

**CATS Board of Commissioners**  
**Monthly Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
4:30 p.m.  
**MINUTES**  
**[RECORDING - February 2026](#)**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the CATS Board of Commissioners Meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by President Hill.

**2. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

| Attendee Name     | Title           | Status  |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Carolyn Coleman   | Member at Large | Present |
| Desiree Collins   | Member          | Absent  |
| Michelle Dennis   | Secretary       | Present |
| Arthur Dubriel    | Member          | Present |
| Debra Hamilton    | Member          | Present |
| Johnathan Hill    | President       | Present |
| Gerald King       | Member          | Present |
| Tremaine Sterling | Member          | Present |
| Frederick Thomas  | Vice-President  | Present |

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rosalie Washington  
George Decuir  
Andre Williams  
Yvette Rhines

**5. ACTION ITEM**

**Approval of the January 20, 2025, Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**

RESULT: ACCEPTED

MOVER: Thomas

SECONDER: Dubriel

YEAS: Coleman, Dubriel, Hill, King, Sterling, Thomas

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Dennis, Collins

**6. PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- President Hill thanked the board members for allowing him to serve as chairman of the board the past year and looks forward to working with whomever the next board chairman is.

## 7. NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS:

Nominations were opened for the position of Chair.

Johnathan Hill was nominated. There being no further nominations; nominations were closed.

By vote of the Board, **Johnathan Hill was elected Chair.**

Nominations were opened for the position of Vice Chair.

Frederick Thomas was nominated. There being no further nominations; nominations were closed.

By vote of the Board, Frederick Thomas **was elected Vice Chair.**

Nominations were opened for the position of Secretary.

Michelle Dennis was nominated. There being no further nominations; nominations were closed.

By vote of the Board, **Michelle Dennis was elected Secretary.**

## 8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- CEO Theo Richards recognized employee milestones for the month of February:
  - o Calton Lonnett, Jason Sanders and John Nguyen will complete ten years of service this month.
- Mr. Richards also recognized the employees that have gone the Extra Mile recently, assisting riders who needed immediate medical attention.
- CATS Currently has eight cadets, with five in training.
- The next hiring event will take place on March 26.
- Plans to unveil travel training program for schools and organizations soon
- The triennial audit, which is a federal audit is currently taking place. This audit consists of financials, ADA, and maintenance items.
- The 2025 Audit is also underway and expected to be submitted timely.
- CATS will participate in the Legacy Trail in partnership with EEnvisionNBR, alongside The Walls Project and the Downtown Development District, will unveil the Legacy Trail in Downtown Baton Rouge before transitioning to North Baton Rouge. The day will include a dedication recognizing the Baton Rouge Bus Boycott, as well as a tribute to Mr. Clovis “Bam Bam” Hayes, the first Black CATS driver.

## 9. Committee Reports

- a. Finance & Executive: did not meet
- b. Technical, Policies & Practices: did not meet
- c. Audit: did not meet
- d. Community Relations & Planning: did not meet

## 10. New Business

- a. **ACTION ITEM – Recommendation for Approval of 2026 CATS Proposed Budget**  
RESULT: ACCEPTED  
MOVER: Dubriel  
SECONDER: King  
YEAS: Coleman, Dennis, Dubriel, Hill, King  
NAYS: Thomas  
ABSTAIN: Sterling  
ABSENT: Collins

- b. **ACTION ITEM – Recommendation for Approval of North Transit Center Sign Installation and Networking of Vehicle Components**  
 RESULT: ACCEPTED  
 MOVER: King  
 SECONDER: Dubriel  
 YEAS: Coleman, Dennis, Dubriel, Hill, King, Thomas  
 NAYS: Thomas  
 ABSTAIN: Sterling  
 ABSENT: Collins
  
- c. **ACTION ITEM - Recommendation for Approval of Commercial General Liability, Professional Liability and Management Liability Insurance Policies**  
 RESULT: ACCEPTED  
 MOVER: Thomas  
 SECONDER: Coleman  
 YEAS: Coleman, Dennis, Dubriel, Hill, King, Thomas  
 NAYS:  
 ABSTAIN: Sterling  
 ABSENT:
  
- d. **ACTION ITEM - Recommendation for Approval of Purchase of Traffic Signal Priority (TSP) Equipment for Bus Rapid Transit Buses**  
  
 RESULT: ACCEPTED  
 MOVER: King  
 SECONDER: Dubriel  
 YEAS: Coleman, Dennis, Dubriel, Hill, King  
 NAYS: Thomas  
 ABSTAIN: Sterling  
 ABSENT: Collins
  
- e. **ACTION ITEM - Recommendation for Approval of the Updated Finance Manual Policy**  
 RESULT: ACCEPTED  
 MOVER: Coleman  
 SECONDER: Thomas  
 YEAS: Coleman, Dennis, Dubriel, Hill, King, Sterling, Thomas  
 NAYS:  
 ABSTAIN:  
 ABSENT: Collins

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION - These matters may be discussed in Executive Session**

- a. **Discussion regarding updated security plans and procedures pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(3).**
- b. **Strategy session, pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(2), regarding collective bargaining negotiations for a renewed contract with ATU Local 1546.**

- c. **Strategy session, pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(2), regarding litigation: United States of America ex rel Elijah Pipersburg v. Capital Area Transit**
- d. **Discussion of the character and professional competence of an employee pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1)**

**Consideration and approval to extend meeting time to 7:00 p.m.**

RESULT: ACCEPTED

MOVER: Sterling

SECONDER: Dubriel

YEAS: Coleman, Dennis, Dubriel, Hill, King, Thomas, Sterling

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Collins

**Consideration and approval to enter Executive Session at 5:40 p.m.**

RESULT: ACCEPTED

MOVER: Dennis

SECONDER: Dubriel

YEAS: Coleman, Dennis, Dubriel, Hill, King, Thomas, Sterling

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Collins

**Consideration and approval to exit Executive Session at 6:46 p.m.**

RESULT: ACCEPTED

MOVER: Thomas

SECONDER: Coleman

YEAS: Coleman, Dennis, Dubriel, Hill, King, Thomas, Sterling

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Collins

## **12. Adjournment**

**Dennis/Coleman and Thomas**