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Transcript of Chicago Transit Authority Board Meeting

Date: October 8, 2025

Case: Chicago Transit Authority Board Meeting, In Re:

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BEFORE THE CHICAGO TRANSIT BOARD AUTHORITY

CTA REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Chicago, Illinois
Wednesday, October 8, 2025
10:10 a.m. CDT

Job No.: 603451
Pages 1 - 51
Reported by: Kristine Wesner, CVR

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Conducted on October 8, 2025

1 Report of proceedings of THE CTA REGULAR

2 BOARD MEETING, held at the location of:

3

4 CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

5 567 West Lake Street, 2nd Floor Board Room

6 Chicago, Illinois 60661

7 312.681.5019

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22 Pursuant to agreement, before Kristine

23 Wesner, Certified Verbatim Reporter, and Notary

24 Public in and for the State of Illinois.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

- Nora Leerhsen, CTA Acting President
- Georgette L. Greenlee, Board Secretary
- Kent Ray, General Counsel
- Bill Mooney, CTA Chief Infrastructure Officer
- Juan-Pablo Prieto, Director of Diversity Programs

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

2 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I would like to call
3 to order the meeting of the Chicago Transit Board
4 for October 8th, 2025.

5 Georgette, please call the roll.

6 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

7 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Here.

8 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

9 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Here.

10 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

11 VICE CHAIRMAN JAKES: Here.

12 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

13 DIRECTOR EADDY: Here.

14 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

15 DIRECTOR LEE: Here.

16 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, you do
17 have a quorum.

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

20 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: We were advised,
21 prior to this meeting, that Director Roquejo would
22 be unable to attend in person due to a family
23 emergency. He is able to participate remotely.

24 May I have a motion to admit Director

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1 Roquejo remotely?

2 DIRECTOR EADDY: So moved.

3 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

4 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by
5 Director Eaddy, seconded by Director Ortiz that
6 Director Roberto Roquejo be permitted to attend
7 the meeting remotely due to a family emergency,
8 which prevents him from being in person.

9 We'll take a roll call vote.

10 Director Ortiz?

11 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

12 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

13 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

14 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

15 VICE CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes.

16 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

17 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

18 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

19 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

20 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

21 Director Roquejo, welcome.

22 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of
24 business is public comment.

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1 Georgette?

2 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, we
3 have one public comment and it's Ms. Patricia
4 Puente.

5 Welcome.

6 MS. PUENTE: Thank you.

7 MS. GREENLEE: I'd like to advise you
8 that you have three minutes --

9 MS. PUENTE: Thank you.

10 MS. GREENLEE: -- within which to give
11 your comment.

12 And your time starts now.

13 MS. PUENTE: Good morning. My name is
14 Patricia Puente, and I have -- okay.

15 The Bus 36 on Saturday -- no, Sunday --
16 it had a lot of ants. A lot of ants. And it was
17 like -- I just saw how the ants were just going
18 here and there. The cleaning of the buses -- I
19 don't know. Can they -- when they get to the
20 terminal, can there be persons cleaning the buses
21 and pre-tripping their bus to see if it's clean or
22 not?

23 The other thing is Bus 36, Bus
24 Driver 1435, Driver -- Bus 1435, Driver 4898, she

1 jerks the bus so much. She's damaging that bus.
2 That's how you break down the buses by jerking the
3 bus, especially if you're in downtown. She was,
4 like, and there -- and the men were, like, whoa.
5 There's -- got -- ladies with their babies, and
6 they're going like this (demonstrating).

7 Okay. That's it.

8 The other thing is, what's the purpose
9 of the -- of the cameras when people are doing
10 drugs in the bus, drinking, and smoking? I hope
11 they capture that.

12 The other thing is, on Harold
13 Washington Library, they're selling drugs. I did
14 inform the -- the attendant in the front, and
15 she's, like, we don't call the police because we
16 can get in trouble. How do they know that you're
17 calling the police? You have the camera there;
18 you're seeing that they're selling. How do they
19 know if I didn't call them?

20 You know, and the other thing is the
21 garbage cans. I spoke with some of the homeless
22 guys. They're drug dealers too or whatever they
23 are. And regarding the garbage, they just throw
24 it right there on Harold Washington, and they said

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1 if there was only a garbage can right there, they
2 would throw the garbage right there. They would
3 even play hoops and throwing the garbage instead
4 of having the garbage everywhere right there when
5 you leave Harold Washington -- the Orange Line.

6 And I think that's it for right now
7 because everything else, I forgot.

8 MS. GREENLEE: Thank you. Have a great
9 day.

10 MS. PUENTE: Thank you very much.
11 Thank you.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN JAKES: Thank you.

13 MS. GREENLEE: There are no further
14 public comments.

15 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next item of --

16 MS. PUENTE: Have a nice day.
17 Excellent job. Every --

18 MS. GREENLEE: No --

19 (Simultaneous speech.)

20 MS. GREENLEE: Stop talking.

21 MS. PUENTE: -- excellent
22 transportation.

23 MS. GREENLEE: Please stop talking,
24 Ms. Puente.

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1 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Thank you.

2 MS. PUENTE: Excellent transportation.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. GREENLEE: There are no further
5 comments, Chairman Barclay.

6 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: She was saying
7 something nice.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN JAKES: Right. That was
9 a compliment.

10 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next item of
11 business on the agenda is our President's report,
12 which will be given by our Acting President, Nora
13 Leerhsen.

14 MS. LEERHSEN: Thank you, Chairman.

15 Good morning, Directors.

16 (Chorus of Good mornings.)

17 MS. LEERHSEN: Before I give a
18 description of activities over the past few weeks,
19 I wanted to make a statement on recent activities
20 regarding our Red Line Extension and the Purple
21 Modernization projects. I want to be very clear
22 that CTA is fully and entirely committed to the
23 Red Line Extension project.

24 On Friday, as has been reported, we

1 received two letters: One with regards to the Red
2 Line Extension project, one with regards to the
3 Red and Purple Modernization project, indicating
4 what was described as a temporary pause in the
5 disbursements of payments regarding those
6 contracts as regarding those agreements as our
7 contracts are reviewed for compliance. We are
8 going to be responsive to those requests. We are
9 working on that material. We will respond in the
10 timeline allotted.

11 Simultaneously, we are also working
12 closely with our industry and local peers to
13 review the impact of the change in the regulation
14 that was also reported last week. There are
15 others besides CTA impacted, many others, and we
16 are working closely to understand that impact and
17 to strategize to keep our projects moving as
18 planned. And I want to be very clear that CTA's
19 actively working to ensure the smooth delivery of
20 the Red Line Extension project as planned.

21 Activities have not been impacted. To
22 date, the pre-groundbreaking work continues. Our
23 public meetings continue. And I remain in close
24 contact with the key stakeholders on that project

1 about the latest and will continue to do so.

2 I also wanted to thank a few people
3 with regards to the action that was taken today
4 with regards to the Racine feasibility study and
5 the work that was done there. There are some key
6 stakeholders that have been advocating for looking
7 into that work. So I want to thank Senator Mattie
8 Hunter, as well as community leader, IMAN
9 Executive Director Rami Nashashibi, and the
10 Resident Association of Greater Englewood for
11 their commitment to the Racine Green Line Station,
12 and we're excited about the action that was taken
13 today.

14 To review the activity over the last
15 few weeks, on September 11th, we were excited to
16 open our Red Line Extension staff office. We
17 joined CTA's RLE staff and project contractors to
18 celebrate the grand opening of the first project
19 office for this historic project. It's located at
20 East 112th Street and South Corliss Avenue and
21 will house CTA employees, construction management,
22 and contractor staff for the project. And as you
23 can imagine this was a key turning point for this
24 project and an exciting moment to see everyone

1 together, ready to get moving and keep us moving.

2 On September 13th, we were excited to
3 hold our Transit Jamboree at Skokie Shops, and
4 thank you, Chairman Barclay, for attending there
5 to also celebrate with employees. Hundreds of
6 employees, along with their families, had an
7 incredible time, celebrating their skills and
8 expertise, as we do every year and an incredible
9 amount of work across many departments went into
10 executing that event.

11 And I will say, an extra challenge
12 existed this year as pouring down rain occurred
13 right as we were starting our activities. So in
14 addition to all the work that had been done
15 leading up to it, people had to quickly adjust,
16 bring things indoors, and nothing shows CTA's
17 employees' sophistication more than managing that
18 type of activity. So I want to thank everyone.
19 It was an absolutely fabulous day.

20 On September 15th, we joined Cook
21 County Board President, Toni Preckwinkle,
22 officials from the Cook County Department of
23 Public Health, and public health advocates and
24 community leaders to announce our new partnership,

1 approved by this Board, to officially launch a
2 pilot featuring new vending machines that dispense
3 free Nalaxone at five CTA rail stations.

4 Significantly, since we met -- last
5 met, we have held three budget town halls
6 throughout the city on the north, south, and west
7 sides, and they have been a huge success. Over
8 400 people attended the town halls. We presented
9 along with executive level staff. Ten staff,
10 along with me, presented information about this
11 critical budget season, about the potential
12 impacts if funding is not provided to CTA, but we
13 also took the time to talk about our priorities;
14 what we're focused on; what we have achieved over
15 the last few years; the status of service; the
16 status of initiatives that we know matter to
17 customers; and took a lot of time to receive
18 feedback from people throughout those town halls.
19 It was absolutely critical to driving our
20 decision-making in the creation of our budgets,
21 which is now underway.

22 I, again, want to thank everyone that
23 took time out of their lives to attend those town
24 halls, to share information with us, as well as

1 the respondents to the survey regarding the
2 budget. We have over 6,000 responses to that
3 survey. So we're really seeing a lot of success
4 in this level of engagement. I want to thank the
5 team for all the work that's gone on to execute
6 that. It's an incredible amount of work, on top
7 of their daily work, to engage with the public,
8 and it's been a huge success for us.

9 On September 17th, I welcomed Mayor
10 Brandon Johnson to the Lawrence Station for his
11 day in the ward -- in the 46th Ward. Gave him a
12 tour of the updated station, and, again, got to
13 glory in those enhancements from our Red/Purple
14 Modernization project as well.

15 I also attended two separate
16 conferences, both really key to this period. At
17 Elevated Chicago, I was on a panel regarding ETOD,
18 along with Representative, Eva-Dina Delgado, and
19 Jacky Grimshaw, discussing the importance of what
20 transit is in ETOD. And it was a great discussion
21 about the current reform bill and the opportunity
22 there to advance ETOD as -- as a group and what
23 matters to us. And I got to really make clear
24 CTA's commitment to being a partner in that

1 activity, and it was a really fruitful discussion.

2 I thank them for that.

3 On September 30th, I also attended the
4 Illinois Public Transportation Association
5 Conference in Champaign, Illinois, and it was a
6 key moment to connect with downstate transit
7 leaders about what we are all facing with regards
8 to budget issues and the ending of COVID-19 relief
9 funds. So I was given the opportunity to deliver
10 an address that indicated we are all in the same
11 boat and working towards similar goals and are
12 really in a pivotal moment for transit across our
13 state.

14 On October 1st, we celebrated CTA's
15 78th anniversary with a ride on the historic
16 train, in the morning -- our vintage 4000 Series
17 railcars -- and I cannot tell you the amount of
18 joy on that train, circling around the loop, was
19 palpable. I want to thank everyone for -- the
20 staff that executed that train, for anyone that
21 attended. It was a really great moment to glory
22 in CTA's history.

23 And in the afternoon, we held a
24 birthday celebration at 95th Street on the Red

1 Line, using our artistic DJ booth, which was put
2 in place by Theaster Gates, to celebrate in a
3 traditional birthday party setting with employees
4 and the public as they left the station during
5 rush hour during that day. I want to thank the
6 engagement team and everyone that executed that
7 party. It was a particular dream of mine that was
8 fulfilled, so thank you very much.

9 On Friday, I attended, along with the
10 Chairman, the RTA ad hoc budget committee meeting,
11 where we discussed updated numbers around the
12 budget. As a reminder, CTA's budget will be
13 released on Monday, October 13th. That will
14 include three different budget scenarios that
15 contemplate the potential scenarios ahead of us:
16 A scenario where we don't get funding, a scenario
17 where we get just enough funding to survive at our
18 current levels; and then, of course, the grow
19 scenario, where we can invest in our transit in
20 unprecedented levels.

21 So the ad hoc community allowed an
22 opportunity for us all to give the latest in the
23 impact of the new one-time revenues for 2026, as
24 well as what the gap looks like in 2027 and

1 beyond. So it was a good discussion of the latest
2 on that and our official budget will be released
3 on October 13th.

4 I want to congratulate our Red/Purple
5 Modernization team. They received an award, as
6 part of the March of Dimes, for the prestigious
7 Transportation Award last week. It was a great
8 celebration honoring that project and the work
9 that was done there. The March of Dimes called
10 RPM, quote, an outstanding achievement in transit
11 innovation and collaboration. And I think all of
12 us could not agree more.

13 Some activities coming up in the coming
14 days: On Thursday, we will reopen the new Racine
15 mainline station, which will be fully accessible
16 to those who use mobility devices as part of CTA's
17 All Stations Accessibility Program. This will be
18 a really exciting event to, again, remind people
19 of the importance of investment in accessibility
20 at CTA and the improvements that we can make.

21 And, of course, in closing, this coming
22 weekend is the Chicago Marathon, one of our
23 busiest and most exciting days for CTA. I want to
24 thank, in advance, our operations team across the

1 board, our planning team, everyone that works to
2 prepare for this very important date for CTA. It
3 is always one of our highest ridership days,
4 involving complex bus rerouting from our team and
5 the management of that event, so looking forward
6 to visiting staff on that morning and for how it
7 will go on Sunday.

8 So with that, I'll conclude my remarks.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you,
11 Ms. Leerhsen.

12 Last week, I had an opportunity to
13 attend a community resource fair at our
14 Harlem/Green Line Station, where Narcan vending
15 machine is now installed. It was encouraging to
16 see how our partnerships between government
17 agencies and community can make a difference in
18 people's daily lives. Efforts like these remind
19 us of the broader mission we serve as an agency,
20 which brings me to the topic I want to focus my
21 comments on: The recent developments regarding
22 the temporary pause on federal funding for the Red
23 Line Extension project.

24 At CTA, we are well aware that projects

1 like our RLE and RPM represent far more than a
2 construction or infrastructure project, and they
3 are more than just lines on a budget. We see them
4 as investments in our riders, in economic
5 development, in accessibility, and an opportunity
6 for the communities we serve.

7 The Red Line Extension project
8 represents delivering on a promise that was
9 deferred for decades to the people on the far
10 south side of Chicago -- a promise that they, too,
11 deserve safe, reliable, and sensible transit.
12 With the support of community stakeholders,
13 government -- government partners at every level,
14 and the hard work and dedication of our staff and
15 leadership at CTA, we have made historic strides
16 towards fulfilling that long overdue promise.

17 I want to be clear: I'm very much
18 fully committed to the success and continuation of
19 this project. I fully support you and your team
20 as you navigate this challenge and work to move
21 this project forward. As I mentioned during
22 briefings, I urge you and the team to continue
23 communications with community and project
24 stakeholders as developments unfold. People

1 deserve to know what's happening, and they deserve
2 to know that we see and hear them and that we're
3 working to keep the project moving forward.

4 Finally, I will note that this moment
5 is also a reminder of the important role local
6 transit agencies play in representing and
7 addressing the needs of the communities they
8 serve. Our ability to respond effectively with
9 accountability to the specific needs of the
10 communities we serve is essential to ensuring that
11 promises, like the Red Line Extension, are
12 realized. I'll be monitoring this issue closely
13 and look forward to working -- look forward to
14 receiving regular updates, too, as the board finds
15 out further developments of the situation.

16 At this point, I'd like to open up
17 comments to other board members.

18 MS. GREENLEE: Director Ortiz?

19 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yeah. Thank you.

20 I appreciate all of your comments, your
21 advocacy, and your leadership on all of these
22 fronts. We are definitely in unprecedented and --
23 times -- as Chicagoans, as a country. And so I
24 just want to also acknowledge all of the heavy

1 weight that we are carrying, both as individuals
2 and as a community.

3 I appreciate all of your comments. I
4 think being able to have a commitment -- we've all
5 worked really hard to make sure that equity across
6 our south side, across our west side is very front
7 and center in our work. So I do appreciate all of
8 your leadership, everyone's leadership in making
9 sure that our commitments continue to move through
10 as we desire and as we look ahead.

11 Also in terms of making sure that all
12 our communities are safe, we, obviously, have had,
13 and may continue to have, a lot more escalated ICE
14 action and other federal troops coming in. So I
15 want to acknowledge everyone doing great work on
16 our field, all of our services, and really want to
17 encourage all of us to make sure that we're
18 servicing all of our riders as welcoming as
19 possible, creating safe spaces for everyone, and
20 just want to thank everyone doing great work out
21 there and just continuing our mission, continuing
22 our great work.

23 As Chicagoans, as CTA, thank you for
24 all you're doing. Thank you for keeping everyone

1 safe and comfortable and welcomed. These are many
2 ways -- our CTA are the many ways that people get
3 to work, to the services that are needed, to just
4 basic needs, to school and otherwise, so everyone
5 is making a huge difference. Thank you for all
6 your support and everything that you're doing.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

8 VICE CHAIRMAN JAKES: So echoing the
9 sentiments of Director Ortiz and our Chairman, I
10 want to say I appreciate that you -- you listened
11 and responded, expeditiously, from the
12 conversation we had yesterday, and you did not
13 wait. You immediately began to reach out to
14 stakeholders.

15 As I said, and as been alluded to, that
16 upon receiving that information via the media,
17 that the stakeholders on the south side, far south
18 side, what I have been hearing was, you know,
19 there's -- there's been this -- and I'm really
20 just saying this for the sake of the public, as I
21 shared yesterday, that there's still some
22 hesitancies: Is this really going to happen?

23 And so in sharing that with you, I do
24 appreciate -- and I really appreciate you reaching

1 out to share with them that we -- we are not going
2 to -- we're going to do everything we can to -- to
3 make sure this does not fall by the wayside,
4 within -- within our authority, and it was good
5 that they heard from you as our president.

6 So thank you so much for that. So
7 that's -- I'll leave it at that. I'll yield my
8 time to the Bishop.

9 DIRECTOR EADDY: Well, certainly, I
10 concur with all of the comments that have already
11 gone forward, and I do want to thank you because
12 when the information, as been stated, came to the
13 community about the pause, you were willing and
14 available to make an accounting to us concerning
15 it, and that really helps us as we are interacting
16 with the community to be able to respond to them.

17 And so I guess -- I do have a question,
18 though. I know that -- you helped me to
19 understand that this was not something in terms of
20 the -- how they make inquiry. It was not
21 something that's regularly done. This was kind of
22 a first-ever kind of situation. So do you have
23 any idea as to when we may be hearing a response
24 from the Department of Transportation?

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1 MS. LEERHSEN: We did receive a
2 follow-up request for information that --

3 DIRECTOR EADDY: Okay.

4 MS. LEERHSEN: -- we're responding to,
5 and we have a specified time frame to respond --

6 DIRECTOR EADDY: Okay.

7 MS. LEERHSEN: -- and we will respond
8 within that time frame.

9 DIRECTOR EADDY: And what is that time
10 frame?

11 MS. LEERHSEN: 14 days.

12 DIRECTOR EADDY: 14 days? Okay.

13 Clock started ticking when?

14 MS. LEERHSEN: Yesterday.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yesterday.

16 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yesterday. Okay.

17 Good. Okay.

18 All right. And then I guess after
19 that, is there any idea -- and I know -- as you've
20 stated, President, is there any idea after that
21 when, possibly, there will be some final decision
22 concerning this pause or whatever?

23 MS. LEERHSEN: We do not have specifics
24 on that at this time.

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1 DIRECTOR EADDY: Right.

2 MS. LEERHSEN: But I'm keeping very
3 close contact with people who can give me
4 information about when that might be.

5 DIRECTOR EADDY: Right.

6 MS. LEERHSEN: And I'll continue to
7 keep you updated.

8 DIRECTOR EADDY: Okay. Well, thank you
9 very much.

10 MS. LEERHSEN: Absolutely.

11 DIRECTOR EADDY: Thank you for your
12 measured comments, considering the climate that
13 we're in, so thank you.

14 MS. LEERHSEN: Thank you.

15 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

16 DIRECTOR LEE: Yeah. Just want to
17 thank you for your leadership during this time. I
18 know it's not easy. In recognizing all the
19 comments before mine, I agree wholeheartedly. I
20 think it's important that we stay centered on what
21 our mission is at the CTA. It's serving our
22 communities, serving our riders, and that's all we
23 can do in this time, so -- but thank you for your
24 leadership and everyone else out there doing the

1 work on the ground. Thank you.

2 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes. And I have
3 failed to raise -- I want to thank you also for
4 the -- the response that you gave to the
5 Secretary, concerning safety and security, and I'm
6 going to maintain this as a document because you
7 did a very good job of showing how our whole
8 safety and security plan rolls out. And so this
9 is going to be of value document for me, so thank
10 you very much.

11 MS. LEERHSEN: Thank you.

12 MS. GREENLEE: Director Roquejo?

13 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yes. I want to join
14 my colleagues in being thankful to not only our
15 CEO, President, and our staff, but also
16 acknowledge that in -- especially as it relates to
17 the Red Line Extension. It's been 56 years and
18 10 days since the promise was made. 56 years and
19 10 days. And there are 12,500 construction
20 jobs -- direct jobs, and 100,000 jobs that depend
21 on this project. And there was -- there were
22 two years of procurement process, and every step
23 of the way, CTA worked closely with the federal
24 government and followed every regulation, and here

1 we are, dealing with this.

2 And I want to double down in
3 appreciating how professional Nora, you and your
4 team, have been in responding to these requests
5 and the one on the Red Line Extension contracting,
6 the one on the safety, the one on the RPM. But I
7 also want to join some of my colleagues here and
8 acknowledge that while you are all trying to keep
9 things running and smooth and normal, this is not
10 normal, and we all need to pay a lot of attention
11 at what's going on because this is exceptional.
12 This is not normal.

13 And that said, I also wanted to thank
14 you for -- through this time, when the world is
15 forcing us to think small and to be scared and to
16 not dare, or daring to dream with your team, not
17 only providing the two budgets that are required
18 by law, the budget with the cuts and the budget
19 that I call, business as usual, but to dare to
20 dream and push back and say: Chicago deserves
21 more than that small thinking, and here's our
22 growth budget. This is what we actually need.
23 This is what our residents have requested through
24 those town halls, through those chats, through

1 many years of advocacy.

2 So I know this added extra work to an
3 agency that's already overtaxed by the situation,
4 and I don't want for this moment to be forgotten
5 and unthanked by myself for the work, again, that
6 you and your team have done in creating that third
7 budget, which, to me, is the first budget -- just
8 the budget that we deserve.

9 And just in closing, both to deal with
10 the -- an abnormal situation that we are going
11 through and also to build the momentum to dream
12 and to offer and respond to our riders and our
13 workers, the type of support that we need and the
14 funding that we need, I want to encourage you to
15 continue on your path of building partnerships
16 because the only way forward here is together and
17 to open the tent, bring more and more people in.
18 You have been working really hard in building
19 trust.

20 I join my colleagues who reminding you
21 all -- reminded you all that transparency is
22 really important. Constant communication is
23 really important. We want contractors to know
24 what to expect, we want communities to know what

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1 to expect, and we want to make sure that the
2 things that we can control and the things we know
3 are in constant and fluid communication and
4 transparent communication, and also to work
5 together and to push back.

6 Do not hesitate to build on the
7 partnerships with government, with advocates, with
8 unions, with all the people that are on the right
9 side of things, and we'll be supporting CTA every
10 step of the way because we all need and love this
11 service.

12 So thanks for that.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, there
14 are no further comments.

15 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

16 Our next item on the agenda is the
17 approval of the minutes of the regular board
18 meeting of September 10th, 2025.

19 May I have a motion to approve?

20 DIRECTOR EADDY: So moved.

21 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second -- oh, I can't.

22 MS. GREENLEE: May we have a second?

23 DIRECTOR LEE: Second.

24 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by

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1 Director Eaddy, seconded by Director Lee that the
2 minutes from September 10th, 2025, be approved and
3 submitted.

4 We'll take a roll call.

5 Director Ortiz?

6 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

7 MS. GREENLEE: You want to abstain?

8 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Well, I was there, but
9 I was virtual. So I don't know if that makes a
10 difference or not.

11 MS. GREENLEE: It does not.

12 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Okay. Yes. Thank
13 you.

14 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

15 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

16 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

17 VICE CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes.

18 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

19 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

20 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

21 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

22 MS. GREENLEE: Director Roquejo?

23 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yes.

24 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

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1 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

2 Our next item on the agenda is
3 Executive Session.

4 Kent Ray, it's my understanding that we
5 have an Executive Session today.

6 MR. RAY: Chairman, there is not an
7 Executive Session today.

8 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Okay. Thank you.

9 We will now address Board Agenda
10 Item 7, board matters.

11 Georgette, do we have any board matters
12 today?

13 MS. GREENLEE: Mr. Chairman, there are
14 no board matters.

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

18 Director Jakes?

19 VICE CHAIRMAN JAKES: The committee met
20 earlier this morning and approved the
21 September 10th, 2025, committee minutes and
22 reviewed the finance report. The committee
23 deferred the review of two ordinances and reviewed
24 the following five ordinances: One, the review of

1 an ordinance authorizing a third amendment to the
2 lease with Saigon Sisters, LLC, for space located
3 at 567 West Lake Street, Chicago; number two was a
4 review of an ordinance authorizing of a payment
5 [sic] easement agreement with the Chicago
6 Department of Water Management, water for the Red
7 Line Extension project; number three, review of an
8 ordinance authorizing the purchase of Blanket
9 Railroad Protective Liability Insurance for Policy
10 Year November 1st, 2025, through October 31st,
11 2026; number four, review of an ordinance
12 authorizing the purchase of Cybersecurity
13 Insurance Coverage for Policy Year November 1st,
14 2025, through October 31st, 2026; number four,
15 review of an ordinance -- or I'm sorry.

16 Number five, review of an ordinance of
17 an intergovernmental agreement with the City of
18 Chicago for pilot program for the Automated Bus
19 Lane Enforcement camera system, with the acronym
20 ABLE. The committee also reviewed 12 contracts.
21 The committee placed the five ordinances and 12
22 contracts on the omnibus. Committee approved and
23 recommended for board approval five ordinances and
24 12 contracts.

1 Mr. Chairman, this concludes the report
2 of the Finance, Audit, and Budget committee.

3 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: I will now entertain
4 a motion to approve the omnibus.

5 DIRECTOR EADDY: So moved.

6 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

7 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by
8 Director Eaddy, seconded by Director Ortiz that
9 the omnibus be approved.

10 We'll take a roll call vote.

11 Director Ortiz?

12 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

13 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

14 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

15 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

16 VICE CHAIRMAN JAKES: Yes.

17 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

18 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

19 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

20 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

21 MS. GREENLEE: Director Roquejo?

22 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yes.

23 MS. GREENLEE: The motion passes.

24 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Our next order of

1 business is the construction report from Bill
2 Mooney, Chief Infrastructure Officer, and
3 Juan-Pablo Prieto, our Director of Diversity
4 Program.

5 MR. MOONEY: Morning again. I am Bill
6 Mooney, your Chief Infrastructure Officer. I'm
7 joined by --

8 MR. PRIETO: Good morning, Directors.
9 Juan-Pablo Prieto, Director of Diversity Programs.

10 MR. MOONEY: As we did last month, we
11 thought we would focus on one project that's kind
12 of our token project to discuss in detail this
13 month. If you have any questions about any of the
14 other ones, we're glad to get into them. So let
15 me just get to the right spot --

16 MS. LEERHSEN: And as you pull it up,
17 Bill, I will correct the day I said for the Racine
18 opening. It's Friday, not Thursday, so --

19 MR. MOONEY: I can take a deep breath.

20 MS. LEERHSEN: New announcement.

21 MR. MOONEY: So with that being said,
22 our focus for this month, we thought we would
23 focus on Racine. It's the exciting news that
24 Acting President mentioned. We are coming into

1 the finishing stretch here on the reopening of the
2 Racine Station, adding one more station to our
3 fully accessible lift, advancing our 20-year
4 commitment to full accessibility for all.

5 Sorry. So progress continues on the
6 Racine Station house entrance. Up-to-the-minute
7 of these events, we typically are putting on --
8 polishing the stainless, touching up the paint,
9 doing all the fine finishing touches. As we had
10 successfully completed with RPM, we will have our
11 art installed for station opening as well, which
12 is really exciting. It's, oftentimes, the nature
13 of trying to put in our fine art that is extremely
14 sensitive. While we are trying to finish up
15 stations, we can't always balance those two and
16 they tend to trail, but we were able to work it
17 out here. It's absolutely stunning. I can't wait
18 for you all to see it.

19 Moving on to some of the pictures. So
20 here you can see, about two weeks ago, we had a
21 big work weekend out there. They finished up a
22 bunch of the exterior work. Here you can see the
23 big waterfall stairwell as the glass enclosure
24 starts to go around it, kind of some of the

1 finished precast concrete panels.

2 This is looking kind of from the north.
3 I've -- between me and you, this is a progress
4 photo. Most of the months, you've seen kind of as
5 the station's built from that direction, gives you
6 a sense of the scale and those details.

7 Here is some of the interior. So you
8 can see most of the finishes are in place. So
9 these are the CA booth here. You can see the
10 stainless steel boards for customer communication.
11 We were able to be included -- as part of this
12 project, it will be installed, not for opening,
13 but shortly thereafter. We were able to get one
14 of the digital display boards for the elevator
15 outage that we piloted in RPM.

16 So we'll be including it in the station
17 as another pilot location. It was well received
18 there, and so it certainly seems like a very
19 positive feedback from our ADA Advisory Committee
20 on it. So we were trying -- we were able to
21 finagle some things and get a spare board over to
22 that location as a location as well. And so we're
23 excited to be able to continue to advance that
24 pilot and gather feedback from the community.

1 You can see some of the drop ceiling
2 coming in place here, and some of the lighting as
3 we come to the finishes here.

4 Here's the most important part of this
5 whole installation: The elevator. So the
6 elevator cleared its final inspection. It is
7 permitted at this point. We're good to go. You
8 can see the framework of the exterior door here
9 being finished, as well as the interior cab as
10 well as the interior kind of glass look down. As
11 you can see, that's actually somebody on top of
12 the elevator. So the running test, kind of --
13 oftentimes, when we're working on maintenance and
14 installation, you can actually operate the unit
15 from on top of it. It's considered part of the
16 maintenance platform.

17 And here is kind of a look back towards
18 Loomis of the platform work. Not only will the
19 station work at the Racine Station house be
20 completed and open on Friday, most of the new
21 canopy for the platform will be in place. So this
22 will have a brand-new, translucent canopy. You
23 can see most of it being installed here. It will
24 be fully installed up to the edge of Loomis. So

1 then on Monday morning, after the marathon, we
2 will close the Loomis entrance and switch over
3 predominantly out of Racine, and we will start
4 taking apart the Loomis entrance.

5 As a reminder, the Loomis is actually
6 historically preserved. So we will be rebuilding
7 to its original glory from 1958 in a
8 representation to its historical significance. So
9 it is actually -- it will be fully accessible. It
10 will have modern features, but it will have an
11 architectural design that is representative of the
12 architecture from 1958.

13 So it's kind of a balance of the two
14 stations. Oftentimes, we struggle in -- when we
15 talk about -- we talked a little about this in our
16 briefing around Racine/Green Line opening -- is
17 taking something that is historical and having to
18 preserve those historical elements while balancing
19 it with the modernization needs of accessibility
20 and other such programs.

21 So this was a way that we were able to
22 work with the State Historical Preservation
23 Organization to be able to give us a fully modern
24 elevator side that was able to have an

1 architecturally significant station entrance,
2 upgrades kind of fully and featured, while
3 preserving that architectural representation on
4 the Loomis side, while still being able to make
5 that ramp accessible. So it was a way to really
6 balance this and sets kind of a tone for a lot of
7 the work we're doing in the quarter, so --

8 And then we advance kind of the other
9 pieces of the project outside the opening of
10 Racine. We're actually -- we got a good jump on
11 Loomis, so one of the big driving factors to all
12 the work here is getting sanitary, water, and
13 electrical to these stations, and we've got this
14 big highway in between, where they are on the
15 street and where the stations are.

16 And so -- and it's an interesting
17 permitting process because it's not just a permit
18 with, you know, the City of Chicago Office of
19 Underground or the City of Chicago Department of
20 Buildings for the station occupied. We actually
21 have to get a permit to go onto the highway with
22 the Illinois Department of Transportation, and
23 they're a little sensitive to making sure that the
24 highway doesn't collapse, which I can appreciate,

1 as we are around our infrastructure.

2 And so this is a really delicate
3 process. It took a while to navigate on Racine.
4 Once we had the prototypes of concerns there, we
5 were able to relatively quickly advance those
6 permittings around Loomis.

7 And so, here, you can see, they're
8 getting ready to start doing the directional bore.
9 So what they end up doing is they dig two deep
10 pits, and then we drill, basically, underneath the
11 highway, connecting those two pits. So one is --
12 one is what they call the jacking pit; one is the
13 receiving pit.

14 Here, you can see them getting ready to
15 dig down the receiving pit. They put in all the
16 shoring here. And, ultimately, this is where
17 the -- the drill shot comes out and kind of
18 creates the hole, and then we -- we tunnel in a
19 bunch of pipe, and we pull in the wires or pull in
20 the pipe we need for water or sanitary or whatever
21 comes through this.

22 Here, you can see Morgan. So separate
23 from the Racine Station in this contract, we do
24 have the upgrade to the power here. So you can

1 see the new substation being finished off here.
2 They're putting the -- the top louvers on, so this
3 is part of the facade for where we take in fresh
4 air.

5 Here, you can see the additional
6 structure being detailed out. This will be the
7 receiving dock for loading and materials. This
8 substation is directly connected to the street,
9 and so you need some space in there to be able to
10 get the material in and out and be able to move
11 our vehicular traffic in and out of the building,
12 if necessary. This is kind of a little parking
13 pad along the adjacent side of the facility.

14 Here, you can see that tinned out on
15 top.

16 And, here, you can see the inside. So
17 as we've talked on a lot of our substation
18 projects, the dialectic floor is one of the most
19 delicate parts of the installation process, but it
20 also is the start of the electrical
21 installation -- the big traction power electrical.

22 So, here, we actually create a layer of
23 special chemical on the floor that isolates the
24 floor in the building, which is grounded to

1 AC power, earth ground, from D.C. equipment, which
2 is grounded as part of the DC system. So this has
3 to be separately isolated out so that the people
4 that work on this equipment, or have to operate
5 it, aren't at risk of being electrocuted from that
6 transition from earth ground and otherwise.

7 So it's a really delicate process. It
8 takes a lot of performance to get the layer right
9 to be able to prep it for this, and then the --
10 and the type of pour you do with the epoxy that
11 goes on it -- takes a while to set in. And we
12 have to measure it to make sure it's the right mil
13 thickness. So it's a very tedious process, but
14 one of the most important parts of the critical
15 installation here, and then it really is the
16 trigger point that allows us to start moving
17 traction power work in this facility forward. So
18 it's exciting to see them moving into this step.

19 Here, you can see another key feature
20 of these -- we do not air conditioner our
21 substations. We just do air circulation. While
22 we will heat them in the summer, the equipment
23 itself creates a lot of heat in and of itself, and
24 so we actually have filter-fabric ventilation

1 systems that will just cycle in air and out of the
2 facility.

3 One of the biggest challenges in these
4 facilities when we talk about maintenance is dust.
5 So whenever you have large electrical systems and
6 they -- they open breakers and they close
7 breakers, they create this big field of
8 electromagnetic pulse that draws a lot of dust
9 into it. So we work -- we work very hard on
10 cleaning these facilities internally, and the
11 filter-fabric really helps us with that as we're
12 using the fresh air intake for that.

13 Here, you can see the underside of the
14 Morgan substation. So from here, they're starting
15 to frame out how all the cables will come out of
16 the substation and work their way down to ground
17 level.

18 And with that, I will flip back a few
19 slides, and we will go over our outreach.

20 MR. PRIETO: Thanks, Bill.

21 Good morning, Directors.

22 In September, we hosted and attended a
23 number of events to inform small businesses and
24 residents about contracting career opportunities

1 on CTA projects.

2 So on September 4th, we attended the
3 City of Chicago's 2025 Procurement Symposium. Our
4 small business development team hosted a table to
5 inform firms how to do business with CTA and all
6 the support programming that we offer small
7 businesses. TaNesheha Marshall, the Vice
8 President of the Red Line Extension, and LaKisha
9 Hillard -- that's Walsh-VINCI community engagement
10 manager -- and I hosted a fireside chat to discuss
11 how we leverage professional services
12 opportunities on RLE to provide small business and
13 job seekers opportunities on the project.

14 Next slide.

15 On September 12th, we hosted our
16 Quarter 3 outreach event to connect small
17 businesses with current and potential prime
18 contractors. The 140 attendees heard from CT
19 about upcoming projects and networked with 22
20 different firms to begin exploring how to partner
21 on those projects.

22 And that concludes our report this
23 month. Happy to answer any questions.

24 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Questions?

1 MS. GREENLEE: Any questions from the
2 board?

3 Director Ortiz?

4 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: No questions.

5 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

6 VICE CHAIRMAN JAKES: No questions.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

8 DIRECTOR EADDY: No questions.

9 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

10 DIRECTOR LEE: No questions. Just a
11 comment that there's just -- every time I absorb
12 all these reports, it's just -- there's just so
13 much that goes into it. So we take the stations
14 for granted sometimes when we're just, you know,
15 in and out, but there's -- commend the work for
16 the team and you building stuff -- keep it going.
17 Keep going.

18 MR. MOONEY: Thank you. I'll extend
19 that to the team. They are very challenging
20 projects, especially in our live environment and
21 things like that. And the amount of thought and
22 coordination, especially with our operations team,
23 right? It helps us to be able to get this work
24 done facilitated around a live railroad, 24/7, at

1 a place like Racine, it really is a balance in
2 partnership and the right relationship.

3 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: And all the people
4 that make it happen.

5 MR. MOONEY: Absolutely.

6 MS. GREENLEE: Director Roquejo?

7 MS. LEERHSEN: Yes. Thanks for the
8 presentation.

9 Question to Bill on the Racine. Ever
10 since I started to work closely with Access Living
11 and learn from Director Lee about the challenges
12 of people with disabilities accessing stations, I
13 learned that while the station itself is
14 important -- that is, accessible and friendly --
15 the access to and from the station -- the outside,
16 you know, is also necessary or the investment is
17 not producing what we want it to produce.

18 I also know that that particular line,
19 being in the middle of the highway, the access
20 itself is odd and, well, weird and not pedestrian
21 friendly. So how are we working with CDOT, IDOT,
22 whoever manages the outside area and the access to
23 and from the street -- pedestrian access to the
24 station -- to make sure that people are able to

1 get to the beautiful new station without being at
2 risk?

3 MR. MOONEY: That's a great question,
4 Director. So we've talked a little -- we talked a
5 lot about this, actually, with Austin -- when we
6 did the groundbreaking in Austin. And as we talk
7 about some of those is when we program these
8 projects, we do look at path of travel to the
9 station, and what's reasonable to the footprint
10 and will work with the coordinating agency.

11 So Racine was not as challenging
12 because it was already an accessible sidewalk
13 from -- from -- across the highway bridge there,
14 but a place like Austin is -- the sidewalk is not
15 accessible. The existing sidewalk was not
16 accessible from this station. So the station --
17 the sidewalk actually had a series of steps that
18 you had to come down multiple tiers to get you to
19 street-level.

20 And so part of our project is we
21 permitted with Save Chicago to rebuild that
22 sidewalk and make that corner fully accessible.
23 So we actually re-sloped it all as part of our
24 investment there, and so we looked at that. Now,

1 separately, I know our ADA Advisory Committee has
2 been very adamantly working with our partners from
3 CDOT and IDOT, and they are now participating
4 members in the routine conversations as having
5 that direct conversation, right?

6 Because we do recognize -- as we do
7 these projects, we can drive that opportunity
8 within a reasonable square footage of our station.
9 Usually, that one crossing adjacent is really --
10 was reasonable for us to get out, but it's making
11 sure, then, the rest of the community areas that
12 feed into that crossing can stay accessible as
13 well.

14 So it is a very active conversation.
15 We've worked -- our planning group has worked --
16 we worked with CDOT to make sure they're at the
17 table and hearing the concerns of our leadership
18 on that topic, and so --

19 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Appreciate the
20 explanation. I won't be able to make it. Thanks
21 for the invite, but I look forward to the report
22 from our colleagues in the Advisory and from
23 Director Lee.

24 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, there

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1 are no further comments or questions.

2 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you.

3 Our final order of business is new
4 business.

5 Georgette, is there any new business?

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

8 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Since there's no
9 further business to come before the board --

10 Mr. Jakes?

11 VICE CHAIRMAN JAKES: You're trying to
12 get out before 11 o'clock? What are you doing?

13 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: May I have a motion
14 to adjourn the Chicago Transit Board meeting of
15 October 8th, 2025?

16 DIRECTOR EADDY: So moved.

17 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Second.

18 MS. GREENLEE: It's been moved by
19 Director Eaddy, seconded by Director Ortiz.

20 We'll take a roll call vote.

21 Director Ortiz?

22 DIRECTOR ORTIZ: Yes.

23 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay?

24 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Yes.

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1 MS. GREENLEE: Director Jakes?

2 VICE CHAIRMAN JAKES: See, this is like
3 church; if you get out too early --

4 Yes.

5 MS. GREENLEE: Director Eaddy?

6 DIRECTOR EADDY: Yes.

7 MS. GREENLEE: Director Lee?

8 DIRECTOR LEE: Yes.

9 MS. GREENLEE: Director Roquejo?

10 DIRECTOR ROQUEJO: Yes.

11 MS. GREENLEE: Chairman Barclay, the
12 motion passes.

13 CHAIRMAN BARCLAY: Thank you. Have a
14 great day.

15 (Off the record at 10:57 a.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC

2

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

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
15 hand and affixed my notarial seal this 15th day of
16 October, 2025.

17

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20 My Commission Expires: July 01, 2029

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