7, 43:13, 43:19, 44:15, 44:16, 45:7, 45:8, 45:14, 48:20, 48:21, 49:3, 49:18, 49:19, 50:3, 50:6, 50:8, 50:22, 50:23, 51:7 based 33:13 basic 35:16 basis 17:5 bathroom 47:5 bathrooms 8:8, 8:10 bearing 25:18 because 6:24, 7:9, 7:21, 8:5, 8:7, 8:15, 13:15, 13:22, 15:19, 16:2, 24:10, 30:2, 33:17, 33:23 been 11:15, 14:14, 15:4, 16:24, 19:12, 19:22, 22:8, 22:11, 24:23, 27:15, 29:9, 30:10, 36:20, 37:19, 38:24, 39:23, 41:3, 42:16, 44:22, 48:10, 49:10, 50:14</p>
--	---	--	---

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>before 1:1, 2:22, 27:9, 50:9, 52:3 begin 5:18 behalf 5:24, 18:4 behind 34:19 being 5:22, 9:6, 12:18, 23:4, 25:21, 29:3, 32:19, 34:11, 35:7, 36:1 bell 29:20 benefits 28:16 bernard 3:4 best 16:22 better 19:23, 32:8, 35:5 betty 5:6 between 10:5 beyoncé 22:21 biaggi 21:24 bianca 42:1, 42:9, 42:19 big 24:14 bill 12:18, 25:12 billion 13:20, 34:10, 34:21, 35:11 bit 9:21, 32:9 blind 5:24</p>	<p>blue 21:2, 22:6 board 1:1, 1:7, 2:1, 3:12, 4:5, 5:21, 9:16, 11:5, 11:7, 11:10, 11:17, 13:4, 14:15, 15:15, 16:16, 19:15, 23:7, 24:21, 29:17, 36:15, 36:22, 37:14, 39:2, 40:1, 40:20, 41:21, 41:24, 42:18, 43:14, 43:15, 43:18, 44:12, 48:2, 50:9, 50:10 bonds 9:10 both 19:1, 21:22, 28:4, 32:19, 32:21 braille 5:21 brian 9:12, 9:17, 34:24 bridgeport 9:19, 9:20 bring 12:21, 13:21, 15:2, 21:9, 25:7, 25:10 bringing 31:21 brings 19:19 broad 34:7 broadened 18:22 bronzeville 9:23 brought 18:1, 26:14</p>	<p>budget 10:10, 13:3, 13:6, 15:15, 16:14, 30:13, 34:12, 45:16, 48:4 budgets 13:8 building 29:11 built 26:14 burden 22:4 bus 5:22, 6:24, 7:4, 7:6, 7:8, 7:11, 7:24, 8:4, 8:13, 8:18, 9:8, 10:8, 20:7, 20:14, 20:16, 20:23, 20:24, 30:3, 34:24, 44:4, 44:8 buses 8:14, 8:16 business 5:1, 11:4, 12:9, 34:2, 34:12, 35:8, 36:14, 43:20, 45:15, 49:4, 50:4, 50:5, 50:7, 50:9 businesses 34:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <hr/> <p>cab 24:6 california 44:9 call 4:4, 4:7, 5:4, 11:18, 34:1, 34:4, 36:23, 37:21, 39:3, 40:2, 41:6,</p>	<p>42:23, 44:24, 48:12, 49:13, 50:17 calumet 47:2 cameras 8:6 campus 9:23 can't 7:20, 8:17 canadian 9:18 cannot 33:12 capital 45:24 captioned 42:1 car 7:21, 7:22, 7:23, 35:3 career 19:11 cars 7:3, 7:10 case 42:4, 42:12 cdt 1:10 celebrate 24:24 center 20:7 centered 18:13, 23:4 centering 33:4, 35:9 centers 28:15 centralize 27:22 cermak 10:4 certain 29:16, 30:4, 30:15 certainly 13:11, 18:7</p>
--	--	--	---

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>certificate 52:1 certified 2:23 certify 52:5 cetera 32:23, 35:22 cha 9:20 chair 3:4, 4:15, 5:13, 5:14, 6:14, 6:19, 9:2, 11:24, 31:14, 37:7, 38:3, 39:11, 40:10, 41:14, 43:5, 45:6, 45:18, 48:19, 49:21, 51:1 chairman 3:3, 4:2, 4:4, 4:12, 4:13, 4:21, 4:24, 5:3, 6:13, 9:15, 11:1, 11:3, 12:1, 12:2, 12:8, 12:12, 26:1, 33:8, 36:13, 37:4, 37:5, 37:13, 38:4, 38:5, 38:11, 38:15, 38:19, 39:8, 39:9, 39:19, 40:7, 40:8, 40:16, 40:18, 40:19, 40:22, 41:11, 41:12, 41:20, 41:23, 42:7, 43:6, 43:7, 43:13, 43:17, 43:19, 44:15, 44:16, 45:7, 45:8, 45:14, 48:20, 48:21, 49:3,</p>	<p>49:18, 49:19, 50:3, 50:6, 50:8, 50:22, 50:23, 51:7 challenge 26:21 change 21:12, 26:11 changes 14:9, 28:2 chats 17:4, 18:17 check 8:4 cheerful 19:4 chicago 1:1, 1:8, 2:1, 2:4, 2:6, 4:5, 7:1, 19:8, 19:9, 31:9, 42:3, 42:11, 42:22, 46:12, 46:15, 46:18, 46:23, 47:2, 47:3, 47:6, 50:10 chief 9:10 chorus 4:3 circuit 42:5, 42:13 citizens 11:5, 11:7, 11:17 city 6:24, 7:1, 7:3, 7:9, 47:2 city's 7:23 clean 23:19 clear 15:13, 16:19 cliff 18:24 close 24:9</p>	<p>closed 40:20, 40:23, 41:5 closely 21:23, 22:12 collaboration 33:6 colleagues 28:11 colleges 47:3 combined 22:21 come 5:13, 9:18, 16:2, 19:23, 25:1, 25:18, 27:12, 29:5, 50:9 coming 13:9, 13:16, 14:12, 24:17 commend 28:24 comment 5:1, 31:15 comments 5:4, 9:7, 11:2, 28:22 commission 52:20 commitment 27:13 commitments 16:4 committed 16:4, 27:18 committee 15:12, 15:16, 43:20, 43:24, 44:1, 44:2, 44:10, 44:11, 45:15, 45:18, 45:20, 45:21, 47:22, 47:23, 48:1, 48:4 communicate 33:14</p>	<p>communicating 35:5 communities 15:2, 16:3, 26:17, 28:12 community 17:13 community-based 34:8 commuters 22:9 concept 23:8, 24:2, 31:22 concern 35:6 concerning 26:22, 27:21 concerns 6:2 concerts 22:21 concludes 11:1, 44:14, 48:3 connect 14:24 consensus 27:11 consequences 16:12 consider 16:11, 27:4, 30:16 considered 28:9 consistently 21:17, 26:4 constant 21:19 constraints 30:14 construction 21:21, 22:1, 22:5, 22:12, 22:14, 49:4, 49:12 continually 31:2</p>
---	---	--	--

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>continue 6:11, 14:11, 15:7, 16:5, 16:12, 17:2, 17:18, 18:8, 22:18, 31:4, 32:1, 32:4 continuing 15:18, 17:19 contract 47:15 contracts 47:23, 47:24, 48:2 contribute 15:3, 15:7 control 20:7 conversation 12:23, 36:9 conversations 26:20, 36:7, 36:8 cook 42:5, 42:13, 47:18, 47:19 coordinate 22:13 coordinating 22:2, 22:8 corner 8:3, 35:7 correct 52:6 cottage 46:8, 46:15 could 7:3, 24:14, 24:20 couldn't 19:22 council 25:17 counsel 3:13, 38:21, 52:10 count 36:6</p>	<p>country 19:18, 19:20, 19:24 county 42:5, 42:13, 47:18, 47:19 couple 29:11 course 17:24, 26:20 court 42:5, 42:13 coverage 47:13 covering 36:3 covid 20:2 created 25:14 crews 22:12 crime 23:9, 24:2 critical 26:21, 26:24, 31:10, 31:20 crosses 17:7 crrc 47:15 crunch 27:1 cta 3:11, 7:5, 7:7, 7:21, 7:22, 12:24, 17:4, 17:6, 18:12, 18:17, 20:9, 22:3, 24:16, 25:2, 27:2, 30:11, 32:20, 33:19, 47:10, 47:21 cta's 14:6, 47:5 current 26:8, 26:15</p>	<p>currently 19:3 customer 36:5 cut 33:23 cuts 27:4, 33:21, 34:15, 35:8 cvr 1:24, 52:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <hr/> <p>daily 22:6 day 7:11, 21:18, 35:19, 35:20, 52:15 day-to-day 28:6 days 22:20 dc 22:21 debbie 5:8, 5:10, 5:11, 5:12 deceased 42:3, 42:11, 42:21 declaring 46:24 decrease 23:22 deeply 14:14, 17:1 defer 11:9, 11:11, 11:17, 49:5 deferred 49:12 deliver 8:11, 28:14, 35:12 delivered 32:3 delivery 43:21</p>	<p>department 21:24 departments 17:15, 17:16, 17:17, 22:15, 25:2 describing 33:18 deserve 36:4, 36:5, 36:6 design 23:9, 24:3 desired 32:4 desk 17:7 deter 23:16, 24:3, 24:11 develop 33:20 developments 21:15 differently 9:17 direction 52:8 directions 16:16 directors 12:13, 28:21 discussed 12:22 discussion 5:16 discussions 16:15, 27:7, 29:24 dispensing 47:22 district 46:22 divide 35:16 dodge 44:9 doing 32:21</p>
---	---	--	--

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>dollars 34:21</p> <p>donald 9:10</p> <p>done 26:3, 28:18, 32:9</p> <p>door 8:16</p> <p>doors 23:15</p> <p>double 32:19</p> <p>dr 3:4</p> <p>draconian 27:4, 34:15</p> <p>drive 10:4, 13:2</p> <p>driven 18:12</p> <p>drivers 7:12, 8:4</p> <p>drugs 8:3</p> <p>due 11:8</p> <p>during 15:2, 15:11, 16:23, 18:6, 25:15</p> <p>duty 32:19</p> <p>dynamic 18:14, 19:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> <p>e-mail 7:17, 7:18</p> <p>eaddy 3:7, 4:18, 4:19, 11:19, 11:20, 28:23, 29:8, 29:15, 29:22, 30:6, 30:21, 37:10, 37:11, 37:22, 37:23, 39:14,</p>	<p>39:15, 40:13, 40:14, 41:17, 41:18, 42:24, 43:1, 45:1, 45:2, 48:14, 48:15, 49:14, 49:15, 51:4, 51:5</p> <p>earlier 15:11, 43:24, 45:19</p> <p>east 47:6</p> <p>easy 31:18</p> <p>edges 9:23</p> <p>educate 26:8, 34:23</p> <p>effectively 21:1, 27:24</p> <p>efficiently 27:24</p> <p>effort 26:5, 26:13</p> <p>efforts 23:3</p> <p>either 35:7</p> <p>elected 32:2</p> <p>elevating 15:1</p> <p>elevator 23:11, 23:15</p> <p>elevators 23:17</p> <p>eliminate 35:2</p> <p>else 8:13, 9:16</p> <p>embrace 31:5</p> <p>emergency 8:17</p> <p>emergent 27:10</p> <p>employed 52:10</p>	<p>employees 18:1, 18:3, 18:5</p> <p>encourage 6:11, 32:1, 32:10, 34:17</p> <p>end 12:17, 17:11</p> <p>ended 12:18</p> <p>ends 30:14</p> <p>engage 14:13, 17:14, 19:15, 29:12</p> <p>engagement 16:10, 16:24, 18:17, 26:7</p> <p>engaging 18:23, 32:13</p> <p>enhancements 13:21</p> <p>enough 34:14</p> <p>ensure 22:9, 28:7, 28:12</p> <p>entered 12:19</p> <p>entertain 38:19, 39:19, 42:7, 44:18, 48:6</p> <p>entitled 42:9</p> <p>environmental 23:9, 24:2</p> <p>equal 35:14</p> <p>equity 16:21, 33:5</p> <p>especially 27:21</p> <p>essentially 10:7</p> <p>estate 42:2, 42:10, 42:20</p>	<p>et 32:23, 35:22</p> <p>even 10:12, 17:2, 26:24, 27:8, 30:19, 31:20, 33:17, 34:14</p> <p>evening 30:5</p> <p>event 19:4</p> <p>events 22:18</p> <p>every 10:1, 10:9, 25:9, 32:9, 34:13, 34:24, 35:19, 35:20</p> <p>everybody 9:16, 34:18</p> <p>everyone 12:15</p> <p>everything 17:6</p> <p>exactly 10:21</p> <p>example 20:15, 21:5, 21:22, 22:14, 24:15, 26:13</p> <p>examples 24:13</p> <p>exceeding 35:14</p> <p>excess 47:12</p> <p>excited 18:16, 19:10, 20:10, 23:20, 25:3, 25:9, 25:21</p> <p>exciting 15:14, 20:20, 21:19</p> <p>execute 16:3, 22:15</p> <p>executive 38:12, 38:14,</p>
--	--	---	---

<p>38:16, 38:20, 39:2, 39:17 expand 34:23 expenses 46:6 experience 24:21, 36:5 experts 34:8 expires 52:20 extension 20:6, 44:8 eyes 17:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <hr/> <p>face 25:20 faced 26:22 facets 23:2 facilities 47:5 facing 19:21, 20:1 fall 16:9 familiar 24:5 federation 5:24 feedback 6:12, 10:22 felicia 42:3, 42:11, 42:21 festival 22:20 few 15:24, 17:10, 18:9, 26:4, 30:8, 33:5 fight 17:19 fighting 35:15</p>	<p>figure 33:14 final 14:1, 50:3 finalized 13:5 finance 17:16, 45:16, 45:20, 48:4 financial 14:5, 52:12 first 5:5, 14:3, 18:16, 25:13, 32:18, 44:3, 46:2 fiscal 18:23, 26:21, 45:23 fisher 42:2, 42:11, 42:21 focus 15:9, 23:5, 30:20, 33:6, 35:24 focused 15:6, 18:11, 18:13, 20:11, 25:21 folks 32:20, 32:21, 34:23 follows 21:11 forced 27:3 forces 30:16 foregoing 52:4, 52:5 form 26:15 forth 14:4, 14:16 forward 5:23, 19:5, 28:9, 28:10,</p>	<p>33:4 four 5:4 frequencies 36:4 frequency 30:3, 30:5, 30:15, 30:18 frequent 15:18, 20:14, 20:16, 21:1, 47:6 fresh 17:8 friday 10:1 front 7:1, 8:19, 17:9 fruits 25:18 fully 28:5, 28:9 functioning 13:16 funding 12:20, 12:24, 13:9, 13:11, 13:19, 14:3, 14:7, 17:19, 26:9, 26:11, 26:22, 27:2, 27:10, 30:20, 31:23, 32:3, 33:16, 34:1, 34:11, 34:20, 35:16, 36:2 funds 33:20 further 6:12, 17:3, 30:20, 50:9 future 19:2, 19:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <hr/> <p>gage 42:3, 42:11, 42:21</p>	<p>gap 36:3 gathering 10:22 gdp 35:14 general 3:13, 29:1, 32:1 georgette 3:12, 4:7, 5:2, 43:15, 49:6, 50:5 getting 7:13, 31:7, 32:13 give 17:3, 18:11, 20:12, 25:24 given 11:6, 30:13, 52:6 gives 27:11 go 8:18, 18:4 goes 25:4 going 7:9, 10:12, 14:19, 14:24, 17:17, 21:12, 31:22, 32:6, 33:18, 49:5 gone 26:10 good 4:2, 4:3, 9:4, 9:15 governance 14:10 government 14:22, 17:12, 28:11 governmental 26:6 governor 35:22</p>
--	--	---	--

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>great 10:7, 19:4, 22:17, 25:3 greater 46:22 grocery 10:3, 10:6 groups 14:22, 25:15, 32:13 grove 46:8, 46:15 grow 15:18 growth 21:4, 21:16 guess 8:5, 8:11, 9:16, 31:11 guide 15:8 gus 20:6 guys 8:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <hr/> <p>half 26:5 hall 7:1, 7:9 halsted 10:4, 10:6 hand 52:15 happen 15:16 happy 36:10 hard 7:12, 7:13, 13:13, 25:1, 28:17, 32:24 harlem 8:1 hastalis 10:24 health 47:19</p>	<p>hear 19:14, 29:16 heard 15:11, 29:16, 29:19, 29:23, 30:7, 30:17 hearing 17:5, 18:24 hearings 16:10 heightened 12:22 held 2:1, 5:16 help 5:15, 10:7, 22:3, 25:8 here 4:11, 4:13, 4:15, 4:17, 4:19, 5:7, 5:23, 6:24, 9:6, 9:19, 10:21, 10:24, 13:19, 33:3 hereby 52:4 hereunto 52:14 highest 27:18 hindered 27:23 hiring 15:24 historic 14:17 hit 7:21 hitting 21:17 holding 23:14 home 19:23 hope 27:11 hopefully 10:11, 24:20</p>	<p>hospital 47:19 hours 10:13 however 11:8, 27:19 huge 25:6 hundreds 18:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <hr/> <p>idot 22:13 iit 9:23 illinois 1:8, 2:6, 2:24, 6:1, 21:24, 35:13, 38:17 immediately 18:23 impact 24:14, 25:19, 26:15, 27:5 impacted 11:8 impacts 12:23, 28:8 implement 16:8 implementation 44:7 importance 15:1, 17:8 important 15:20, 26:18, 27:11, 28:4, 29:3, 33:2, 33:11 impossible 34:15 impressive 20:12 improve 24:20, 28:4 improved 5:22</p>	<p>improvement 45:24 improvements 33:15 inc 47:9 increase 20:17, 20:18, 21:3, 21:6, 21:7, 21:23 incredibly 15:20, 19:10 indeed 27:10 independent 42:1, 42:10, 42:20 indication 23:2 industries 18:5 industry 14:18 inequities 26:14 information 16:7 infrastructure 22:11 initiate 23:20 initiative 17:4 initiatives 23:6, 24:9 innovation 47:10 install 47:20 instead 35:9 insurance 47:13 intended 29:12 interest 52:12 interesting 21:15, 21:22,</p>
--	---	---	--

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

22:23 intergovernmental 46:21, 47:4 interns 19:10 introduction 15:17 investments 19:1 involved 27:12 island 21:2 issue 27:1 issues 9:11, 11:8, 19:21, 20:1 item 11:4, 12:8, 38:11, 40:19, 41:21, 41:23, 43:14 itself 22:24 <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <hr/> jakes 3:4, 4:14, 4:15, 6:14, 9:2, 11:23, 11:24, 31:13, 31:14, 37:6, 37:7, 38:2, 38:3, 39:10, 39:11, 40:9, 40:10, 41:13, 41:14, 43:4, 43:5, 45:5, 45:6, 45:17, 45:18, 48:5, 48:18, 48:19, 49:20, 49:21, 50:24, 51:1 jewel 10:4 jha 4:23	job 1:22, 9:5 johnson 11:6 join 36:7 july 11:10, 11:18, 52:20 june 1:9, 4:6, 19:9, 45:19, 50:11, 50:16, 52:16 jv 47:16 <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <hr/> keep 13:22, 16:13, 19:3, 31:2, 32:12, 33:7, 34:18 keeps 15:9 kennedy 21:21 kent 3:13, 38:13, 40:17, 41:22 key 8:8, 8:9, 20:15, 20:24 kick 16:15 kicked 17:2 kicking 23:11 kind 13:21, 23:20, 29:19, 29:24, 30:19 kinds 28:2, 31:24 know 6:10, 7:7, 8:5, 8:19, 12:14, 12:17, 14:10,	15:4, 17:17, 23:7, 24:16, 24:22, 25:12, 25:19, 29:8, 30:9, 31:1, 31:5, 31:7, 31:10, 32:9, 32:22, 34:13, 34:18, 35:3, 35:4 knowing 32:8 kristine 1:24, 2:22, 52:3 <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <hr/> labor 17:22, 34:7 lake 2:5 lanes 7:6, 7:8 large 13:2 last 18:11, 18:18, 19:17, 30:5, 30:8, 30:18 lastinao 20:6 late 32:22 later 30:5 latest 14:15 latter 13:12 launch 18:17, 19:8 launching 20:16 law 12:18, 33:19 lawmakers 26:7 lawsuit 42:1, 42:9,	42:19 lead 19:19, 20:9, 28:18, 34:10 leaders 19:17, 19:20 leadership 16:23, 17:24, 18:6, 26:19, 30:24, 31:10, 31:18 least 10:9 lee 3:6, 4:16, 4:17, 11:13, 11:16, 11:21, 11:22, 23:13, 30:22, 30:23, 36:18, 36:21, 37:8, 37:9, 37:17, 37:20, 37:24, 38:1, 38:22, 39:1, 39:12, 39:13, 39:21, 39:24, 40:11, 40:12, 41:1, 41:4, 41:15, 41:16, 42:14, 42:17, 43:2, 43:3, 44:20, 44:23, 45:3, 45:4, 48:8, 48:11, 48:16, 48:17, 49:8, 49:11, 49:16, 49:17, 50:12, 50:15, 51:2, 51:3 leerhsen 3:11, 6:9, 9:6, 10:19, 12:12, 26:2, 29:7, 29:10, 29:21, 29:23, 30:7, 32:11, 36:11 leerhsen's 12:10
---	---	---	---

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>legal 17:16 legislation 26:12, 26:23, 27:16, 27:20, 33:24 legislative 17:9, 17:12 legislatively 12:16 legislators 21:10, 30:10, 35:21, 36:9 legislature 15:21 legislatures 28:4 lessen 22:4 lester 3:3 letting 6:22, 7:14 levels 13:9, 14:22, 23:1 license 46:2, 47:4, 47:18 lie 16:7 lies 14:13 lights 8:6 line 20:5, 22:6, 34:24, 46:4 listening 6:1 little 31:6 live 31:8, 35:17 lives 31:8 living 25:17</p>	<p>located 46:7, 46:11, 46:14, 46:17, 47:1 long-term 26:15 longer 23:15 look 5:23, 19:5, 28:9, 30:11 looking 13:18, 20:2 looks 16:13 lot 8:16, 8:19, 10:23, 13:5, 13:15, 13:24, 23:19, 24:11, 25:1, 25:2, 29:4, 29:16, 30:18, 30:23, 31:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <hr/> <p>machines 47:21 main 35:6 maintain 47:20 maintains 28:13 major 24:16 make 16:18, 18:22, 19:1, 22:2, 28:21, 29:13, 32:2, 34:15, 35:23 making 20:24 management 20:8 manner 27:14</p>	<p>manpower 23:19 many 20:1, 23:1, 34:19 map 30:11 mariano's 10:5 marshall 20:5 matters 43:14, 43:16, 43:18 mean 4:20, 7:22 means 12:19, 21:17, 29:4 meant 28:3 meeting 1:7, 2:1, 4:5, 7:2, 8:24, 11:10, 13:5, 29:17, 30:1, 36:16, 36:23, 37:14, 40:20, 50:11, 50:16, 51:7 meetings 29:1, 29:5, 38:17 members 9:16, 14:16, 15:20, 17:14 mention 13:14 mentioned 15:11, 16:14, 33:1, 33:5, 33:19, 34:19 mentioning 29:14, 35:1 message 15:4, 21:9, 30:9, 30:19, 33:10, 33:11</p>	<p>messages 31:24 messaging 22:8, 33:16 met 43:24, 45:18 metra's 47:5 metropolitan 25:17, 35:17, 35:19, 46:22 michael 3:7 michele 3:6 microphone 5:14 middle 21:18 might 24:13, 28:6 million 21:18, 42:6, 42:9, 42:19 mind 12:15, 13:22, 19:3, 19:4, 34:18 minimum 34:21, 35:11 minutes 5:12, 6:21, 9:14, 10:1, 10:9, 17:10, 34:24, 36:15, 36:22, 37:14, 40:20, 40:23, 41:5, 44:2, 45:20 mlk 10:4, 10:6 molly 5:21, 9:9, 10:21 moment 17:20 monday 10:1</p>
--	--	--	--

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>money 15:22, 16:2, 34:5 month 19:8, 49:5 months 13:16, 25:20, 29:12 more 8:24, 10:12, 12:22, 14:14, 16:6, 16:11, 17:1, 21:7, 26:24, 27:8, 27:9, 31:20, 32:6 morning 4:2, 9:15, 12:13, 28:20, 43:24, 45:19 morning 4:3 most 15:10, 28:14 motion 11:11, 12:7, 36:16, 37:12, 37:15, 38:10, 38:20, 39:16, 39:20, 40:15, 40:23, 41:19, 42:8, 43:12, 44:18, 45:13, 48:6, 49:2, 49:6, 50:2, 50:10, 51:6 motor 24:6 move 28:9, 39:2 moved 11:13, 11:15, 36:18, 36:20, 37:17, 37:19, 38:22, 38:24, 39:21, 39:23, 41:1, 41:3, 42:14, 42:16,</p>	<p>44:20, 44:22, 48:8, 48:10, 49:8, 49:10, 50:12, 50:14 moving 33:3 much 6:6, 6:8, 8:23, 10:17, 28:17, 31:20, 35:3 murphy 42:1, 42:10, 42:20 myself 33:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <hr/> <p>name 6:23, 9:17 narcan 24:24, 25:4, 47:22 national 5:24 necessarily 30:13 necessary 27:10 need 11:9, 13:9, 13:22, 14:4, 15:9, 25:8, 28:14, 30:20, 33:10, 33:13, 33:21, 34:1, 34:5, 34:9, 34:11, 35:11, 36:2, 36:3, 36:9, 37:13, 49:6 needed 14:7, 27:17 needs 7:5, 7:7, 26:9, 28:15 neema 4:23 negatively 27:5</p>	<p>neither 52:10 nervous 31:6 network 15:18, 20:14, 20:16, 21:1, 47:7 never 16:19 new 12:20, 12:21, 20:3, 50:4, 50:5, 50:7 news 14:6, 14:8 next 4:24, 6:17, 8:24, 11:4, 12:8, 13:4, 29:11, 36:14, 38:11, 43:19, 45:14, 49:3 nice 9:1, 12:13 night 10:13, 18:18, 30:8, 30:18, 32:22 nora 3:11, 12:10 normal 31:19 notarial 52:15 notary 2:23, 52:1 note 4:22, 19:7 noted 27:15 nothing 10:7 noticed 8:1, 8:15 number 35:17, 36:1, 45:22, 46:1</p>	<p>numbers 20:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <hr/> <p>obviously 14:17 occur 13:10, 23:17, 24:4 occurred 12:16 occurring 13:4, 24:7 offer 33:2 offering 33:3 office 26:6 officer 9:10, 52:3 officials 32:2 often 24:7 oh 7:22, 8:13 okay 5:11, 5:17, 6:5, 30:23 omnibus 44:11, 44:19, 44:24, 48:1, 48:7, 48:12 one 7:1, 8:1, 9:1, 13:8, 13:10, 19:7, 19:9, 24:10, 28:24, 29:6, 33:4, 33:21, 33:24, 34:5, 36:1, 44:3 ones 19:5 ongoing 26:7 only 10:2, 27:22</p>
--	---	---	--

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>open 23:15, 38:17, 39:20, 40:1 opening 24:17 operate 47:20 operational 9:11 operations 18:2, 20:7, 20:23, 22:11, 28:3 opportunity 5:20, 14:13, 14:20, 29:13, 32:5, 34:22 optimistic 27:6, 33:7 options 22:10 order 4:5, 5:1, 7:6, 36:14, 43:19, 45:14, 49:3, 49:4, 50:3 ordinance 44:3, 44:6, 45:22, 45:23, 46:1, 46:5, 46:10, 46:13, 46:16, 46:20, 46:24, 47:3, 47:8, 47:11, 47:14, 47:17 ordinances 44:2, 44:10, 44:13, 45:21, 47:24, 48:2 organization 19:19 organizations 17:1, 34:6, 34:8 organized 17:24 ortiz 3:5, 4:10,</p>	<p>4:11, 6:8, 12:3, 12:4, 31:16, 31:17, 32:15, 37:2, 37:3, 38:6, 38:7, 39:6, 39:7, 40:5, 40:6, 41:9, 41:10, 43:8, 43:9, 43:22, 43:23, 44:17, 45:9, 45:10, 48:22, 48:23, 49:22, 49:23, 50:20, 50:21 other 8:12, 9:11, 23:14, 23:18, 28:21, 33:24, 35:9 others 33:3 otherwise 52:12 out 7:14, 7:21, 8:17, 8:22, 17:4, 20:2, 23:12, 23:14, 25:13, 27:21, 29:11, 29:17, 30:2, 30:18, 31:20, 33:14 outcome 27:7, 52:13 outputs 15:6, 16:12 over 16:8, 17:24, 22:20, 26:3, 26:4, 29:2, 35:15 overall 21:14 owl 44:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <hr/> <p>pace 46:3, 46:4</p>	<p>packages 14:3 pages 1:23 paint 7:5, 7:7 park 46:4 parked 7:4, 7:10, 7:11 parking 46:3 part 8:20, 13:2, 18:19, 18:21, 19:18, 28:7, 29:6, 33:9, 36:10 participants 20:8 participate 29:6 participating 28:24 particular 23:2, 29:18 particularly 14:2, 20:12, 23:17, 24:8 parties 27:12, 52:11 partner 6:11 partners 17:22, 25:14, 28:11 partnership 22:7, 22:15, 25:1 partnerships 18:14, 21:22, 24:22, 25:11, 25:19 pass 25:12 passed 12:18, 27:20 passes 7:4, 12:7,</p>	<p>37:12, 38:10, 39:16, 40:15, 41:19, 43:12, 45:13, 49:2, 50:2, 51:6 past 12:16, 15:24, 26:4 patricia 6:17, 6:23 pause 25:23 payment 46:6 pending 42:4, 42:12 people 7:14, 7:20, 8:19, 14:21, 15:7, 16:24, 17:11, 18:12, 18:16, 19:24, 25:6, 30:2, 30:4, 30:8, 30:11, 30:16, 32:7, 35:4, 35:17 people's 31:7 percent 20:17, 20:18, 21:3, 21:4, 21:5, 21:6, 21:16, 22:24 performance 18:13, 20:11, 21:23 performers 22:19 period 17:14, 18:7, 28:19 persistence 26:19 person 5:5 personally 19:22, 28:24,</p>
--	--	---	---

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>36:1 perspective 14:5 phase 12:20, 12:21 phonetic 20:6 picture 7:10, 7:16, 7:18 pillar 16:23 pillars 18:10 pilot 23:11, 24:9, 24:24, 25:4, 47:9, 47:10 pilots 23:6 pittman 5:6, 5:8, 5:10, 5:11, 5:12, 5:17, 5:19, 6:3, 6:4, 6:7, 6:9, 6:15 place 15:14, 18:21, 19:16, 24:1 placed 44:10, 47:23 places 18:13, 23:5, 24:16, 24:20 plan 15:13, 16:5, 18:21 planned 18:21 planning 9:8, 9:9, 10:20, 15:12, 17:16, 25:17, 30:1, 43:21 plans 13:6, 15:14, 16:7, 30:17, 32:12</p>	<p>plays 17:9 please 4:7, 7:3, 7:18, 40:22 point 31:10 policy 47:13 poppe 6:10, 9:9, 10:21 positive 21:15, 25:20, 27:7, 31:5 possible 16:22 posted 29:9 postops 8:14 potential 12:23, 13:17, 28:8 potentially 16:8 pre-covid 22:24 precipitate 16:17 preops 8:14 prepare 13:8, 13:17 prepares 13:10 presence 29:4 present 3:2, 3:10, 4:9, 33:19 presented 12:11 presents 14:21 president 3:11, 11:7, 12:9, 12:10,</p>	<p>14:20, 20:5, 20:7 president's 26:5 pressure 32:2 pretty 31:6 prevention 23:9, 24:2 primary 47:12 prime 26:13 priming 19:13 principles 18:10 proceed 15:19 proceeding 52:4, 52:11 proceedings 39:18 process 13:3, 16:14, 16:19 producing 27:13 program 18:18, 19:8, 19:16, 19:19, 20:9, 46:1, 46:5, 47:9, 47:11 progress 14:2 project 46:9, 46:13, 46:16, 46:19, 46:23, 47:7 promising 23:2 promotion 22:3, 22:16 proper 34:20 property 46:7, 46:11,</p>	<p>46:14, 46:17, 47:1, 47:12, 47:21 proposed 14:9, 14:14, 26:11, 26:12, 27:16, 27:20, 28:5, 41:24 proposition 13:12 provisions 28:6 public 2:24, 5:1, 5:4, 11:1, 14:23, 15:21, 16:10, 19:11, 27:24, 28:5, 28:15, 29:1, 29:18, 31:3, 31:4, 32:1, 52:1 public-health 47:21 puente 6:18, 6:22, 6:23, 7:16, 7:20, 8:21, 8:22, 9:3, 9:4 puentes 6:17 pulaski 44:5, 44:6 purchase 46:11, 46:14, 46:17, 47:12 pursuant 2:22, 38:16 pushed 35:7 pushing 36:1 put 14:3, 14:16, 26:6, 30:19, 31:24, 32:2, 35:20 putting 7:3</p>
---	---	--	--

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

Q			
quality 28:14	recess 38:20, 39:17	relations 17:13, 26:6	responsibility 25:6
quorum 4:21	reclamation 46:22	relief 20:2	rest 34:12
R	recognition 14:6	relocation 46:6	resulted 20:19
rail 24:4, 47:22	recognize 20:4	remain 27:6	resulting 21:7
railcars 24:1, 24:7, 47:16	recognized 14:4	remains 15:13	results 33:12
raised 28:8	recommended 48:1	reminded 15:21, 15:23	return 39:20, 40:1
ray 3:13, 38:13, 38:15, 40:17, 40:19, 41:23	record 4:22, 5:16, 51:9, 52:6	report 11:5, 11:9, 11:12, 11:17, 12:10, 17:3, 18:11, 26:2, 28:20, 43:20, 44:14, 45:15, 45:21, 48:3, 49:5, 49:12	rev 3:4
rd 19:9	red 8:20, 20:5	reported 1:24	revenue 20:3
re-recommended 44:12	reduce 30:15	reporter 2:23, 52:1	review 44:3, 44:6, 45:22, 46:1, 46:5, 46:10, 46:13, 46:16, 46:20, 46:23, 47:3, 47:8, 47:11, 47:14, 47:17
reach 25:13, 27:1	reduced 52:8	reports 20:23	reviewed 40:20, 41:24, 44:2, 45:20, 45:21, 47:23
reading 52:9	reduces 30:3	representing 34:6	ride 46:4
ready 16:1, 16:2	reference 23:8	request 10:15	riders 10:22, 15:6, 15:9, 16:21, 17:5, 18:20, 18:23, 20:19, 21:7, 22:20, 24:4, 24:21, 27:5, 32:13, 36:8
real 46:11, 46:14, 46:17, 47:1	reflect 17:20	requested 13:20, 52:9	ridership 20:13, 21:4, 21:11, 21:14, 22:16, 22:19, 22:23, 23:1
realignment 44:4	reform 15:5, 15:8, 27:16	resident 35:18	rides 21:18, 22:6, 22:22
realities 13:17	reforms 27:20, 28:6	residents 35:21	
reality 26:8, 33:13	reframing 33:23	resolve 27:1	
really 24:24, 25:3, 30:8, 33:2	regard 16:18	resolved 26:23	
reason 21:13	regards 9:7, 14:2, 14:10, 23:4, 23:11	resonated 29:19	
reasons 38:21	region 13:1, 13:20, 14:4, 14:19, 30:12	respond 27:23	
receive 15:22	regular 17:5, 37:14	response 7:5	
received 12:24, 13:11	related 23:6, 52:10	responses 16:17	

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>right 10:22, 31:19, 31:23, 33:12, 33:21, 34:22 risk 28:2 rle 46:8, 46:12, 46:16, 46:18, 46:23 rob 11:6 roberto 3:8 rock 9:18 role 29:4 roll 4:7, 11:18, 17:17, 36:23, 37:21, 39:3, 40:2, 41:6, 42:23, 44:24, 48:12, 49:13, 50:17 rolling 18:7 room 10:10, 10:12 roosevelt 22:22 rooted 18:14 roquejo 3:8, 4:8, 4:9, 11:14, 11:16, 12:5, 12:6, 32:16, 32:17, 36:19, 36:21, 36:24, 37:1, 37:18, 37:20, 38:8, 38:9, 38:23, 39:1, 39:4, 39:5, 39:22, 39:24, 40:3, 40:4, 41:2, 41:4,</p>	<p>41:7, 41:8, 42:15, 42:17, 43:10, 43:11, 44:21, 44:23, 45:11, 45:12, 48:9, 48:11, 48:24, 49:1, 49:9, 49:11, 49:24, 50:1, 50:13, 50:15, 50:18, 50:19 rosa 3:5 rosemont 46:4 route 9:19, 9:20, 9:22, 10:2, 10:3, 20:15, 20:20, 21:2, 21:8, 30:3, 30:11, 44:4, 44:8 routes 30:14, 44:4 rpm 24:18 rta 13:7, 16:14, 33:18 rta's 13:3, 13:4 run 21:1 rung 29:19 running 20:2, 32:19 runs 9:24 rush 30:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <hr/> <p>safety 47:10 said 7:7, 27:6, 52:7</p>	<p>sale 47:1 same 24:1 saw 8:5, 14:1, 14:3, 14:6, 14:9, 21:2, 21:5 say 7:12, 19:22, 25:11 saying 29:2, 30:10 scared 31:7 scary 31:9 scenario 13:18, 33:20, 33:23, 34:4, 34:14, 35:10 scenarios 13:14, 33:18, 35:8, 35:24 schedule 29:9 schedules 18:4, 30:17 scheduling 11:9 seal 52:15 search 12:20 season 19:5 second 11:14, 36:19, 37:18, 38:23, 39:22, 41:2, 42:15, 44:21, 48:9, 49:9, 50:13 seconded 11:16, 36:21, 37:20, 39:1, 39:24, 41:4, 42:17, 44:23,</p>	<p>48:11, 49:11, 50:15 secretary 3:12, 21:24 section 38:18 sections 30:14 security 23:6, 36:5 see 5:23, 7:18, 14:12, 14:15, 14:21, 14:23, 15:9, 16:10, 17:6, 17:7, 19:1, 19:16, 21:12, 23:21, 23:22, 23:23, 24:7, 24:12, 25:3, 30:11, 30:13 seeing 20:13, 21:15, 23:1, 23:15, 25:18 seem 24:13 seen 15:16, 15:17, 20:17, 22:5, 22:16, 23:14, 27:8 selling 8:3 senate 27:21 sensonic 47:9 separate 13:8 september 44:1 serious 16:6 serve 15:7, 26:17, 28:1</p>
--	--	---	--

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>serves 9:20</p> <p>service 9:8, 10:8, 13:21, 15:12, 15:13, 15:16, 16:4, 19:2, 19:12, 20:8, 20:17, 20:18, 21:3, 21:6, 21:7, 21:11, 22:3, 22:10, 27:19, 28:7, 28:14, 30:1, 43:21, 44:7</p> <p>serviced 9:22</p> <p>services 27:5, 32:4</p> <p>servicing 16:21</p> <p>serving 10:11</p> <p>session 12:17, 14:1, 17:12, 17:21, 18:1, 26:24, 38:12, 38:14, 38:16, 38:20, 39:2, 39:18, 39:20, 40:1, 40:20, 40:23, 41:5</p> <p>session's 27:7</p> <p>set 52:14</p> <p>setting 31:19</p> <p>settlement 41:24, 42:8, 42:18</p> <p>seven 17:24</p> <p>several 22:15, 23:21, 25:2</p> <p>severe 13:12</p>	<p>share 14:6</p> <p>shared 20:1, 27:13</p> <p>sherry 42:2, 42:11, 42:21</p> <p>shift 10:13, 10:14, 27:8</p> <p>shortened 10:9</p> <p>should 8:7, 27:17</p> <p>show 7:16, 8:7</p> <p>side 7:4</p> <p>sifang 47:15</p> <p>signature-mig2k 52:18</p> <p>significance 27:15</p> <p>significantly 27:4</p> <p>signing 52:9</p> <p>signs 5:22, 5:23</p> <p>similar 23:24</p> <p>simultaneous 7:15</p> <p>since 20:15, 50:8</p> <p>sister 27:3</p> <p>skills 31:21</p> <p>sleeves 17:18, 18:8</p> <p>slow 35:2</p> <p>small 24:13</p> <p>smaller-scale 24:19</p>	<p>smoking 24:8</p> <p>sobering 13:12, 16:6</p> <p>solution 27:14, 28:12, 28:15</p> <p>some 14:2, 14:6, 21:14, 27:8, 27:19</p> <p>someone 19:11</p> <p>something 7:6, 8:12, 8:13, 17:3, 18:20, 23:12, 23:17, 24:13, 30:7, 33:16</p> <p>soon 24:17</p> <p>sorry 5:9</p> <p>sources 20:3</p> <p>south 44:6, 46:8, 46:15, 47:2</p> <p>sox 9:22</p> <p>spaces 24:3, 46:3</p> <p>spanning 30:12</p> <p>speak 5:20, 6:23, 9:8, 9:19, 10:20</p> <p>speaker 6:17</p> <p>special 22:18, 36:15, 36:22</p> <p>specific 12:23, 23:5</p> <p>specifically 12:21, 16:11, 23:8, 23:13</p> <p>spectrum 34:7</p>	<p>speech 7:15</p> <p>spelled 9:17</p> <p>spring 12:16, 14:1, 26:23</p> <p>springfield 19:23, 21:10, 25:12, 31:1, 32:20, 32:21</p> <p>stadium 9:22</p> <p>staff 17:15, 24:9</p> <p>stakeholders 28:10</p> <p>stand 16:2</p> <p>standards 27:19</p> <p>start 12:14, 16:9, 33:22</p> <p>started 18:18, 19:11, 22:1</p> <p>state 2:24, 35:13</p> <p>stated 38:21</p> <p>station 18:19, 22:22, 29:2</p> <p>stations 23:21, 24:18, 47:22</p> <p>statistic 22:23</p> <p>stay 21:19</p> <p>steve 10:24</p> <p>stick 31:11</p> <p>still 35:15</p> <p>stomach 13:13</p>
---	---	---	---

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>stop 5:22, 7:3, 7:6, 7:8 store 10:6 stores 10:3 story 33:10, 33:13 strategic 18:21, 43:21 street 2:5, 46:12, 46:18, 47:6 strong 14:23, 22:19, 23:1 structural 28:2 structure 26:9, 26:12 studio 47:10 substantial 14:9 success 22:17, 33:8, 33:14 successfully 26:13 suenos 22:19 summer 16:9, 19:7, 19:9 sunday 44:7 supervision 20:24 support 31:4 supported 17:15, 18:2 sure 8:2, 18:22, 19:1, 22:2, 29:13, 32:3, 35:23</p>	<p>surplus 46:24 swish 8:20 switzerland 35:15 symbol 25:5 system 20:15, 21:20, 23:23, 24:5, 24:8, 24:11, 25:7, 25:8, 26:10, 26:16, 31:24, 32:19, 35:2, 35:20, 47:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <hr/> <p>table 15:3, 17:7, 27:12, 31:21, 32:14 take 11:18, 17:10, 17:20, 18:3, 18:6, 31:22, 32:6, 34:23, 35:1, 36:23, 37:21, 39:3, 40:1, 41:6, 42:23, 44:24, 48:12, 49:13, 50:17 taken 52:4, 52:7 takes 23:19 talk 14:11, 19:13, 19:21, 19:24 talked 14:11, 18:15, 23:10, 23:13, 30:1 talking 18:19, 24:23 taneshaha 20:4</p>	<p>task 31:18 teacher 19:12, 19:13 team 9:9, 10:20, 17:13, 18:3, 20:23, 26:3, 26:6, 26:20, 28:18 teams 22:11 tell 13:6, 33:10, 33:12 ten 34:24 terminal 8:1 terminals 8:15 terms 14:16, 14:20, 14:24, 15:24, 16:20, 17:8, 20:2, 21:13, 24:1, 24:17, 24:22, 25:6, 32:8 testimony 52:6, 52:7 th 4:6, 37:15, 44:1, 46:12, 46:18, 47:6, 50:11, 50:16, 52:15 thank 4:24, 5:19, 5:20, 6:1, 6:5, 6:7, 6:8, 6:9, 6:12, 6:14, 6:16, 6:18, 6:20, 6:22, 7:19, 8:23, 8:24, 9:2, 9:4, 9:6, 9:13, 10:16, 10:18,</p>	<p>10:19, 11:3, 12:12, 17:11, 20:22, 26:1, 28:17, 28:19, 30:24, 31:11, 31:17, 31:21, 32:18, 32:23, 36:11, 36:13, 43:23, 44:16, 48:5, 51:8 thanks 10:23, 29:14, 32:15 themselves 33:3 thereafter 52:7 thing 7:24, 8:12, 25:13, 29:18 things 29:16, 32:22, 33:1, 35:4 think 8:3, 14:21, 15:19, 24:10, 24:19, 24:23, 25:4, 29:2, 32:5, 32:7, 33:6, 40:16 third 10:14, 13:18, 34:4, 35:9, 35:11 thousand 22:5 thousands 32:20 three 5:12, 6:21, 9:14, 10:3, 33:1, 35:24 through 8:22, 10:1, 16:19, 17:11, 18:9, 23:9, 24:2, 25:14, 25:15, 28:19,</p>
--	---	--	--

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>45:24, 47:10, 47:13, 47:19 throughout 15:5, 17:14, 19:5, 20:22, 21:20 time 7:12, 7:13, 8:21, 12:11, 14:3, 14:18, 15:2, 16:24, 18:3, 18:11, 19:23, 25:15, 25:21, 25:24, 26:24, 28:22, 30:4, 30:16 timely 27:14 times 29:16 timetables 10:8 timing 11:8 tirelessly 17:13, 17:23 today 6:23, 11:2, 15:17, 24:23, 35:1, 38:13, 38:16 together 19:20 told 7:2 tomorrow 13:4 top 12:14, 19:4 towards 27:9 track 22:13 traffic 22:4 train 35:3 transcript 52:5</p>	<p>transformational 21:12 transit 1:1, 2:1, 2:4, 4:5, 9:10, 12:18, 14:23, 17:23, 18:5, 19:18, 19:20, 21:13, 22:16, 27:3, 27:23, 31:4, 34:8, 42:3, 42:12, 42:22, 50:10 translates 33:15 transparency 27:18, 33:6 transportation 22:1, 25:16, 27:2 trend 21:19 trips 17:24 true 52:5 truly 28:16 trying 23:12, 23:14, 31:5 twice 29:23 two 13:8, 13:14, 22:20, 23:5, 23:10, 24:12, 34:6, 35:8, 44:2, 44:10, 44:13 type 10:21 typewriting 52:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <hr/> <p>under 26:12, 31:18,</p>	<p>52:8 underfunding 26:16 undermining 28:3 understand 28:5, 38:13 union 17:23, 18:18, 29:2 unnoticed 26:10 unprecedented 14:18 until 8:18 update 12:15, 20:12 updated 16:13, 31:2, 32:12 updates 18:10, 25:24 urgency 26:21 urination 23:18 use 24:12, 24:15, 34:22, 46:3, 47:5 usual 34:2, 34:12, 35:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <hr/> <p>validated 30:9 value 19:2 values 16:20, 33:4 vango 46:4 various 25:24 vehicle 46:5</p>	<p>vending 47:21 verbatim 2:23 vice 3:4, 4:15, 6:14, 9:2, 11:6, 11:24, 20:5, 20:6, 31:14, 37:7, 38:3, 39:11, 40:10, 41:14, 43:5, 45:6, 45:18, 48:19, 49:21, 51:1 vision 18:12 vitality 29:3 voice 19:13 voices 32:14 vote 11:18, 36:23, 37:21, 39:3, 40:2, 41:6, 42:23, 44:24, 48:13, 49:13, 50:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <hr/> <p>wait 8:18 walk 18:9 want 5:19, 5:20, 15:12, 16:18, 17:6, 17:10, 17:19, 18:6, 18:24, 19:1, 19:7, 20:4, 20:11, 20:22, 23:5, 23:16, 23:22, 24:4, 24:9, 24:12, 24:24, 26:18,</p>
---	---	--	---

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>28:21, 28:23, 34:4 wanted 33:2, 34:17, 35:23 wanting 30:4 watching 9:17 water 46:22 way 8:19, 15:8, 16:2, 16:22, 18:2, 23:3, 25:9, 25:20, 27:22, 31:7, 35:13 ways 23:10 we'll 11:18, 13:3, 13:15, 15:7, 16:4, 29:10, 32:12, 36:23, 37:20, 39:2, 40:1, 41:6, 42:23, 44:24, 48:12, 49:13, 50:17 we're 10:22, 14:24, 16:1, 17:17, 17:18, 18:7, 18:24, 19:9, 20:9, 20:11, 20:13, 21:12, 21:15, 21:17, 22:6, 23:1, 23:10, 23:20, 26:24, 29:11, 31:10, 32:13, 35:15, 35:18, 35:20 we've 12:19, 12:22, 14:10, 15:4, 15:16, 15:17,</p>	<p>15:23, 16:3, 18:15, 18:22, 20:17, 22:5, 22:8, 22:16, 23:10, 23:14, 24:23, 25:14, 27:8, 32:9 wednesday 1:9 week 13:4, 14:1, 16:15, 19:17, 21:18 weekday 20:17, 21:6 weekend 20:18, 21:6, 22:23 weekends 10:11, 21:3, 22:18, 32:23 weeks 13:16, 14:12, 26:4 welcome 9:12, 15:5 welcomed 14:5, 14:8, 19:17 welcoming 18:13, 19:9, 23:5 well-above 22:24 went 7:2, 17:21 wesner 1:24, 2:23, 52:3 west 2:5, 46:12, 46:18 whatever 8:11 whereof 52:14 whole 7:11</p>	<p>window 8:23 without 12:18, 27:2 witness 52:14 wonder 31:23 work 6:10, 6:12, 8:16, 17:18, 17:20, 22:7, 22:14, 23:19, 25:2, 26:2, 26:18, 28:17, 30:2, 31:1, 32:24 workable 27:13 worked 17:13, 17:22, 21:23, 34:3 workforce 16:1 working 5:21, 22:12, 28:10 works 23:21 worried 33:17 worse 34:14 wouldn't 33:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <hr/> <p>yeah 7:22, 10:15, 29:8, 29:21, 29:22, 29:23, 30:6, 32:15, 32:17, 43:1, 45:2, 51:5 year 15:14, 20:9, 23:7, 26:5, 34:13, 47:13</p>	<p>year-over-year 21:16 year-to-date 20:19, 21:4 years 15:24, 19:12, 34:6, 45:24 yesterday 17:2, 29:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Z</p> <hr/> <p>zones 35:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">\$</p> <hr/> <p>\$.40 35:19 \$0.40 35:18 \$1.5 34:10, 34:21, 35:11 \$6 42:6, 42:9, 42:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">.</p> <hr/> <p>.3137 2:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <hr/> <p>002673 42:4, 42:12 02 52:20 024 45:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <hr/> <p>1.5 13:20 10 47:8, 47:23, 47:24, 48:2 104 46:18 105 46:12</p>
--	---	--	--

Transcript of Chicago Transit Board Meeting
 Conducted on June 11, 2025

<p>11 1:9, 1:10, 4:6, 38:18, 44:1, 45:19, 47:11, 50:11, 50:16 115 47:6 11900 46:8 12 47:14, 51:9 120 38:17 12200 46:15 12256 46:15 13 45:21, 47:17, 47:24, 48:2 14 20:14, 20:16, 37:15 143 45:23 15 10:9 157 6:24 16,000 21:7 19 52:15</p>	<p>15:15, 36:16, 37:15, 40:21, 40:24, 41:5, 45:20, 45:24, 47:13, 50:11, 50:16, 52:16, 52:20 2026 12:20, 16:8, 47:14 2029 45:24 21 19:17, 38:18 23 19:9 24 10:13 25 52:20 250 19:9 26 34:6</p>	<p>45 21:3 46 1:10 48 51:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <hr/> <p>5-ilcs 38:17 504 47:6 52 1:23 53 44:5 5426 47:2 5446 47:2 567 2:5 582102 1:22</p>	<p>95 9:21, 21:5 9th 40:21, 40:24, 41:5</p>
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <hr/> <p>2 (c) (38:18 20 19:12, 20:17, 21:4, 21:5 20,000 22:21 2024 42:4, 42:12, 44:1 2025 1:9, 4:6, 11:18, 15:13,</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <hr/> <p>30 10:1, 21:6 31 9:19, 9:20 312.681 2:7 35 9:22, 20:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <hr/> <p>4-mile 10:3 40,000 20:19 401 46:18 407 46:18 411 46:12 413 46:12</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <hr/> <p>60 21:2 60661 2:6 62 7:24 6a 40:19 6b 41:21, 41:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <hr/> <p>80 22:24 8th 36:16, 36:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <hr/> <p>90,000 22:20 93 44:8</p>	