



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 27, 2025
1:30 p.m.
269 Melrose Street, Providence
Transportation Board Room

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

Absent Members: 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: Mr. Kells calls the meeting to order at 1:34 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 February 27, 2025.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2025, meeting. Ms. Schey seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Kells, Mr. Benoit, Mr. Leach, Mr. Lombardi, and Mr. Masino. Director Alviti is absent for this vote.

Agenda Item 2: **To consider for approval the Draft Executive Session Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of February 27, 2025.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes of the February 27, 2025, meeting. Mr. Masino seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Benoit and Ms. Schey. Director Alviti is absent for this vote.

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 she is concerned for the funding for the new bus hub.
 - States that she is looking forward to seeing what the efficiency study will show.

2. Patricia Raub – RI Transit Riders

- States that the RI transit Riders are willing to accept a new location for new transit hub.
- States that she is concerned about the funding for the new hub.
- States that the State Of Rhode Island must financially help with the new location for the new hub.

3. Rochelle Lee on behalf of Barry Schiller, RI Transit Riders

- Ms. Lee reads a statement on behalf of Barry Schiller, RI Transit Riders, concerning the movement and funding of the Kennedy Plaza Hub.

Director Alviti enters the meeting at 1:38pm

4. Grant Dulgarian

- States that Kennedy Plaza Hub should not be moved.
- States that he wants Ridership Impact Study done before there is any change to the Kennedy Plaza.

Director Alviti exits the meeting at 1:49pm.

5. Randall Rose – Kennedy Plaza Resilience Coalition

- States he is concerned over the movement of Kennedy Plaza Hub.
- States he is concerned about the budget and financial impact of moving Kennedy Plaza.
- States if Kennedy Plaza is moved further out of the city, it will inconvenience riders.

6. Joe Cole

- States he spoke at the Finance Committee Meeting, and is concerned over the budget and how it will impact service to riders and further hiring for RIPTA.

Director Alviti enters the meeting at 1:58pm

Agenda Item 4: CEO Report

Christopher Durand, RIPTA's CEO, provides updates regarding budget deficit. He discusses the Employee Spotlight for Karen Mckenna, and provides an update regarding ridership, on time performance, and bus stop improvements. No vote is taken.

Director Alviti exits the meeting at 2:34pm.

Agenda Item 5: Request for Approval – Purchase of 25 New RIDE Vans

John Chadwick, Deputy Chief of Procurement Inventory and Vehicle Operations, makes the request.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve the request. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Leach, Mr. Masino, Mr. Kells, Ms. Schey and Mr. Lombardi. Director Alviti is not present for the vote.

Agenda Item 6: Request for Approval – RFP 25-10 Comprehensive Analysis/Efficiency Study

Sarah Ingle, Deputy Chief of Planning and Nathan Watchous, Deputy Chief of Finance, make the request.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the request. Ms. Schey seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Leach, Mr. Masino, Mr. Kells, Mr. Benoit and Mr. Lombardi. Director Alviti is not present for the vote.

Mr. Crowley exits the meeting at 2:53pm.

Agenda Item 7: Request for Approval – Budget Update / Financial Scenarios

Christopher Durand, Chief Executive Officer, requests to table this agenda item.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve the request. Mr. Lombardi seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by Ms. Schey, Mr. Leach, Mr. Masino, Mr. Crowley and Mr. Kells. Director Alviti and Mr. Crowley are not present for the vote.

Mr. Crowley enters the meeting at 2:55pm.
Mr. Lombardi exits the meeting at 2:56pm.
Mr. Lombardi enters the meeting at 3:00pm.

Agenda Item 8: Request for Approval – Transit Center Update

Christopher Durand, Chief Executive Officer provides an update. No vote is taken.

Agenda Item 9: Board Questions and Answers

The Board of Directors inquires about Next Wave, Task 3; and about the Senate Finance Committee Meeting. No votes are taken.

Agenda Item 10: **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);; (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; and (a)(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 was taken.

Director Alviti enters the meeting at 3:03pm.

Agenda Item 11: **Adjournment – 3:05pm**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary