

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF Monday September 26, 2016

Board Members Present: Wayne Kezirian; Director Peter Alviti; Joshua Brumberger; Maureen Martin; Princess Sirleaf Bomba; Stephanie Ogidan Preston; Karen Santilli; and Mark Susa

Absent: None

Also Present: Raymond Studley, CEO; Benjamin Salzillo, In-House Legal; Christian Capizzo, Outside Counsel; Victoria Catalano, Recording Secretary; and other members of RIPTA's staff, and members of the public.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the August 11, 2016 Board Minutes

Mr. Kezirian asks for a motion to approve the August 11, 2016 regular session board meeting minutes. Ms. Martin makes a motion to approve the August 11, 2016 Board meeting minutes as presented, Ms. Bomba seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment

Tom Cute, 618 ATU President, speaks about the retirees in the audience and their concern with retiree health care costs.

Mr. Joseph Mulcahey, a retiree, speaks about requesting an increase in subsidy due to higher deductibles, co-pays and premium increases which are serious finance burdens.

Mr. Barry Schiller, a transit advocate, asks the board to resist plans to move the buses out of Kennedy Plaza and asks for a public process involvement in the downtown transit plans.

Ms. Tammy Cossar, a 10 year retiree, speaks on living in subsidized housing, and states that she cannot afford an increase in health care and asks for a subsidy.

Mr. Mark Adamac, a 22 year retiree, asks for a 3% subsidy from RIPTA for the retiree health care.

Mr. Edward Cole, a retiree, states that he retired with healthcare for life for him and his wife and asks that the health care not be changed.

Mr. Romeo Gordon, a 25 year retiree, speaks about his hospitalizations and nursing homes, and says he appreciates having health care.

Mr. Jodi Hollister, Vride manager thanks the board for the opportunity to respond to the RFP 16-81.

Mr. Randall Rose, RIPTA Riders Alliance, speaks on bus passes, smart cards and riders' data privacy; he complains that the meeting notice was posted too late.

Ms. Karen Feldman, Executive Director of Young Voices, speaks on single use tickets and nonprofits having to pay full price for them; she expresses concern of doing away with the tickets and a new card system. She presents a handout to the board.

Mr. Kezirian reminds the audience that there is a public listening session which will be attended by him and Raymond Studley and is scheduled for September 27, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in order to hear more detailed comments from the public.

Agenda Item 3: **Chairman's Introduction**

Mr. Kezirian briefly discusses the situation in Kennedy Plaza and that there have been ongoing meetings with RI DOT and the Governor's staff. Mr. Kezirian stated that he attended the last union meeting and appreciated the invitation and ability to meet with them and he also met with the RIPTA Rider's Alliance which was informative.

Mr. Kezirian states that he has appointed Mr. Josh Brumberger to a newly formed Technology Committee which will be supported by staff members Greg Nordin and Aerial Mercedes.

Mr. Kezirian introduces the CEO report which includes several items that staff are working on that may be of interest to the board and public and that future CEO reports will contain a summary of current issues.

Agenda Item 4: **CEO's Report**

Mr. Studley introduces Jeff Flath President of ENow, Inc. and talks about his renewable source of energy for moving vehicles; that problems with battery power is resolved; the Kevlar solar panels sit on top of busses; currently looking into funding through Commerce RI Infrastructure Bank. A demonstration of the busses will be presented to the ABBG group next week.

Mr. Flath talks about his company and the technology product they designed for the transportation industry which allows the battery in a vehicle to stay charged without having to idle the engines, saving fuel and the life of the battery.

There is discussion between the board members and drivers in the audience about the benefits of this system.

Mr. Studley introduces Geoff Slater of Nelson\Nygard who talks about the best way to transition to a multi hub system; service improvements, operational challenges, reduction of passengers in Kennedy Plaza, north and south hubs, elimination of bus layovers; avoiding loss of customers and holding down increases in operating costs; making Kennedy Plaza a stop not a hub. He states they do not yet have a recommendation and presented some examples of possibilities in a power point presentation.

Mr. Studley discussed pedestrian safety in Kennedy Plaza and coordination with DOT and the City of Providence to make improvements, including the addition of audio alarms for the busses when they make a 45° turn.

Mr. Studley updates the board on the Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program progress, of the many added seniors who were previously unaware of the program and re-qualified approximately 12,000 bus pass program.

Agenda Item 5: Bacon & Co FY 16 Financial Audit

Cheryl Langevin and Patricia Boucher of Bacon & Co present an overview of the audit including total net position, total operating revenue, capital contributions, capital assets and sources required, self-insured claims, accrued liability, pension plan liabilities, OPEB plan.

Ms. Bomba leaves the meeting.

There is discussion and questions from the board. Ms. Langevin informs the board that the audit is a draft until approved by Auditor General's Office.

Subject to approval by the Auditor General and an understanding that there are no material findings Ms. Santilli moves to approve the Draft FY16 Financial Audit as presented by Bacon & Co., Ms. Preston seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 6: FY17 Revised and FY18 Operating Budget

Ms. DiLauro presents the Budget and discusses its presentation to the Finance Committee of the Board. The Finance Committee made recommendations and those revisions have been incorporated into the current document which include footnotes and Newport Gateway funding identified as a special project. Ms. DiLauro discusses the request for the state to assume the debt service and previous board resolutions concerning same, assumptions made in vehicle match for fixed route, senior disabled fare increase in January, assumption/recommendation of base fare increase in FY18 of \$.50 (last increase was in 2010), and union labor negotiations. A discussion ensues about budget assumptions and certain matches from the state and potential scenarios if those assumptions are not realized. The Board states that no fare increases are being considered at this time but in order to present a budget to the state some assumptions have been made.

Ms. Preston makes a motion to approve the budget as presented , Ms. Santilli seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 7: IFB 16-26 Newport Twin Post Lifts

Mr. Mencarini presents the recommendation for this contract for the Twin Post Lifts for the Newport Garage in the amount of \$276,922 be awarded to Ray Jurgen, Co, LLC. After discussion, Mr. Brumberger makes a motion to award the contract as described, Ms. Preston seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: MPA 508 – Energy Management System (EMS) for Newport Operations

Mr. Mencarini and Mr. Harwood present the recommendation for this contract for an Energy Management System for Newport in the amount of \$51,553 be awarded to Energy Source, LLC.

After discussion, Mr. Brumberger makes a motion to award the contract as described, Ms. Santilli seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 9: RFP 16-31 Commuter Vanpool Services Contract

Mr. Nordin and Ms. Pettine present the recommendation for this contract for Commuter Vanpool Services in the amount of \$1,012,500 be awarded to v-Ride. After discussion, Mr. Brumberger makes a motion to award the contract as described, Ms. Preston seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 10: Future Fare Collection System

Mr. Nordin and Ms. Pettine present this item and describe the fare study of January 2015, short term and long term action items, such as the fare adjustments made in March and the evaluation of the senior disabled program. This presentation is in preparation for putting together an RFP with the help of LTK, the consultant. Recap of goals: simplify fare products and payments; improve customer experience, faster boarding, reliability and efficiencies, fare revenue and attracting new riders. Discussion of smart cards being primary source of collections, not pursuing open architecture at this time, current one ride tickets and their usefulness to non-profits, retail locations and external sales network; mobile apps, web portals, and onboard equipment, 2 year time frame roll out.

Agenda Item 11: Presentation of RFP for Outside Consulting for Benchmarking and Future Services

Mr. Kezirian presents this item which was approved to be pursued during the last board meeting. He discusses the availability of benchmarking data from the American Bus Benchmarking Group; identifies the management RFP and the areas to be looked at; emergent industries trends; current funding streams and recommendations of alternate funding. There is discussion among the board members of how broad an area to encompass in the RFP. The RFP is modified with item 3 being removed.

Mr. Brumberger makes a motion to approve the RFP with the modifications noted, Ms. Preston seconds and it passes unanimously.

Ms. Preston leaves the meeting.

Agenda Item 12: Executive Session

Voted : To convene the Board into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws section §42-46-5(a)(2) related to litigation, collective bargaining and approval of executive session minutes from August 11, 2016. Mr. Capizzo reads the law to go into Executive Session.

Ms. Santilli moves to convene in executive session, Mr. Brumberger seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 13: Adjournment

Mr. Capizzo reports that a unanimous vote was taken in executive session to seal the minutes of the August 11, 2016 meeting. A motion is made by Mr. Brumberger to seal the minutes of the current executive session, Ms. Martin seconds and it passes unanimously.

Mr. Capizzo advises that pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-4(b) the Board unanimously voted to keep all votes made in the Executive Session regarding litigation and collective bargaining confidential so as not to jeopardize any strategy, negotiations or investigations taken pursuant to discussion of 42-46-5(a).

Mr. Susa makes the motion to adjourn, Ms. Martin seconds and it passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Catalano
Recording Secretary