



**Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority
550 West Algonquin Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois
Minutes of the Open Session Meeting of the Pace Board of Directors
August 17, 2022**

The Board of Directors of Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority, met in public session on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. at Pace corporate headquarters, 550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois, pursuant to notice.

Chairman Kwasneski led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Kwasneski called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Roll Call

Directors physically present: Canning, Carr, Marcucci, Noak, Schielke, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski.

Directors virtually or telephonically present: Arfa, Guerin, Hastings, McLeod, and Soto.

Directors absent: Smith.

SBD #22-58 – Resolution approving the open session meeting minutes of July 20, 2022.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Noak seconded a motion to approve the Resolution. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Public Comment

Diane Peters explained how eliminating service after 6 p.m. in Lake County impacts people with disabilities, who can no longer attend evening activities or hold part-time jobs, and how other transit services do not work due to ineligibility or cost. Chairman Kwasneski said service reductions or eliminations are driven by ridership and Pace will contact her directly to identify convenient alternatives. Director Soto said this issue is near and dear to her heart and that she will work with her.

Chairman's Report

Richard A. Kwasneski, *Chairman*

Rachel Arfa Christopher S. Canning Terrance M. Carr David B. Guerin Kyle R. Hastings Thomas D. Marcucci
William D. McLeod John D. Noak Jeffery D. Schielke Erin Smith Linda Soto Terry R. Wells

Board of Directors

Melinda J. Metzger, *Executive Director*

Chairman Kwasneski reported on the opening of the Plainfield garage, which was attended by many local elected officials, staffers of federal officials, as well as many representatives from the RTA and the community of Plainfield. The Governor was scheduled to attend but withdrew after contracting Covid-19. The Chairman discussed the modernized features of the new garage; the maintenance area of the new building alone is bigger than the current Joliet garage. He appreciated staff's work on a great event and said Pace wants to hold an open house once the garage is fully in use.

Chairman Kwasneski reported that Pace received a \$20 million RAISE grant as part of a federal earmark for a new dual bus terminal and train station in Harvey. The project will merge service for Metra and Pace into one multimodal station that is ADA accessible and more convenient for riders.

Directors' Reports

Director Carr reported on the ribbon-cutting at the Plainfield garage. He said it was an impressive facility and a job well done by staff.

Director Noak thanked Melinda for giving him a tour of the Plainfield facility and thinks an open house is a great idea. He applauded staff for their efforts, having opened a new public works facility in his town and understanding projects of this nature. He expressed appreciation for the time Melinda and staff have spent onboarding him to the Pace Board of Directors.

Director Schielke reported that the Kane County board members who represent the southern regions of the county are eager for Bus on Shoulder service along I-88. He supports it, but knows the project is dependent on cooperation from the Illinois Tollway and may require widening of narrow areas of road. Melinda and Chairman Kwasneski said Pace is ready to work alongside the Tollway when they plan construction on I-88.

Director Soto discussed the successes and growing pains of Lake County's countywide paratransit program that launched on May 1st. She assured the public that comments like the one heard today are taken seriously because they impact people's lives. Lake County is committed to tweaking the system to better serve riders, and communication is key.

Director Wells thanked the U.S. Department of Transportation for awarding Pace a \$20 million RAISE grant, which will improve the rider experience and will make a huge difference in revitalizing downtown Harvey. He praised the collaboration with Metra and hopes for similar partnerships in the future. He asked for Melinda to clarify how the entire project will be funded.

Items removed from the Consent Agenda

None.

Approval of Consent Agenda

SBD #22-59 – Ordinance authorizing Change Order No. 3 to Contract No. 226131 with Benefit Express Services, LLC for third party administration of health benefit plans. This change order increases the contract total from \$839,340.50 to \$920,381.50, an increase of \$81,041.00.

SBD #22-60 – Ordinance authorizing Change Order No. 5 to Contract No. 222166 with Austin Electric, Inc. for electrical maintenance, services, and repairs for Pace facilities. This change order extends the contract for six months and increases the contract total from \$274,480.00 to \$294,930.00, an increase of \$20,450.00.

Director Noak moved, and Director Wells seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

Executive Director's Report

Melinda reported on the significance of the federal RAISE grant funding the Harvey multimodal facility discussed by the Chairman and Director Wells previously. The \$20 million grant was one of the highest amounts awarded this year; only 7% of applicants we awarded funding and only four grants were awarded to our region. Melinda displayed concept pictures of the new facility, which will include indoor seating, washrooms, and a convenience store. The total project will cost \$70 million, funded by the RAISE grant and Pace and Metra, who are contributing about \$23 million and \$26 million respectively. NEPA studies have begun. The current Harvey Transportation Center has the most passenger boardings, and the new Harvey multimodal facility will continue to serve as an anchor point for the south suburbs. The new facility will include future I-294 service from Harvey to O'Hare and future Pulse Halsted service.

Melinda reported on Pace's collaborative efforts this month. Melinda, Director Arfa, and Director Schielke participated in meetings regarding Chicago's bid to host the Democratic National Convention in 2024. There, she met with FTA Administrator Nuria Fernandez and expressed Pace's gratitude for the RAISE grant. On August 22, Pace, CTA, and Metra will jointly offer free rides to school kids in kindergarten through 12th grade and an accompanying adult. That will include all Pace, On Demand, and ADA services from 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Melinda Metzger said it's a good promotion to get kids interested in riding the bus to school.

Director Marcucci asked for an update about the driver shortage in DuPage County. Melinda said Pace is still well below the ideal number of drivers but is seeing some success alleviating demand with TNC pilots, one of which is on today's board agenda, and hiring operators through CDL permit class partnerships with community colleges. Harper College has recently expressed interest in working with Pace. Pace is also in conversations with College of DuPage, and Director Marcucci offered his assistance on forming a partnership.

Melinda reported on the Plainfield garage ribbon-cutting and described plans to start operating service there sometime in October. Chairman Kwasneski praised the electric MCI bus present at the event. Melinda thanked Director Marcucci and the Chairman for their contributions to the campaign celebrating the 10th anniversary of Bus on Shoulder called "Rocking the Shoulder,"

which recently won a Tempo award from the Chicago Association of Direct Marketing. An original song was developed and released on Pace's "Rocking the Shoulder" Spotify playlist.

Melinda reported that Pace hosted a corridor advisory group meeting for the Pulse 95th Street Line with agencies, municipalities, and elected officials representing the corridor. Pace's rapid transit team reported on progress and solicited feedback on the proposed station locations and service concepts. The line will run from the 95th Street CTA Red Line station to Moraine Valley Community College. Melinda thanked the PPMO office and HNTB for their efforts coordinating the meeting. The project is currently in the environmental review phase. A public meeting will be held this fall and construction will begin in 2024 or 2025. Chairman Kwasneski praised the progress being made on all Pulse routes.

Melinda reviewed the upcoming 2023 budget process that will take place in September, October, and November. By statute, RTA is required to provide approved funding amounts to be used by the service boards by September 15th. A full review of the 2023 budget will be presented at Pace's September board meeting. On October 15, the service boards will provide their proposed budgets to the RTA, and at Pace's October board meeting, staff will request the board to release the budget for public hearings. The hearings will be held around the last week of October. The final 2023 budget will be presented to the Pace board for approval at their November meeting and will then be submitted to RTA.

Melinda reported on the year-to-date budget performance through June. Suburban service is \$22.9 million favorable to budget and ADA service is \$14.4 million favorable to budget. Pace plans to use this year's budget surplus to balance the budget in 2024/25. In July, systemwide ridership was up 6.5% over July 2021. Note that July 2022 has one less weekday than July 2021. Accounting for that, July 2022 shows an additional 3% growth.

Action Items

SBD #22-61 – Ordinance authorizing Change Order No. 3 to Contract No. 226535 with Mansfield Power and Gas LLC for broker management services for the purchase of compressed natural gas (CNG) for CNG powered fixed-route vehicles and pipeline quality natural gas for all Pace facilities. This change order increases the contract total from \$4,095,508.10 to \$5,547,838.69, an increase of \$1,452,330.59.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Noak seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

SBD #22-62 – Ordinance authorizing the award of a sole source contract to Gillig LLC for one 40-foot battery electric bus and one portable electric charger in an amount not to exceed \$895,715.88.

Director Noak moved, and Director Carr seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin,

Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski.
All directors voted aye.

Director Canning left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

SBD #22-63 – Ordinance authorizing Pace’s Executive Director to implement the Pulse Dempster Line and the Route 250, Dempster Street, service changes on or after December 4, 2022.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Noak seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Carr, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski.
All directors voted aye.

Director Canning rejoined the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

SBD #22-64 – Ordinance authorizing Change Order No. 2 to Contract No. 224297 with SCR Medical Transportation, Inc. for regional mobility management call center services. This change order increases the contract total from \$41,983,853.00 to \$94,638,512.00, an increase of \$52,654,659.00.

Director Noak moved, and Director Marcucci seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski.
All directors voted aye.

SBD #22-65 – Ordinance authorizing the award of a contract to UZURV Holdings, Inc. for Transportation Network Company (TNC)/rideshare services for Pace ADA paratransit services in an amount not to exceed \$55,363,808.37.

Director Soto moved, and Director Wells seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski.
All directors voted aye.

SBD #22-66 – Ordinance authorizing approval of Title VI Policy and Program Update, 2022-2025 which is in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act 1964 and Federal Transit Administration Circular 4702.1(b). Pace, an FTA recipient must: a. Ensure that the level and quality of public transportation service is provided in a nondiscriminatory manner; b. Promote full and fair participation in public transportation decision-making without regard to race, color, or national origin; c. Ensure meaningful access to transit-related programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency (FTA Circular 4702.1B, Chapter II, Section 1).

Director Schielke moved, and Director Noak seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski.
All directors voted aye.

Issues/Discussion/Reports

Chairman Kwasneski encouraged Directors to review the June 2022 budget reports and financial statements contained in their packets, and to reach out to staff with questions.

Adjournment

Chairman Kwasneski asked for a motion to adjourn into closed session for the purposes of discussing closed session minutes (2-C-21) and pending litigation (2-C-11). Director Schielke moved, and Director Noak seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. All directors voted aye.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Reconvene

Chairman Kwasneski reconvened the open session of the Pace Board of Directors meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Directors physically present: Canning, Carr, Marcucci, Noak, Schielke, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski.

Directors virtually or telephonically present: Arfa, Hastings, McLeod, and Soto.

Directors absent: Guerin and Smith.

SBD #22-68 – Resolution approving the closed session meeting minutes of June 15, 2022.

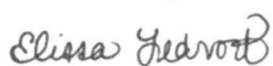
Director Schielke moved, and Director Canning seconded a motion to approve the Resolution. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Kwasneski asked for a motion and second to adjourn the Pace Board of Directors meeting.

Director Noak moved, and Director Marcucci seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Pace Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. at Pace Corporate Headquarters, 550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois.



Elissa Ledvort
Secretary, Board of Directors