

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY
FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES of Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Members Present: Karen Santilli, Stephanie Preston, and Wayne Kezirian, Barry Schiller

Absent Members: Princess Bomba

Also Present: Raymond Studley, Chief Executive Officer; Karen DiLauro, Executive Director of Finance & Budget; Christopher Durand, Senior Financial Analyst; Mark Therrien, Executive Director of Paratransit Service; Amy Pettine, Executive Director of Planning; Christian Capizzo, Board Counsel; Elizabeth Silvestre, Confidential Executive Assistant; members of RIPTA's staff; and members of the public

Agenda Item 1: Public Comment

Randall Rose: Discusses concerns with .50-cent fare for elderly and disabled.

Vincent Dejesus: Discusses concerns with .50-cent fare for elderly and disabled.

Don Rhodes: Discusses concerns with multiple agenda items.

Agenda Item 2: Approval of the September 16, 2016 Minutes

Mr. Kezirian makes a motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2016 meeting. Ms. Preston seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: Capital Budget – Fiscal Year 2018 to Fiscal Year 2023

Mr. Durand presents the Capital Budget and discusses some changes compared to the previous years. Ms. Santilli, Mr. Studley, Mr. Kezirian, and Mr. Durand discuss the new Pawtucket bus hub, bus on shoulder project, and eligibility for federal funding. Mr. Kezirian and Mr. Durand discuss sources of match funding by year and project. Mr. Schiller and Mr. Durand discuss federal formula funds, availability, and RIPTA match contributions. Ms. Preston, Ms. DiLauro, and Mr. Studley discuss processes in place for federally funded project advancement, capital projects, and potential effects of a government shutdown.

Mr. Kezirian makes a motion to recommend the Capital Budget to the full board. Ms. Preston seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Preliminary Approval Discussion for Revised Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget- Deficit Reduction Scenarios

Ms. DiLauro presents the revised preliminary FY 2018 budget and discusses previous budget deficit predictions, assumptions regarding passenger fares primarily from Senior/Disabled program, and expected rate of return in pension funds. Ms. DiLauro and Mr. Kezirian discuss budget fare assumptions, and expectations of collections from Senior/Disabled program. Ms. Pettine discusses levels of potential service changes to offset the FY 2018 deficit, savings, required public hearings, and potential impacts on riders. Ms. Santilli, Mr. Kezirian, and Mr. Studley discuss the deficit, projections on Senior/Disabled program funding, expenses, and potential transportation subsidies.

Agenda Item 5: Capital Projects and Planning: Fare Box Technology and Bus Shelter Contract

Ms. Pettine discusses examples of minor service changes and major service changes, how these changes would affect ridership on a daily basis, and strategies that can be implemented to avoid the need for major changes in the future.

Agenda Item 6: Budget Report: Restricted Bus Lanes and Logisticare Contract Status

Mr. Therrien discusses the Logisticare contract and its potential extension. Ms. Santilli, Mr. Kezirian, Mr. Therrien, and Mr. Studley discuss management of this contract and the potential of another one-year contract. Mr. Therrien discusses an FTA research report, which explains how to develop a paratransit or non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) system. Mr. Studley discusses options of funding within Health and Human Services for transportation, and coordinating with stakeholders to create an overall plan for all human services transportation. Mr. Therrien, Mr. Kezirian, and Mr. Studley discuss the cost of ADA transport and federal mandates. Ms. Santilli and Mr. Kezirian discusses the impact on the opportunity for additional revenue in next year's budget.

Agenda Item 7: Financial Impact

Mr. Kezirian discusses requests for predictions of financial impacts on half-priced rides for non-income elderly and disabled, increased transfer time to four hours for all riders or disabled and elderly only, and potentially offering a \$20 monthly pass to disabled and elderly riders. Ms. DiLauro advised that the extension from two-hour transfers to four-hour transfers would result in an estimated revenue loss of \$250,000-\$500,000, and would decimate the day pass revenue, totaling an estimated loss of about \$750,000. She advised the current fare box technology installed would not be capable of reading two separate forms of transfers, in order to limit this extension to elderly and disabled only. Ms. Pettine advises that the average number of rides taken on elderly/disabled passes is about 27, and does not reach the 40-trip mark, in order to make a \$20 monthly pass economical. Ms. Pettine and Mr. Studley discuss the development of fare technology upgrades, which can present opportunities for discounts and surcharges. Mr. Kezirian discusses the possibility of recommending the full board's consideration in obtaining expert consultants to analyze the system, so RIPTA can propose a solution to the Logisticare program, while working in conjunction with communication and financial consultants to create a potential solution to present to legislature in advance of the next session.

Mr. Kezirian makes a motion to recommend the consideration of obtaining expert consultants to the full board. Ms. Preston seconds, and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: Adjournment

Mr. Kezirian makes a motion to adjourn. Ms. Preston seconds and it passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Silvestre
Recording Secretary