

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE  
PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

The **Planning & Administration Committee** of the Board of Directors of the Regional Transportation Authority met in public session on **Thursday, March 21, 2019**, at 8:35 a.m., in Suite 1650, 175 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois, pursuant to notice.

Committee Chairman Fuentes presided.

**ROLL CALL**

**Committee members present (7):** Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins, Pang, Ross, Sager  
**Other Board members present:** Coulson, Groven, Holt, Kotel, Melvin, Chairman Dillard

**Approval of minutes from the meeting held on February 21, 2019**

Director Durante moved, and Director Higgins seconded that the minutes from the meeting held on February 21, 2019 be approved as submitted. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

**7 Yeas:** Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins, Pang, Ross, Sager

**Release of the 2019 Community Planning Program of Projects**

Mr. Michael Horsting delivered a presentation about the work of the RTA's Community Planning Program to the Committee. The presentation included the history of the program, the types of projects that are eligible through the program and how the work of the RTA through the program supports the goals of the Transit Strategic Plan. The presentation ended with the announcement of the 2019 Program of Projects that RTA staff will begin working on through the Community Planning Program.

Director Higgins asked if the timeline for the call for projects is typically the same time of year, from September to October. Mr. Horsting responded that typically the call is conducted in the spring of each year and that the call conducted last year was pushed back to the fall at the request of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. The open and close dates for the next call are still to be determined.

Director Durante asked how many applications there were in total, how many of which were and were not selected and how long the review process is. Mr. Horsting responded that 14 applications were received, nine selected, one was withdrawn, and four were not selected. He further explained that the review and selection process last approximately five months.

Director Coulson asked if there is any way to measure the effectiveness of projects completed through the program, such as increases in ridership. Mr. Horsting explained there are many variables that factor into ridership changes and that ridership changes alone are tough to pinpoint to plan implementation. He further explained that staff does measure other implementation measures such as number of new housing units and square footage of new retail/commercial space constructed in the station area.

Chairman Dillard suggested for those members of the Board who have new projects in their areas, to contact the appropriate legislator about these new projects.

Director Sager complimented the intent of the program and the partnerships that staff form when working with each of the communities. He then asked how future applicants can get a better sense of the types of projects the RTA is looking for through the program in order to avoid any misunderstandings. Mr. Horsting indicated that staff continually works to improve the descriptions of eligible projects through the program and that staff also conducts targeted outreach with many communities to fine-tune ideas they may have for future applications.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the meeting of the Planning & Administration Committee, Director Pang moved, and Director Ross seconded that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried on the following voice vote:

**7 Yeas:** Durante, Frega, Fuentes, Higgins, Pang, Ross, Sager

The meeting ended at 8:55 a.m.

*Audrey MacLennan*

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AUDREY MACLENNAN

Secretary of the Authority