To: RTA Transit Access Advisory Committee

From: Claire Serdiuk-Anderson Manager, External Affairs

Date: December 17, 2018

**Re: Minutes from the October 15, 2018 RTA Transit Access Citizens Advisory Board Meeting**

The RTA Transit Access Citizens Advisory Board (RTACAB) met on Monday October 15, 2018. Below is a summary of the items discussed.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Greg Polman called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. and asked all members of the board to introduce themselves.

1. **Reading and Approval of the January 17, 2018 Minutes**

The July 2018 meeting minutes were presented for adoption. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Adam Kerman and seconded by Lynn O’Shea. The advisory board approved the minutes unanimously.

1. **Public Comment Requests**

Chairman Polman then asked if there were attendees present, who want to address the committee during the public comment section and two individuals requested time.

1. **Standing Reports** 
   1. **Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Polman yielded his time to Michael VanDekreke, Director of Mobility Services. VanDekreke reported that as of September 16th, the Telephone Information Center (TIC) was closed on Sundays and that the RTA had not received any complaints as of October 15th. He also then thanked Vice Chair Lynn O’Shea for her service to the RTACAB and wished her well on her retirement.

* 1. **Government Affairs**

Claire Serdiuk-Anderson, Manager of External Affairs, updated the Committee on recent events in Springfield and Washington D.C.

On September 17th, the Transportation for Illinois Coalition (TFIC), a group comprised of transportation entities, business and labor invited 12 legislators to Chicago for a day long tour of several transportation sites including several transit sites. It was good opportunity for legislators to see some of the day to day operating challenges faced by both the CTA and Metra as well as see first-hand some of the region’s aging infrastructure as well as its dedicated workforce.

On September 30th both the US House and Senate recessed for the midterm elections. Unfortunately, budget negotiators were unable to resolve differences on a minibus bill that would have funded the Department of Transportation.

The current Continuing Resolution that is funding DOT is set expire on December 7th. The RTA hopes the minibus will pass once Congress gets back from campaigning, however changes in which party governs as a result of the election could prevent passage of a minibus.

* 1. **Mobility Services Department Statistics**

Michael VanDekreke asked if there were any questions pertaining to the Mobility Services Department Statistics, which were distributed prior to the meeting. There were none.

1. **Proposed Meeting Date**

The RTACAB set its meeting dates for 2019. All meetings will take place in the RTA Board Room from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM on January 7, April 1, July 1 and October 7, 2019.

1. **Proposed 2019 Meeting Topics**

Michael VanDekreke and Chairman Polman led a discussion on potential topics the RTACAB members may want to address in 2019. Committee members suggested taking a look at best practices of our national peers and analyzing how the RTA compares. Many also would like to explore ways the region could better use adaptive technology to assist customers with disabilities on transit. Finally, all members agreed that they would like to be helpful in the pursuit of a capital bill in 2019 state legislative session.

1. **Member Terms/Vice Chair Discussion**

A list of members and their respective terms was distributed via email before the meeting. All members agreed to the terms and Chairman Polman and Roxanne Calibraro agreed to continue to serve as members. VanDekreke reminded the committee that with O’Shea’s retirement the RTA will need to appoint a new Vice Chairperson in 2019.

1. **RTA and Service Board Public Hearings**

Claire Serdiuk briefed the members on RTA’s 2018 public hearings, which will be held on November 28th from 9am-12pm. This year, the RTA will be offering live streaming of the Special Finance Committee meeting at locations in each county. This way interested individuals will be able to watch each service board’s budget presentation and observe follow up questions posed by the Board.

Each location will have an RTA staff member present, so that after the meeting attendees will be able to ask questions for leave comments. The RTA is trying to use technology to make the hearing process accessible to more people.

1. **Eligibility Review Board Recruitment Update**

Daphine Foster, Eligibility Review Board and Special Projects Coordinator, reported that the RTA has successfully recruited 3 new community members to serve on the Eligibility Review Board (ERB). The RTA is required, by law, to maintain an appeals process for ADA paratransit certification applicants that disagree with their certification decision. The ERB is responsible for determining the outcome of these appeals and utilizes community members with disabilities, or those who professionally represent people with disabilities, to be an objective party on the board. ERB community members serve on the Board for a term of two years and, staff may elect to extend the term by one year.

Chairman Polman asked if the ERB was caught up on appeals and Foster answered yes.

Adam Kerman then asked if the RTA staffers served as “judge” of the appeals process and made recommendations to the community members as to how to rule. Foster explained that the process is less formal than that. The RTA staffers use their experience to help guide the appeals discussion, but the decisions are agreed to by the ERB.

1. **Community Planning Call for Projects**

Michael Horsting, RTA’s Manager for Local Planning, gave an informational briefing on the RTA’s Community Planning Program call for projects. He explained the type of projects and recipients that are eligible for grants, priorities for selection and goals for each project.

Jamal Powell complimented the RTA on its work with University Park and the Access to Transit Project. Horsting was pleased to hear that that project was going well and was hoping to award more grants by the end of the year.

Vice Chair O’Shea asked if the funding for Community Planning Projects came from the state or federal governments. Horsting replied that the funding is a combination of federal, state and RTA.

O’Shea then asked what the total amount the RTA was able to award. Horsting again replied that there was not a total, per say, but the RTA tries to award as much as possible.

1. **Reports from Service Board CAB/ADA Committees**

Sandra Saunders, Chairwoman of Pace ADA Advisory Committee, reported that at their last meeting members were briefed on upgrades to the Ventra app and Pace’s 2018 public hearings.

Adam Kerman, Co-Chairman of Pace CAB, reported on the impending retirement of T.J. Ross and Rocky Donahue as becoming interim Executive Director. They also discussed purchasing new fare boxes.

Jim Ferneborg, Metra staff representing Metra’s ADA Advisory Committee, reported that at their last meeting they were briefed on Metra’s work with Amtrak on Chicago Union Station. They also were given a presentation by the Mechanical Department regarding construction projects. He also mentioned that as of November, there will be three new members on the committee.

Jamal Powell, representing Pace Suburban ADA Advisory Committee, reported that at their last meeting members were briefed on upgrades to the Ventra app and Pace’s 2018 public hearings.

Angela Davis, Chair of the CTA ADA Advisory Committee, reported that the Jefferson Park station is under construction in order to make it more accessible. She recommended people to sign up to receive emails from the CTA regarding ongoing construction projects and how it effects accessibility. She also announced there will be a guided tour on the Washington and Wabash station on October 18th from 4-6pm.

1. **Public Comments**

Adam Kerman recommended the region initiate a Use Land Value Tax as a source of new revenue for capital funding.

Garland Armstrong told the committee that riders of paratransit from Des Plaines cannot buy those tickets in that city, they must go to Skokie. He then requested that Pace look into selling paratransit tickets in locations in Des Plaines.

Scott Figved questioned the wisdom of public transit agencies engaging in business partnerships with TNCs given the extensive complaints from members of the disability community.

1. **Adjournment**

Chairman Polman asked for a motion to adjourn at 3:30 p.m. Adam Kerman moved the motion and David Ogunbode seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 7, 2019.

**Attendees**

Voting Committee Members Present

Greg Polman, Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind- Chairman

Lynn O’Shea, AID – Committee Vice Chair

Adam Ballard - Access Living

Susan Borucki - McHenry County DOT

Samuel Knight, Will County

David Ogunbode - Community Service Options

Jodi Hefler – DuPage County

Adam Kerman, Pace CAB Chair

Non-Voting Committee Members Present

Jamal Powell - Pace ADA Advisory Committee (Suburbs)

Michael VanDekreke, RTA Staff Representative

Angela Davis – Chair CTA ADA Advisory Committee

Melissa Fuller - Vice Chair CTA ADA Advisory Committee

Sandra Saunders – Chair Pace ADA Advisory Committee

Other RTA/Service Board Staff Present

Claire Serdiuk-Anderson, RTA Staff

Amy Serpe, CTA Staff

Daphine Foster, RTA Staff

Jim Ferneborg, Metra Staff

Michael Horsting, RTA Staff

Public Present:

Garland Armstrong

Scott Figved

Jackie Forbes

Judy Shanley

April Mahgan