



## CATS Board of Commissioners Monthly Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2024  
4:30 pm

### MINUTES

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the CATS Board of Commissioners Meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by President deGeneres.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Carolyn Coleman	Member at Large	Present
Melissa deGeneres	President	Present
Michelle Dennis	Secretary	Absent
Patrick Downs	Member	Present
Johnathan Hill	Vice-President	Present
Antoinette Pierre	Member	Absent
Tremaine Sterling	Member	Present
Frederick Thomas	Member	Absent
John Vukovics	Treasurer	Present

#### 3. Public Comment

Stanley Smalls  
George Decuir  
Yvette Rhines/Stanley Smalls

#### 4. APPROVAL October 17, 2024, Monthly Board Minutes

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**

**MOVER: Downs**

**SECONDER: Coleman**

**YEAS: Coleman, deGeneres, Downs, Hill, Sterling, Vukovics**

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT: Dennis, Pierre, Thomas**

#### 5. President's Announcements

- President deGeneres shared a presentation about CATS Board of Commissioners purpose, duty of care, and roles.

6. Administrative Matters

a. CEO Update - Theo Richards

- Budget amendment meeting will be held 12/17/24.
- Fourth quarter updates: Exceeded 2023 ridership, 100+ fleet count, 9 new electric buses expected in 2025.
- Looking for ways to reduce the cost of paratransit services while we continue to grow. Exploring options that other agencies/cities are doing. Dr. Dennis is assisting
- Suggest deferring action item No. 8 to consult with legal team first; Special meeting will be called if necessary

b. ADA Bus Stop Improvement Project - Vanessa Dargin

- Thirty-two drawings approved by DPW.
- Twenty-five approved and will be poured week of 11/15 weather permitting
- Eighteen of the thirty-two that were approved by DPW also have forms made
- On schedule to have required number of stops poured and laid by 12/31/24.
- Bus Stops pads are 80% federally funded and 20% local match
- Team meets weekly

7. Committee Reports

- a. Finance & Executive: Ms. Melissa deGeneres
- b. Technical, Policies & Practices: did not meet
- c. Audit: did not meet
- d. Community Relations & Planning: Mr. Johnathan Hill & Mr. Patrick Downs

8. New Business

a) **Consideration and approval of the Build Construction North Transit Center Change Order**

**RESULT: ITEM DEFERRED**

**MOVER: N/A**

**SECONDER: N/A**

**YEAS: N/A**

**NAYS: N/A**

**ABSTAIN: N/A**

**ABSENT: Dennis, Pierre, Thomas**

b) **Consideration and Approval of 2025 Health Benefits Renewal**

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**

**MOVER: deGeneres**

**SECONDER: Downs**

**YEAS: Coleman, deGeneres, Downs, Hill, Sterling, Vukovics**

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT: Dennis, Pierre, Thomas**

c) **Consideration and approval to waive bus fares for December 7, 2024 Election**

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**

**MOVER: deGeneres**

**SECONDER: Coleman**

**YEAS: Coleman, deGeneres, Downs, Hill, Sterling, Vukovics**

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT: Dennis, Pierre, Thomas**

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION - These matters may be discussed in Executive Session**
- a. **For discussion of the character, professional capabilities, and physical and mental health of CATS' CEO, Theo Richards. Notice of the right to public discussion has been issued.**
  - b. **Status and update regarding litigation identified as William Deville vs. Capital Area Transit System, United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana, No. 3:23-cv-01594**
  - c. **Strategy and status regarding collective bargaining negotiations for a renewed contract with ATU Local 1546.**

10. **Consideration and approval to move into Executive Session at 4:55 p.m.**

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**

**MOVER: Downs**

**SECONDER: Vukovics**

**YEAS: Coleman, deGeneres, Downs, Hill, Sterling, Vukovics**

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT: Dennis, Pierre, Thomas**

11. **Consideration and approval to exit Executive Session at 5:38 p.m.**

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**

**MOVER: Downs**

**SECONDER: Vukovics**

**YEAS: Coleman, deGeneres, Downs, Hill, Sterling, Vukovics**

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT: Dennis, Pierre, Thomas**

12. **Adjournment**

**deGeneres/Coleman**