

## Minutes

### RTA Committee of the Whole Meeting

9:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 6, 2022

**Committee Members:** Lucas (Chair), Moss (Vice-Chair), Biasiotta, Joyce, Koomar, Pellot, Weiss, Welch

**Not present:** McCall

**Staff:** Benford, Birdsong Terry, Bober, Burney, Capek, Caver, Colonna, Dangelo, Davidson, Feke, Ferraro, Fesler, Fields, Fleig, Freilich, Garofoli, Gautam, Jarrous, Jones, King, Kirkland, Lincoln, Martin, Miller, Morris, Mothes, Nix, Peganoff, Ponder, Schipper, Sutula, Talley, Tarka, Walker-Minor, Young

**Public:** Battle, Bortolotto, Edman, Gibbons, Goodwin, Huang, Julien, Rankin, Romanoff

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Eight (8) committee members were present.

#### Public Square Update

##### *Presenters*

- Nora Romanoff, Associate Director, LAND Studio
- Sanaa Julien, CEO, Group Plan Commission (GPC)
- Carter Edman, Manager, Division of Architecture and Site Development, City of Cleveland
- Mike Schipper, Deputy General Manager, Engineering and Project Management, RTA
- Dr. Floun'say Caver, Chief Operating Officer, RTA

The first update on this project was this March. Since then, the City of Cleveland approved \$1.5 million towards the rehabilitation of Public Square. RTA along with LAND Studio, GPC and the City of Cleveland is the working group for this project. They have had bi-weekly concept and development meetings. Since Public Square opened in June 2016 there was discussion around the Superior Crossing Design Objectives:

- Address Homeland Services concerns in routine/every-day operations
- Plan for easy and secure closure of Superior for special events
- Repair existing damage to roadway surface where pavers are currently in place
- Provide safe pedestrian crossings, including mid-block on Superior
- Account for bicycle circulation around Public Square
- Accommodate RTA service needs

Temporary barriers, crosswalk and signals are in place on Superior. The goal is to make these elements permanent. The working group had several meetings, conducted multiple site visits to the Square and drafted and reviewed 8 potential design alternatives. The design is like the original concept in lane allocation + curb lines. The Central Taper will be made permanent with a curb.

##### *Improved Central Crossing*

- Bollard alignment with curb extensions increases pedestrian space
- Raised/tabletop midblock crosswalk improves pedestrian crossing comfort and aids bus traffic through the Square

Sharrows Are Restored Along Superior (2016 design element)

An expert was brought in to look at the concrete degradation. RTA Service Management staff is working with them to determine dimensions, etc. The temporary crossings will be made permanent. The steel plates will be removed. The temporary planters and barriers will be removed. Bollards will be installed. Superior will be closed for special events. Next steps are to have the RTA Board vote on the MOU at their December 20 meeting. So far, \$2.9 million has been raised for the project and \$3.0 million is expected in the coming weeks.

*City Design Review/Planning Commission Conceptual Review*

- Jan 5 Downtown/Flat Design Review Advisory Committee Meeting
- Jan 6 City Planning Commission Meeting

*In Parallel*

- City will convene protected bikeway connectivity workshops
- Group Plan will enter into contract for design and construction

*Benefits to GCRTA*

- Reconstructing Superior Avenue will decrease wear and tear on buses.
- Improving signal timing on Superior Avenue will enhance safety and expedite traversal of Public Square by buses. We lose 5% of on time performance when the Square is closed.
- Developing an improved closure system to control traffic on Superior Avenue will reduce time and disruption to transit service when closing and reopening Public Square for major civic events.
- Enhancing safe, convenient pedestrian travel along and across Superior Avenue.

*Impact to transit operations*

The partners will minimize impact to transit operations by:

- Completing all work impacting transit operations on Superior Avenue within a single period of no more than 60 days.
- Completing all work impacting transit operations on the perimeter roads within a separate period of no more than 30 days.

*GCRTA funding contribution*

- The proposed contribution from GCRTA is not to exceed \$500,000.
- Upon certification by Group Plan Commission that 95% of funds necessary for the Superior Avenue work items have been raised, GCRTA will advance 60% (\$300,000) for the purpose of ordering long lead-time materials.
- Upon commencement of physical construction on the Superior Avenue work items, GCRTA will advance the remaining 40% (\$200,000).

Staff requests that the Committee of the Whole recommend the Memorandum of Understanding to the Board of Trustees for approval. Mr. Joyce asked for the details of the shutdown. Ms. Schipper said it will be continuous. Dr. Caver said the improvements will be positive from an operations standpoint. Ms. Moss asked for the timeline and asked what a tabletop is. Ms. Romanoff said the goal is to order the bollards in Jan. 2023. It will be a 16–20-week lead time. They can come back and give an update on the timeline once all the materials are in. A normal roadway has a 6-inch curb. The tabletop would be raised 3 or 4 inches and the curbing would come down a few inches for ADA compliance. This makes the pedestrian zone more pronounced. Ms. Welch asked if the January meetings will be public. Ms. Huang said the public is welcome and it will be live streamed. Mayor Weiss asked if the bollards are removable. Ms. Romanoff said the bollards will have a security core that goes 36 inches into the ground and some will be removable for special events. Ms. Birdsong Terry thanked the planning team for their work and thanked the Board for allowing the staff to do their due diligence.



It was moved by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Moss to move this to the full Board. The roll was called. There were eight (8) ayes and none opposed.

#### Code Book Updates

Dawn Tarka, Associate Counsel made the presentation. Today's update will cover the Infectious Disease Policy. The Code Book was codified in 1989 (Resolution 1989-176). They are reviewing and updating provisions to bring policies in line with current operations. They are subject to review and revision every three years.

- Chapter 630 – Board's Infectious Disease Policy
- Adopted in 1989
- Impacted by review of Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan ("PTASP")
- Many portions overlap with other policies

630.06(a) & (b) medical and fitness for duty	Personnel Procedure 1700.03
630.06(c) & 630.08(a) employee assistance	Personnel Policy 600.04
630.08(b) accommodations	ADA Policy, Code Book Section 642.04
630.08(c) equal employment opportunity	EEO Policy, Code Book Section 642.01
630.08(d) sick leave and short-term disability	Collective bargaining agreements, Personnel Procedures 1300.07 & 1300.08
630.08(e) pension benefits	Personnel Policy 400.10 & OPERS regs
630.09 guidelines for body fluid spills	Exposure Control Plan, SOP #10.7

- Recommend amending Chapter 630 to:
  - Remove the content covered by other policies
  - add section authorizing General Manager to issue and make modifications to PTASP
- Section 648.05 duplicates Personnel Policy 600.05
- Recommend removing 648.05 from Code Book

Staff requests that the Committee of the Whole recommend these provisions to the Board of Trustees for approval. Ms. Moss asked about the General Manager's authority to modify the PTASP and where the Board oversight is. She asked what the current policy is and if there is a change. Ms. Tarka said there isn't a change, it only articulates what is already in the Code. The GM updates the PTASP and presents it to the Board for approval.

It was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Ms. Pellot to move this to the full Board. The roll was called. There were eight (8) ayes and none opposed.

#### Request to Suspend

President Lucas asked for a motion to suspend the meeting and come back to the Executive Session after the other Committee Meetings are held. It was moved by Ms. Pellot, seconded by Mayor Biasiotta and approved to suspend.

Executive Session Requested

11:34 a.m. - It was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Ms. Welch to reconvene the meeting. There were five (5) ayes and none opposed. Biasiotta, Joyce and Pellot had to leave early.

It was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Ms. Welch to go into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. There were five (5) ayes and none opposed.

12:19 p.m. – It as moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Ms. Moss to come out of Executive Session. There were five (5) ayes and none opposed.

Ms. Moss made a motion to bring the compensation study to the full Board. It was seconded by Ms. Welch. There were five (5) ayes and none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

  
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Rajan D. Gautam  
Secretary/Treasurer

  
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Theresa A. Burrage  
Executive Assistant