



**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
October 16, 2024**

The Board of Directors of Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority, met in open session on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 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: Arfa, Canning, Carr, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Smith, Soto, and Chairman Kwasneski.

Director McLeod moved, and Director Marcucci seconded a motion to allow Director Wells to attend via phone. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Director Wells joined the meeting via phone immediately following the vote.

Directors absent: Guerin, Noak, and Schielke.

SBD #24-72 – Resolution approving the open session meeting minutes of September 18, 2024.

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

Public Comment

None.

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 that Pace welcomes and seeks input on our proposed 2025 budget; several board members will serve as hearing officers for the 2025 budget public hearings. He reported that the 2025 budget includes added service and provides additional dollars to counties for transit enhancements. He said Pace is getting a lot done throughout the region and listening to constituents and stakeholders, including getting input on what service enhancements they would like to see through the ReVision process. He appreciated staff efforts in putting the budget together and preparing to present it to the public.

Chairman Kwasneski invited board members to participate in upcoming events. On October 24, RTA is hosting a transit summit where Pace staff will engage with regional leaders. On October 25, Pace is hosting a launch event for the Lansing Area On Demand pilot. He said On Demand service has been highly successful throughout the region, helping fill in gaps where fixed routes are not viable. On Demand is a convenient service where riders can plan ahead or use at the last minute. He confirmed with Melinda that Pace currently has 11 On Demand services.

Director Guerin joined the meeting in-person at 9:33 a.m.

Directors' Reports

Director Arfa thanked Executive Director Metzger and Directors Canning, Marcucci, and Smith for attending her City Club of Chicago lecture, saying it was great to have Pace representation there. She commended Pace's leadership for recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Director Canning praised Director Arfa's inspiring City Club presentation about opportunities in her life and how she has taken advantage of them. He congratulated her on everything she has accomplished for our community and for her loyalty to the University of Michigan.

Directors Noak, Schielke, and Wells joined the meeting in-person at 9:38 a.m.

Director Marcucci reported that Director Arfa's presentation to the City Club of Chicago was inspiring and uplifting. He appreciated learning more about the Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities and congratulated Director Arfa on her remarkable efforts and results.

Director McLeod thanked Pace for attending Hoffman Estates's fire department open house to inform people about Pace services available.

Director Smith praised Director Arfa's inspiring, important, and educational City Club presentation for reminding the community how simple accessibility accommodations can be to provide. She said she appreciates the opportunity to learn from Director Arfa and Pace.

Executive Director's Report

Melinda Metzger recognized national disability employment awareness month, which highlights efforts to ensure workers with disabilities can access quality jobs. She said this is important to Pace as the region's provider of ADA paratransit service. Pace is sponsoring Chicago

Lighthouse's third annual Rise to Shine Run & Walk event, which supports residents with disabilities and Chicago Lighthouse's efforts to reduce barriers to education, employment, and community integration.

Melinda reported on attending Director Arfa's speech at the City Club of Chicago along with Directors Smith, Marcucci, and Canning, and Pace staff. She said she was honored to hear her inspiring story and the impact she has had on serving as the Commissioner for the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, including the launch of the MOPD Career Center.

Melinda reported on attending a PBS documentary viewing for the Joliet Arsenal featuring Chairman Kwasneski, who is the Executive Director of the Joliet Arsenal Development Authority. She praised the program, saying he has had a lot of success moving the project along.

Melinda reported that September 2024 ridership was record-breaking. Pace carried over two million total riders, averaging 89,000 riders per weekday, or 89% of pre-Covid ridership. This is the highest monthly total since the start of the pandemic and a major milestone showcasing the growing demand for our services. Ridership continues to grow on paratransit beyond pre-Covid levels. Overall ridership trends continue to surge with system ridership up 13.2 % over the same time last year. Pace's focus on innovative and flexible service options, along with increasing our frequency and weekend service on the busiest corridors, is working and reflected in ridership numbers. The RAP program has grown substantially, subsidizing 75,000 RAP trips to date. The program started in DuPage with 5500 riders and has been regionwide since August.

Melinda reported that Pace received the 2024 Center for Digital Government Special District Project Award, which recognizes government agencies nationwide for implementing digital solutions that make it easier for citizens to do business. Pace received the award for Mobility As A Service ("MaaS") and the Transit App, making it easier for customers to plan trips by showing all transit options on Pace, CTA, Metra, Pace On Demand, and Pace Van Go in one place. Pace is currently integrating paratransit on the app.

Melinda reported that Pace celebrated customer service week with our customer relations team for helping Pace riders better navigate our system every day.

Melinda reported on Pace's participation in five Illinois Senate Transportation Committee hearings to date. The final hearing was yesterday in Springfield and focused on downstate trends. The previous hearing covered Lake County and northwest Cook County and focused on transit's impact on the environment. Melinda's testimony highlighted Pace's Project Zero commitment and making North Division in Waukegan a green facility. She said the hearing was a great way to discuss Pace's various project initiatives and reinforce the value that Pace brings to the region. She thanked Directors Canning and Soto for taking time to attend the hearing to support Pace.

Melinda reported on launching the Lansing Area On Demand, Pace's first On Demand in the south suburbs. She reiterated that On Demand zones are reservation-based shared-ride services that provide a flexible first mile/last mile public transit option.

Melinda reported that the RTA is holding a summit to discuss the future of transit service in the suburbs. The event will focus on integrated fare policy, economic development, and sustainable funding and will allow participants to provide input as the RTA and the service boards continue to advocate for funding that will support the transit system of the future.

Melinda reported that for ReVision, Pace's systemwide restructuring project, three network concepts have been developed and will be shared over the next few months. First, the concepts will be presented to Pace's Planning & Infrastructure Committee on October 29th. Next, Pace will hold eight virtual municipal briefings October 30th - November 4th. Then, Pace will present the concepts to the Pace board at the November meeting. Pace will host partner workshops mid-November and end the year with public outreach events. The meetings will allow Pace to hear directly from riders and stakeholders about what they hope to see in the future of public transportation. The service concepts we have designed will create a more responsive rider-focused transit system that adapts to changing travel needs.

Melinda reported that starting in November, Pace will double recruitment efforts and hold two Hire-on-the-spot events every Thursday; one will be in Arlington Heights for anyone who wants a job in the north region and the other will be at the Markham facility for anyone who wants a job in the south region. Pace will continue to partner with community colleges on hiring events.

Melinda reported that suburban service is within budget and ADA service is performing overbudget. Pace predicts we will get closer to budget at year's end and has an ADA reserve fund in the event we end the year overbudget.

Items removed from the Consent Agenda

None.

Approval of Consent Agenda

SBD #24-73 – Ordinance authorizing Change Order No. 2 to Contract No. 228219 with TomTom North America, Inc. for a subscription for geospatial data for Pace's transit applications. This change order extends the contract for three years, and increases the contract total from \$360,000.00 to \$558,900.00, an increase of \$198,900.00.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Soto seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. All directors voted aye.

Action Items

SBD #24-74 – Ordinance authorizing the release of the proposed 2025 Operating Budget and Two-Year Financial Plan for Suburban Service and Regional ADA Paratransit Service, and the 2025-2029 Five-Year Capital Program for public hearings.

Director Schielke moved, and Director McLeod 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, Smith, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski. Chairman Kwasneski abstained. All other directors voted aye.

SBD #24-75 – Ordinance establishing the 2025 Board Meeting Schedule.

Director Schielke 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, Smith, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

SBD #24-76 – Ordinance authorizing the award of a contract to Gillig, LLC for the purchase of 47 hybrid electric buses in an amount not to exceed \$54,210,401.00.

Director Schielke moved, and Director McLeod 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, Smith, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski. All directors voted aye.

Issues/Discussion/Reports

Erik Llewellyn presented on December 2024 service changes.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Reconvene

Chairman Kwasneski reconvened the open session of the Pace Board of Directors meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Directors physically present: Arfa, Canning, Carr, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Noak, Schielke, Smith, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski.

Directors absent: None.

SBD #24-77 – Resolution approving the closed session meeting minutes of September 18, 2024.

Director Schielke moved, and Director McLeod seconded a motion to approve the Resolution. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. All directors voted aye.

SBD #24-78 – Ordinance approving action on Maria Valdez v. Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority; Cook County Case No.: 2023 L 004776.

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

SBD #24-79 – Ordinance approving a collective bargaining agreement between Pace South Division and the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local #1028.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Kwasneski asked for a motion and second to adjourn the meeting. Director Smith moved, and Director Noak seconded a motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote; all Directors voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Pace Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at Pace Corporate Headquarters, 550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Elissa Ledvort
Board Secretary, Board of Directors