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# Transcript of Chicago Transit Authority Board Meeting

**Date:** September 10, 2025

**Case:** Chicago Transit Authority Board Meeting, In Re:

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BEFORE THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD

BOARD MEETING

Chicago, Illinois

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

10:01 a.m.

Job No.: 597713

Pages: 1 - 98

Reported By: Lori L. Thielmann, CSR, RPR

Transcript of Chicago Transit Authority Board Meeting  
Conducted on September 10, 2025

1 Board Meeting, held at:

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4 CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

5 567 West Lake Street

6 2nd Floor

7 Chicago, Illinois 60661

8 312.681.3137

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12 Before Lori L. Thielmann, Certified Shorthand  
13 Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter in and  
14 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
- MICHAEL EADDY
- MICHELE A. LEE
- ROBERTO REQUEJO
- NEEMA JHA
- ROSA ORTIZ (Virtual)

ALSO PRESENT:

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

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

2 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Good morning. I would  
3 like to call to order this meeting at the Chicago  
4 Transit Authority for September 10, 2025.

5 Georgette, please call the roll.

6 MS. GREENLEE: Director Neema Jha.

7 DIRECTOR JHA: Here.

8 MS. GREENLEE: Director Roberto --  
9 Director Requejo.

10 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Present.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

12 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Here.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

14 DIRECTOR JAKES: Here.

15 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

16 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes, here.

17 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.

18 DIRECTOR LEE: Present.

19 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, you have  
20 a quorum with six members present.

21 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: We've been advised  
22 prior to today's meeting that Director Ortiz will  
23 be unable to attend in person due to a work  
24 conflict, but she is able to participate remotely.

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1           May I have a motion to admit Director  
2 Ortiz remotely?

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 Director  
7 Rosa Ortiz be permitted to attend the meeting  
8 remotely.

9           We'll take a roll call vote.

10          Director Jha.

11          DIRECTOR JHA:   Yes.

12          MS. GREENLEE:   Director Requejo.

13          DIRECTOR REQUEJO:   Yes.

14          MS. GREENLEE:   Chairman Barclay.

15          CHAIRMAN BARCLAY:   Yes.

16          MS. GREENLEE:   Director Jakes.

17          DIRECTOR JAKES:   Yes.

18          MS. GREENLEE:   Director Eaddy.

19          DIRECTOR EADDY:   Yes.

20          MS. GREENLEE:   Director Lee.

21          DIRECTOR LEE:   Yes.

22          MS. GREENLEE:   The motion passes.

23          Director Ortiz, can you hear us?

24          DIRECTOR ORTIZ:   Thank you, yes.

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1 MS. GREENLEE: Good morning.

2 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Good morning.

3 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of  
4 business is public comments. Georgette.

5 MS. GREENLEE: Mr. Chairman, we have three  
6 public comments for today. Saleshea Peterson, Nik  
7 Hunder, and Patricia Puentes. I'll know for the  
8 record that I do not see Patricia Puentes in the  
9 space. She was here and she left.

10 I will welcome our commentators for this  
11 morning. The first, Ms. Saleshea Peterson. You  
12 are more than welcome to come up and sit at the  
13 table.

14 Ms. Peterson, I would like to remind you  
15 that we ask that you keep your comments to three  
16 minutes. They are timed and you may start now.

17 MS. PETERSON: Hello, everyone. I am  
18 Saleshea Peterson. I would like to offer the  
19 board members a one-pager of what I will be  
20 speaking about today.

21 MS. GREENLEE: You can hand those to me.

22 MS. PETERSON: Yes.

23 MS. GREENLEE: But I would encourage you  
24 to keep talking.

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1 MS. PETERSON: Okay. So I am the founder  
2 of Hug a Child not-for-profit. I am in six years  
3 doing anti-violence and gun awareness and CVI work  
4 in the communities of the City of Chicago.

5 I have seen the problem on the transit and  
6 I have came up with a transit strategy for  
7 youth-orientated violence prevention and  
8 intervention.

9 I have been working on the Red Line, me  
10 and my entire team, for the last past six months  
11 reaching these youth and trying to see what's the  
12 problem and how we can get to solving it.

13 So I have a one-pager here that is about  
14 an after-hour program and permits of community  
15 building and plans provided for immediate response  
16 for long-term pathways and opportunities for youth  
17 and family.

18 Why this plan will work in realtime,  
19 de-escalation or CTA Red Line and beyond, trained  
20 teams of violent change makers, life coaches, case  
21 management and mental health professionals provide  
22 wraparound services, workforce development,  
23 mentorship, mental health, and victim advocacy.

24 After hours, me and my team will be in

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1 spaces from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m.

2 MS. GREENLEE: Ms. Peterson, if this is a  
3 sales pitch --

4 MS. PETERSON: It's not.

5 MS. GREENLEE: Okay.

6 MS. PETERSON: It's really what's going on  
7 with the youth on the Red Line.

8 MS. GREENLEE: All right. Because sales  
9 pitches are not allowed during public comments.  
10 Just --

11 MS. PETERSON: I have a team of people  
12 that want to save, heal, and help and empower the  
13 youth that are on our train.

14 I have spoken with the union and several  
15 other people about this, and I really think this  
16 is a critical matter that everybody that sits on  
17 this board should address.

18 So if you can read over my one-pager and  
19 understand why this would be ideal and why the  
20 youth need the help in implementing a plan -- it  
21 doesn't have to be my plan -- if anybody else has  
22 a plan or any suggestions, we're welcome to tag  
23 team with that as well.

24 Because the youth is our future and this

1 is our city and these are our children and they  
2 need the support. They need the healing, they  
3 need the empowerment, they need the intervention,  
4 and they need someone important to them with  
5 integrity.

6 So we're here today to speak about  
7 everything that's going on on the train. I was  
8 once one of those children on the train so what I  
9 wanted was intervention. What I wanted was  
10 someone to speak to me -- and my mother was an  
11 older parent, a single mother when my father  
12 died -- and I wanted to know what spaces that I  
13 had an opportunity to go to.

14 And I feel like by me and my team being on  
15 those trends, seeing what these youth need,  
16 engaging with them and getting the feedback, this  
17 is what the board needs to hear.

18 Something needs to be implemented. I do  
19 have a program, but I'm not selling anything. I'm  
20 being honest for what we need for Chicago --

21 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you very much.

22 MS. PETERSON: Thank you.

23 MS. GREENLEE: That's time.

24 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

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1 MS. LEERHSEN: Thank you for attending and  
2 I'd encourage you to connect with our Chief  
3 Operating Officer, Veronica Alanis, because we're  
4 in a period where we're hearing about different  
5 types of strategies, and we'd love to talk with  
6 you.

7 MS. PETERSON: Thank you.

8 MS. GREENLEE: And our next public speaker  
9 is Mr. Nik Hunder. Good morning, Mr. Hunder. You  
10 have three minutes.

11 MR. HUNDER: Great. Thank you. Good  
12 morning, everyone.

13 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Good morning.

14 MR. HUNDER: So why -- so something I saw  
15 literally just yesterday is that quietly last  
16 month, the Department of Homeland Security updated  
17 its terms and conditions for receiving federal  
18 awards for the third time this year.

19 And important to this update is that CTA  
20 receives about \$8 million from DHS in the form of  
21 transit security grant program dollars, which the  
22 head of security told the Citizens Advisory  
23 Council to use paid CPD officers on their day off.

24 I wanted to flag this because these

1 changes dictate that all federal awards with DHS  
2 will require a variety of things. These include  
3 to share, quote, Records, accounts, and other  
4 documents and sources of information related to  
5 the federal warrant and permit access to  
6 facilities and personnel, closed quote, and,  
7 second, comply with new sections of Title 8 that  
8 would now require CTA to share information  
9 regarding citizenship, immigration status, prevent  
10 Know Your Rights campaigns, make transporting  
11 illegal aliens -- their quote, not mine -- closed  
12 quote, open quote, Provide access to detainees  
13 such as when an immigration officer seeks to  
14 interview a person who might be a removable alien,  
15 closed quote, which can be loosely construed as  
16 allowing DHS to legally board the system.

17 And lastly, gag CTA from alerting the  
18 public about any immigration enforcement that is  
19 taking place on its property.

20 So this is a mistake that AC Transit in  
21 Oakland just made. And as DHS stated in its  
22 notice of funding opportunity that it intends to  
23 award the CTA \$7.6 million this year, and I just  
24 wanted to flag that -- ask that you not accept

1 this award.

2 I know we're in a budget shortfall, but  
3 \$7.6 million is not worth selling members. Thank  
4 you.

5 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you, Mr. Hunder.

6 Mr. Chairman, there are no further public  
7 comments.

8 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you. Our next  
9 item of business on the agenda is our acting  
10 president's report given by Nora Leerhsen.

11 MS. LEERHSEN: Good morning, Directors and  
12 Chairman.

13 Walking through a few key updates, I  
14 wanted to kick off with some ridership highlights,  
15 some contextual updates on ridership that I think  
16 would be welcome news.

17 So as we're heading back to school, we're  
18 looking back at our summer of ridership and it was  
19 very strong. So we have a 4 percent year over  
20 year growth in June, July, and August compared to  
21 last year's summer, which means that we delivered  
22 3 million more rides this summer in 2025 than we  
23 did in 2024, and that's a really exciting marker  
24 of the health of our ridership.

1           This strong ridership growth is driven by  
2 significant growth in rail ridership. This summer  
3 we've seen a 7 percent year over year growth  
4 across the rail network. Certain areas like the  
5 Red Line north, the O'Hare branch and the loop  
6 elevated are some of the biggest drivers of those  
7 ridership growths.

8           Of course, as I mentioned, frequently our  
9 frequent network also continues to show strong  
10 ridership relative to the rest of our bus network.  
11 The routes leading the pack are the number 60,  
12 Blue Island with an impressive 18 percent year  
13 over year growth; The number 20 Madison with a 7  
14 percent year over year growth; and the J14 is  
15 growing at 5 percent year over year, which again  
16 shows that where you put investments, ridership  
17 will follow.

18           With regards to the frequent network,  
19 since we last met, we've added four more bus  
20 frequent network routes. The number 53, 55, 77,  
21 and 82 all are seeing additional service since the  
22 middle of August. With one of those rides, the  
23 number 53, I went out to talk with riders at the  
24 Pulaski Orange Line about the additional service

1 as it launched and got to really feel the impact  
2 and the excitement of what that brings to people's  
3 daily lives.

4 A common theme that's going to run through  
5 the rest of my report today has a lot to do with  
6 unprecedented connection with our riders and  
7 hearing directly from stakeholders across  
8 different avenues.

9 So our survey: This past Friday, CTA  
10 posted online the results from our most recent  
11 customer satisfaction survey and we're proud of  
12 the transparency and expediency that we posted  
13 those results to make sure the public can dive  
14 into that data with detail to hear what our riders  
15 are saying.

16 But what we see is some encouraging news  
17 in terms of the service and hiring impacts of the  
18 past year being seen in our riders' responses. We  
19 use these survey results to measure our progress  
20 across many areas, including additional service  
21 and our customer service experience overall.

22 Results from recent surveys have guided  
23 numerous agency efforts to improve wait times,  
24 service reliability and accuracy of our tracker

1 information. Most notably, our frequent network  
2 is designed in part by responses we've gotten from  
3 our survey over the years, as well as the efforts  
4 that we've made to improve the accuracy of our bus  
5 tracker and wait times have also been guided by  
6 that feedback.

7 CTA's Spring 2025 survey is showing that  
8 overall customer service -- overall customer  
9 satisfaction has reached 69 percent, which is an 8  
10 percentage point increase from the same survey  
11 last year, and that's really encouraging news.

12 They show rider satisfaction with service  
13 delivery and service quality are on a significant  
14 upswing following our hiring and service  
15 investments. A couple key points: Bus rider  
16 satisfaction with realtime arrival info is at 67  
17 percent, a growth of 10 percentage points; and  
18 satisfaction with wait times for the next bus  
19 reached 68 percent, a growth of 9 percentage  
20 points.

21 Further, overall satisfaction from our  
22 most frequent bus riders saw a 9 point gain to 71  
23 percent of our bus riders indicating satisfaction  
24 with their service.

1           Train riders reported similar gains in  
2           satisfaction over the last year, with 78 percent  
3           of train riders reporting satisfaction with the  
4           real time arrival information, a 10 point gain;  
5           and 71 percent of respondents indicating  
6           satisfaction with wait time for the next train or  
7           a 12 point gain from last year.

8           So it's a lot of numbers, but the point is  
9           we don't have a lot of ways at CTA that we see  
10          reflecting in data what we know is happening,  
11          which is that improved service delivery is  
12          creating a better experience for our riders and  
13          this data is showing it, and it's a really  
14          exciting thing to review internally that people  
15          are feeling better about their experience on CTA  
16          from a service delivery perspective.

17          The survey also indicates that we're  
18          headed in the right direction on what we're  
19          focused on needing improvement, and it's what we  
20          talk about a lot here in terms of security,  
21          safety, and cleanliness on the train.

22          And you'll hear a report in a few minutes  
23          from a workshop that took place last month with  
24          regards to security, and you know that many

1 efforts are underway with regards to new  
2 innovative pilots on this front, as well as a  
3 deepening partnership with the police department  
4 and targeted missions with regards to issues like  
5 smoking, code of conduct enforcement, and general  
6 safety communications.

7 So the survey has indicated that we're  
8 looking at the right issues and the actions that  
9 we're taking are the right ones.

10 With regards to cleaning, I recently  
11 visited power washers overnight to talk with them  
12 about their work on the system, and we have some  
13 exciting new initiatives underway with regards to  
14 cleaning that I'll be excited to announce in the  
15 coming weeks that will increase visibility of  
16 cleaners on our system to further create a sense  
17 of cleanliness on the system overall.

18 Very notable right now in our agency for  
19 us is the outreach and engagement that is  
20 underway. So on August 28, we held a transit  
21 community safety workshop that was truly  
22 unprecedented at CTA in terms of the breadth of  
23 the organizations that were attending, along with  
24 CTA leadership across departments, organizations

1 from social service agencies, law enforcement, our  
2 security forces, our unions, all together in a  
3 room workshopping issues to see how we can best  
4 support our agency's riders as a group, and we're  
5 really excited to give you a short briefing on  
6 that in a few moments.

7 But I also just want to couple that  
8 together to give you a sense of the level of  
9 engagement. We're also embarking in our budget  
10 season on an unprecedented level of engagement  
11 with the public around our budget. So  
12 traditionally, we just have our one public hearing  
13 right before the budget is approved. This year,  
14 throughout the month of September, we're holding  
15 budget town halls across the city where the public  
16 is invited to discuss their thoughts about CTA  
17 service and what they'd like to see from us moving  
18 into the future.

19 I feel really strongly that given the  
20 constraints and issues that we're facing through  
21 the fiscal situation, that we focus, yes, on  
22 making sure the public understands the impact if  
23 we don't get funding. But I also want to make  
24 sure we use this opportunity to hear more deeply

1 from the public about what they want to see so  
2 that all decisions we make about investments and  
3 programs and policies are informed by their  
4 experience.

5 And so it's been a lot of work internally  
6 from our team and I want to thank everyone that's  
7 working very hard on all these efforts, and I'm  
8 really excited about how it's going to inform what  
9 we do and how we see that reflected in the policy  
10 making that we do at our agency across the board.

11 So right now I wanted to make sure the  
12 public was aware of the workshop and what came out  
13 of it and next steps. So I'm going to have Cara  
14 Bader come up and give a short presentation that  
15 shares with you and the public what occurred  
16 there.

17 MS. BADER: My name is Cara Bader, Vice  
18 President of Strategy and Innovation here at CTA,  
19 and I'll walk you through a short recap of the  
20 workshop that was held just about two weeks ago.

21 So as President Leerhsen has already  
22 indicated, CTA hosted over 50 external attendees  
23 and about 25 members of CTA's cross-functional  
24 staff across each department for a half-day

1 workshop to learn, engage, and support strategy  
2 development of our comprehensive security strategy  
3 and particularly the Safe Ride Ambassador pilot  
4 program that we've mentioned previously.

5           The room included representation from  
6 community-based organizations, health and social  
7 service professionals, public safety  
8 organizations, transit advocacy, and our  
9 government peers. And the day overall was led by  
10 Flora Castillo from Pivot Strategies who I believe  
11 has met with each of you and has been working with  
12 expertise on her team to help connect and engage  
13 us to the expertise and resources that can help us  
14 ground these pilots moving forward.

15           The goals of the workshop were safety  
16 through presence, partnership, and people. You  
17 know, we focused on the development of an investor  
18 pilot, but we really wanted to focus also on the  
19 connection between resources and our partners that  
20 can overall enhance the environment of safety and  
21 security on CTA.

22           Goals of the day were to provide  
23 transparency on our current challenges and  
24 conditions, to get that genuine feedback on

1 program design and implementation, and overall  
2 build and foster a sense of shared ownership and  
3 trust so that we could have a strong foundation  
4 for ongoing collaboration.

5 Just to give a sense of the organizations  
6 that were represented, we really crossed the gamut  
7 of public and private various expertise. We had  
8 our union partners present as well as  
9 representatives from the board, our advisory  
10 board, both ADA citizens and then CTA executive  
11 staff.

12 In order to make the day productive,  
13 attendees were surveyed prior to the event to  
14 indicate the expertise that they intended to bring  
15 into the room and their goals for partnership.  
16 And a couple things that our partners shared was  
17 just a genuine desire to help shape these  
18 programs. We've talked a lot about reaching out  
19 for help and building those partnerships, and it  
20 was great to see that everyone recognized their  
21 desire to be in the room and contribute.

22 There was also a strong willingness and  
23 desire to learn from peer agencies and we'll talk  
24 about a peer panel that was held and then a

1 willingness to play a role in coordinating and  
2 organizing resources outside of CTA for the  
3 benefit of our riders and our service.

4 Our partners called out an expectation  
5 that we provide the safe, reliable, accessible  
6 service that our riders depend on and we invest in  
7 infrastructure that can enable collaboration, but  
8 we aren't responsible on our own for addressing  
9 every challenge that our system faced, and so it  
10 was nice to see attendees recognize the value of  
11 partnership and the role that they can play as we  
12 move forward.

13 So we did a short presentation of CTA  
14 staff that talked about our current security  
15 landscape and challenges. Security leadership  
16 reviewed some of the hotspots of where we see  
17 interaction between CPD and the system as well as  
18 the challenges our riders face.

19 We reviewed the data from our customers  
20 and the ways in which they voice their diverse  
21 perspectives on operational and safety challenges  
22 in their experience. The CTA operations team  
23 walked through sort of a day in the life of a  
24 major event and what it looks like for service

1 hours later after you have had an incident and you  
2 need to respond and that there are major delays  
3 that might continue to cascade on the line. And  
4 Chief Operating Officer Veronica Alanis talked  
5 about the overall landscape of resources that we  
6 leverage and how we piece them together for the  
7 benefit of the system, and then providing that  
8 context of how new initiatives can be developed in  
9 supporting this ecosystem of services going  
10 forward.

11 So consistent theme of the day was this  
12 opportunity of new opportunities of partnership  
13 and recognizing that, you know, the puzzle is not  
14 done, that there are always ways to find new  
15 pieces and stitch them together for the benefit of  
16 our riders and our community overall. A lot of  
17 our detailed discussions focused on defining that  
18 new piece or pieces.

19 I mentioned that there was a panel of  
20 executives from peer transit agencies. We have  
21 leadership from TriMet, which is our peer in  
22 Portland, BART in the Bay area, as well as Metro  
23 Transit. And these are three agencies that have  
24 successfully developed crisis intervention

1 ambassador type programs over about the last five  
2 years. They each gave a short presentation  
3 walking through the development of their program  
4 and there was an opportunity for some Q and A to  
5 identify commonalities and sort of ask detailed  
6 questions.

7 Common themes that came through these  
8 presentations were that each of our peers started  
9 small and really took multiple years to develop  
10 these programs and get it right, maybe even as few  
11 as four to eight people over a year, thinking  
12 about how real world scenarios occur and thinking  
13 about how these resources enhance rather than  
14 detract from the existing ecosystem.

15 Our peers focused on the need for  
16 empathetic engagement, competency, escalation  
17 training, and a visible presence on the system and  
18 a visible way to identify which resources is which  
19 and how they communicate together.

20 In each case for these three peers, they  
21 called out that their crisis intervention programs  
22 complement their other security resources, similar  
23 to ones we have on our system. That's their  
24 police partnerships, contract security guards, and

1 other social service providers. Each one of them  
2 is knitting those together, and it's not, you  
3 know, one and the same across the board.

4 So we did a facilitated breakout activity  
5 for attendees to build their ideal safe ride  
6 ambassador, and we focused on real world scenarios  
7 that our riders often experience and reflect some  
8 of the reports that we often receive. Those  
9 included disruptive behavior, an individual that  
10 may be in mental health crisis, or riders that are  
11 intimidated and have changed their patterns,  
12 anticipating an incident, but might need more  
13 support to feel comfortable on the system.

14 Each table got to go through their desires  
15 in terms of competencies and policies, the  
16 partnerships that might help address those riders,  
17 the technology and resources that would need to be  
18 used, and then importantly, how we define success.  
19 We'll measure that success and, you know, how we  
20 come to the table and decide whether something is  
21 working or not, and we would move forward.

22 So at the end of the breakout activity, we  
23 did a couple large engagement activities with the  
24 whole room to sort of bubble up the highlights of

1 what people's main takeaways were. And the first  
2 of those activities was trying to identify the  
3 three most important qualities that those with  
4 expertise in the room felt their discussion had  
5 really highlighted, and some of these qualities  
6 include included welcoming and engaging demeanor,  
7 community and cultural literacy, means of  
8 streamlining communication and setting up dispatch  
9 processes, and ways to provide knowledge of the  
10 external services that already exist so that  
11 frontline individuals can be more easily connected  
12 to those resources rather than reinventing the  
13 wheel.

14 Throughout the concept of collaboration,  
15 partnership really bubbled up as a way to build  
16 together moving forward.

17 And then, finally, we asked, you know,  
18 that group of diverse experts, about 65 people, at  
19 the end of the day what outcomes would a  
20 successful program achieve? What is their vision  
21 for this program at scale and how our system has  
22 changed?

23 Participants not only noticed, you know,  
24 highlighted increased feelings of safety, that

1 customer satisfaction, and lower incidents of  
2 crime on the system, but they saw that vision of  
3 increased ridership and rider confidence  
4 highlighted an outcome of accountability and  
5 communication with us and our riders and partners,  
6 and also just an increase in general respect for  
7 others moving about the system, and I think those  
8 are outcomes that we will keep in mind as we move  
9 forward and proceed with our next steps.

10 So a couple tangible next steps. We've  
11 done a post-survey of meeting attendees and that  
12 will give one last opportunity for folks to  
13 indicate how they can be involved going forward as  
14 we build these pilots. We'll be preparing a  
15 summary report of what was discussed at the  
16 breakout tables as well as a summary of some of  
17 the peer presentations. That report will be  
18 provided to attendees, CTA leadership, the board,  
19 and others.

20 And then we're proceeding to develop the  
21 pilot partnership scopes. We want to finalize a  
22 few possible pilot designs, maybe a pilot that  
23 focuses more on crisis intervention and then a  
24 slightly different pilot that would focus more on

1 community violence interruption and pro social  
2 engagement, and then we'll be building a process  
3 to identify partners, balancing both sort of speed  
4 to action and market as well as long-term  
5 sustainability.

6 So just a couple final remarks. I want to  
7 thank Chairman Barclay that was able to  
8 participate in the day, Director Lee, President  
9 Leerhsen, and our ADA and Citizens Advisory  
10 leadership. I think there was just such a strong  
11 presence of CTA leadership in the room ready to  
12 learn and hear.

13 And then Flora Castillo and her team were  
14 instrumental in the day of being a success as well  
15 as Mikey Rivera at CTA, Laura De Castro and Jeremy  
16 Fischer. It was really very much a team effort  
17 and I think that the success of it reflected how  
18 much staff here was excited and engaged.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. LEERHSEN: Thanks, Cara. And I would  
21 just echo that this really has our agency working  
22 a muscle that I think is really important and is  
23 good for us and bringing out a lot of strengths of  
24 the people that we have that work here on these

1 issues.

2 And I just want to echo thanking the  
3 board, of course, for the money in our 2025 budget  
4 that allowed for us to experiment and pilot new  
5 ideas around security and your ongoing advisory  
6 role that you're playing as we shape a lot of  
7 these activities, so thank you.

8 And that concludes my report.

9 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you, President,  
10 for your report. I want to begin by commending  
11 the team on public safety workshops. As Cara  
12 indicated, I had the pleasure of attending and  
13 observing and sharing in the discussions. It was  
14 encouraging to see such a diverse group of  
15 stakeholders engaged in this important  
16 conversation.

17 The perspective shared by representatives  
18 from public safety, social services, and the  
19 advocacy communities as well as the insights from  
20 our peer transit agencies that have already  
21 implemented some of these approaches made for a  
22 truly productive dialogue.

23 I'd like to acknowledge and thank Director  
24 Lee for attending that day as well. I support the

1 pilot program emerged from these discussions, look  
2 forward to seeing the next steps of the process as  
3 it's incorporated into our layered security  
4 approach. This type of collaboration and  
5 innovation is exactly what our riders deserve and  
6 I commend the team for a job well done in  
7 organizing such a meaningful event.

8 I also want to speak to the upcoming  
9 budget town hall meetings and the combined  
10 advisory board budget meetings. These are  
11 important opportunities to hear directly from our  
12 riders about what matters to them and what they  
13 see to prioritize, particularly as we face  
14 continued fiscal unknowns in the coming fiscal  
15 year.

16 The combined advisory board meeting also  
17 reflects our commitment to listening to our  
18 advisory boards and creating more meaningful  
19 opportunities for engagement which I know has been  
20 a key point of feedback as we heard as recently as  
21 last meeting from CAB Chair Raby and her report.

22 I'm pleased to hear about the expansion of  
23 the self-harm reduction initiative from our  
24 partners at the city and now at Cook County.

1 Thanks to the team, particular Denise Barreto and  
2 for her efforts and hearing the concerns and  
3 feedbacks of our riders on this issue and engaging  
4 all the stakeholders to vote to expand this  
5 partnership.

6 Lastly, I want to acknowledge and thank  
7 the RTA for the \$74 million allocation of public  
8 funding for our agency for the upcoming fiscal  
9 year. While this funding does not fully close our  
10 fiscal gap, it will help us to continue to deliver  
11 service to our riders.

12 I especially want to recognize my  
13 colleagues on other service boards and the members  
14 of the Ad Hoc Budget Committee for their thought  
15 and coordination. This effort reflects the kind  
16 of regional cooperation and shared sacrifice that  
17 demonstrates to Springfield that we're united in  
18 addressing our challenges.

19 I look forward to continuing in the spirit  
20 of collaboration as we work together to secure a  
21 sustainable funding solution for our entire  
22 region.

23 I'm glad to see all the work that's being  
24 done and for the voices we're hearing. These

1 conversations and partnerships will guide us  
2 towards the best solution for our riders and our  
3 community.

4 At this point, I open up to any other  
5 board members for their comments on President's  
6 report.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

8 DIRECTOR LEE: I just wanted to express  
9 gratitude to the team and also to everybody who  
10 joined the safety workshop. I thought it was  
11 really incredibly encouraging and engaging and I  
12 was looking forward to seeing next steps as well.  
13 Can't wait to understand what the pilot's going to  
14 look like after we shaped it, but encouraged that,  
15 you know, we're working together with community  
16 members and community partners. So thank you to  
17 the team.

18 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

19 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes, thank you. I wanted  
20 also to acknowledge and congratulate the team for  
21 being able to put together this safety workshop.  
22 I think the power of collaboration, the power of  
23 coming together and addressing these very  
24 important topics are going to make our entire

1 system that much healthier and better and safer  
2 and more enjoyable for everyone. So I just really  
3 want to encourage the continued support and  
4 congratulations to the team on making it happen.  
5 Thank you to everyone. Thank you to the  
6 leadership and to all the staff people and our  
7 partners who participated in this event. Thank  
8 you.

9 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

10 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yeah, I also want to join  
11 in commending the team and certainly Cara for that  
12 report from the community safety workshop.

13 And there was a question, I guess, that  
14 was raised there about the important elements of a  
15 success for ambassador program, and three that  
16 stood out to me -- and I'd just to lend some  
17 emphasis to it -- is the welcoming and engaging  
18 demeanor that is going to be vitally important to  
19 be considered.

20 Also community and cultural literacy as  
21 well as trauma-informed care and harm reduction  
22 deescalation trainings. I think that those for me  
23 leaked out as most important that would lend to a  
24 successful ambassador program. But otherwise,

1 quite commendable of what was achieved on that  
2 day, and I certainly want to congratulate each and  
3 every one of you that participated.

4 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

5 DIRECTOR JAKES: No comments. Thank you.

6 MS. GREENLEE: Director Requejo?

7 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yeah, just first of  
8 all, I wanted to acknowledge that summer is  
9 probably the most challenging time of the year and  
10 everybody did their best and delivered on the  
11 indicators as President Leerhsen mentioned and as  
12 expressed in that survey results.

13 I am really appreciative of the --  
14 particularly on the community outreach efforts at  
15 the safety workshop and continuing walking the  
16 talk that we started last year. So overall, this  
17 is a commendation. Congratulations.

18 I do have a few notes of concern and one  
19 of them relates to something that I expressed to  
20 the staff before and that is that we are not there  
21 yet on the safety satisfaction from the side of  
22 our riders and some of the most difficult  
23 numbers -- and one of our commenters early on  
24 pointed it out on the Red Line, but that's not the

1 only one -- is that when we ask people how safe  
2 they feel, they felt safer the farther away from  
3 the train car they were. So they felt safer  
4 walking to the station, they felt less safe in the  
5 station, and they felt less safe inside of the  
6 train car.

7 And so while the number went up overall,  
8 that's still an area of concern and need, and so I  
9 really encourage everyone in our workshop to think  
10 about how do we start deploying some of these  
11 ideas and how do we deploy them in the train -- in  
12 the stations first as sort of an emergency type of  
13 pilot to make sure that we solve that conundrum.

14 The other note is that I really appreciate  
15 the change in gears here at CTA and engaging  
16 directly with the community. And as I expressed  
17 before, this is a lot of work and the agency is  
18 setting up a higher bar, and so my concern is that  
19 the agency is not well-equipped yet in terms of  
20 human infrastructure to absorb all that community  
21 engagement, right?

22 Like the way the org chart works right  
23 now, I see community relations is very much  
24 attached to infrastructure, which is important

1 because we want to make sure that the work in the  
2 community and the infrastructure of the station,  
3 the work is informed by residents. And I feel  
4 also that we need to elevate that group and  
5 properly staff ourselves internally to make sure  
6 that we deliver on the promise.

7 And as I mentioned before, there's an  
8 opportunity in the budget -- budgets that we are  
9 putting together to make sure that that community  
10 engagement team exists and delivers and takes us  
11 to the next level.

12 And then, finally, again, congratulations  
13 on a great workshop on safety. There was one  
14 particular slide that was really telling when  
15 there was like a number of circles that show the  
16 intersection between criminal activity, code of  
17 conduct, et cetera, and I think it's really  
18 important that we focus on the negative because  
19 that's the emergency right now. Things are  
20 happening that are really awful. They want to  
21 center those.

22 And also there's a positive version of  
23 that slide that I would love to see next time,  
24 which is what happens when you substitute that

1 criminal activity with virtuous, you know,  
2 relationships. And Director Eaddy mentioned  
3 earlier the importance of welcoming attitudes and,  
4 you know, how do we bring that positivity to. So  
5 we look at what the role could look like if  
6 instead of centering those challenges, we center  
7 kindness and joy, art and engagement from  
8 everyone, from the riders, from the workers, from  
9 anyone in the system.

10 So just those notes. I know you are  
11 working on it, but I want to make sure that I  
12 marry these notes with an overall sense of  
13 congratulations through a very difficult summer  
14 and really glad to see the changes and the uptick  
15 on the indicators.

16 MS. LEERHSEN: Thank you.

17 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha.

18 DIRECTOR JHA: Plus one to everything.  
19 I'm not going to repeat that. I think my only  
20 add-on to what we heard is if we can talk about  
21 effort. Because I think that it took tremendous  
22 amount of effort to put this together and it was  
23 very visible. It will be nice to understand in --  
24 in number of hours, number of people, dollars and

1 the overall time it took for you to do this.  
2 Because I think it is very important for us to set  
3 realistic expectation based on the constraints  
4 that we're operating under. Make it visible. How  
5 often can you do this? Because I think this is  
6 something that we've been asking, but we also have  
7 to understand what did it take so you can make it  
8 more transparent. How often can we do it and what  
9 is it going to take? What are some of the lessons  
10 learned from this? Because I -- I don't know  
11 personally so it would be good for just -- just us  
12 to understand how much it took from this team to  
13 pull this off.

14 And I -- I think congratulations. I think  
15 it was very successful and it's a start, but like  
16 you said, I think we can do better, but we can't  
17 do it unless we know what it took to get here.

18 MS. LEERHSEN: Yeah, thanks for all that  
19 feedback. Certainly there's common themes in  
20 terms of the magnitude of the work and that's the  
21 muscle I'm talking about working when I talk about  
22 all the work that went on with staff to execute  
23 this. You see how thoughtful it was.

24 And in terms of this being well-timed as

1 we put together a budget for next year and speak  
2 realistically about the level of staffing and  
3 support and space in our agency that it would take  
4 to really execute this as a regular part of our  
5 process. And so it's having just experienced that  
6 and putting together our budget for next year,  
7 it's a good time to marry those two things  
8 together and you're going to see that expressed in  
9 our budget.

10 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you, President.

11 Our next item of business on the agenda is  
12 a report from the ADA Advisory Board given by  
13 Laura Saltzman, chair of the ADA Advisory Board.

14 MS. SALTZMAN: If I need to slow down, let  
15 me know.

16 Hello, my name is Laura Saltzman. I am  
17 the chair of the ADA Advisory Committee and policy  
18 analyst for Access Living. I'll be providing a  
19 summary of the ADA Advisory Committee that  
20 occurred on July 14, 2025.

21 During Bill Mooney's infrastructure  
22 presentation, the committee celebrated the  
23 successful launch of four fully accessible RPM  
24 stations on July 20, 2025 -- Lawrence, Argyle,

1 Berwyn, and Bryn Mawr.

2 I'd like to say congratulations again to  
3 the team on the launch. Even the day before the  
4 big launch with the sneak peek, I saw -- walking  
5 by Argyle, I saw wheelchair users rolling up to  
6 take advantage and use the station they've never  
7 been able to use before. It is a huge achievement  
8 that will positively impact numerous lives.

9 ADA Advisory Committee members attended a  
10 -- prior to this, ADA Advisory Committee members  
11 attended a tour on the RPM stations on June 20  
12 getting a sneak peek of the Bryn Mawr station and  
13 gave feedback to the RPM team. While we hope to  
14 do these tours sooner in the future, I continue to  
15 sincerely appreciate the willingness and openness  
16 to feedback the team has. Their pride in the  
17 project has made them responsive to concerns about  
18 accessibility and not defensive. I hope other  
19 agencies that -- you know, I believe other  
20 agencies could learn a thing or two honestly about  
21 this mentality. Really, really appreciate that.

22 The committee also learned of the progress  
23 at the Racine Blue Line station targeting for a  
24 late September opening and August Green Line

1 station's transition to temporary entrance to  
2 enable elevator installation.

3 The tactile -- the tactile bus  
4 presentation by Jeremy Safran highlighted  
5 significant progress with over 3,000 signs  
6 installed across 25 roads since 2022, and the  
7 additional tactile decal pilot.

8 Committee member Cindy Fosco provided  
9 positive feedback on the tactile quality of the  
10 new stickers while expressing concerns about  
11 weather durability. These stickers are as  
12 exciting as they will add significant usability to  
13 the tactile signs, providing valuable additional  
14 information for riders about the routes and  
15 direction of the stop, and they are an example of  
16 that responsiveness to feedback that I really  
17 appreciate.

18 The committee suggested strategic  
19 placement at locations like Chicago Lighthouse,  
20 Access Living, and the Ogden Center for maximum  
21 user feedback.

22 Eric Jensen's Innovation Studio  
23 presentation introduced an E-Paper display pilot  
24 featuring 18 signs with text to speech

1 functionality. Committee members raised concerns  
2 about text size visibility for users with low  
3 vision and suggested adding as-of timestamps to  
4 improve user confidence and realtime information  
5 accuracy.

6 The committee engaged extensively with  
7 Brad Topol from CDOT regarding new bus island  
8 designs that integrate bus lane -- integrated bike  
9 lanes. We appreciate this board, CTA leadership,  
10 and CDOT leadership working together to bring CDOT  
11 staff to these meetings and their willingness to  
12 present the accessibility community.

13 The committee expressed significant  
14 concerns about shared boarding areas creating  
15 safety conflicts between cyclists and people with  
16 a variety of disabilities, particularly wheelchair  
17 users and those who are low vision blind or blind.

18 We were concerned about stops made  
19 functionally inaccessible for some routes, likely  
20 high use by disabled people as they are on the  
21 same route as disability organizations which are  
22 regularly frequented by disabled individuals.

23 The committee emphasized the need for  
24 broader stakeholder consultation around these

1 various treatments beyond the mayor's office of  
2 people with disabilities and suggested outreach to  
3 National Federation for Blind, Chicago Lighthouse,  
4 and other disability advocacy organizations.

5 We support making the transportation  
6 system more multimodal and useable for everyone,  
7 but I do mean everyone and that requires  
8 thoughtful, inclusive planning and for some  
9 disabled people, transit is the only option so it  
10 is important that we keep what is accessible  
11 accessible.

12 And to be clear, some of the options were  
13 significantly more usable than others. I just  
14 wish that the less useable ones had not been  
15 implemented or there are plans to mitigate the  
16 harm there, but that is not on CTA, and I  
17 appreciate the board and CTA for helping to set  
18 the table for CDOT participating in these  
19 dialogues.

20 The engagements with CDOT at the ADA  
21 Advisory Committee will make these implementations  
22 better in the future and improve the process for  
23 planning and designing going forward and I thank  
24 CDOT staff for joining in this process.

1           Beyond the ADA Advisory Committee  
2           engagements, I gather that the working group on  
3           accessibility between CDOT and CTA staff has  
4           started and I'm happy for that. I hope more  
5           proactive planning and consideration for disabled  
6           people will be a result. There needs to be  
7           clarifying for certain guidelines and what that  
8           means in practicality from implementation.

9           Looking ahead, as mentioned previously,  
10          the committee requested a special September  
11          meeting to learn about the funding shortfall and  
12          to express concerns about potential service  
13          reductions that could have on disabled transit  
14          users. This will be a joint meeting with the  
15          Citizens Advisory Board and is scheduled on  
16          September 22nd.

17          The committee continues monitoring  
18          accessibility initiatives while advocating for  
19          comprehensive system improvements. We appreciate  
20          the board's support and look forward to continued  
21          progress in 2025.

22          Lastly, in my role as chair of the ADA  
23          Advisory Board, I attended the transit community  
24          safety workshop hosted by the CTA. It was a

1 thoughtful and well-organized discussion on the  
2 opportunities to address concerns in our transit  
3 system through mental and behavioral health  
4 support and dedicated community conscious  
5 engagement.

6 I think the reason everyone else who  
7 attended has mentioned here how thoughtful it was  
8 is it really was. It was a -- I get invited to  
9 things like this, and I appreciate the amount of  
10 work and thought that was put into it.

11 I look forward to supporting this effort  
12 as it moves forward, encourage the start of  
13 service delivery, and truly appreciate the board's  
14 advocacy in making this happen.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you,  
17 Ms. Saltzman.

18 Any comments or any questions for Ms.  
19 Saltzman and her report.

20 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jha?

21 DIRECTOR JHA: I think just the  
22 partnership with CDOT, is there more we can do in  
23 terms of just publicizing what else we could  
24 potentially do and engage and explore a

1 relationship that already existed in the board or  
2 the leadership? How do we make that a lot more, I  
3 guess, visible in terms of what else can we do?

4 MS. LEERHSEN: Yeah, there is more we can  
5 do. I mean, there's always -- we began to invite  
6 them to the ADA Advisory Committee, you know,  
7 begin to formalize their role in our committees,  
8 but there's more opportunity to partner with them.  
9 But to your point, publicize it, I think make it  
10 more clear that the partnership exists and so the  
11 public understands whose role is whose and  
12 responsibility. I think we can definitely look  
13 for ways to do that.

14 DIRECTOR JHA: Yeah, I would also if -- I  
15 mean not to sound provocative here -- but if there  
16 are specific concerns around the decisions that --  
17 I guess we can't go back -- but the decisions that  
18 are pending, maybe there is a position we can take  
19 and maybe make that part of an agenda so it's more  
20 targeted and specific in terms of what we want to  
21 see more of versus high value, low value decisions  
22 and just pick our position.

23 And I'm not sure like how we would go  
24 about that, but it will be good to at least know

1 where we stand and advocate towards those into a  
2 partnership.

3 MS. LEERHSEN: Yeah. And you see the work  
4 that's been done and Laura's leadership on the  
5 committee kind of is -- there's so much thought  
6 going into it in terms of what exactly is needed.  
7 That work has been done to kind of classify it and  
8 target it, and I think we can elevate that more  
9 and we can find ways to do that, yeah.

10 MS. SALTZMAN: I don't know if it's right  
11 for me to step in. I do want to say -- like while  
12 obviously I think more can be done, I do  
13 appreciate -- I really do appreciate how much was  
14 pushed to like get them to attend because we have  
15 seen improvements and just the fact that they are  
16 getting feedback directly from at least our  
17 committee is helpful, so obviously we want  
18 improvements, but I do want to thank you for  
19 getting folks --

20 DIRECTOR JHA: Yeah, I fail to talk about  
21 holistic accountability here. It's like I think  
22 coming to the table is one step in the process.  
23 How do we revert back to then what happened next  
24 and closing the loop in terms of whether what was

1 discussed got to the end goal or not and just kind  
2 of making that more publishing some of these just  
3 so we are more realistic in terms of, okay,  
4 where's the gap and finding folks that can create  
5 more alignment between the two so that way it's  
6 more -- working towards more productive way of  
7 engaging them versus, I think, you know, getting  
8 them on the table is just one part of the puzzle.

9 MS. GREENLEE: Director -- are you done,  
10 Director?

11 DIRECTOR JHA: No, I'm good.

12 MS. GREENLEE: Okay. Director Requejo.

13 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: I just wanted to thank  
14 you, Laura, for taking your job so seriously in  
15 charge of the Advisory Council and just following  
16 up on the question.

17 There's a lot of people who need to come  
18 together for a place to work, traffic and movement  
19 of people, et cetera. Chicago is very fragmented,  
20 sometimes you mentioned CDOT. I'm glad to hear  
21 that things are moving forward with that  
22 collaboration.

23 There's also IDOT too and they have  
24 control over a lot of the parts of the city and so

1 just to build on Director Jha's question, what  
2 would it look like for your committee to take  
3 another step in this journey? What would be an  
4 ideal next step in building this momentum and  
5 saying this is what we would like to see next in  
6 terms of collaboration of these agencies? Is this  
7 a meeting? Is this an integration? Is this a  
8 working group? What could that look like?

9 MS. SALTZMAN: I think it depends on the  
10 level of involvement by the other agencies. I do  
11 think -- I actually have been meaning to bring  
12 that up -- that like, I think having IDOT attend  
13 or talking to IDOT would be good because obviously  
14 IDOT does have -- does play a role and I know in  
15 some cases, even the county, right, like that's  
16 come up with the Austin Green Line. No, I'm  
17 sorry. That's the wrong station.

18 But, yeah, I think attending is good.  
19 I -- I guess I'm hesitant to suggest something  
20 because it depends on how much folks want to have  
21 those conversations. I think that highlighting it  
22 has been helpful, but, yeah, and I guess I would  
23 have to kind of mull it over, but I do think that  
24 like the working group is good and minimally them

1 talking to members of the committee because there  
2 is like a really good representation on the  
3 committee with different experiences. So that, I  
4 think, has been useful, but we can also do more  
5 obviously.

6 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: And to clarify, CDOT  
7 has been attending your council --

8 MS. SALTZMAN: Yes. Due to -- yeah,  
9 because of -- because I think of advocacy from the  
10 board, from Acting President Carter. They have  
11 been now routinely attending our board meetings  
12 and present and so at least they get that feedback  
13 from us there.

14 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Has IDOT been invited  
15 or present of these?

16 MS. SALTZMAN: We have not -- they  
17 haven't, but we also haven't done that. I think  
18 we should.

19 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Okay. Just if it's  
20 valuable.

21 MS. SALTZMAN: No, it is, it's -- I mean  
22 obviously there's more overlap with CDOT but  
23 there's overlap there, so.

24 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: And I love to hear your

1 experience with the RPM new stations. Definitely  
2 historic moment there and a lot of the  
3 conversations we have here are train related and  
4 station related, and I'm also curious as to the  
5 experience with buses, right?

6 Like, earlier today we approved a purchase  
7 of 30 new buses and I'm curious as to how the  
8 committee is involved with the design of those  
9 buses, the features that are thinking about people  
10 with disabilities, et cetera.

11 MS. SALTZMAN: There have been a lot of  
12 conversations -- actually, at the committee, there  
13 is an issue raised with training with the buses.  
14 Sometimes there's some issues -- training at the  
15 CTA -- training at the stations as well.

16 But there -- we do talk about it and we  
17 talk about -- I mean, obviously like the tactile  
18 bus signs come up a lot. So bus travel is raised.  
19 But, yeah, I think it can be more complicated.  
20 Obviously, you know, I've already raised some  
21 concerns today about issues of bus travel.

22 I have heard some concerns regarding the  
23 new electric buses. Like, you can't -- two power  
24 chair users can't board at the same time. So you

1 can't go on the same trip. So I will --

2 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Can you repeat that?

3 Two?

4 MS. SALTZMAN: Depending on the size of  
5 the chair, you can't have as many power chair  
6 users ride the same bus, and like I gather that is  
7 a issue. Like it's a -- it's an issue because the  
8 designs just -- they don't have designs for that.  
9 But I do want to flag that when it comes to folks  
10 moving to an electric fleet that that might mean  
11 it's less accessible for folks. So it's like if  
12 you -- you know, they can't -- I heard from a  
13 couple who they can't ride together.

14 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Great. Thanks for  
15 raising that. And honestly, I've had my own  
16 challenges and I've expressed those with some of  
17 those new designs, and I really encourage CTA to  
18 look into this early because we are still at the  
19 beginning of these processes and there's still  
20 kind of room for improvement, clearly, to make  
21 sure that when we have sustainability and green  
22 initiatives, they benefit everyone, no just a few  
23 so thanks for raising that, Laura. No other  
24 questions and thanks again.

1 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

2 DIRECTOR JAKES: No, but thank you.

3 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy.

4 DIRECTOR EADDY: No, thank you. You're  
5 commended for the good work you've been doing.  
6 Thank you very much.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.

8 DIRECTOR LEE: Thanks, Laura, for your  
9 leadership and commitment to the committee. I  
10 guess -- and also being at the workshop. I think  
11 it was valuable. You were there to represent, you  
12 know, the interests of accessibility in the  
13 disability community.

14 But I guess I'm hearing some threads about  
15 training and so I want to maybe extend an  
16 opportunity for, you know, more of a collaborative  
17 effort between the committee and the folks that do  
18 the training here at CTA just to ensure more of a  
19 consistent experience for all riders, especially  
20 with disabilities so would love to encourage the  
21 committee to get more involved.

22 MS. SALTZMAN: We actually, because of the  
23 comment and because of some feedback, we've asked  
24 for it to be on the agenda for the next meeting to

1 discuss more.

2 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

3 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes, thank you. I also  
4 want to echo the sentiments of gratitude for your  
5 leadership, for your time that's dedicated into  
6 this work. Also excited to see the continuous  
7 participation of CDOT and looking forward to IDOT  
8 being a strong partner in this and, yeah, no, if  
9 we can help identify any or all challenges to  
10 electrifying our fleets. As you just mentioned, I  
11 think it merits us to do that. Now, as it was  
12 mentioned in terms of this being [audio  
13 distortion] know all the benefits of our electric  
14 fleet. So we definitely want to continue to  
15 encourage that. I think that is critical for our  
16 environment, our health, and otherwise. But I do  
17 want to also make sure that we are being  
18 thoughtful about any other impacts on -- you know,  
19 impacts into this work. So thank you for that.  
20 No further questions.

21 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you. Thank you,  
22 Ms. Saltzman.

23 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of  
24 business is the approval of minutes of the regular

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1 board meeting of August 13, 2025. May I have a  
2 motion to approve?

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 minutes  
7 from the meeting on August 13, 2025, be approved.

8 We'll take a roll call vote.

9 Director Jha?

10 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Director Requejo.

12 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

14 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

15 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

16 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

17 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy.

18 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

19 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.

20 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

21 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.

22 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

23 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

24 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you. Our next

1 item on the agenda, executive session, Kent Ray,  
2 it's my understanding that we have an executive  
3 session today.

4 MR. RAY: Yes, Chairman. The board will  
5 move to go to executive session pursuant to the  
6 Illinois -- we'll be reading subsection 2(C) 11  
7 and 21.

8 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will now entertain a  
9 motion to present recess in to executive session  
10 for the reasons stated by counsel.

11 DIRECTOR JHA: So move.

12 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Second.

13 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director  
14 Jha, seconded by Director Requejo that the board  
15 move into open session for the reason stated by  
16 counsel.

17 We'll take a roll call vote.

18 Director Jha.

19 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

20 MS. GREENLEE: Director Requejo.

21 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

22 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

23 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

24 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

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1 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.  
2 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy.  
3 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.  
4 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.  
5 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.  
6 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz.  
7 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.  
8 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.  
9 (Off the record at 10:58 a.m.)  
10 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will now entertain a  
11 motion to return to open session.  
12 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.  
13 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Second.  
14 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director  
15 Jha, seconded by Director Requejo, that we move --  
16 that we return to open session.  
17 We'll take a roll call vote.  
18 Director Jha.  
19 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.  
20 MS. GREENLEE: Director Requejo.  
21 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.  
22 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.  
23 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.  
24 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

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1 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

2 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.

3 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

4 MS. GREENLEE: With five votes present, we  
5 have -- the motion passes.

6 MR. RAY: Chairman, in item 16, the board  
7 reviewed the closed session meeting minutes for  
8 July 9, 2025.

9 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: May I have a motion to  
10 approve the closed session meetings for July 9?

11 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

12 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Second.

13 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director  
14 Jha, seconded by Director Requejo that the closed  
15 session minutes from July 9, 2025, be approved.

16 We'll take a roll call vote.

17 Director Jha.

18 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

19 MS. GREENLEE: Director Requejo.

20 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

21 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

22 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

23 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

24 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

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1 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy.

2 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

3 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.

4 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

5 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

6 MR. RAY: In Item 6(B), the board reviewed  
7 a proposed settlement of the lawsuit captioned,  
8 The Estate of Kevin Powell vs. Chicago Transit  
9 Authority, case number 2024 L 002360, pending in  
10 the Circuit Court of Cook County in a proposed  
11 amount of \$2,625,000.

12 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: May I have a motion to  
13 approve the settlement?

14 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

15 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Second.

16 MS. GREENLEE: So it's been moved by  
17 Director Jha and seconded by Director Requejo to  
18 approve the settlement in the case of Kevin -- The  
19 Estate of Kevin Powell vs. CTA in the amount of  
20 \$2,625,000.

21 We'll take a roll call vote.

22 Director Jha.

23 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

24 MS. GREENLEE: Director Requejo.

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1 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

2 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

3 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

4 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

5 DIRECTOR JAKES: Abstain.

6 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy.

7 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

8 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.

9 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

10 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes with four  
11 votes in favor and one abstention. I will also  
12 note for the record that Director Ortiz did not  
13 rejoin the meeting due to her work commitment.

14 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: We will now address  
15 board agenda item 7, board matters. Georgette, do  
16 you have any board matters today?

17 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, there are  
18 no board matters.

19 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of  
20 business is a report from the Committee on  
21 Finance, Audit, and Budget.

22 DIRECTOR JAKES: The committee met earlier  
23 this morning and approved the August 13, 2025,  
24 committee minutes and reviewed the finance report.

1 Committee reviewed two ordinances: One, review of  
2 an ordinance amending ordinance 024-143, approving  
3 the fiscal years 2025 through 2029 capital  
4 improvement program.

5 Two, review of an ordinance authorizing a  
6 revision to the intergovernmental agreement with  
7 the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of  
8 Greater Chicago for the Red Line extension  
9 project.

10 The committee also reviewed 11 contracts.  
11 Committee placed the two ordinances and 11  
12 contracts on the omnibus. Committee approved and  
13 recommended for board approval two ordinances and  
14 11 contracts.

15 Mr. Chairman, this concludes the report of  
16 the Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee.

17 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you, Director  
18 Jakes. I will now entertain a motion to approve  
19 the omnibus.

20 DIRECTOR JHA: So moved.

21 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Second.

22 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by Director  
23 Jha, seconded by Director Requejo to approve the  
24 omnibus.

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1 We'll take a roll call vote.

2 Director Jha.

3 DIRECTOR JHA: Yes.

4 MS. GREENLEE: Director Requejo.

5 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes.

6 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay.

7 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

8 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes.

9 DIRECTOR JAKES: Yes.

10 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy.

11 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

12 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.

13 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of  
15 business is the construction report from Bill  
16 Mooney, our chief infrastructure officer and Juan  
17 Pablo Prieto, our director of diversity program.

18 MR. MOONEY: Good morning. Bill Mooney,  
19 your chief infrastructure officer.

20 MR. PRIETO: Good morning. Juan Pablo  
21 Prieto, director of diversity programs.

22 MR. MOONEY: So this month we are excited  
23 to bring forward the Red Line extension project.  
24 First time formally as part of the construction

1 report. You'll start hearing from this updates on  
2 a monthly basis.

3 It's a little less traditional than most  
4 of you see on projects because it is a much more  
5 complicated ball. And you saw similar reporting  
6 on RPM when we first started with that, but most  
7 of you weren't on board at the time and so we'll  
8 walk through kind of the slide and that will be  
9 really the focus today. The other projects are in  
10 here and I'm glad to take any questions you may  
11 have on them. I know you get them in advance or  
12 certainly always follow up with us otherwise but  
13 we'll just focus on RLE for today.

14 So as you typically see when we introduce  
15 project here is the overall project slide.  
16 Obviously work through these, but this is a little  
17 different is this is the overview slide for the  
18 entirety of the thing. So right now the Red Line  
19 extension project consists of 20 different  
20 contracts, right?

21 So when we talk about -- we often talk  
22 about the main design build contract and we'll get  
23 to that more discrete portion a little bit. But  
24 when we talk about the program, right, we talk

1 about the bigger picture here, which has all our  
2 advanced utility, it has our advanced demolition,  
3 it has the design build contract, it has our  
4 program managers and designers and all these other  
5 support services here. And so they all have  
6 impacts on the values of this program as well as  
7 the DBE participation and the workforce goals.

8           One of the unique things about this  
9 project is we did the thing that most people would  
10 never recommend you do with a project, which is we  
11 broke it into as many possible opportunities as  
12 there could be to really promote the value of the  
13 equity investment here. So it's always easier to  
14 manage one contract versus 20 and we went the  
15 other direction because fundamentally our goal  
16 here is to make the project's impact felt beyond  
17 kind of the direct investment.

18           So overall, you look at the note to date  
19 of award is about 2.9 billion. That is the  
20 biggest piece of this design build contract with  
21 Walsh-VINCI. And then we have about another, you  
22 know, 638 million out there in pending awards  
23 still And we've learned it today, about 10 percent  
24 of that.

1           As you look through -- I don't have to go  
2 through all the great impacts and the benefits of  
3 the system to customers with you. I think you all  
4 are champions of the project, know that as well as  
5 I do at this point.

6           I want to talk a little bit about what's  
7 happened really over the last six months. So when  
8 we secured the FFGA in January, we issued notice  
9 to proceed formally to Walsh-VINCI to start on the  
10 design bill contract. That was really kind of the  
11 starting date.

12           We had unlimited notice to proceed for  
13 that. We'll often do some advance work, but we've  
14 been very busy since then.

15           Probably the most unique portions of this  
16 is here you can see a picture of the project  
17 office. So this is at 111th, right near Pullman,  
18 right near the House of Hope where we had an event  
19 there right after we were able to secure our FFGA  
20 and award that contract. And so this is an old  
21 off-track betting facility that we are actually  
22 leasing that the board had approved to lease that  
23 we've been renovating and we are actually having  
24 the opening date for this office being available

1 tomorrow. So we've been working through this  
2 space.

3 This renovation has all been done through  
4 our construction management firm for us and they  
5 exclusively outsourced it entirely to DBEs. So  
6 all the work on this has been done for small  
7 business enterprises or to spend -- disadvantaged  
8 business enterprises, many of which who are  
9 starting to grow because of this initial  
10 investment in this project and they're able now to  
11 keep bigger portions of this project because we  
12 were able to seed them with some of this  
13 experience here.

14 So here's a little bit before or after.  
15 So you can see kind of on the picture on the left  
16 here, the dark black space. They used to be  
17 filled with cocktail style tables and chairs and  
18 TVs and bars. And now it's our office space on  
19 the right. Much brighter area, that logo red that  
20 carries even from 95th Street, ribbon is what we  
21 like to talk about.

22 Here you can see our next big kind of  
23 investment. This is a community office. So this  
24 was an auto body shop that we had bought. And for

1 those that participated when we secured our  
2 federal share and then that announcement of us  
3 entering that engineering, we did it at this  
4 location. It has been under renovation with a  
5 combination of an SB contractor who was doing all  
6 the HVAC, the electrical, and the roof  
7 replacement, and a lot of the interior work has  
8 been done with CTA forces. So here you can see  
9 the exterior of the building and here's the  
10 interior. We expect to have this hopefully online  
11 early November and available to the public.

12           It was really important with this project.  
13 We do have a community office on RPM as well.  
14 It's over on Broadway, just over by Argyle. But  
15 this community is very much in person. We wanted  
16 to meet people where they were at. We wanted to  
17 have space that was welcoming, inviting. We use  
18 this community office even pre-renovation for a  
19 lot of real estate closings.

20           So when we talk about familial wealth, we  
21 talk about generational wealth that is in  
22 property, and a lot of the way the world has gone  
23 on real estate closings is people do it on iPads  
24 now, on Zoom meetings. And so you were talking to

1 generations of wealth that we were asking them to  
2 sell their houses to a picture on a screen and so  
3 we wanted to make sure that they were in a space  
4 with people they knew and were familiar with and  
5 comfortable with so we could help them through  
6 that process. So this was really a key investment  
7 we had early on in the project to have it  
8 available so we're really excited to see what it  
9 comes.

10 Acting President Leerhsen and I were out  
11 last week and she was able to see some of the  
12 progress firsthand. We really enjoyed some of the  
13 stuff we were able to see.

14 Moving on to kind of the first set of  
15 discrete contracts. So this is the advanced  
16 demolition. So the board had authorized us for  
17 two things kind of around advanced demolitions.  
18 We issued a series of task orders for design for  
19 simple packages and complex packages. So we did  
20 an SB set aside for designers, we would issue task  
21 orders for simple demolition. So this was more  
22 typical single family homes.

23 And then we had a separate set of  
24 designers that had DBE goals on those task orders

1 for the more complex set of designs. So, again,  
2 this was this opportunity where we tried to  
3 separate, create really discrete pockets of  
4 opportunity for the SBE's community on this and as  
5 well as, you know, when we did have to go to a  
6 more advanced kind of higher-end firm that we were  
7 then supporting those DBE outreach goals.

8 And separate from that, we also went and  
9 sought two different sets of firms to do  
10 demolition itself. So when we were releasing  
11 those simple design packages, we were releasing  
12 them to SBE contracting opportunities and then we  
13 were going to the more complex ones which had  
14 either more industrial facilities, larger  
15 facilities or had really complex remediation to  
16 them, we were going to a different pool that then  
17 would have DBE and workforce support to them.

18 So you can see all the forms listed here.  
19 Again, this isn't always the easiest way to do  
20 these things, but the return on this initial  
21 investment and showing our commitment to DBE and  
22 workforce on this project is really, really  
23 paramount. So we've had a lot of success to date  
24 on this.

1           Here is some of the parcels in process.  
2       So we are significantly through a lot of this  
3       demolition at this point. You can see the last  
4       kind of set of parcels here and five and six  
5       coming to the end. The complex work order, CWOs  
6       is what they're noted here, are the ones that tend  
7       to have remediation with them or tend to be bigger  
8       industrial buildings or things like that. Where  
9       the OWOs are the ordinary work orders and those  
10      tend to be more than single family homes.

11           Prior to demolition, while we -- while we  
12      had these in our opportunity, we also had a  
13      separate opportunity for property management,  
14      right? So we had a property manager that the  
15      board was giving us authorization to work with.  
16      It was one of the largest percentage DBE contracts  
17      we ever had. I think it was 65 percent, right?  
18      Yeah. So it was a big here.

19           We also worked with the Chicago Fire  
20      Department to do training on these facilities. So  
21      this was a unique opportunity as we had the space  
22      available. They hit us up through our safety  
23      department. We were able to work out a way. They  
24      worked through simulated search and rescue, fire

1 lines. It was really popular with the community  
2 because we did a lot of outreach ahead of time to  
3 say like, hey, this is what's going on. Like  
4 these aren't burning down. These aren't scary,  
5 right? People would come out and watch it. It  
6 was really interesting.

7 I know Director Requejo, you sent a note  
8 about the article at one point when it was in  
9 press. So it was a way to use the space and  
10 provide that benefit. This was all local  
11 districts. This wasn't necessarily even citywide.  
12 This was the community being able to train and  
13 take opportunity by this opportunity.

14 Here's some pictures of advanced  
15 demolition. So we have cleared a significant  
16 portion of the sites of the 85 structures that are  
17 coming down. I think it's close to 76 that are  
18 fully on the ground at this point in time. The  
19 rest of them tend to have a little more  
20 remediation to them. There's another package  
21 that's still routing on that. But you'll see  
22 these progress photos going forward.

23 Final condition of these sites as they  
24 come down. Here's another example. This is more

1 on the complex side. They ended up fully graded  
2 out with stone and they get ornamental fencing on  
3 one side and chain link on the other side so we  
4 can maintain the properties until the design  
5 builder's ready for them. So they get kept in a  
6 good space and then they go back to the property  
7 manager thereafter.

8           Onto the big contract. So you all  
9 remember the very monumental moment when we  
10 awarded this contract which is a significant point  
11 in time for us on this. The design builder has  
12 been very busy. Even though we've only had a  
13 formal NTP for about nine months, they have done a  
14 ton of work. They started submitting a lot of  
15 their intermediate design packages for that.

16           Some of the most important ones are the  
17 ones that actually have gone to the railroads. We  
18 have a whole lot of relationships with the  
19 railroads on this and so getting those packages in  
20 early, get their feedback is really important for  
21 us being able to manage a schedule.

22           They've done a bunch of field work too.  
23 So here they are measuring trees. So one of the  
24 obligations we have on our environmental

1 commitments for this project is that any tree we  
2 remove, we will plant back an equal number of  
3 inches thick trees. So if you have a four-inch  
4 thick tree and all you can get are one-inch trees,  
5 we're going to plant four of them to replace it in  
6 interim. So they have to physically go out and  
7 survey every tree, measure the thickness of the  
8 trunk at a certain point, tag it as such, it gets  
9 recorded and then that's what has to be reproduced  
10 in the contract overall.

11 So here you can see them doing their tree  
12 survey. Here they are doing -- this is boring --  
13 soil boring. So they're taking samples of the  
14 ground all the way down to 85 or 90 feet deep  
15 where their caissons will be rock or find kind of  
16 the space in the earth where they can bear on that  
17 type of geotech. So they get geotech information  
18 out of this. They'll pull up a bunch of pipes.  
19 It will be 10 or 20 sections of pipe of dirt and  
20 then they'll go and they'll study it and then  
21 they'll actually come back from there and make  
22 judgments about, hey, is there any environmental  
23 concerns, can this be gone through clean sites  
24 versus hazardous waste sites. And then really

1 it's about how they design the structure and what  
2 point they can bear on the earth. It's really  
3 important as they inform their decision.

4 We did a ton of this actually in advance  
5 and we gave that information to them as they were  
6 bidding it so they could make their bids as  
7 responsible as possible.

8 As they refined their design and they  
9 decide, oh, this is exactly where I want that  
10 column to go, they'll take a boring there and be  
11 able to sample that exact spot.

12 And then, you know, our ongoing community  
13 relationship has been something that has been  
14 unique probably to this project more than any  
15 other project, right? Because it has gone on for  
16 a decade prior to us getting here and it hasn't  
17 slowed down since then.

18 So we started once this April with a  
19 formal meet the contractor meetings where we  
20 brought up Walsh-VINCY to meet in three different  
21 meetings, kind of the three different segments  
22 of the build and they went through how they were  
23 going to build the project, their philosophies  
24 behind it, how they're going to manage noise, how

1 they're going to manage dust, how they're going to  
2 manage construction traffic. They fielded  
3 concerns from the community. They talked about  
4 kind of the construction approach. We went  
5 through how the gantry works, which segment the  
6 box and kind of explained all those aspects.

7 We had our workforce partners there, we  
8 had CTA HR there, we had our CMs there. We had  
9 everybody kind of in the same room talking about  
10 what opportunities were going to be available to  
11 them, what those DBE percentage and commitments  
12 were, what those workforce opportunities were, and  
13 we had people available to kind of sign people up  
14 right there. So every meeting we tend to have in  
15 the community, we bring out the whole kit and  
16 caboodle of support staff because it is an  
17 opportunity. The last thing we ever want to hear  
18 is, I didn't know how to get an opportunity on  
19 this, right?

20 And then, you know, we have regular  
21 routine commitments into -- in meeting the  
22 community where that -- so here in the bottom of  
23 the Roseland Hospital and Mental Health and  
24 Resource Fair, May 30th. We staffed a table there

1 signing up for our e-mail list, our outreach  
2 things. Here we are participating at back to  
3 school events. This is at Alderman Mosely's  
4 office. We also participated in one at Altgeld  
5 Gardens. That was a -- that was a big time event  
6 and it was a lot of fun. I think staff was  
7 actually kind of pleasantly surprised at how much  
8 fun it was. We also did similar ones up over at  
9 Carver and a couple other places so the project  
10 teams between Walsh and the CM and us help support  
11 kind of some supplies for back to school.

12 And here's a litany of other events that  
13 have happened kind of since spring of this year  
14 that we've directly been participating in this  
15 footprint. You can see the Altgeld Gardens one  
16 that I mentioned there at the bottom. You can see  
17 kind of our participation in other events kind of  
18 citywide, but also specifically here. So very  
19 similar to the time we talked about RPM, here's  
20 kind of all that community operational goods when  
21 we do. I'm actually going down tomorrow morning  
22 to sit down with Altgeld Gardens again. There's a  
23 whole -- this is like the big stuff, right? So we  
24 have probably 100 meetings a month where we get

1 picked up in this type of list, right?

2 So we often may have meetings at people's  
3 houses, right. So we have an office team that  
4 meets people where they're at. If you have a  
5 resident calling up saying, I'm really concerned  
6 you're going to take my house and there's -- we  
7 have a team that will go and meet them and talk to  
8 them and explain, oh, here's where you are, here's  
9 where the work's going to happen, here's what  
10 you're going to expect. So we're really trying to  
11 manage those expectations.

12 We talk a lot about lessons learned. I  
13 think the last meeting we talked a little about  
14 that with RPM forward. One of the things we kind  
15 of learned really the hard way in RPM is advanced  
16 utility and demolition is the project, right? We  
17 kind of treated it as a thing that wasn't really  
18 construction yet, but it was, right? So we really  
19 wanted to stay ahead of this.

20 We did a whole bunch of meetings even  
21 before meet the contractors just to talk about  
22 what you should experience with advanced  
23 demolition utilities.

24 And with that, I'll turn it over to Juan

1 Pablo.

2 MR. PRIETO: Thanks, Bill. Good morning,  
3 again, Directors. On the new mega project. We  
4 have some new slides for you to present. I do  
5 want to reiterate the intentionality that is going  
6 into this project. We've learned a lot of lessons  
7 on RPM on how to make sure that both DBEs and  
8 career seekers didn't come back and say, I didn't  
9 know how to participate in a project. And so  
10 we're implementing those and doing more on Red  
11 Line extension.

12 So we'll start with the program as a  
13 whole, which like Bill said, includes all the  
14 contracts that are related to the project. As of  
15 July 31st, we've awarded over \$260 million to 116  
16 distinct DBE firms, 25 of those are new to CTA.

17 So even though the design build is not --  
18 construction of the design build is not underway,  
19 we have already started on the right foot with DBE  
20 participation, both dollars and distinct firms.

21 We don't have any labor hours to report  
22 yet, but you will start seeing those on this slide  
23 as soon as they get reported.

24 Moving over to the design package of the

1 design build. This portion of the contract has a  
2 25 percent DBE goal and as of the end of July, 22  
3 distinct DBEs have been awarded over \$35 million  
4 so that accounts for 16.58 percent of that 25  
5 percent goal. Seven of those firms are new to  
6 CTA.

7 We also for the first time included a  
8 workforce goal on the design portion of a design  
9 build contract. 10 percent of the design hours  
10 must be performed by residents of economically  
11 disadvantaged areas and the contractor is  
12 currently attaining 3.3 percent.

13 The prime and their lead designer continue  
14 to meet with DBE firms and career seekers as they  
15 make progress towards both the DBE and workforce  
16 goals. We'll bring you a slide on the  
17 construction portion once that part of the project  
18 starts where you'll be able to see the same  
19 information, DBE dollars, unique DBEs, and trade  
20 hours as we -- as we progress through the project.

21 MR. MOONEY: So we're really excited to be  
22 at this point. While there's been a lot of  
23 activity, we typically wait to get to a point  
24 where we have sustained stuff to talk about every

1 month and we're there now. So it is as real as  
2 it's ever been. It is real, real, right? And so  
3 this is an exciting time. We wanted to take a  
4 little more time to focus on this today as it  
5 is -- it is historical to be at this moment in  
6 time.

7 And so we're glad to take any questions on  
8 this specifically or if there's any of the other  
9 projects you had inquiry about.

10 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: When is the  
11 groundbreaking date?

12 MR. MOONEY: Early '26. So, yeah, they're  
13 pushing through design hard right now. We're  
14 still looking for an early 2026 date to have the  
15 real big formal groundbreaking.

16 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: And, Bill, remind me  
17 again, do we have a CBA with the neighbors out  
18 there in Altgeld and in that area?

19 MR. MOONEY: I'm going down to Altgeld  
20 tomorrow morning.

21 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Okay.

22 MR. MOONEY: Yeah. So we have -- you  
23 know, we have -- our purchase agreement with the  
24 Chicago Housing Authority for the property made --

1 had a commitment from them that they would expend  
2 the value of the property.

3           You know, lots of times we have government  
4 relationships. We're getting property for a deal  
5 in this exchange. The benefit really to Altgeld  
6 is this is going to be the front door, right? But  
7 we paid fair market value for the property and our  
8 concern is that that went back to community. So  
9 they have been working directly with the community  
10 to identify how to expend the funds that are  
11 related for this property sale directly into  
12 community investment.

13           We have been talking for 18 months now  
14 with the local advisory council about how we come  
15 to a memorandum of understanding about benefit  
16 directly. It's really about how we support  
17 workforce hiring opportunities and such force on  
18 there.

19           And we actually have our next meeting with  
20 that tomorrow.

21           MR. PRIETO: And I'll note that many of  
22 the things that come out of the community benefits  
23 agreement, we do on all of our projects, we just  
24 do that as a normal practice, right? So DBE

1 outreach, we've done certification drives in  
2 Altgeld Gardens and other parts of the footprint  
3 to make sure that firms that are not yet DBE  
4 certified can get certified in time to compete for  
5 this work.

6           The same thing on the workforce side.  
7 We've held many outreach events where we brought  
8 contractors, trade unions, CTA HR, other  
9 government organizations to the RLE footprint,  
10 specifically to Altgeld Gardens to talk about  
11 opportunities.

12           And then we've started in collaboration,  
13 you've heard about this for two years now with the  
14 city clerk's office and other government agencies,  
15 the citywide career fair. Because some of the  
16 feedback we heard was that they don't only want  
17 construction jobs. So we started the citywide  
18 career fair to bring other industries to the table  
19 to provide those opportunities as well.

20           CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yeah, I'm going to  
21 follow that closely, but that's -- going to make  
22 sure we keep in touch. Okay. Thank you.

23           MR. MOONEY: Thank you.

24           CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Any other questions?

1           DIRECTOR REQUEJO: I have a couple.  
2 Thanks for making this special presentation about  
3 this particular project. I think it's a great  
4 idea and couple questions.

5           One is about how are we communicating to  
6 people in the community, not just the  
7 opportunities for contracts, but also what's going  
8 on. Like, do we have any markers, for instance,  
9 and where the four stations are going to be, let's  
10 say future site of -- what kind of like  
11 newsletter? What kind of, you know, processes do  
12 we have in place to build excitement and to  
13 communicate progress to the people who live there?

14          MR. MOONEY: So the properties, when we  
15 bought them, we hung banners on all the  
16 properties. They said Ready, Set, Soon on them  
17 and had the social information for how you get  
18 information on the project, but we didn't -- we  
19 didn't want to have the optics of this not being  
20 progress, right? As we now took possession of a  
21 property, boarded it up for safety and security  
22 reasons, we wanted to keep that momentum that this  
23 is progress, right? It's not progressive in its  
24 nature. This is progressive. And so we're

1 reminding people this is the reality of this  
2 project coming is this footprint.

3 We have a weekly newsletter that goes out  
4 and if the board isn't on it, I'll make sure you  
5 all -- you all get added to that so you can see  
6 distribution. So in every event we have, we have  
7 to sign up for that newsletter. So it's not only  
8 for that weekly just kind of project update, what  
9 are the upcoming events we're going to be at, what  
10 is the upcoming construction activities. It also  
11 is the mailing list for anything as we have  
12 project discrete things coming out, right? So we  
13 do do a bulletin, RELP, Red Line on the Track or  
14 something like that or On Track is what the  
15 newsletter is called. So you get that generic  
16 kind of summary event thing that's coming out  
17 every week.

18 And then separate from that, when we have  
19 specific events we're trying to like -- we will be  
20 out over the next couple weeks in September doing  
21 the first of the activation meetings. So we're  
22 going to unveil the station designs, where we've  
23 got the areas around the stations that we've  
24 identified for community input and activationism.

1 We've got these plazas, we've got these other  
2 things in the space available. We've set aside  
3 money for feedback in the community about how you  
4 want to see the space used and how you want to  
5 have it available to you.

6 And so similarly what we did on RPM, that  
7 model we did for that, we brought it down here.  
8 We built it into the process. We're starting  
9 those. So we will be blasting those events out  
10 separate from the newsletter. They don't get  
11 buried in the fine print, they go out as their own  
12 things. Juan Pablo's team is doing separate  
13 outreach events. We're blasting them out through  
14 that network.

15 We have our own social handles. We are on  
16 Facebook and Instagram and I think we're on  
17 Bluesky and TikTok and everything that's out there  
18 at this point. So we not only are representing in  
19 there, we're making those social handles  
20 available. People are following us there too.

21 And then, you know -- and then -- so, you  
22 know, but then separate from that is we're showing  
23 up at those community events. That's where  
24 showing up at the ones we host. We are staffing

1 tables at the local markets, we are staffing  
2 tables at the healthcare clinics, we are staffing  
3 tables so that we're meeting people where we're at  
4 Because, again, the last thing we want to hear is  
5 we didn't know about the opportunity.

6 So recognizing that this community is very  
7 diverse and its engagement with us is going to be  
8 very diverse. We wanted to have opportunities  
9 that met people at all those levels. So we try to  
10 be in the digital format, we try to be -- clearly,  
11 we're also -- anything goes through the alder's  
12 office, we're in their newsletters, they're  
13 pushing information out for us. But we're  
14 actually physically going out and meeting people  
15 at the local events to be able to staff those  
16 tables to support those events and say like here,  
17 here's what's coming up. Make sure you get our  
18 newsletter, make sure you get on our e-mail blast,  
19 on Facebook, Instagram, and anything else that's  
20 on the top.

21 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: So we do have outside  
22 visibility markers?

23 MR. MOONEY: Yeah.

24 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Okay. Great. And so

1 and the other --

2 MR. MOONEY: You actually did -- I  
3 actually kind of like the idea of the station. So  
4 as we shifted, we've done -- we did this with RPM  
5 a lot and it's really when we start to fence and  
6 secure those spaces that we start -- we did  
7 renderings of the station, right? In the future,  
8 and we did Bryn Mawr and stuff, right? So I think  
9 that's a piece we got very forward, but maybe we  
10 figure out how to get them out there a little  
11 earlier.

12 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yes. And on that note,  
13 I see you have set up several structures already  
14 for office space and I was curious as what the  
15 plan is after. Are you planning on keeping them,  
16 donating them to the community? What's the plan  
17 for those project office and community office  
18 structures?

19 MR. MOONEY: So the project office is in a  
20 planned development site and so when our lease is  
21 up, we -- the lease expires and it goes as part of  
22 the mass plan development so they actually have  
23 intent -- So CNI is the developer of the area.  
24 They do the whole Pullman development. They've

1 done redevelopment in there. They're pretty well  
2 invested there. They had an opportunity in their  
3 development schedule that we fit well into to be  
4 able to occupy this space for that duration. And  
5 so they have an intention to develop that as part  
6 of their bigger development when we are done using  
7 it.

8           The community office is a good question.  
9 We talked a little bit about it and it is  
10 considered as part of the TSD as a development  
11 site. You know, it's highest and best use,  
12 probably not the little building, you know, but as  
13 we continue our relationship around the support of  
14 the TSD and support of the Department of Planning  
15 Development as they start to release their tasks  
16 and their opportunities, they also -- I mentioned  
17 here they also have picked their first development  
18 in relationship to the TSDs. So they identified  
19 their developer for the Michigan Avenue site and  
20 so they are already starting to work with that  
21 development team towards developing on site that's  
22 directly adjacent to the station, right? So that  
23 site itself would fall in line with kind of the  
24 goals the TSD in there and it may be a temporary

1 use where we do a low value, you know, license or  
2 lease to a community organization to allow them to  
3 use their space while they think about a further  
4 development.

5 DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yeah, I would say this  
6 is an area with a lot of spaces that can be used  
7 by the community or whatever we can do in that  
8 front.

9 And then final question. I am as excited  
10 about the line as I am about the future  
11 development. You all call TSD but to clarify that  
12 is the equitable transit oriented development that  
13 will take place along the line.

14 How could we keep track of how that's  
15 going? Because we've spent a lot of time, effort,  
16 dollars in creating the plan. And the plan looks  
17 great. There's a lot of buy-in, featured  
18 nationally and now to me it's as shiny as the line  
19 itself, and I wanted to know like how do we keep  
20 track of not only the line but also the adjacent  
21 development?

22 MR. MOONEY: So we have sitting meetings  
23 in a couple scenarios. We were a reviewer of the  
24 Michigan Avenue RFP for the city. So we had some

1 input kind of around that. We sit in the planning  
2 group that DPD has brought in a consultant for  
3 around Altgeld Gardens. So while the station  
4 takes a footprint of available space, there is a  
5 significant amount of land that is accounted for  
6 in the transit oriented development around there,  
7 and so they've actually brought in a third party  
8 to start working with the community to identify  
9 the highest and best use around that, what is  
10 feasible, where it's valuable so they can start to  
11 get that seeded in advance of it.

12 So we have some direct finger touch on  
13 some of those things and certainly as we report on  
14 this as a construction standpoint, we can  
15 certainly engage and include on all those aspects  
16 in relationship, because, you know, they are  
17 moving forward which, you know, a little unique  
18 here compared to even RPM. RPM, we have the TOD  
19 sites that we own that we'll be turning back over.  
20 The first of three are in the buying plan right  
21 now that are out there for those development  
22 opportunities and so we can provide those detailed  
23 reports and the things we possess, but the rest of  
24 the area was fairly well-developed in many cases

1 and not as influenced.

2           There's a lot of need -- the transport  
3 development plan looked at the bigger footprint,  
4 right? So there's a lot that cascades from this  
5 opportunity that is beyond kind of what we  
6 directly control. So our sphere of influence is  
7 different. So we'll work to keep track of those  
8 pieces. We get that information. We are engaged  
9 in those opportunities.

10           DIRECTOR REQUEJO: Yeah, I know you are.  
11 And my ask here is to think about what's the best  
12 way to report, not just to the board, but also to  
13 the public on that other piece.

14           And it could be as part of this line or it  
15 could be a monthly overall how are we doing in  
16 those development sites? I'm looking at it from  
17 both perspectives, but I've learned that from you  
18 all, by the way, to look at the equitable  
19 component of it on the affordable homes, all the  
20 affordable retail spaces, community centers that  
21 we're going to be supporting.

22           And also this could be a source of revenue  
23 too at a time that we're looking for -- for those.  
24 I think it's a pretty important piece of the

1 future work and just wanted to invite you all to  
2 think about best ways to report you have problems.

3 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy.

4 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yeah, just want to follow  
5 through with -- because I had a question about  
6 that community office. You gave us the location  
7 for the project office. What is the location of  
8 the community office?

9 MR. MOONEY: Oh, It's on 111th right next  
10 to the station. So it's 111th -- and what's the  
11 side street there? It's not Eggleston. It's  
12 right -- It's close to -- right about 111th and  
13 Eggleston.

14 DIRECTOR EADDY: Okay. All right. And  
15 then what are the proposed operations that's going  
16 to occur there? I mean, is that for interaction  
17 directly with residents? Is that going to be for  
18 them to find out about employment opportunities?  
19 What actually would go on?

20 MR. MOONEY: Everything. Everything. It  
21 is for all those purposes, right? So to  
22 Director's Requejo's point, there's not a lot of  
23 available space at times. So we wanted to make  
24 sure we had space that we could host our own

1 community meetings. We could be there and be able  
2 to hold an event for 40 or 50 people. Be it for  
3 workforce events or workforce training, for DBE  
4 outreach events, or meet the contractor or we're  
5 going to be starting this activity. We want to  
6 brief you on this.

7 We also wanted to have a daily presence  
8 there. And so your question -- your original  
9 question was off -- it's 401 West 111th Street,  
10 exact address of it -- but we wanted a walk-up  
11 presence. So one of those things that was kind of  
12 unique about RPM is we opened a community office.  
13 When we went and we actually looked at other mega  
14 projects. We were in New York, Second Avenue  
15 subway had a community office. We thought it was  
16 kind of neat. It was a good idea. It was a way  
17 for people to engage. We kind of started this  
18 little community office and then we went into  
19 COVID and then nobody was coming to our community  
20 office.

21 And then we went virtual for our virtual  
22 office hours and that community really was  
23 responsive to virtual. They really liked virtual,  
24 right? Oh, I can cook dinner and be a part of a

1 community meeting at 7:00 at night, right?

2           What we have found as we've engaged this  
3 community is we did go through COVID. We were  
4 doing outreach here, but we also found that we had  
5 to continue to have a physical presence. A whole  
6 lot of our partners in this community wanted to be  
7 able to meet in person and do those things. We  
8 wanted to have a physical footprint as early on as  
9 possible that allowed folks to come over and say  
10 like, hey, I noticed that down the block from my  
11 house, you were doing something. What is that?

12           DIRECTOR EADDY: Right.

13           MR. MOONEY: Right? And so that's what  
14 this is for, right? Is we will staff it during  
15 normal working hours, Monday through Friday, that  
16 we will have a presence here.

17           Right now while it's under construction,  
18 we're doing virtual office hours where we actually  
19 blast out for our networks. We will be at  
20 Alderman Beale's office from 3 to 5 if you need to  
21 talk to us about the project, or we'll be at, you  
22 know, the Altgeld library from 1 to 3 in the rec  
23 room if you need. So, like, we're moving around  
24 the neighborhood right now, but this was a nice

1 central spot, it's kind of about midpoint in the  
2 project area. And so it really gave us that  
3 ability to do all those things. We wanted space  
4 that really supported it, that was walk-up, that  
5 as construction is going on -- I still have a  
6 dream that we're going to have a nice big project  
7 aerial map in there and you'll have push buttons  
8 and you'll see station lights that light up. When  
9 we first went there, we talked about having like  
10 little train tables and book areas for kids and a  
11 rug and things like that. We're still working our  
12 way there. Still got a few years to evolve into  
13 it. But the goal of the space is really to meet  
14 people where they're at, to be available to them  
15 and to be able to have the space we need.

16           You don't see in this picture, one of the  
17 coolest things is we have available doors that  
18 goes out into a back area. We can expand our open  
19 space out into outdoor space and be able to have  
20 space outside.

21           DIRECTOR EADDY: Yeah. And I would  
22 suggest also -- I know you said about hours during  
23 the regular working hours, but I think after work  
24 hours.

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1 MR. MOONEY: Yeah, absolutely.

2 DIRECTOR EADDY: Going to be vitally  
3 important beyond, say, 4 or 5, maybe even to 7.

4 MR. MOONEY: Absolutely. Absolutely.

5 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I  
6 think that's it for me, that's what I need to.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee.

8 DIRECTOR LEE: I just want to commend the  
9 team. I know it's not -- it's not easy to do so  
10 much community outreach and engagement and meeting  
11 people where they are so I love -- I'm encouraged  
12 by it and want to continue to support it, and just  
13 excited to see this kicking off. Great.

14 MR. MOONEY: Thanks.

15 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you very much.  
16 Final order of business is new business.  
17 Georgette, is there any new business?

18 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, there is  
19 no new business.

20 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Since there's no  
21 further business to come before the board. We  
22 have a motion to adjourn the Chicago Transit  
23 Authority meeting on September 10, 2025.

24 DIRECTOR JHA: So move.

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1           DIRECTOR REQUEJO:   Second.

2           MS. GREENLEE:   It's been moved by Director  
3 Jha, seconded by Director Raquejo that the CTA  
4 regular board meeting for September 10, 2025, be  
5 adjourned.

6           We'll take a roll call vote.

7           Director Jha.

8           DIRECTOR JHA:   Yes.

9           MS. GREENLEE:   Director Requejo.

10          DIRECTOR REQUEJO:   Yes.

11          MS. GREENLEE:   Chairman Barclay.

12          CHAIRMAN BARCLAY:   Yes.

13          MS. GREENLEE:   Director Eaddy.

14          DIRECTOR EADDY:   Yes.

15          MS. GREENLEE:   Director Lee.

16          DIRECTOR LEE:   Yes.

17          MS. GREENLEE:   The motion passes with five  
18 board members remaining.

19          CHAIRMAN BARCLAY:   Meeting is adjourned.

20          Thank you.

21          (Proceedings concluded at 12:07 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

I, LORI THIELMANN, Certified Shorthand Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter, before whom the foregoing proceeding was taken, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the testimony given, all done to the best of my skill and ability; that said testimony was taken by me stenographically and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my signature this 17th day of September, 2025.



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