



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 23, 2025
1:30 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; and James Lombardi.

Absent Members: Board Vice Chair, Robert Kells; Vincent Massino; Heather Schey; and Marcy Reyes.

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

Call to Order: Director Alviti 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 December 19, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2024, meeting. Mr. Benoit seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Leach, Mr. Lombardi and Director Alviti.

Agenda Item 2: **To consider for approval the Draft Executive Session Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of December 19, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to hold this item until the February 27, 2025, meeting. Mr. Leach seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by, Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Benoit and Director Alviti.

Agenda Item 3: **Public Comment**

1. Daria Phoebe Brasher
 - States she is concerned about the lack of funding for RIPTA in the Governor's Budget.
 - States will support us in any necessary funding.

2. Patricia Raub – R.I. Transit Riders

- She is concerned about the Budget shortfall.
- States will support us with any funding.
- Invites RIPTA to Transit Equity Day on February 3, 2025, from 1:00PM to 2:00PM at Kennedy Plaza / Access To Opportunity.

Agenda Item 4: **CEO Report**

Christopher Durand, RIPTA's CEO, provides updates regarding service, budget {including financial comparisons}, ridership, on time performance, and bus stop improvements.

No vote is taken.

Agenda Item 5: **Request for Approval – Board Resolution Regarding Federal Transit Administration Awards of Financial Assistance**

Christopher Durand, CEO; and Nathan Watchous, Deputy Chief of Finance and Budget make the request.

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

Agenda Item 6: **Request for Approval – RIPTA Service Guidelines**

Christopher Durand, CEO; and Sarah Ingle, Deputy Chief of Planning make the request.

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

Agenda Item 7: **Board Questions and Answers**

Mr. Benoit inquires about the Efficiency Study deadline for March 2025. Chris Durand, CEO advises that RIPTA will not make deadline, and it should be completed by May of 2025. Director Alviti states the board will be supportive of this.

No votes were taken.

Agenda Item 8: **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.**

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

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 2:05pm.

The Board and Counsel enter public session at 2:47pm.

Attorney Fragomeni reports that only two votes were taken during Executive Session: 1. A vote which was sealed and 2. To adjourn Executive Session.

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

Agenda Item 9: **Adjournment – 2:49pm**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary