



**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
January 20, 2021**

The Board of Directors of Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority, met virtually on Wednesday January 20, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. 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 virtually present: Arfa, Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin, Marcucci, McLeod, Schielke, Smith, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski.

Director Hastings was absent.

SBD #21-01 – Resolution approving the minutes of the Open Session meeting of December 16, 2020.

Director Schielke moved, and Director McLeod seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Open Session meeting of December 16, 2020. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin, Marcucci, McLeod, Schielke, Smith, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski. All Directors voted Aye.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Kwasneski thanked all Pace employees for their hard work during the pandemic and stated that everyone has been doing a great job.

Richard A. Kwasneski, *Chairman*

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

Board of Directors

Rocky Donahue, *Executive Director*

Chairman Kwasneski reported that he and Rocky attended the Fair Transit South Cook press event. They met with Cook County Board President, Toni Preckwinkle, at the Sox Park train station and rode the train to the LaSalle Street station. Leaders from Metra were also in attendance. Chairman Kwasneski stated the program is a great opportunity to build ridership and conserve that area.

Chairman Kwasneski and Rocky attended a groundbreaking event to celebrate the start of construction on a new Pace Maintenance and Storage Garage near the current Pace Plainfield Park-n-Ride. The Mayor of Plainfield was also in attendance.

Chairman Kwasneski and Rocky continue to communicate with our congressional delegation about transit funding, particularly for Pace.

Directors' Reports

Director Arfa reported she and Rocky met with the Chicago Department of Public Health making sure that people with disabilities have access to COVID-19 testing and the vaccine.

Director Marcucci did not have a report; however, asked if there is an update on when transportation workers may have the opportunity to receive a vaccination as they are on the front line and exposed to the public. Rocky responded that transit workers fall into phase 1B. Phase 1B includes several million people. Outside of transit, it would include airport workers, grocery store workers and many more. Pace senior staff are meeting to develop a vaccination plan. Pace has conversations with the state of Illinois, the counties, and the city of Chicago. It appears vaccinations will be sent to the local counties to manage. The state is currently in phase 1A. The city of Chicago currently has 600,000 healthcare workers yet to vaccinate, while only getting about 30,000 doses per week. Getting access to the actual vaccine is somewhat of an issue at this time.

Director Schielke reported that Kane County has recently appointed several new board members and he has received favorable comments from several of them about the Pace bus services. Kane County has a huge senior citizen community and the Call-n-Ride and smaller vehicles make a large impact on that group. Director Schielke believes that smaller buses are the wave of the future.

Director Soto stated that this past Monday, the Pace North Division was the recipient of the prestigious Drum Major Award from Waukegan Township. The theme of their Martin Luther King program this year was to honor and recognize heroes during the pandemic and their services. Pace North Division was honored for dedicated staff, sustaining routes, and its commitment to keeping buses sanitary and safe. Honorees were required to submit a video, and Director Soto stated John Kokoris and Maggie Daly Skogsbakken put together an outstanding video. Director Soto is very proud of Pace North Division and stated it speaks well of all employees at Pace.

Executive Director's Report

Rocky Donahue thanked Pace staff for their hard work—while 2020 was a difficult year, Pace staff met the challenges.

As the Chairman stated in his report, another round of stimulus money was passed in late December. Our region is expected to receive approximately \$480 million. Based on our initial conversations with the RTA, they hope to have approval of their proposed recommendations for funding distribution at their March meeting.

Concerning the Suburban Services Budget, year-to-date we are \$12.5 million over budget while we anticipated we would be about \$77 million over budget. Farebox revenue is almost \$3 million more than anticipated. \$33 million has been saved on operating expenses, fuel, and administrative costs; and sales tax is doing better than we thought. The deficit is being funded with federal C.A.R.E.S. Act money. As for the ADA Budget there is a \$17 million deficit. The reasons for that are that ADA ridership is doing much better than we anticipated—it is only down about 40% as we thought it would be down 50%; and for safety as we have made every trip a single ride—therefore we have not achieved efficiencies by grouping trips.

In lieu of a multipage Year-end Report, a video was shown highlighting Pace's 2020 accomplishments.

Action Items

SBD #21-02 – Ordinance authorizing a change order to Contract No. 227985 with Kaltsouni Medhi, Inc. for architectural and engineering services.

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, Clear, Guerin, Marcucci, McLeod, Schielke, Smith, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski. All Directors voted Aye.

Melinda Metzger stated that in May 2020, architectural and engineering services were authorized for a roof retrofit. Modifications are necessary to address pre-existing issues with the original roof that was 26 years old. Modifications include an interior access system that will improve access through both walls on the roof and necessary replacement of skylights. These additional services are required to ensure proper retrofit to the existing roof.

SBD #21-03 – Ordinance authorizing the award of a contract to STV Construction, Inc. for project management and oversight services, in an amount not to exceed \$1,081,018.76.

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

Guerin, Marcucci, McLeod, Schielke, Smith, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski. All Directors voted Aye.

Charlotte Obodzinski, Department Manager of the Priority Project Management Office, gave a presentation and update on Pace's capital program, the newly formed Priority Project Management office at Pace, and this contract on the board agenda.

Pace is moving full steam ahead on the delivery of the Rebuild Illinois projects including the Plainfield I-55 Garage, Northwest Wheeling Garage, River Division expansion, NWTC ADA Transfer Facility, and the Harvey Transportation Center.

A construction contract has been awarded to build the Joliet Multi-Model Regional Transportation Center. Substantial completion is currently anticipated in the spring or summer of 2022. Pace's AE consulting firm is currently finalizing design documents for the South Campus in Markham and it is anticipated that, pending RTA and IDOT pre-award concurrence, is anticipated this summer with substantial completion estimated at the end of 2022.

Pace is finalizing design documents for the construction of the Pulse Dempster Line Stations. It is anticipated that construction will begin early this summer.

Advanced conceptual design and environmental review of the Pulse Halsted Line is currently underway, and an upcoming company-wide facilities study will go out for bid this year to examine Pace's future needs in order to strategically determine how we pursue capital projects in the future, pursuant to the goals laid out in the "Driving Innovation" plan.

Charlotte stated that a small working group comprised of staff from Strategic and Capital Planning, Capital Financing and Infrastructure, External Relations, Budget, Procurement, and the Office of the Executive Director convened to develop a scope of services for a program management oversight contract. Rocky established the Priority Project Management Office that will oversee this work. By forming the priority project management office, the team will be able to centralize project reporting and create uniform project delivery methods across the agency to successfully deliver capital project on-time and on-budget. The project delivery team continues to meet on a weekly basis sharing project progress reports on the Rebuild Illinois program and beyond.

The Priority Project Management Oversight or PPMO contract on the agenda today will provide staff with the tools and the resources needed to get the job done. The PPMO consultant will be tasked with performing all program and project management services required for the delivery of Pace's capital projects. The base contract also calls for the development of a DBE Mentor Protégé program to encourage and foster participation by DBE firms in Pace Rebuild Illinois and all other capital projects.

Director Schielke stated he is strongly in favor of the ideas proposed. One project he receives questions about is a Bus-on-Shoulder on I-88. Director Schielke has had conversations with the

administration of the city of Aurora and they have some interesting ideas about this service. Just north of I-88 at Butterfield Road is an accelerator laboratory building a \$1.5 billion accelerator on the site. When completed, this will bring 2,400 new employees. A Bus on Shoulder is something that Kane County is interested in.

Director Marcucci encouraged Director Schielke to contact the administration at DuPage County as soon as possible as I-88 passes through both Kane and DuPage Counties.

Issues/Discussions/Reports

No reports were given.

Adjournment

Chairman Kwasneski asked for a motion to adjourn into Closed Session for the purposes of discussing closed session minutes (2-C-21), and collective bargaining (2-C-2). Director Soto moved, and Director Claar seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin, Marcucci, McLeod, Schielke, Smith, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski. All Directors voted Aye.

Reconvene

Chairman Kwasneski reconvened the Open Session of the Pace Board of Directors meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Directors virtually present: Arfa, Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin, Marcucci, McLeod, Schielke, Smith, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski.

Director Hastings was absent.

SBD #21-04 – Resolution approving the minutes of the Closed Session meeting of December 16, 2020.

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

SBD #21-05 – Ordinance authorizing the Executive Director execute the successor Collective Bargaining Agreement as discussed in Closed Session.

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

Adjournment

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

Director Soto moved, and Director McLeod seconded a motion to adjourn the Pace Board of Directors meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Pace Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at Pace Corporate Headquarters, 550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois.



Karen Kase
Secretary, Board of Directors