NIAGARA FRONTIER TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Monthly Board Meeting
September 23, 2021

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            Transcript of Video Recording
                of Proceedings held at NIAGARA FRONTIER TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY, 181 Ellicott Street, Buffalo, New York,
stenographically transcribed by VALERIE A. ROSATI, Notary
Public.
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MEMBERS IN THE BOARDROOM:
Sister Denise Roche (Chair)
Commissioner Adam Perry
Commissioner Jennifer Persico
Kimberley Minkel (Executive Director)
David State (General Counsel)
John Cox (Chief Financial Officer)
William Vanecek (Director, Aviation)
Tom George (Director, Public Transit)
Helen Tederous (Director, Public Affairs)
John Schaefer (Director, Engineering)
Karen Novo (Director, Human Resources)
Darren Kempner (Manager, Government Affairs)
Matthew VanVessem (Manager, Labor Relations)
Lara Seniw (Assistant to Executive Director)

MEMBERS ON THE PHONE:
Commissioner LaVonne Ansari
Commissioner Joan Aul
Commissioner Anthony Baynes
Commissioner Wesley Hicks
Commissioner Michael Hughes
Commissioner Stephen Tucker
Commissioner Philip Wilcox
Steven Duquette (Chief Information Officer)
Mark Pereira (Procurement Manager)
George Gast (Chief, TAPD)
Mary Perla (Senior Counsel)

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: I would like to call the meeting
to order, and we'll begin by asking David State
to call the roll.
MR. STATE: We'll do the roll call of commissioners
to see who we have.

Commissioner Ansari?
Commissioner Aul?
If you're on, please signify.
Commissioner Aul, were you present?
MS. MINKEL: She was and then she wasn't, so I think she's off.

MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Present.
MR. STATE: Thank you. Commissioner Blue?
Commissioner Downey?
Commissioner Hicks?
Commissioner Hughes?
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Present and accounted for.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
COMMISSIONER PERRY: Just accounted for.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Persico?
COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Present.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Tucker?
Sister Denise?
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Present.
MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Present.
MR. STATE: So that puts us right at six and if I'm
counting that right.

MS. MINKEL: Yes, that's what I get.
MR. STATE: So that's a quorum.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much. That's a quorum.

May I ask, please, for a motion for the approval of the minutes of the July 22nd, 2021 meeting?

COMMISSIONER PERRY: So moved.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: And a second?

COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Second.

COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Second. Wilcox.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: All in favor? Is there any opposed?

Thank you very much.

Do you need to do a roll call?

MR. STATE: No, Sister. We've been doing those by unanimous consent, so unless there's an objection, those will be recorded as passed. CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Okay. Thank you. And now we're going to ask Kim for her report. MS. MINKEL: Thank you, Sister.

A couple of things for the board for this
month. One, I wanted to let the board know that we have, we have selected Endeavor for their behavioral health and crisis intervention services. We're going to be using them as additional support for our police behavioral health team. We've done this for years in the past, we've done it informally, but we felt there was a tremendous benefit to have a co-responder model. So we did go out with an RFP. We did receive several responses. We selected Endeavor based on their proposal.

And so some of the things they're going to help us with going forward, by having this model we'll have access and speed of access for care when there's issues in the system. They will also provide immediate screening, assessment, de-escalation and diversion for those individuals in need of support due to mental illness, substance abuse, poverty, domestic violence, homelessness and abuse.

And using a behavior health team increases the efficiency of our officers because they help them avoid the involuntary transport of
individuals by engaging them in treatment as well as diverting them from the ER. And then, finally, using Endeavor will help decrease arrests, repeat calls, use of force and psychiatric hospitalizations are an additional benefit.

I also wanted to let the board know that $I$ want to recognize and thank Dave Zarbo who ran our transit police lucky duck scavenger hunt again this year. We have a couple of these lucky ducks around the table. I'm pleased to report that Adam Perry has his ducks all in a row on the table, so that's great. Our agency was a partner with several other agencies in the community. It's a well-received initiative. It helps bring notoriety and recognition for our transit police, but also our system as a whole.

And then finally -- well, not finally. I have one other thing. I also wanted to mention, every year the New York Aviation Management Association presents the Bill Shea Award. And this is given to an individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership and effected
positive change in the aviation industry in New York State. Those eligible for the award must have gone beyond the call of duty and given of their time, energy and resources to significantly impact the aviation industry in New York State for the better. I'm pleased to report that this year's honoree was Bill Vanecek, so congratulations to Bill.

MR. VANECEK: Thank you very much.
MS. MINKEL: Bill has his plaque. I asked him to bring it, but he's carrying it tight in his package -- in his carry-on here and he's not showing it to anyone, but trust me, it's there. So congratulations to Bill.

And then, finally, $I$ wanted to recognize -and he's not on the call -- Commissioner Reverend Blue. And he's not on the call today because he is over at Erie County. Reverend Blue is being recognized as the citizen of the month by Legislator John Gilmour in District 9 in recognition of all the good work he's done for the City of Lackawanna. So please join me in congratulating and recognizing Reverend Blue on
this outstanding achievement.
And, Sister, that concludes my report.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much, Kim. You had a little competition there.

MS. MINKEL: Yeah.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: And congratulations to Bill.
MR. VANECEK: Thank you, again.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Very grateful for everything that you do.

And now for the audit, governance and finance committee report, and I'm going to turn it over to John, please.

MR. COX: Yes. Thank you, Sister.
Good afternoon, commissioners. You can
refer to page seven for the month of August numbers and also the fiscal year-to-date through August numbers are on page nine. For the month of August, 2021 , which is the fifth month of our, of our -- the twelve months of our fiscal year, we had a positive variance to budget of approximately two point nine million dollars; and on a fiscal year to date, we had a positive variance of fourteen million dollars.

Total operating revenues and assistance are above budget by approximately two point five million or thirteen point one percent for the month of August and nine point seven million or ten point two percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis. And this is primarily due to higher than budgeted BNIA concessions and commissions which is our parking revenue, our ride sharing, taxi and food and retail revenues. And that's due to higher than anticipated enplanements at the airport. And Metro also experienced higher passenger fares. We also had higher state - STOA, state transit operating assistance. Erie County sales tax was actually above budget, and also mortgage tax for both the month of August and fiscal year to date.

Total operating expenses were below budget by one point one million or six point six percent in August; and six point nine million or seven point eight percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis. And that's primarily due to lower personnel services, maintenance and repairs. And on a fiscal year to date, transit fuel/power
which was partially offset by higher utilities, insurance and injuries and various other (inaudible).

So, you know, as we've gone through this year, we've had a -- versus what we budgeted, a more favorable outcome. Of course, you know, as Bill had mentioned, you know, we're approximately about sixty percent as far as enplanements of what we had been in 2019, so we still have some -- a ways to go. And they're talking about, you know, the recovery at the airport and also a likely recovery on the Metro side as far as passengers and ridership, it being a multi-year recovery process. So we've done very well, but I think -- we'll probably -- it won't -- it's been a pretty good recovery so far, but $I$ think we'll see some bumps along the way. We'll see some ups and downs, and hopefully overall we continue on an upward trend, but $I$ think it's -- you know, at this point, we still have some ways to go and much of what you're seeing here is, you know, we're still -- especially on the operating expense side, you know, we're still cognizant
that we're not completely out of this pandemic. We're still dealing with it and staff is still being cognizant of that and, you know, being mindful of expenses and also -- so only making, you know, the necessary purchases and of course anything that's -- you know, absolutely needs to be replaced in the safety sense of it. So, you know, we still face some challenges, but not a bad way to start out basically almost the first half of the year, so let's hope that those things continue throughout the remainder of the year.

And unless there are any questions, that concludes the consolidated financials.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. Any questions for John?

Okay. And, Kim, we turn to you now with many, many corporate resolutions.

MS. MINKEL: Yes. Thank you, Sister.
We have twelve corporate resolutions. We did not have a meeting in August, so some of the volume here is related to the fact that there was not a meeting in August.
The first two resolutions are related to
grant agreements with NYSDOT. The first one is in the amount of nine million eight hundred and four dollars -- or, eight hundred and four thousand twenty-two dollars. This grant agreement is part of the New York State accelerated transit capital grant program and the modernize enhancement portion of the state's funding. And this is being used to rehabilitate, restore and modernize public transit. So there are a number of projects identified within our bus system for this particular grant. It's also, I should mention, a hundred percent funded by state funds.

The second grant agreement is in the amount of twenty-six thousand. This is part of the mass transportation capital project main grant agreement. And this is for a number of projects related to our light rail system.

The third corporate resolution which is on page eighteen is an authorization for the procurement of equipment. It's a hundred and thirty routers in the amount of two hundred and eight thousand six hundred and thirty-four
dollars and forty cents. This is to replace and upgrade the network infrastructure on our buses and vehicles. The useful life for this equipment runs anywhere between five to seven years. This is being purchased off of the GSA contract that is out there.

The next resolution, corporate resolution number four on page nineteen, is a regular maintenance agreement with ABB Enterprise Software. This annual maintenance agreement is in the amount of a hundred and forty-one thousand two hundred and eighty-six dollars and sixty-two cents. ABB acquired Mincom. They operate our Ellipse management software and enterprise management which accounts for all of our purchasing, our work orders, inventory, our accounts payable, receivables and our capital and fixed assets.

The next corporate resolution, number five, on page twenty-one. Staff is looking for a purchase agreement that would be multi-year, three-year agreement, with Granicus. And this is for the purchase of the board and civic
engagement software. This would take us through the end of September, 2024 for a total cost of forty-one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three dollars and seventy cents. The purpose of this is to help with the workflow for the various documents that are needed to be prepared for board meetings, including the agendas, the minutes of the previous meetings, the resolutions and all of that, and to make those available publicly and available to the community at large and the board members. Our procurement department did review MWBE and SDVOB databases and found that there are no New York State certified providers out there of this software; therefore, this procurement is excluded from the MWBE participation requirements through Empire State Development.

The next corporate resolution on page twenty-three is an authorization for a collective bargaining agreement, and this is with our police benevolent association. Staff is recommending a three-year agreement that would extend the contract through March 31st, 2025.

The contract was open early for discussions and negotiations because during the pandemic we have been operating with the police with a twelve-hour work schedule. It has actually being working out very well. The twelve-hour work schedule provides that all employees have a consistent and fair schedule, and it includes a regular rotation of time off for weekends. And it provides increased flexibility in scheduling and assignment for the Authority. But, the balance of home life is just as important and this helps provide that balance for our officers. It would provide a wage increase the first year of the agreement of two percent; second year of the agreement, two percent; and the third year, two point two five percent. It also would require that the employees going forward would contribute more to the health care. So in year one when they receive the two-percent increase, they will be going from a twelve percent to a fourteen percent contribution for health care. And that would continue in years two and three of the agreement. And these folks have been doing
an incredible job. They do a great job policing both the airport and the rail system. We think it's a fair and equitable agreement for these employees.

The seventh corporate resolution on page twenty-five. Staff is looking for authorization to buy five new police patrol vehicles from DeLacy Ford. The cost per vehicle is thirty-two thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven dollars and eighty-three cents, with an aggregate cost of just under a hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars. We did use OGS. We were able to do a mini bid, and we received six responses. DeLacy Ford was the lowest bidder. As per the OGS contract, the MBE participation goal is zero, and the same for $W B E$ and $S D V O B$ participation under OGS.

On page twenty-seven, corporate resolution number eight. Staff is recommending an agreement with Fluent Energy Corporation for electrical energy procurement management consulting services. This is also a multi-year agreement over the term of seven years, with an estimated
total cost of two hundred and eighty-eight thousand six hundred dollars. They have been providing consulting services for a number of years, for twelve years as a matter of fact. Since October of 2009 , NFTA has saved over two million dollars as a direct customer to the NYISO compared to the cost of being in with the normal utility companies.

So we think this arrangement and their recommendation that we receive from them in helping to sort through all the difficult reviews of this process is in the best interest of the Authority. The fee for the first year is twenty-five thousand, and then for years two through seven, it's predetermined based on fixed fee for the prior twelve months of the metered service. After a thorough review of the MWBE and the SDVOB databases, we determined that there are no New York State certified MWBEs or SDVOBs; therefore, it's excluded as part of this procurement. We did receive two responses. Fluent Energy did score the highest on this response.

The next several corporate resolutions are lease agreements. So the first of those is on page thirty. Staff is recommending a lease agreement with Pastime Marketplace. This is at our 485 Cayuga Road facility. They have leased storage space at 485 since October of 2020 . Their current lease expires at the end of this month. They are requesting a new lease for their current four hundred and fifty-five square feet of storage space. The rate for this lease will be four dollars and fifty cents per square foot or just over two thousand for the year.

The second lease agreement is with Geocove and this is at our 247 Cayuga Road facility. Geocove is a Start-Up NY company. They provide software and professional services to local government and utilities to collect, manage, visualize and share information. They are leasing nine hundred and seventy-five square feet of class C plus office space. The term is one year. That would start on November 1st and expire October of next year. The lease would also include a renewal option for two additional
one-year periods with our approval. The initial rental rate would be thirteen dollars and seventy-five cents per square foot for the first lease year, and the renewal options would be subject to a three-percent annual escalator. So this is a new lease, a great use in the space.

The third lease that we have before the board today is a lease amendment, and this is with KLW Appraisal Group also at 247 Cayuga. They are -- KLW is a real estate appraisal firm. They've been leasing space since 1997. They currently lease a little over thirty-five hundred square feet of class $C$ plus office space and six hundred and twenty-two square feet of storage space. The initial two-year lease term will end at the end of November of this year with the three, year options ending at the end of 2024 .

KLW is requesting to amend this lease, which would start on October 1st and add six hundred and twenty-three square feet of class C plus office space, and it would be coterminous with the existing lease and terms. So this will increase their total lease space to just over
forty-one hundred square feet. The amendment will add a little over ten thousand dollars to the fourteen-month period, and the renewal options would be subject to a three-percent annual escalator that would take them out to the end of November of 2024 .

And the final lease agreement and the final corporate resolution, which is on page thirty-three, is a lease agreement with RPRT, also at 247 Cayuga Road. And this is also a Start-Up NY company whose experience is in health and finance technology. They currently have been leasing since 2018. The initial lease was nine hundred and eighty-nine square feet of class C office space. They upgraded to C plus office space with a lease amendment in April of last year where they added an additional nine hundred and seventy-five square feet.

So the new three-year lease will be the total space, just under two thousand square feet of class C plus office space. The three-year agreement will expire at the end of September, 2024, and the initial rental rate will be
thirteen dollars per square foot or just over twenty-five thousand five hundred dollars for the first lease year, with the optional three years having a three-percent annual escalator. And the rent income over a three-year period will be just under seventy-nine thousand dollars.

So those are the corporate resolutions that we're looking for approval today.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you, Kim. I would like us to take a number of those together, but perhaps number six ought to be done alone.

So may I have a motion, please, to accept the authorization for collective bargaining agreement of the police benevolent association, number six?

COMMISSIONER HICKS: So moved.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And a second?
COMMISSIONER AUL: Joan Aul. Second.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Okay, Joan. All those in favor, please -- you're going to call the vote.

MR. STATE: Roll call vote. So this is a motion to approve item six, firsted by Commissioner Hicks and seconded by Commissioner Aul. So I'll do the
roll call.
Commissioner Ansari?
Commissioner Aul?
COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hicks?
COMMISSIONER HICKS: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry? COMMISSIONER PERRY: Aye.

MR. STATE: Commissioner Persico?
COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Yes.
MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
MR. STATE: Any other commissioners that $I$ didn't call who wish to register a vote?

COMMISSIONER TUCKER: This is Commissioner Tucker. I
joined the call late, had some technical
difficulties, but $I$ vote yes as well.

MR. STATE: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner Tucker. Item passes.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much. I would like to take items one through five and seven through twelve, excluding only resolution six, as a group. Does anyone have any reason that you would like to pull out one or more of those resolutions?

COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes. This is Anthony Baynes. Number seven.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: All right. Thank you, Anthony.
We'll do that. Let's do this one at this time. Number seven is authorization for procurement from DeLacy Ford for the police patrol vehicles. May I have a motion to accept that? COMMISSIONER WILCOX: So moved. Wilcox. CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And a second? COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second. Mike Hughes. CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And a roll call. MR. STATE: So motion on item number seven.

Commissioner Ansari?
Commissioner Aul?

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COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
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MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
COMMISSIONER BAYNES: I'm abstaining from seven.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes abstains on seven.
Commissioner Hicks?
COMMISSIONER HICKS: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
COMMISSIONER PERRY: Aye.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Persico?
COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Tucker?
COMMISSIONER TUCKER: Yes.
MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
MR. STATE: Item passes.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And now we will take the corporate resolutions one through five and eight through twelve as a group unless $I$ hear an objection to that.

Okay. Thank you. And may I have a motion
to do that, to accept all of these resolutions?
COMMISSIONER PERSICO: So moved.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER HICKS: So moved. Hicks.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And a second?
MS. MINKEL: I think Commissioner Hicks is seconding.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Okay. Thank you. And now we
will ask for a roll call vote for resolutions
one, two, three, four, five, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve.

MR. STATE: Roll call vote.

Commissioner Aul?

COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.

MR. STATE: Commissioner Hicks?

COMMISSIONER HICKS: Yes.

MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.

MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
COMMISSIONER PERRY: Aye.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Persico?

COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Yes.

MR. STATE: Commissioner Tucker?
COMMISSIONER TUCKER: Yes.
MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
MR. STATE: Item carries.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you all very much. Now we're going to turn to the aviation business group report, and $I$ ask Commissioner Perry to start us off with that.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Thank you, Sister. The aviation group met earlier today, and Mr. Vanecek went through various items in the report, and $I$ could ask him to give a short summary of those.

MR. VANECEK: Certainly. So notwithstanding the financial report which was already gone through, a couple of items. I reported out that we had an FAA Title Six plan review by FAA yesterday and we came through with flying colors, just a few minor observations that they are (inaudible) on their behalf. Also recognized that we had our testing for new fire position -- firefighters open
positions. We had four hundred people that tested for the written exam, a hundred and fifty passed, and we will now fill three positions after the a results of the physical exam.

We went through the status of the AIP status report for the various projects at the airport. I did point out that for Buffalo we're seeing an upward trend in the number of flights being added going forward in the year. Starting in September, we'll have -- it's September now. We have fifty-four flights a day, it's going to grow to fifty-nine in October, sixty in November and sixty-one in December. For Niagara Falls, I reported out that Spirit Airlines is not currently flying now, but they have indicated to us that they will be resuming flights somewhere in the late spring, early summer operation. It will be flights to Myrtle Beach for them. And Allegiant is doing well. Their monthly flights are five to Punta Gorda, nine to Tampa Bay and two to Orlando. And, yeah, that's probably -that's the summary of the report.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: SO I see from the AIP report
that we're still looking to complete baggage carousels three and four by the end of the first quarter, so sometime in March. Is that still -so that's still --

MR. VANECEK: We anticipate that that will be -- that it will be ahead of schedule.

John Schaefer, if you want to share (inaudible).

MR. SCHAEFER: So contractually March is the due date, and of course the contractor reserves the right to finish by then. But they have a vested interest in finishing soon as well so they can demobilize, stop paying expenses for trailers and such. So they've been motivated and they're targeting by Thanksgiving, but not promising. But, they're targeting, and it looks encouraging. A couple of parts issues that they've been working through, but they expect to get here in the next month or so.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Mr. Schaefer, you've mentioned a bunch of reasons why they might want to complete early, but $I$ think you left off that they can get paid.

MR. SCHAEFER: Yeah. I didn't know that was important to everybody.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Okay. And so then, so then it's possible that we can see this done before Christmas, like a big Christmas present or a holiday gift or a Hanukkah present.

MR. SCHAEFER: And there's more, but yes. There's a bunch of celebrations that we could use it as a gift.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Yes, there are many more celebrations. Kwanzaa. And the other thing is so this will be like the premier gateway to Buffalo/Niagara for the world. Are there any plans to have kind of a world-class public art exhibition especially in the areas of the airport? Do we have any plans or is there any interest in doing any of that?

MS. MINKEL: Yes. Absolutely. And to expand on that a little bit further, in fact, it's a nice segue to one of the resolutions that we have, is there is a competitive grant opportunity that New York State has this year that we are submitting -have already submitted grant applications last
week, fifty million for the Buffalo airport and seven and a half million for the Niagara Falls airport, to really expand on just on what you mentioned, Adam. And that is, you know, the front door to Western New York is our airport for those who are flying in, and the best way to make a great first impression is to have your front door looking wonderful. So some of the ideas that we have are out of this world that we have submitted. Hopefully, they will be received well.

A big component, though, and probably less exciting but just as important, is our HVAC units, our heating, ventilation and air conditioning units at the Buffalo airport. What we have is original to the terminal. They need to be replaced. But, we would replace and improve them that -- and now that we know more about COVID and indoor air quality, there are improvements that we could make with the HVAC units. So part of that grant application that we put in, a large component, in addition to the fun stuff, is the important HVAC unit as well. And I
do have that as a resolution for the board to approve.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Did you mention that we are asking for money from the New York State Council on the Arts?

MS. MINKEL: No. Specifically, the name of the program, Darren, that the state has?

MR. KEMPNER: Yeah. The large grant program that Kim was mentioning is the Upstate Revitalization -Airport Revitalization Competition, but we have been looking at opportunities through the Council on the Arts.

MS. MINKEL: Right.
COMMISSIONER PERRY: I understand that there's a newly appointed Western New York board member. MS. MINKEL: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Shouldn't we be asking that person like, hey, what's the deal?

MS. MINKEL: Yes. Absolutely we will engage. COMMISSIONER PERRY: All right. So I like curb appeal, and as a former disc jockey, I especially like segues, so thank you. Thank you. And that's all we have $I$ think.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Well, thank you very much. We'll turn it over to Kim again for the resolutions.

MS. MINKEL: There are four resolutions in aviation. There's no segue movie -- or, music to get there. Maybe Adam would like to hum a tune.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Oh. No.
MS. MINKEL: But, the first resolution in aviation on page thirty-six is that item that $I$ was just speaking about. Staff is recommending that we award a subject design service contract to McFarland-Johnson in the lump sum amount of one million one hundred and seventy-four thousand three hundred dollars. Just under seven hundred and fifty thousand of this is for the terminal air quality improvements that $I$ mentioned related to the HVAC units that are important going forward. The departure roadway canopy and terminal enhancements represents three hundred and eighty-one thousand of that work, and forty-three thousand eight hundred for the terminal enhancement portion.

The competitive grant requires that the
project be done in twenty-four months, so we're bringing it to the board in advance. The HVAC work needs to be done regardless, but we want to be ready to hit the ground running if we should be successful in securing this grant. So as I mentioned, the HVAC work is needed anyways, but having the preliminary design for some of the other things are important going forward. We did go out competitively with an RFP. A number of proposals were received, six in total, with McFarland-Johnson was scoring the highest. Their DBE participation, because there is some federal funds involved in this, will be twenty point six percent DBE.

The next grant -- excuse me. The next award agreement that staff is recommending on page thirty-nine, aviation resolution number two, is a supplemental agreement with JE Architects and Engineers. We refer to them as Jacobs. This is for additional design support services not to exceed two hundred and seventy-five thousand sixty-nine dollars and fifteen cents. This is for the terminal enhancement project that we've
been talking about.
By way of information, in July the board had approved the construction contract change order with Pike. There is -- as part of that, there's additional design support services for that work for those items that represents about seventy-seven thousand of this change order, but, also, as John and Bill had indicated earlier, we're trying to expedite this project. With the busy holiday travel season, it's certainly in our best interest to have baggage carousels number three and four up early. So that expedited testing and commissioning of the inspections increases that cost by forty-one thousand. And then, finally, Jacobs has to revise over seven hundred and eighty contract drawings to reflect the changes that were uncovered as part of the work that was done. So these as-built drawings will represent about a hundred and fifty-seven thousand of the cost that staff is recommending as part of this supplemental agreement.

The third resolution in aviation on page forty-one. Staff is recommending that the board
authorize an amendment to extend our Lamar advertising agreement for an additional two years. Currently, their agreement was supposed to expire at the end of June of 2023. We'd like to take the agreement out to June 30 th of 2025 . The approach staff is using is similar to what we used with ALD that we brought to the board. ALD was the common-use lounge agreement that we have at the airport.

Essentially, Lamar has been paying the minimum, the six hundred and fifty thousand over this time, but certainly with the decrease in passenger traffic, it has been very difficult for them to get the advertising that you would have pre-pandemic. They have also made significant capital investments and have agreed to continue with those investments for the expanded areas in BNIA.

So their capital investment will total a minimum of four hundred thousand and they will continue to pay the greater of six hundred and fifty thousand or fifty-five percent of the gross revenues for each year of the contract. So this
is a short extension similar to what we did with the common-use lounge, and we think this is a fair agreement given the conditions Lamar has experienced related to the pandemic.

And the fourth and final resolution in aviation is an operating agreement with PJM. They're a private jet maintenance company. The agreement will be one year with the option of four one-year renewals. They will provide aircraft maintenance and support a fleet of ten aircrafts that are operated by PJM. They will be subleasing space from TAC Air, but what they will be bringing is avionic repair services that currently are not offered at the Buffalo airport. They will pay the NFTA five percent of the gross revenues generated from this operation.

And those are the four resolutions that staff is recommending for approval, Sister. CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much, Kim. I would like to take these four resolutions as a group, unless $I$ hear from any of you an objection or desire to do elsewhere.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: I'm abstaining on numbers one
and three.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: One and three. Would you like us to vote on them separately?

COMMISSIONER PERRY: It is up to whatever you -whatever is your pleasure, Madam Chair. CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Let's do one and three separately, then. Is there another?

Okay. For number one, may $I$ ask for a motion to accept the authorization to award the design services contract for the airport economic development and revitalization for the NFTA. COMMISSIONER PERSICO: So moved.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. May I have a second? COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Gary Wilcox. Second. CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And a roll call. MR. STATE: Roll call for item one. Commissioner Perry abstaining.

Commissioner Ansari?
COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.

MR. STATE: Commissioner Hicks?
COMMISSIONER HICKS: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry abstains.
Commissioner Persico?
COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Tucker?
COMMISSIONER TUCKER: Yes.
MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
MR. STATE: Item carries.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And is it number
three?
COMMISSIONER PERRY: Three, yes.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Okay. May I ask for a motion
for the acceptance of item three which is -COMMISSIONER PERSICO: So moved.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Okay. Is there a second? Thank you.

This is the authorization for the amendment
with Lamar Airport Advertising Company for both BNIA and NFIA. Roll call vote, please. MR. STATE: We need a second for that. MS. MINKEL: Yeah. I didn't hear a second. CHAIR SISTER DENISE: Oh, didn't we have a second? COMMISSIONER AUL: Joan Aul. Second.

MR. STATE: So item number three, firsted by Commissioner Persico, seconded by Commissioner Aul.

Commissioner Ansari?
COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commission Hicks?
COMMISSIONER HICKS: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes? COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'm going to abstain, please. MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes abstains.

Commissioner Perry abstains.
Commissioner Persico?
COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Yes.

MR. STATE: Commissioner Tucker?
COMMISSIONER TUCKER: Yes.
MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
MR. STATE: Item carries.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And now we will take
number two and number four together, unless $I$
hear an objection.
COMMISSIONER PERRY: So moved.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And a second?
COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Second.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And a roll call.
MR. STATE: Roll call on items two and four.
Commissioner Ansari?
COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hicks?
COMMISSIONER HICKS: Yes.

MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
COMMISSIONER PERRY: Aye.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Persico?
COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Tucker?
COMMISSIONER TUCKER: Yes.
MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
MR. STATE: Item passes.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. Now we move to the surface transportation business group report. And, Commissioner Hughes, do you want to just say anything before we begin?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Sure, Sister. The surface transportation committee met this morning as part of the abridged committee meeting schedule. We went through the bus network improvement plan, the Title Six service and fare equity analysis and we also talked about the Erie Canal Harbor

Station naming. I'll ask Tom George to give an overview of what was talked about in the committee meeting.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And --
MR. GEORGE: Good afternoon. Yeah. As Commissioner Hughes indicated, we had three discussion items. We did a review of our Federal Transit Administration Title Six. It's a three-year period, a triennial review of our program. That is for your consideration today, which will allow us to advance that to -- in accordance with the schedule which is due in October of this year.

We also had a discussion item about the
service improvements and the fare structure
changes that we've been talking about for quite some time. We have gone through our public, our public comment period, received comments and have addressed those comments and are advancing again for your consideration today the changes to the service in accordance with that plan that we had laid out earlier today which is included in your book for your consideration and review. We also spent a little bit of time on the

Erie Canal Harbor Station, indicated our intent to rename that the Canalside Station and provided artist renderings of that. So if there are comments that the board members would like to provide, please provide those to us. We will be advancing that forward to construction for a start in the spring in coincidence with the city completing the Cars on Main Street project. We also had two other items in our initiatives that we discussed. After the property meeting this morning where they discussed phase three or the private development of the second level of the $D L$ and $W$, a very compeling presentation on that. I did also report that the phase one completion of the track work and all of the infrastructure for that project is nearing completion and is anticipated to be done by the end of this year and that later today we will be opening bids for the phase two which is the construction of the station for that project.

And then we also indicated in the meeting that we have received the notice of intent from
the Federal Transit Administration to move forward with the NEPA process for the light rail extension to Amherst. We did have public scoping meetings in September, earlier in the month, and the public scoping period is still open for comments which will then continue on to the development of the EIS for the NEPA process in accordance with the federal requirements.

And, lastly, but not least, as you all know that I did report on the two committees, the accessibility advisory committee and the citizens advisory committee. Those reports are in your package for your review. And we have a citizens advisory committee this evening at five-thirty and an accessibility advisory committee next Thursday at two-thirty p.m.

And that covers our committee meeting.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much. It's a reasonable summary for two months of momentous work.

Okay. Kim, may I ask you to do the resolutions.

MS. MINKEL: Yes. Thank you, Sister. So starting on
page forty-six, we have five resolutions that staff is recommending for the board for approval. The first one is a ratification of agreement with Scrufari Construction. This is work to be done at our Humboldt Station. We're asking the board to ratify a non-competitive procurement based on emergencies pursuant to Article 23 of the procurement guidelines.

This will provide for the emergency repairs of the Humboldt Station's tiled walls. I sent an e-mail to the board earlier informing them that we were having an issue where tile was dropping off the walls, and in some areas as high as thirty feet, which presented a serious safety issue. Our engineering team did an excellent job trying to find someone who could quickly come in and set up a fair amount of scaffolding, because the area that you need to navigate requires extensive scaffolding and construction in order to do the work.

So this contract will be on a time and materials basis, not to exceed just under two hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars. The
board should know that staff did inspect the other stations, our Delavan Stations have panels that are secure, and there appears to be no eminent failures at any of our other locations, so at this time they seem to be secure. What caused the failure, other than it's original, we really don't know. But, our engineering team and Metro team did a good job of getting in there right away before anyone was hurt.

The second resolution within surface is an authorization for an award of consulting services with Niche Solutions. This is a lump sum amount of five hundred and forty-one thousand dollars. This is to address our data transmission system. Our DTS transmits controls and status information between our train control at OCC and all the passenger stations. The original DTS system is over thirty years old. It's certainly reached its end of useful life, and it's no longer supported by the manufacturer or replacement parts are no longer available.

So this past year we invested just under a hundred thousand dollars to do a study at our

Allen Station as a proof of concept that was successful, and so based on that success, really with minimal operation and financial risk as part of that study, staff is recommending that we use the same approach for our other stations going forward at the cost of five hundred and forty-one thousand dollars. This is considered a sole source procurement based on the specialty of this type of particular work. This system will have a useful life anywhere between five to ten years as a best guess going forward. Because it is a sole source, we did have an audit of the procurement and it was determined that the cost is fair and reasonable. Empire State has deemed sole source procurements exempt from MWBE requirements.

The next resolution on page fifty-one.
Staff is recommending that the board adopt our Title Six program that was presented earlier today. And staff is also recommending that we -once this is approved by the board that it be submitted to the FTA as required. As part of this resolution on page fifty-three is a summary of the various changes within the program. The
program itself is attached as part of the resolution and was sent to the board previously. There are essentially twelve chapters of this. Chapter number one had no changes. No changes to chapter number two. Chapter number three requires investigations, complaints and lawsuits, and the board should know that we did not have any Title Six investigations, complaints or lawsuits to report as part of this submission. Chapter four does incorporate our new public participation plan that was completed in 2018 . Staff has not identified any issues under chapter five, meaningful access to limited English proficiency persons. Chapter six. I want to report that minority representation by members on our citizen advisory committee is forty-three percent. That's reflected in the changes. As Rob reported, for subrecipients, we only have one. It's United Way. The determination of new facilities. We haven't added any new facilities. System-wide service standards and policies that were adopted by the board in March of 2021 are included. We've also updated the new demographic
data based on current census information as part of the system. We do monitor the program as required for minority routes and we evaluate them against the standard for disparities and found that there are no disparate impacts. And then, finally, we evaluate the service and fare changes and put in mitigating factors as required as part of this report.

The next resolution is on page three hundred and twenty-one because we have the Title Six program, so a lot of paper is included. That is an authorization to approve our Title Six and our bus network improvements and the fare structure modifications that $T o m$ and Rob had presented earlier today. Staff is recommending that the board approve and adopt the plan moving forward based on what's been presented. And staff is also recommending that the Title Six analysis as related to these proposed services changes and fare structure also be approved. And the board should know they do not result in any disparate impacts.

I wanted to stress to the board that the
paratransit service will remain in accordance with the legal requirements for service within three quarters of a mile for fixed route and in place for a minimum of one year after these changes. And staff is looking at this going forward. We will be coming back to the board with a recommendation sometime later as to how we address paratransit.

And then the fifth and final resolution on page three hundred and seventy-seven is an authorization for a consulting agreement with Transpo Group. This is for transportation modeling support. This is for GBNRTC. We are the host of GBNRTC. That's why this is coming to the board for approval. The agreement is in an amount of two hundred and seventy thousand four hundred for consulting services that will assist them with their modeling and support for regional studies here in the area. And this is paid for with federal funds. They did follow NFTA procurement guidelines and have selected Transpo as the highest based on that procurement.
And those are the resolutions, sister.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much, Kim. I think it makes sense to take number three and four together since they both involve Title Six. MS. MINKEL: Sure.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Unless there's an objection to that, I would ask that we take resolution three and resolution four together. May I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER PERSICO: So moved.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you, Jen. And a second?
COMMISSIONER HICKS: Wesley Hicks will give a second. CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And roll call.

MR. STATE: Motion to approve items three and four.
Commissioner Ansari?
COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hicks?
COMMISSIONER HICKS: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.

MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes, that was a yes?
Commission Persico?
COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Tucker?
COMMISSIONER TUCKER: Yes.
MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
MR. STATE: Item passes.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And now I ask that we take number one, number two and number five together. It's the ratification of the agreement with Scrufari Construction for the Humboldt Station, the authorization to award Niche Solutions Inc. consultant services, and the authorization of consulting agreement with Transpo Group.

COMMISSIONER PERSICO: So moved.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And a second?
COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Wilcox. Second.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. Any discussion?
Okay. We're up for the vote.

MR. STATE: We're voting on the motion.
Commissioner Ansari?
COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hicks?
COMMISSIONER HICKS: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Persico?
COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Tucker?
COMMISSIONER TUCKER: Yes.
MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
MR. STATE: Item passes.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Well, thank you all. General counsel report?

MR. STATE: No report today, Sister.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And there is no need today for an executive session unless someone would like one.

Okay. May I have a motion to adjourn?
COMMISSIONER PERSICO: I will make that motion. CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: We are adjourned for the day. Thank you so very much. We did a lot of good work and thank you to all of the NFTA staff for preparing it and we'll see you next month.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
SS:
COUNTY OF NIAGARA)

I, Valerie A. Rosati, a Notary Public in and for the State of New York, County of Niagara, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above transcript of a video recording was taken down by me in a verbatim manner by means of Machine Shorthand, and that the transcript was then reduced into writing under my direction.

I further CERTIFY that the above-described transcript constitutes a true and accurate and complete transcript of the video recording.


| 1 | accordance [4] - | $36: 3,36: 6,36: 8,45: 3,$ | approach [2] - 35:6, | $21: 13,23: 13,37: 9,$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline \mathbf{1 8 1}_{[1]}-1: 16 \\ & \text { 1997 }{ }_{[1]}-19: 11 \\ & \text { 1st }_{[2]}-18: 21,19: 19 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 50: 1 \\ & \text { accounted }[2]-3: 13 \text {, } \\ & 3: 15 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 50: 11,50: 15,52: 13, \\ & 52: 17 \\ & \text { agreements }[2]- \\ & 12: 1,18: 2 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 47:5 } \\ & \text { approval }[6]-4: 7 \text {, } \\ & 19: 1,21: 8,36: 18, \\ & 45: 2,50: 15 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 50:11, } 52: 15,52: 17 \\ \text { authorize }[1]-35: 1 \\ \text { available }[3]-14: 9, \end{gathered}$ |
| 2 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { accounts [2]-13:15, } \\ & 13: 17 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ahead }[1]-28: 6^{\text {AIP }_{[2]}-27: 5,27: 23} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { approve [5]-21:22, } \\ 31: 2,49: 12,49: 16, \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 14:10, 46:21 } \\ & \text { aviation [9]-7:1, } \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 2009[1]-17: 5 \\ & 2018[2]-20: 13, \end{aligned}$ | accurate [1] - 55:13 achievement [1] - | $\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{Air}_{[1]}-36: 12 \\ & \operatorname{air}_{[3]}-30: 14,30: 19, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 51:13 } \\ & \text { approved }[3]-34: 3, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7: 5,26: 9,26: 12,32: 4, \\ & 32: 8,33: 17,34: 22, \end{aligned}$ |
| 48:11 | 8:1 | 32:16 | $47: 20,49: 20$ | 36:6 |
| 2019 [1] - 10:9 | acquired [1] - 13:13 | aircraft [1] - 36:10 | April [1] - 20:16 | Aviation [2]-2:5, |
| 2020 [1] - 18:6 | Adam [4]-2:2, $6: 12$, $30: 4,32 \cdot 6$ | aircrafts [1] - 36:11 | Architects [1] - | 6:20 |
| $2021[4]-1: 9,4: 7$ | $\begin{aligned} & 30: 4,32: 6 \\ & \text { add [2] - 19:19, 20:2 } \end{aligned}$ | Airlines [1] - 27:14 <br> Airport [2]-31:10, | $\begin{aligned} & 33: 18 \\ & \text { area [2] - 45:18, } \end{aligned}$ | avionic [1] - 36:13 <br> avoid [1] - 5:23 |
| $2023 \text { [1] - 35: }$ | added [3] - 20:17, |  | 50:19 |  |
| $2024[4]-14: 2$ | 27:8, 48:20 | airport [12] - 9:11 | areas [3]-29:15, | award [6] - 7:2, <br> $32 \cdot 11,33 \cdot 15,37 \cdot 9$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 19:17, 20:6, 20:23 } \\ & 2025[2]-14: 23,35: 5 \end{aligned}$ | addition [1] - 30:22 <br> additional [7]-5:5, | $\begin{aligned} & 10: 11,16: 2,27: 6, \\ & 29: 16,30: 1,30: 3 \end{aligned}$ | 35:17, 45:13 arrangement [1] - | $46: 11,52: 15$ |
| 22nd [1] - 4:7 | $6: 5,18: 23,20: 17$ $33: 20,34: 5,35: 2$ | $\begin{aligned} & 30: 5,30: 15,35: 9 \\ & 36: 14,37: 10 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 17:9 } \\ & \text { arrests [1] - 6:4 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Aye [4]-22:12, 24:9, } \\ & 25: 21,41: 4 \end{aligned}$ |
| $23[2]-1: 9,45: 7$ | $\begin{gathered} 33: 20,34: 5,35: 2 \\ \text { address [2] - 46: } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 36: 14,37: 10 \\ & \text { ALD [2] - } 35: 7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { arrests [1] - } 6: 4 \\ & \text { art [1] - 29:14 } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| 20:10 | $50: 8$ | Allegiant [1] - 27:19 | Article [1] - 45:7 | B |
| 3 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { add } \\ 42: 18 \end{array}$ <br> adjo | $\begin{aligned} & \text { allow [1] }-42: 10 \\ & \text { almost [1] }-11: 9 \end{aligned}$ | Arts [2]-31:5, 31:12 <br> as-built [1] - 34:18 | bad [1] - 11:9 baggage [2]-28:1, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 30th [1]-35:5 } \\ & \text { 31st [1] - 14:23 } \end{aligned}$ | adjourned [1] - 54:6 <br> Administration [2] - | alone [1] - 21:11 <br> amend [1]-19:18 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { assessment }[1] \text { - } \\ & 5: 16 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 34: 11 \\ & \text { balance [2] - 15:11, } \\ & 15: 12 \end{aligned}$ |
| 4 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 42:8, 44:1 } \\ & \text { adopt [2] - 47:17 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { amendment }[5] \text { - } \\ \text { 19:8, 20:1, } 20: 16, \end{gathered}$ | assets [1]-13:18 assignment [1] - | $\begin{aligned} & \text { bargaining [2] - } \\ & 14: 20,21: 13 \end{aligned}$ |
| 485 [2] - 18:5, 18:6 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 49:16 } \\ & \text { adop } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 35:1, 38:23 } \\ & \text { Amherst }[1]-44: 3 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 15:10 } \\ & \text { assist }[1]-50: 1] \end{aligned}$ | based [8] - 5:11, |
| 9 | advance [2] - 33:2 | amount [8] - 12: | assistance [2]-9:1, | $47: 8,49: 1,49: 17$ |
| 9 [1] - 7:20 | advanc | 32:12, 45:17, 46:12, | Assistant ${ }_{[1]}$ - 2:8 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 50:22 } \\ & \text { basis [3] - 9:6, 9:21, } \end{aligned}$ |
| A | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 42:18, 43:6 } \\ & \text { advertising } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 50:16 } \\ & \quad \text { analysis [2] }-41: 22 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Association }[1] \text { - } \\ & 6: 21 \end{aligned}$ | $45: 22$ |
| ```ABB [2] - 13:9, 13:13 able [1]-16:12 above-described [1] -55:12 abridged [1] - 41:20 absolutely [3] - 11:6, 29:18, 31:19 abstain [1] - 39:19 abstaining [3]-24:2, 36:23, 37:17 abstains [4]-24:3, 38:5, 39:20, 39:21 abuse [2]-5:19, 5:20 accelerated [1] - 12:6 accept [4]-21:12, 23:15, 25:1, 37:9 acceptance [1] - 38:19 access [3]-5:14, 48:13 accessibility [2] - 44:11, 44:15``` | $\begin{aligned} & 35: 2,35: 14 \\ & \text { Advertising }[1]- \\ & \text { 39:1 } \\ & \text { advisory }[5]-44: 11 \text {, } \\ & 44: 12,44: 14,44: 15, \\ & 48: 16 \\ & \text { Affairs }[2]-2: 6,2: 7 \\ & \text { afternoon }[2]-8: 14 \text {, } \\ & \text { 42:5 } \\ & \text { agencies }[1]-6: 14 \\ & \text { agency }[1]-6: 13 \\ & \text { agendas }[1]-14: 7 \\ & \text { aggregate }[1]-16: 10 \\ & \text { agreed }[1]-35: 16 \\ & \text { agreement }[36]- \\ & 12: 5,12: 14,12: 17, \\ & 13: 9,13: 10,13: 21, \\ & 13: 22,14: 20,14: 22, \\ & 15: 14,15: 15,15: 23, \\ & 16: 3,16: 19,16: 22, \\ & 18: 4,18: 13,20: 7, \\ & 20: 9,20: 22,21: 14, \\ & 33: 16,33: 18,34: 21, \\ & 35: 2,35: 3,35: 5,35: 8, \end{aligned}$ | ```49:18 annual [4] - 13:10, 19:5, 20:5, 21:4 ANSARI[5] - 37:19, 39:11, 40:17, 51:15, 53:3 Ansari [9]-2:11, 3:1, 22:2, 23:21, 37:18, 39:10, 40:16, 51:14, 53:2 Anthony [3] - 2:12, 23:9, 23:11 anticipate [1]-28:5 anticipated [2] - 9:10, 43:17 anyways [1] - 33:6 appeal [1]-31:21 application [1] - 30:21 applications [1] - 29:23 appointed [1] - 31:15 Appraisal[1] - 19:9 appraisal [1] - 19:10``` | ```association [2] - 14:21, 21:14 attached [1] - 48:1 audit [2] - 8:10, 47:12 August [8] - 8:15, 8:17, 8:18, 9:4, 9:15, 9:19, 11:20, 11:22 AUL[10] - 21:18, 22:4, 23:23, 25:13, 37:21, 39:6, 39:13, 40:19, 51:17, 53:5 Aul[15] - 2:12, 3:2, 3:4, 21:18, 21:23, 22:3, 23:22, 25:12, 37:20, 39:6, 39:9, 39:12, 40:18, 51:16, 53:4 AUTHORITY [2] - 1:7, 1:16 Authority [2] - 15:10, 17:13 authorization [12] - 12:20, 14:19, 16:6,``` | ```Baynes [12] - 2:12, 3:7, 22:5, 23:9, 24:1, 24:3, 25:14, 37:22, 39:14, 40:20, 51:18, 53:6 BAYNES[10] - 3:8, 22:6, 23:9, 24:2, 25:15, 37:23, 39:15, 40:21, 51:19, 53:7 Beach [1] - 27:18 begin [2]-2:20, 41:17 behalf [1] - 26:22 behavior [1] - 5:21 behavioral [2] - 5:3, 5:5 below [1] - 9:17 benefit [2]-5:8, 6:6 benevolent [2] - 14:21, 21:14 best [4] - 17:12, 30:6, 34:11, 47:11 better [1] - 7:6``` |



| 35:23, 37:10, 45:21 | 33:1 | 20 | ree ${ }_{[1]}$ | especially [3] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | diversion [1] - 5:17 | 16: | 10: |
| 28:10 contrac | de-escalation [1] $5: 17$ | diverting ${ }_{[1]}$ - 6 <br> DL [1] - 43:13 | $1]-2$ | essentially [2] - |
| 28: | deal [1] - $31: 18$ | DO [1]-55.6 | leven [1] - 25:10 | 19 |
|  |  | cuments [1]-14:6 | igible [1] - 7:2 | estimated [1] - 16:23 |
| 15:18 | cemb | dollars [23]-8:21, | cott [1]-1:1 | ate [2] - 49 |
| contribution [1] - | 27: | 8:23, 12:3, 12:4 | [1] - 13:1 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 15:21 } \\ & \text { control }{ }_{[1]}-46: 16 \\ & \text { controls }[1]-46: 15 \\ & \text { corporate }[12]- \end{aligned}$ | decrease [2]-6:3 | 13:12, 14:4, 16: | elsewhere | exam [2]-27:2, 27:4 <br> exceed [2] - 33:21, <br> 45:22 |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & 35: 12 \\ & \text { deemed }[1]-47: 14 \\ & \text { DeLacy }[3]-16: 8, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 16:12, 17:2, 17: } \\ & \text { 18:11, 19:2, 20:2 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 36:22 } \\ & \text { emergencies }[1] \end{aligned}$ |  |
|  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 45:7 } \\ & \text { emergency }[1]-45: 9 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| 11:17, 11:19, 12:19, | $16: 13,23: 14$ | 3:22, 45:23 |  | $\begin{aligned} & 45: 22 \\ & \text { excellent }[1]-45: 15 \end{aligned}$ |
| 13:7, 13:19, 14:18 | Delavan [1]-46:2 demobilize ${ }^{[1]}$ - | 46:13, 46:23, 47 | emergency [1] - 45:9 <br> eminent [1] - 46:4 <br> Empire [2]-14:16, | excellent [1]-45:15 <br> exciting [1] - 30:13 <br> excluded [2]-14:15, |
| 16:5, 16:18, 18:1 |  | domestic [1] - 5:10 |  |  |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { 20:8, 21:7, 24:20 } \\ \text { Corporation [1] - } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 28:13 } \\ & \text { demographic }[1]- \end{aligned}$ | done [11]-5:6, $5: 7$ $7: 21,10: 14,21: 11$, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 47:14 } \\ & \text { employees [3] } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 17:20 } \\ & \text { excluding }[1]-23: 5 \end{aligned}$ |
| , 2 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 48:23 } \\ & \text { demonstrated }[1]- \\ & 6: 23 \end{aligned}$ | 29:4, 33:1, $33 \cdot 3$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 15:6, 15:17, 16:4 } \\ & \text { encouraging }{ }_{[1]} \\ & 28: 16 \end{aligned}$ | excuse [1] - 33:15 executive ${ }_{[1]}-54: 2$ <br> Executive [2]-2:3, |
|  |  | 34:18, 43:18, 4 |  |  |
|  |  | [2] - 30:5, 30:8 |  |  |
| 16:10, 17:1, 17:7 | 6:23 <br> DENISE ${ }_{[1]}-39: 5$ <br> Denise [10]-2:2, | down [1] - 55:8 | end [11] - 14:2, | 2:8 |
| 34:14, 34:20, 47:6 |  | [1] - 3: | 19:15, 19:16, 19:1 | exemplary ${ }_{[1]}-6: 23$ <br> exempt $[1]$ - 47:15 <br> exhibition [1]-29:15 |
| 47:13 coterminous [1] - | $\begin{gathered} \text { Denise [10]-2:2, } \\ 3: 19,22: 15,24: 14, \end{gathered}$ | 1] - 10:1 | 2 |  |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & 3: 19,22: 15,24: 14, \\ & 26: 3,38: 10,40: 3, \end{aligned}$ | drawings [2]-34:16, | 35:4, 43:18, 46:19 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 19:21 } \\ & \text { Council [2] - 31:4, } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 41:9, 52:6, 53:16 } \\ \text { department }[1] \text { - } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 34:18 } \\ & \text { dropping }[1]-45: 12 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Endeavor [3] - 5:2, } \\ & 5: 10,6: 3 \end{aligned}$ | existing [1] - 19:22 <br> expand [2]-29:18, |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 31:11 } \\ & \text { counsel }[1]-53: 22 \\ & \text { Counsel }[2]-2: 4, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 14:12 } \\ & \text { departure }{ }_{[1]}-32: 18 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { DTS }_{\text {[2] }}-46: 15, \\ & 46: 17 \end{aligned}$ | ending $[1]$ - 19:17 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 30:3 } \\ & \quad \text { expanded }[1]-35: 17 \end{aligned}$ |
|  | ```described [1] - 55:12 design [5]-32:11,``` | duck [1] - 6: | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Energy }[2]-16: 20 \\ & 17: 22 \end{aligned}$ | expect ${ }_{[1]}-28: 18$ <br> expedite [1] - $34: 9$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 2:16 } \\ & \text { counting [1] - 4:1 } \end{aligned}$ |  | ducks [2] - 6:1 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 17:22 } \\ & \text { energy }[2]-7: 4, \end{aligned}$ |  |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & 33: 7,33: 20,34: 5, \\ & 37: 10 \end{aligned}$ |  |  | expedited $[1]$ - 34:12 |
| counting [1] - 4:1 <br> County [3] - 7:18, |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { due }[6]-5: 18,9: 6, \\ 9: 9,9: 21,28: 9,42: 12 \end{gathered}$ |  | expense [1]-10:23 |
|  | desire [1] - 36:22 <br> determination [1] - |  | engage [1] - 31:19 engagement $[1]$ - |  |
| COUNTY $_{[1]}-55: 3$ <br> couple [4]-4:23, |  | Duquette [1]-2:1 <br> during ${ }_{[1]}$ - 15:2 <br> duty [1]-7:3 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 14:1 } \\ & \text { engaging }[1]-6: 1 \end{aligned}$ | 11:4, 28:13 |
| $\begin{gathered} 6: 10,26: 18,28: 17 \\ \text { course }[3]-10: 6, \end{gathered}$ | determined [2] - |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Engineering [1] - 2:6 } \\ & \text { engineering }[2] \text { - } \\ & \text { 45:15, 46:7 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 20:11 } \\ & \text { experienced }[2] \end{aligned}$ |
| 11:5, 28:10 | Development [1] - | E |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 9:11, } 36: 4 \\ & \text { expire }[3]-18: 22, \end{aligned}$ |
| COVID [1] - 30:19 | development [3] - | e-mail [1]-45:1 | $\begin{array}{\|l} \text { 45:15, 46:7 } \\ \quad \text { Engineers }[1] ~-~ \\ 33: 19 \end{array}$ |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{Cox}_{[1]}-2: 4 \\ & \operatorname{COX}_{[1]}-8: 13 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 37:11, 43:12, 44:7 } \\ & \text { difficult }[2]-17: 11, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { early }[4]-15: 1, \\ 27: 17,28: 22,34: 12 \end{gathered}$ | English [1] - 48:13 enhancement [3] - | expires [1] - 18:7 <br> extend [2]-14:22, |
| is [1] - 5:3 | $\begin{aligned} & 35: 13 \\ & \text { difficulties }[1] \text { - } \end{aligned}$ | effected [1] - 6:23 | 12:7, 32:22, 33:23 | ```35:1 extension [2] - 36:1,``` |
| curb [1] - 31:20 |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { current }[3]-18: 7, \\ \text { 18:9, 49:1 } \\ \text { customer }[1]-17 \end{gathered}$ | ```22:23 direct [1] - 17:6 direction [1] - 55:11 Director [7]-2:3,``` | efficiency ${ }^{[1]}$ - $5: 22$ <br> eight 99 - $9: 20,12: 2$, | $\begin{aligned} & 32: 19 \\ & \text { enplanements }[2] \text { - } \end{aligned}$ | 44:3 extensive [1] - 45:19 |
| customer [1] - 17:6 |  | $\begin{aligned} & 12: 3,12: 23,16: 19 \\ & 17: 1,24: 21,25: 9 \\ & 32: 21 \end{aligned}$ | Enterprise [1]-13:9 |  |
| D | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 2:5, 2:5, 2:6, 2:6, 2:7, } \\ & \text { 2:8 } \end{aligned}$ | eighteen [1] - 12:20 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { enterprise }[1] \text { - } \\ & 13: 14 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { Darren }[2]-2: 7,31: 7 \\ & \text { data }[2]-46: 14,49: 1 \\ & \text { databases [2] - } \end{aligned}$ | disc [1]-31:21 <br> discussed [2] - | $\begin{array}{r} \text { eighty }[6]-13: 12, \\ \text { 16:10, 17:1, 20:14, } \end{array}$ | equipment [2] - | face [1]-11:8 <br> facilities [2] - 48:20 |
| 14:12, 17:18 | $\begin{gathered} \text { 43:10, 43:12 } \\ \text { discussion }[3]- \\ 42: 6,42: 13,52: 22 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 32:20, } 34: 16 \\ & \text { eighty-eight }[1] \end{aligned}$ | equitable [1] - 16:3 <br> equity [1]-41:22 | facility $[2]-18: 5$, 18:14 |
| $9: 5,9: 16,9: 20,9: 23,$ |  | 17:1 | equity $[1]-41: 22$ <br> ER ${ }_{[1]}-6: 2$ | 29:19 |
| 28:10 | $42: 6,42: 13,52: 22$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 20:14 } \\ & \text { eighty-one }[1]- \\ & 32: 20 \\ & \text { eighty-six }[1]-13: 12 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Erie }[4]-7: 18,9: 13, \\ & 41: 23,43: 1 \\ & \text { escalation }[1]-5: 17 \\ & \text { escalator }[3]-19: 5 \text {, } \\ & 20: 5,21: 4 \end{aligned}$ | ```factors[1]-49:7 failure [1] - 46:6 failures [1] - 46:4 fair [5]-15:7, 16:3,``` |
| Dave [1] - 6:8 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 15:1 } \\ & \text { disparate }[2]-49: 5 \text {, } \\ & \text { 49:21 } \\ & \text { disparities }[1]-49: 4 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |
| David [2] - 2:4, 2:20 |  |  |  |  |
| DBE [2] - 33:12, |  |  |  |  |


| ```36:3, 45:17, 47:13 Falls [2] - 27:13, 30:2 far [3] - 10:8, 10:12, 10:16 fare [5]-41:22, 42:14, 49:6, 49:13, 49:20 fares [1] - 9:12 favor[2] - 4:13, 21:19 favorable [1] - 10:6 Federal [2] - 42:7, 44:1 federal [3] - 33:12, 44:8, 50:20 fee [2]-17:13, 17:16 feet [10] - 18:9, 18:19, 19:13, 19:14, 19:20, 20:1, 20:14, 20:18, 20:20, 45:14 felt []] - 5:7 few [1]-26:20 fifteen [1] - 33:22 fifth[2] - 8:18,50:9 fifty[13]-18:9, 18:11, 27:2, 27:11, 27:12, 30:1, 32:15, 34:19, 35:11, 35:22, 47:16, 47:22 fifty-five [2] - 18:9, 35:22 fifty-four [1] - 27:11 fifty-nine [1] - 27:12 fifty-one [1] - 47:16 fifty-seven [1] - 34:19 fifty-three [1] - 47:22 fill [1] - 27:3 final [4]-20:7, 36:5, 50:9 finally [6] - 6:3, 6:18, 7:15, 34:15, 49:6 finance [2]-8:11, 20:12 Financial [1]-2:4 financial [2] - 26:17, 47:3 financials [1] - 11:13 finish[1]-28:11 finishing [1] - 28:12 fire [1]-26:23 firefighters[1] - 26:23 firm [1] - 19:10 first[12]-11:9, 11:23, 12:1, 15:13, 17:13, 18:2, 19:3, 21:3, 28:2, 30:7, 32:8, 45:3 firsted [2]-21:22,``` |  | ```15:21, 20:3 fourteen-month [1] - 20:3 fourth [1] - 36:5 front [2] - 30:5, 30:7 FRONTIER [2]-1:7, 1:15 FTA [1] - 47:21 fuel/power [1] - 9:23 fun [1] - 30:22 funded \([1]-12: 12\) funding \([1]\) - 12:8 funds [3]-12:13, 33:13, 50:20```G <br> Gary $[1]-37: 14$ <br> Gast $[1]-2: 16$ <br> gateway $[1]-29: 12$ <br> GBNRTC ${ }_{[2]}-50: 13$, <br> 50:14 <br> General $[1]-2: 4$ <br> general ${ }_{[1]}-53: 21$ <br> generated $[1]-36: 16$ <br> Geocove $[2]-18: 13$, <br> 18:15 <br> GEORGE ${ }_{[1]}-42: 5$ <br> George $[3]-2: 5$, <br> $2: 16,42: 1$ <br> gift $[2]-29: 6,29: 9$ <br> Gilmour $[1]-7: 20$ <br> given $[3]-6: 22,7: 3$, <br> $36: 3$ <br> goal $[1]-16: 15$ <br> Gorda $[1]-27: 20$ <br> governance $[1]-$ <br> $8: 10$ <br> Government $[1]-2: 7$ <br> government $[1]-$ <br> $18: 17$ <br> Granicus $[1]-13: 22$ <br> grant $[13]-12: 1$, <br> $12: 4,12: 6,12: 11$, <br> $12: 14,12: 16,29: 21$, <br> $29: 23,30: 21,31: 8$, <br> $32: 23,33: 5,33: 15$ <br> grateful $[1]-8: 8$ <br> great $[4]-6: 13,16: 1$, <br> $19: 6,30: 7$ <br> greater $[1]-35: 21$ <br> gross $[2]-35: 22$, <br> $36: 15$ <br> ground $[1]-33: 4$ <br> group $[6]-23: 6$, <br> $24: 21,26: 10,26: 13$, <br> $36: 21,41: 15$ <br> Group $[3]-19: 9$, <br> $50: 12,52: 18$ <br> grow $[1]-27: 11$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { GSA }{ }_{[1]}-13: 5 \\ \text { guess }[1]-47: 11 \\ \text { guidelines }[2]-45: 8, \\ 50: 21 \\ \hline \text { H } \\ \hline \text { half }[2]-11: 10,30: 2 \\ \text { Hanukkah }[1]-29: 6 \\ \text { Harbor }[2]-41: 23, \\ 43: 1 \\ \text { health }[6]-5: 3,5: 6, \\ 5: 21,15: 18,15: 21, \\ 20: 11 \\ \text { hear }[4]-24: 21, \\ 36: 21,39: 4,40: 10 \\ \text { heating }[1]-30: 14 \\ \text { held }[1]-1: 15 \\ \text { Helen }[1]-2: 6 \\ \text { help }[4]-5: 13,5: 22, \\ 6: 3,14: 5 \\ \text { helping }[1]-17: 11 \\ \text { helps }[2]-6: 15, \\ 15: 12 \\ \text { HEREBY }{ }_{[1]}-55: 7 \\ \text { Hicks }[13]-2: 13, \\ 3: 11,21: 22,22: 7, \\ 24: 4,25: 6,25: 16, \\ 38: 1,39: 16,40: 22, \\ 51: 11,51: 20,53: 8 \\ \text { HICKS }[11]-21: 16, \\ 22: 8,24: 5,25: 4, \\ 25: 17,38: 2,39: 17, \\ 40: 23,51: 11,51: 21, \\ 53: 9 \\ \text { hicks }[1]-25: 4 \\ \text { high }[1]-45: 13 \\ \text { higher }[5]-9: 6,9: 10, \\ 9: 11,9: 12,10: 1 \\ \text { highest }[3]-17: 22, \\ 33: 11,50: 22 \\ \text { hit }[1]-33: 4 \\ \text { holiday }[2]-29: 6, \\ 34: 10 \\ \text { home }[1]-15: 11 \\ \text { homelessness }[1]- \\ 5: 20 \\ \text { honoree }[1]-7: 7 \\ \text { hope }[1]-11: 10 \\ \text { hopefully }[2]-10: 18, \\ 30: 10 \\ \text { hospitalizations }[1]- \\ 6: 5 \\ \text { host }[1]-50: 14 \\ \text { hour }[2]-15: 4,15: 5 \\ \text { Hughes }[15]-2: 13, \\ 3: 12,22: 9,23: 18, \\ 24: 6,25: 18,38: 3, \\ 39: 18,39: 20,41: 1, \\ 41: 16,42: 6,51: 22, \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 52:1, 53:10 <br> HUGHES ${ }_{[11]}-3: 13$, <br> 22:10, 23:18, 24:7, <br> 25:19, 38:4, 39:19, <br> 41:2, 41:18, 51:23, <br> 53:11 <br> hum [1] - 32:6 <br> Human [1]-2:7 <br> Humboldt [3] - 45:5, <br> 45:10, 52:14 <br> hundred [43]-12:2, <br> 12:3, 12:12, 12:21, <br> 12:22, 12:23, 13:11, <br> 13:12, 14:3, 16:9, <br> 16:11, 17:1, 17:2, <br> 18:9, 18:19, 19:12, <br> 19:14, 19:19, 20:1, <br> 20:14, 20:17, 21:2, <br> 27:1, 27:2, 32:13, <br> 32:14, 32:19, 32:21, <br> 33:21, 34:16, 34:19, <br> 35:11, 35:20, 35:21, <br> 45:23, 46:13, 46:23, <br> 47:6, 49:9, 50:10, <br> 50:16, 50:17 <br> hunt ${ }_{[1]}-6: 9$ <br> hurt ${ }_{[1]}$ - 46:9 <br> HVAC [6] - 30:13, <br> 30:20, 30:23, 32:17, <br> 33:2, $33: 6$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |


| ```including[1] - 14:7 income[1]-21:5 incorporate [1] - 48:10 increase [3] - 15:13, 15:19, 19:23 increased [1] - 15:9 increases [2]-5:21, 34:14 incredible [1] - 16:1 indicated [5] - 27:15, 34:8, 42:6, 43:1, 43:22 individual [1]-6:22 individuals [2] - 5:17, 6:1 indoor [1]-30:19 industry [2]-7:1, 7:5 informally[1] - 5:7 information [4]- 18:18, 34:2, 46:15, 49:1 Information [1] - 2:15 informing [1] - 45:11 infrastructure [2] - 13:2, 43:16 initial [4]-19:1, 19:15, 20:13, 20:23 initiative [1]-6:15 initiatives [1] - 43:10 injuries [1] - 10:2 inspect [1]-46:1 inspections [1] - 34:13 insurance [1] - 10:2 intent [2]-43:1, 43:23 interest [4] - 17:12, 28:12, 29:17, 34:11 intervention [1] - 5:3 inventory [1]-13:16 invested [1] - 46:22 investigations [2] - 48:6, 48:8 investment [1] - 35:19 investments [2] - 35:16, 35:17 involuntary [1] - 5:23 involve[1]-51:3 involved [1] - 33:13 issue [2] - 45:12, 45:15 issues [3] - 5:15, 28:17, 48:12 item [15]-21:22, 23:2, 23:20, 24:18, 26:7, 32:9, 37:16,``` | 38:14, $38: 19,39: 7$, <br> 40:7, $41: 13,42: 13$, <br> $52: 10,53: 20$ <br> items $[8]-23: 4$, <br> 26:14, 26:18, 34:6, <br> 40:15, 42:6, 43:9, <br> $51: 13$ <br> itself $[1]-48: 1$ <br>  |  | ```March [4] - 14:23, 28:3, 28:9, 48:22 Mark [1] - 2:15 Marketplace [1] - 18:4 Mary [1] - 2:16 mass[1]-12:15 materials [1] - 45:22 matter [1] - 17:4 Matthew [1]-2:8 MBE [1] - 16:15 McFarland [2] - 32:12, 33:11 McFarland- Johnson [2] - 32:12, 33:11 meaningful [1] - 48:13 means [1] - 55:9 meeting [9]-2:19, 4:8, 11:20, 11:22, 41:20, 42:3, 43:11, 43:22, 44:17 Meeting [1] - 1:8 meetings [3] - 14:7, 14:8, 44:4 member [1] - 31:15 MEMBERS [2]-2:1, 2:10 members [3] - 14:11, 43:4, 48:15 mental [1] - 5:18 mention [3]-6:19, 12:12, 31:3 mentioned [5] - 10:7, 28:20, 30:4, 32:16, 33:6 mentioning [1] - 31:9 met [2] - 26:13, 41:19 metered [1] - 17:16 Metro [3] - 9:11, 10:12, 46:8 Michael [1] - 2:13 might [1]-28:21 Mike [1]-23:18 mile [1] - 50:3 million [11]-8:21, 8:23, 9:3, 9:4, 9:18, 9:19, 12:2, 17:6, 30:1, 30:2, 32:13 Mincom[1] - 13:13 mindful[1] - 11:4 mini [1] - 16:13 minimal [1] - 47:3 minimum [3] - 35:11, 35:20, 50:4 Minkel [1] - 2:3 MINKEL [17] - 3:5,``` | ```4:2, 4:22, 7:10, 8:5, 11:18, 25:6, 29:18, 31:6, 31:13, 31:16, 31:19, 32:4, 32:8, 39:4, 44:23, 51:4 minor [1]-26:20 minority [2] - 48:15, 49:3 minutes [2] - 4:7, 14:8 mitigating [1] - 49:7 model [2] - 5:9, 5:13 modeling [2] - 50:13, 50:18 modernize [2] - 12:7, 12:9 modifications [1] - 49:14 momentous [1] - 44:19 money [1] - 31:4 monitor [1] - 49:2 month [12]-5:1, 7:19, 8:15, 8:17, 8:18, 9:4, 9:15, 18:8, 20:3, 28:19, 44:4, 54:9 monthly [1] - 27:19 Monthly [1]-1:8 months[4]-8:19, 17:16, 33:1, 44:19 morning [2] - 41:19, 43:11 mortgage [1] - 9:15 motion [13] - 4:6, 21:12, 21:21, 23:15, 23:20, 24:23, 37:9, 38:18, 51:8, 51:13, 53:1, 54:4, 54:5 motivated [1] - 28:14 move [2] - 41:14, 44:1 moved [10] - 4:9, 21:16, 23:16, 25:2, 25:4, 37:12, 38:20, 40:11, 51:9, 52:19 movie [1] - 32:5 moving [1] - 49:16 MR [103] - 2:22, 3:7, 3:9, 3:14, 3:16, 3:18, 3:21, 3:23, 4:3, 4:17, 7:9, 8:7, 8:13, 21:21, 22:5, 22:7, 22:9, 22:11, 22:13, 22:15, 22:17, 22:19, 23:1, 23:20, 24:1, 24:3, 24:6, 24:8, 24:10, 24:12, 24:14, 24:16, 24:18, 25:11, 25:14, 25:16, 25:18, 25:20, 25:22, 26:1, 26:3,``` |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |


| $\begin{aligned} & 26: 5,26: 7,26: 16 \\ & 28: 5,28: 9,29: 1,29: 7 \end{aligned}$ | new [9] - 16:7, 18:8, 19:6. 20:19. 26:23. | O | $19: 17,20: 4$ | $23: 14$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | objection [5] - 4:19, |  |  |
| 37:22, 38:1, 38:3, | 48:23 | 24:22, 36:21, 40:10, | orders [1] - 13:16 | $\text { ying [2] - } 28$ |
| 38:5, 38:8, 38:10, | newly [1] - 31:15 | 51 | original [3] - 30:16 | 35:10 |
| 38:12, 38:14, 39:3, | next [12]-13:7 | observations [1] - | 46:6, 46:17 | people [1]-27:1 |
| 39:7, 39:12, 39:14, | 13:19, 14:18, 18:1, | 26:21 | Orlando [1] - 27:21 | per [5] - 16:8, 16:14, |
| 39:16, 39:18, 39:20, | 18:22, 28:19, 33:15, | OCC [1] - 46:16 | ought [1] - 21:11 | 18:11, 19:3, 21:1 |
| 40:1, 40:3, 40:5, 40:7, | 44:15, 47:16, 49:9, | October [6] - 17:5 | outcome [1] - 10:6 | jercent [19] - 9:3, |
| 40:15, 40:18, 40:20, | 54:9 | 18:6, 18:22, 19:19, | outstanding [1] - 8:1 | 9:5, 9:18, 9:20, 10:8, |
| 40:22, 41:1, 41:3, | NFIA [1] - 39:2 | 27:12, 42:12 | overall [1] - 10:18 | 12:12, 15:14, 15:15, |
| 41:5, 41:7, 41:9, | NFTA [5] - 17:5, | OF [2]-55:1, 55:3 offered [1] - 36:14 | overview [1] - 42:2 | $15: 16,15: 19,15: 20$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 51: 13,51: 16,51: 18, \\ & 51: 20,51: 22,52: 1, \end{aligned}$ | 54:8 | $\begin{gathered} \text { office }[6] \text { - 18:20, } \\ \text { 19:13, 19:21, 20:15, } \end{gathered}$ | $\mathbf{P}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 21: 4,33: 14,35: 22, \\ & 36: 15,48: 17 \end{aligned}$ |
| 52:4, 52:6, 52:8, | 30:2, 55:6 | $20: 21$ | p.m [1] - 44:16 | Pereira [1] - 2:15 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 52: 10,53: 1,53: 4 \\ & 53: 6,53: 8,53: 10 \end{aligned}$ | NIAGARA [3] - 1:7, | Officer [2] - 2:4, 2:15 | $44: 13$ | perhaps [1] - 21:10 |
| 53:12, 53:14, 53:16, | - 29:19 | 15:12 | page [18]-8:15, $8.17,12.20-13.8$ | 21:5, 42:9, 42:17 |
| $\begin{gathered} 53: 18,53: 20,53: 23 \\ \text { MS [17] - 3:5, 4:2, } \end{gathered}$ | Niche [2]-46:12, | offset [1] - 10:1 | $\begin{aligned} & 8: 17,12: 20,13: 8 \\ & 13: 20,14: 18,16: 5 \end{aligned}$ | 44:5 |
| $4: 22,7$ | 52:15 | 16:14, | 16:18, 18:3, 20:8, | periods [1] - 19:1 |
| $25: 6,29: 18,31: 6$ | $9: 4,9: 19,12: 2,16: 9,$ | old [1] - 46:18 | $32: 9,33: 16,34: 22$ $45: 1,47: 16,47: 22$ | Perry [11] - 2:2, 3:14, |
| $\begin{aligned} & 31: 13,31: 16,31: 19 \\ & 32: 4,32: 8,39: 4 \end{aligned}$ | 18:19, 20:13, 20:14, | ON [1] - 2:10 once [1] - 47:20 | $\begin{aligned} & 45: 1,47: 16,47: 22 \\ & 49: 9,50: 10 \end{aligned}$ | 6:12, 22:11, 24:8, |
| 32:4, 32:8, 39:4, <br> 44:23, 51:4 | 20:17, 21:6, 25:9, | once [1] - 47:20 | paid [2]-28:23, | $25: 20,26: 10,37: 17$ |
| multi [3] - 10:13 | $\begin{aligned} & 27: 12,27: 20,33: 17, \\ & 33: 22 \end{aligned}$ | one [43]-5:1, 6:19, 9:3, 9:18, 12:1, 13:11, | $50: 19$ | $38: 5,39: 21,41: 3$ |
| 13:21, 16:22 | nineteen [1] - 13:8 | $13: 20,14: 3,15: 19$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { pandemic [4]-11:1, } \\ 15: 2,35: 15,36: 4 \end{gathered}$ | $4: 9,22: 12,24: 9$ |
| multi-year [3] - | ninety [1] - 14:3 | $18: 20,19: 1,20: 1$ | $15: 2,35: 15,36: 4$ | 25:21, 26:12, 27:23, |
| 10:13, 13:21, 16:22 | ninety-three [1] | $23: 4,23: 7,23: 12$ | panels [1]-46:2 | 28:20, 29:3, 29:10, |
| music [1] - 32:5 | 14:3 | 24:20, 25:9, 27:13, | paper [1]-49:11 | 31:3, 31:14, 31:17, |
| must [1] - 7:2 | non [1] - 45:6 | 29:20, 32:12, 32:13, | paratransit [2] - <br> 50:1, 50:8 | 31:20, 32:7, 36:23, |
| MWBE [4]-14:12, | non-competitive [1] | $32: 20,34: 14,34: 23$ | 50:1, 50:8 <br> parking [1] - 9:8 | $37: 4,38: 17,40: 11$ |
| $14: 16,17: 17, ~ 47: 15$ MWBEs [1] - $17: 19$ | - 45:6 | $36: 8,36: 9,36: 23$ | parking [1]-9:8 <br> part [14]-12:5 | 41:4 |
| MWBEs [1] - 17:19 | normal [1] - 17:7 | $37: 2,37: 6,37: 8$ $37: 16.43: 15.45: 3 .$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { part [14] - 12:5, } \\ \text { 12:15, 17:20, 30:21 } \end{gathered}$ | Persico [11]-2:3, |
| Myrtle [1] - 27:18 | Notary [3]-1:17, | $\begin{aligned} & 37: 16,43: 15,45: 3 \\ & 46: 13,47: 6,47: 16 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 12: 15,17: 20,30: 21 \\ & 34: 4,34: 17,34: 21 \end{aligned}$ | $3: 16,22: 13,24: 10$ |
| N | notice [1] - 43:23 | $48: 4,48: 19,49: 10,$ | $41: 19,47: 3,47: 21$ | $39: 22,41: 5,52: 2 \text {, }$ |
| name [1] - 31:6 naming [1] - 42:1 | notoriety [1]-6:16 notwithstanding [1] | $\begin{aligned} & \text { one-year [2] - 19:1, } \\ & 36: 9 \end{aligned}$ | partially [1] - 10:1 <br> participation [5] - | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 53:12 } \\ & \text { PERSICO }{ }_{[17]}-3: 17, \end{aligned}$ |
| navigate [1] - 45:18 | $-26: 16$ | open [3]-15:1 | 14:16, 16:15, 16:16, | $4: 11,22: 14,24: 11$ |
| nearing [1] - 43:17 | vember [4] | 26:23, 44:5 | 33:12, 48:11 | $38: 7,38: 20,39: 23$ |
| necessary [1]-11:5 | $27: 12$ | opening [1] - 43:19 | particular [2] - | $40: 13,41: 6,51: 9$ |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { need [6] - 4:16, 5:18, } \\ 30: 16,39: 3,45: 18, \end{gathered}$ | $21$ | operate [1] - 13:13 | 12:11, 47:9 | 52:3, 52:19, 53:13, |
| $54: 1$ | number [28] - 12:10, | operated [1] - 36:11 | partner [1] - 6:13 <br> parts [2]-28:17, | $54: 5$ |
| needed [2] - 14:6, | 12:17, 13:8, 13:19, | $9: 13,9: 17,10: 22$ | $46: 21$ | person [1] - 31:18 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 33:6 } \\ & \text { needs [2] - 11:6, } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 16:19, 17:3, 21:10, } \\ & 21: 11,21: 15,23: 10, \end{aligned}$ | $15: 3,36: 6$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { passed [2] - 4:19, } \\ & 27: 3 \end{aligned}$ | persons [1] - 48:14 |
| $33: 3$ | 23:13, 23:20, 27:8, |  | passenger [3]-9:12, | phase [3]-43:12, |
| negotiations [1] - | $\begin{aligned} & 33: 9,33: 17,34: 11 \\ & 37: 8,38: 15,39: 7 \end{aligned}$ | opportunities $\qquad$ | $35: 13,46: 17$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 43:15, 43:19 } \\ & \text { Philip [1] - 2:14 } \end{aligned}$ |
| NEPA [2] - 44:2 | $40: 9,48: 4,48: 5,51: 2,$ | 31:11 | passengers [1] - | PHONE [1] - 2:10 |
| network [3] - 13:2, | 52:12 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { opportunity [1] - } \\ & \text { 29:21 } \end{aligned}$ | 10:13 passes [5] - 23:2 | physical [1]-27:4 |
| 41:21, 49:13 | numbers [3]-8:16, | opposed [1] - 4:14 | $24: 18,41: 13,52: 10$ | Pike [1] - 34:4 <br> PJM [2] - 36:6, 36:11 |
| $\text { NEW [1] }-55: 1$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 8:17, 36:23 } \\ & \text { NY [2] - 18:15, 20:11 } \end{aligned}$ | option [2] - 18:23, | 53:20 | PJM [2]-36:6, 36:11 place [1]-50:4 |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { New [12]-1:16, 6:20, } \\ \text { 7:1. 7:5. 12:5, 14:13. } \end{gathered}$ | NYISO [1] - 17:6 |  | past [2] - 5:7, 46:22 | plan [5]-26:19, |
| 17:19, 29:21, 30:5, | NYSDOT [1] - 12:1 | optional [1]-21:3 <br> options [3]-19:4, | patrol [2]-16:7, | $41: 21,42: 20,48: 11,$ |






