



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 26, 2025

2:30 p.m.

**269 Melrose Street, Providence
Transportation Board Room**

Members Present: Director Peter Alviti, Board Chair; James Leach, Board Treasurer; Patrick Crowley, Board Secretary; Normand Benoit; Vincent Masino; and James Lombardi.

Absent Members: Heather Schey; Bernard Georges; and Marcy Reyes.

Also Present: Christopher Durand, CEO; Christopher Fragomeni, Esq., Board Counsel; Roy Rivers, Executive Paralegal; members of RIPTA's staff; and members of the public.

Call to Order: Director Alviti calls the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., indicating that quorum was present.

Agenda Item 1: **To consider for approval the Draft Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of May 22, 2025.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2025, meeting. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Benoit, Mr. Leach, and Mr. Lombardi.

Agenda Item 2: **Public Comment**

1. Daria Phoebe Brashear
States that we are where we thought we would be. Implores the Board to ask the Governor for funding.
2. John Flaherty
Discusses the Efficiency Study and Funding for RIPTA. Discusses Representative Casimiro's statement that RIPTA is mismanaged. States that RIPTA has a revenue problem and not a spending problem. States that RIPTA's operating costs are in-line and that the Legislature needs to fund RIPTA as the Efficiency Study shows that RIPTA is efficient. Mr. Flaherty also thanks the Board for their service.

3. Thomas Cute
States that service cuts will be difficult on riders who depend on the bus for employment, education, and shopping. He thanks the Board and RIPTA Administration for their hard work. States that he has seen previous cuts and that people need bus service. Implores the Board to delay service cuts by at least one year. States that RIPTA's Master Plan is a good plan. He thanks RIPTA for his years of employment as he is retiring on Monday.
4. Dylan Giles
Thanks RIPTA's Commuter Resource Team for bringing companies on board to Wave for Work. Thanks the Board for showing up for RIPTA. He states that he hopes the Board did all that they could do. States that the consequences of delaying the study gave the General Assembly an excuse to not provide the needed funds to RIPTA.
5. Amy Glidden
States that Christopher Durand has done a wonderful job as CEO. States that it was a shame that the Efficiency Study was delayed. Points out that the General Assembly had information that showed RIPTA is efficient. States that the ranking of routes in the Efficiency Study does not reflect the need of passengers.
6. Pat Ford
References a response to his APRA request regarding the RI Football Club. States that RIPTA withheld documents in their APRA response. States that RIPTA does not need advertising. Present questions to the Board and Director Alviti advises that this is public comment and if he has questions, to put them in writing and present them for a response.
7. Cedric Ye
Advises that he is a 16-year-old student and rider. States that he wrote numerous letters and provided testimony at the Statehouse. States that he is certain the Board and RIPTA are disappointed with the lack of funding. He thanks everyone who showed up to support RIPTA. Implores Director Alviti to flex \$11 million from RIDOT to RIPTA to fill the budget gap.
8. Randall Rose
States that the State Budget will have a negative impact on RIPTA as cuts will turn people away from using RIPTA. Advises that RIPTA advocates will advocate that the budget shortfall is not RIPTA's fault and that the top leadership of the State knows that transit needs funding.
9. Grant Dulgarian
States that he would like meetings with Christopher Durand and Director Alviti. Speaks of the Washington Bridge and the need for an economic impact study and the consideration of light rail.

Agenda Item 3: **CEO Report**

Christopher Durand, RIPTA's CEO, provides updates regarding service, extension of Route 20 to Quonset, ridership, and bus stop improvements. No vote is taken.

Agenda Item 4: **Election of Vice Chair**

Mr. Masino makes a motion to elect Mr. Lombardi as Vice Chair. Mr. Crowley seconds the motion and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Leach.

Agenda Item 5: **Efficiency Study Update**

Christopher Durand provides an update to the Board regarding the Efficiency Study. Mr. Durand advises that the first five draft reports were provided to the Board and the General Assembly upon receipt of each.

No vote is taken.

Agenda Item 6: **Legislative / Budget Update**

Christopher Durand provides an update on the State Budget and reports that it has been finalized and should take effect in the near future. He thanks the General Assembly for the \$15million allocation. Mr. Durand reports that RIPTA is in the process of determining the exact amount of the budget gap and it appears to be around \$10 million. He advises that RIPTA is trying to increase ridership in various ways. Mr. Durand advises that Public Hearings are being scheduled in July and early August in order to modify the bus schedule to close the budget gap.

Mr. Crowley advises that RIPTA needs a Business Development / Working Group in order to facilitate its goals.

No vote is taken.

Agenda Item 7: **Request for Approval – Award of Contract – Thermo King Parts**

John Chadwick, Deputy Chief of Procurement, makes the request.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve. Mr. Masino seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Leach, and Mr. Benoit.

Agenda Item 8: **Request for Approval – Stop Loss Policy**

Nathan Watchous, Deputy Chief of Finance, makes the request.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to deny the request. Mr. Crowley seconds. The motion is then withdrawn, and the item is tabled. The Board instructs RIPTA to go out to bid with a higher deductible and bring the request back at a later date.

Agenda Item 9: **Board Questions and Answers**

None. No vote taken.

Agenda Item 10: **Executive Session**

Executive Session to consider, discuss and act upon such matters as may be closed to the public pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation; and R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(7) A matter related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest. Public funds shall include any investment plan or matter related thereto, including, but not limited to, state lottery plans for new promotions.

This Agenda item was passed. No vote taken.

Agenda Item 11: **Adjournment – 4:00pm**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to adjourn. Mr. Benoit seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Leach, and Mr. Masino.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary