



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 19, 2024
1:30 p.m.
269 Melrose Street, Providence
Transportation Board Room

Members Present: Director Peter Alviti, Board Chair; Robert Kells, Vice Chair; James Leach, Board Treasurer; Patrick Crowley, Board Secretary; Normand Benoit; Vincent Masino; Heather Schey

Absent Members: James Lombardi, and Marcy Reyes.

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

Call to Order: Mr. Kells calls the meeting to order at 1:31 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 November 21, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2024, meeting. Mr. Benoit seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Ms. Schey and Mr. Masino. Director Alviti was not present for the vote.

Agenda Item 2: **To consider for approval the Draft Executive Session Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of November 21, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the executive session minutes of the October 24, 2024, meeting. Mr. Leach seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Kells, Ms. Schey, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Masino. Director Alviti was not present for the vote.

Director Alviti enters the meeting at 1:33 pm.

Agenda Item 3: Public Comment

1. John Flaherty – Grow Smart RI
 - States that Grow Smart RI is excited about the CEO and new leadership. States that the public has growing confidence under the new leadership and the budget is a step in the right direction considering riders, drivers and service.
2. Kevin Simon- Matthewson Street Church
 - Gives thanks to RIPTA regarding the pilot program and its efforts to provide transportation.
 - States Matthewson Street Church is grateful for service, discounted fares and transportation to from jobs, home, and church.
3. Daria Phoebe Brashear
 - States she is happy about Kennedy Plaza signage.
 - Comments on ridership recovery.
 - Comments regarding the 95X out to Westerly has been corrected and students and homeless are being addressed.
4. Randall Rose – Kennedy Plaza Coalition
 - States budget is thoughtful and meets the needs of riders.
 - Appreciates the continuation of the Free Fare Program.
 - Is thankful for the progress RIPTA has made, and wants RIPTA to be more stringent with contracts with vendors when considering ATMS and real time, and should look at other ways to structure contracts in the future.
 - Comments regarding more public engagement and transparency regarding the moving of the transit center.
5. Dylan Giles – Save RIPTA
 - States that Save RIPTA is happy with the increase of drivers.
 - Comments on the Amazon route being successful.
 - Is happy with the collaboration between RIPTA and the Governor’s Office.
6. Grant Dulgarian
 - States he is very happy with the CEO choice.
 - He states he is against moving the bus hub from Kennedy Plaza., and requests an ridership impact statement.
 - Requests heaters be placed in bus shelters in Kennedy plaza.
 - Wants collaboration from the city of Providence to help with ridership.
7. Paula Vinacco (received via email)
 - Ms. Vinacco requested that the following be read in her absence:

I respectfully request that the RIDE anywhere pilot program be extended into 2025. I understand the program is slated to end after 2024 data has been collected. However, I am under the impression that there are still monies available through the grant. Since the program may not continue until the general assembly meets and passes a permanent program in June

2025, many disabled passengers throughout the state will not be able to take advantage of public transportation, causing isolation and missed healthcare opportunities. Passengers that are beyond the 3/4 of a mile RIPTA corridor are not able to secure reliable transportation. They (we) deserve the same transportation options. Many of these disabled people, especially in wheelchairs, do not have these options. On a more personal note, this past year, using the RIDE anywhere program has been a game changer for me. I have utilized the program an average of 2 to 3 times a week, and it has improved my physical and mental health immensely. I am no longer homebound, and I am able to take advantage of the multiple sclerosis (MS) center that I belong to, as well as the YMCA. If this program were to end, even for just a few months, my health would suffer. Please strongly consider renewing this program without interruption. Thank you very much.

Agenda Item 4: CEO Report

Christopher Durand, RIPTA's CEO, provided updates regarding employee spotlight, service, budget including financial comparisons, ridership, on time performance, post covid ridership recovery, low-income pilot program, bus stop improvement program, and Ride Anywhere pilot.

No vote is taken.

Agenda Item 5: Request for Approval – BOD – 2025 Annual Meeting Schedule

Christopher Durand, CEO makes the request.

Mr. Massino makes a motion to approve the request. Ms. Schey seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Crowley.

Agenda Item 6: Request for Approval – RIPTA Safety Plan

Christopher Durand, CEO and James Pereira, Chief of Security and Operations, make the request.

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

Agenda Item 7: Request For Approval – Winter 2025 Service Changes

Christopher Durand, CEO and Edward Brown, Executive Director of Service Planning and Scheduling make the request.

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

Agenda Item 8: Request For Approval – Approval of FY 2025 Financial Plan

Christopher Durand, CEO and Nathan Watchous, Executive Director Financial Planning and Analysis make the request.

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

Agenda Item 9: Request For Approval – Conduent Contract – KP Signage

Christopher Durand, CEO and Gary Jarvis, Deputy Chief Of Information Technology, and John Chadwick, Deputy Chief Procurement, Inventory and Vehicle Operations make the request.

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

Agenda Item 10: Request For Approval – Paratransit Fare Products / Pay As You Go

Christopher Durand, CEO makes the request.

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

Agenda Item 11: Board Questions and Answers

No comments were made. No votes were taken.

Agenda Item 12: 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(a)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that the person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting), R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(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(a)(5), Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public.

Attorney Fragomeni reports that pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1), the person(s) who are to be discussed were informed, prior to the meeting, and did not request the matter(s) be discussed in open session.

Mr. Leach motions to enter executive session. Mr. Benoit seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Crowley, Ms. Schey and Mr. Masino.

The Board enters into 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(a)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that the person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting), R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(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(a)(5), Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public.

The Board and Counsel enter into Executive Session at 2:35pm.

The Board and Counsel enter public session at 3:16pm.

Attorney Fragomeni reports that only two votes were taken during Executive Session: one, which was sealed, and the other to adjourn Executive Session.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Masino and Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 13: **Adjournment – 3:19pm**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary