NIAGARA FRONTIER TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Monthly Board Meeting

October 28, 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 LaVonne Ansari
Commissioner Michael Hughes
Commissioner Adam Perry
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)
Steven Duquette (Chief Information Officer)
Christopher Ruminski (Manager, Financial
Planning \& Analysis)
Vicky-Marie Brunette (Deputy General Counsel)
Robert Griffin, Jr. (Metro Instructor)
Robert Oehler (Metro Operator)

MEMBERS ON THE PHONE:
Commissioner Joan Aul
Commissioner Anthony Baynes
Commissioner Rev. Mark Blue
Commissioner Margo Downey
Commissioner Wesley Hicks
Commissioner Stephen Tucker
Commissioner Philip Wilcox
Mark Pereira (Procurement Manager)

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Good afternoon. We're ready to
begin. And welcome to the Niagara Frontier
Transportation Authority and Niagara Frontier

Transit Metro Systems regular board meeting for October. And it's October 28th, 2021 .

I'm going to begin by asking Dave State to call the roll, please.

MR. STATE: Thank you, Sister. Roll call of commissioners.

Commissioner Ansari?
COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Present.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
Commissioner -- oh, I'm sorry. Commissioner Aul again?

Commissioner Baynes?
COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Here.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Blue?
Commissioner Blue once again?
Commissioner Downey?
MS. MINKEL: I think that was her.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hicks?
Commissioner Hughes?
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Here.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
COMMISSIONER PERRY: Present and accounted for.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Persico?

COMMISSIONER DOWNEY: Dave, you missed Commissioner Downey.

MR. STATE: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner. We have you now.

Commissioner Persico once again?
Commissioner Tucker?
Sister Denise?

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Here.

MR. STATE: Commissioner Wilcox?

COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Present.

MR. STATE: And I think I heard Commissioner Blue come on. Is that correct?

COMMISSIONER BLUE: Yes. And you guys all look good today.

MR. STATE: We do have a quorum, Sister.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much, Dave.

I'm going to ask for an approval to the minutes, please.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: So moved.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: And a second?

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Second.
CHAIR SISTER DENISE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Aye.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Aye.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. Now we are going to hear the executive director's report. Kim?

MS. MINKEL: Thank you, Sister. A couple of things for the board. First, I wanted to mention that staff is working very hard in trying to prepare a balanced budget. This will be discussed at the November 18 th meeting. It would then come to the board to be voted on at the December 9th meeting. Please note that because of the holidays, the Thanksgiving holiday and the December holidays, our meetings will not be on the fourth Thursday of the month. So there will not be a board meeting in November, just a budget discussion. That's on November 18 th. And a board and committee meeting on December 9 th.

The other item $I$ wanted to mention to the board. We are advancing our development of our light rail stations to help with transit oriented development. This was an initiative that we started several years ago. As a reminder, the Allen Street Station was the first station we advanced with the incorporation into the medical
corridor. So today we're moving forward with the DL and $W$ as the board awards the station portion of the work to activate this facility. Additionally, we are working with the City of Buffalo for the development of the LaSalle Station. The City of Buffalo owns the property adjacent to our station there, so we would partner with them on joint development opportunities for our LaSalle Station.

And now the best part of my job is when I get to recognize wonderful employees. And we are joined today by two incredible operators here for Metro and the NFTA. First, I want to acknowledge and recognize Robert Griffin Junior -- Mr. Griffin, if you want to stand up -- on receiving the Black Achievers Award. Mr. Griffin joined NFTA in 1998. He's been an instructor with Metro and previously was a CAP facilitator and extra clerk. He's helped with our recruiting efforts for new operators. He's always ready and willing to go the extra mile. Mr. Griffin has assisted seniors in the community and has worked with various organizations on locating missing
children, including his nephew. And, in fact, his nephew, Jaylen Griffin, was mentioned in The Buffalo News today. A young, twelve year-old man who's missing, and we hope everything goes well and he's found very quickly.

MR. GRIFFIN: Thank you.
MS. MINKEL: His manager, Barbara Thomas, is recommending him for this award and indicated that he was a great choice based upon his outstanding work he does here and for his community. So please join me in recognizing Robert Griffin Junior. Thank you, Robert.

And last week NFTA Metro operator Robert Oehler who joined the NFTA in January of 2014 received the American Red Cross Workplace Safety Hero Award, which he brought in to share with all of us.

Don't worry, you won't leave without this in your hands.

The honor was given to him after his extraordinary response to an emergency situation on the bus. And we wanted to share the video that illustrates exactly what happened back in

April of this year and really the magnitude of Robert's quick response.
(Whereupon, the following video recording was then played and transcribed.)

ROBERT OEHLER: It's very rewarding because we're transferring people from place to place, getting them where they need to go safely.

NEWS REPORTER: Robert Oehler has been an NFTA bus driver for nearly eight years.

ROBERT OEHLER: It's very exhilarating. I would recommend this career to anybody.

NEWS REPORTER: And safety of the passengers is paramount.

ROBERT OEHLER: Making sure your eyes are continuously moving, you're always checking your mirrors, checking your surroundings around your bus.

NEWS REPORTER: On April $27 t h$ it all came into play. While at a stop, Robert and another passenger
noticed a man struggling to breathe and they jumped into action.

ROBERT OEHLER: There was another gentleman passenger seated over here. He got up, he put his arms under the gentleman like this, I grabbed the gentleman's feet and we brought him up to this area of the bus where it's wider. And I just bent down and $I$ just started going on his chest like this to get him -- to get the blood flowing again, so this way he would continue -- he would start to breathe again.

NEWS REPORTER: He says he learned to do chest compressions from watching TV.

ROBERT OEHLER: I believe I was like, hey, you know, tapping him in the face, you know, hey, come on, let's go, today's not your day, you're not doing this today.

NEWS REPORTER: He then called in the emergency and crews arrived to help the man a few minutes later. Heroic actions to keep someone alive, even if Robert doesn't think so.

ROBERT OEHLER: I'm just an NFTA bus operator transporting people from point $A$ to point $B$
safely and on time, and that day safety was this gentleman's life.

NEWS REPORTER: That's why Robert Oehler is our 2021 American Red Cross Workplace Safety Real Hero.

MS. MINKEL: So Robert said he's just a bus operator and we don't think so. We think both you and Robert Griffin are really fine representatives of the Authority, so thank you for everything that you do.

And $I$ want to make certain you get this back.

MR. OEHLER: Thank you so much, Ms. Minkel.
MS. MINKEL: Thank you, Robert.
And, Sister, that concludes my report. CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Great report. Thank you very much, Kim.

We'll turn now to the NFTA corporate report, and $I$ will ask John Cox, please, to lead us through the financials.

MR. CoX: Yes. Thank you, Sister. Good afternoon,
commissioners. The information that I'll be going over is on page seven for the month of September, and page nine in your packets, and that will be on the fiscal year-to-date basis. For the month of September, 2021, which is the end of the second quarter of our fiscal year, so we're halfway through the fiscal year, we had a positive variance to budget of approximately two point five million dollars; and on a fiscal year-to-date basis we had a positive variance of approximately sixteen point five million.

Total operating revenues and assistance are above budget by approximately two point nine million dollars or sixteen point three percent for September; and twelve point six or eleven point two percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis. And that's primarily due to higher than budgeted BNIA concessions and commissions, that would be the parking, the ride sharing, taxi and food and retail revenues; due to the higher than anticipated enplanements we've been seeing and also Metro's experienced higher passenger fares. And part of it was we also had, if you recall, a
year ago we had approximately three months where fares were suspended.

State transit operating assistance was above budget, our Erie County sales tax was above budget and so was our mortgage tax. And this is both for September and on a fiscal year-to-date basis.

Total operating expenses were below budget by about one point five million or eight point four percent in September; and eight point four million or seven point nine percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis. And that's primarily due to lower personnel services, maintenance and repairs which were partially offset by higher utilities, insurance and injuries and various other puts and gets.

So with that, that's the consolidated financials so far on a year-to-date basis. And I also want to point out if you -- the bottom of the page on page nine where we have each of the business centers broken out, you'll see that we have the original year-to-date budget amount where we're showing most of them we anticipated
losses. And if you look at the next column over which is the year-to-date basis of actuals, we're actually showing positive variances to budget and actually positive -- we're not actually in a loss, we're actually in a positive situation where we're not only above budget, but we're also, you know, having surpluses.

So our variance there of sixteen and a half million dollars, $I$ just want to point out that that was -- when we put the budget together, of course that was back in February and March of last year, and at that point in time, it was very difficult to determine when recoveries were going to happen and how quickly they were going to happen. So as we've seen, we're significantly ahead of where we thought we were going to be when we put this budget initially together, so that's a very positive thing. We're not all the way back, but we're certainly doing better than what we were thinking back then.

And I also want to mention that in the November meeting, we will be bringing our forecast, so that forecast will be what we expect
for the remainder of the year given these updated trends, and also considering with the pending opening of the border with Canada which will also help out the airports also.

So with that, that's the consolidated financials for the month of September year to date.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much. And we'll move on now to the corporate resolutions, Kim, please.

MS. MINKEL: Thank you, Sister. There are seven corporate resolutions. The first one starts on page fifteen. And staff is looking for an authorization for an agreement with Stellar Services. This is for consulting services using information technology to help with our human resource capital management process. This would be an amount not to exceed a hundred and fifty thousand.

So there is a provision under our procurement guidelines that allows us to do Public Authorities Law to award -- to waive competition to minority or women-owned businesses
provided that they are in an amount not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars. So this procurement was done using that Article 25 allowance.

Stellar Services is a certified
minority-owned business and does have the relevant consulting experience for this particular work, and they will work with management to define an organizational hierarchy that will work best with modern human resource platforms in the IT world. They will help with long-term road mapping for improvements in data integrity and process automation. So staff is recommending an agreement with Stellar.

The second corporate resolution is for procurement with $U$ and $S$ Services. This is for infrared cameras for their components and for the software. It's in the amount of a hundred and fifty thousand. This is to replace the cameras that we have, a number of cameras at the airport and in our rail tunnels. This procurement is being done through an OGS contract within the state.

The third corporate resolution is an authorization for a collective bargaining agreement with our Teamsters Local 264. They represent our police captains and lieutenants. Last month $I$ was before the board and the board approved an agreement with our PBA. This agreement is similar in nature in that we are moving to a twelve-hour work schedule. And the twelve-hour work schedule does a couple of things. Number one, for the employees it allows for scheduling so that it improves the quality of their home life so that they have known days off and they can plan accordingly, but it also provides a little bit more flexibility for our operations going forward.

So their contract had not expired. Matt VanVessem, who is with us somewhere, did a great job of working with this group as he has with the other groups that we had before. So they had one year left to go for next year that has in there a two-and-a-half-percent increase, so that would remain. But, we are also providing a dollar twenty-five per hour to their base to offset
the -- and we're calling it an equity adjustment to offset the differential between the officers of PBAs and our captains and lieutenants to make certain that that gap is maintained.

Going into year two, three -- excuse me.
Year one, two and three of the agreement, year one would have a two-percent increase; year two, two-percent increase; and year three, two-and-a-half-percent increase. They will be contributing more to their health care. So effective upon ratification, they will contribute thirteen percent for health care. In ' 22 , thirteen percent; in '23, fourteen percent; in '24, fourteen percent; and in '25, fifteen percent to their health care going forward. The next corporate resolution is for a procurement with Seneca Sales, Siteone Landscape and WB Mason Company. This is for seasonal chemicals that we use for de-icing throughout the Authority. The term of the contract is for one year with an estimated total of a hundred and four thousand seventy-eight dollars split among the three different vendors.

We did go out with a bid. We did receive five responsive bids. These are the lowest price. You should know Seneca Sales was the sole bidder for sodium formate, which is more of a specialty item. Empire State Development has excluded this procurement from MWBE requirements because there are limited New York State certified providers; and, similarly, they've been excluded by the Authority for $\operatorname{SDVOB}$ requirements for this procurement.

The fifth corporate resolution is an
authorization for agreement with Loomis Armored for their services they provide for the pick-up and delivery of our cash receipts. This would be a five-year agreement that would start on November 1st. The estimated total cost of all five years is fifty-six thousand a hundred fifty-eight dollars and forty cents. They provide the pick-up and drop-off at the $M$ and $T$ Bank located in Cheektowaga and our cash deposits from our money center located here at 181.

There is additional cost depending on how many bags. If it's over ten bags daily, they
charge an excess item charge of a dollar fifty; and if the time takes more than seven minutes, they charge two fifty per minute beyond any delays they may experience at our operation.

The sixth corporate resolution on page twenty-four. Staff is recommending that the board authorize a payment for the settlement in the amount of two hundred thousand in the matter of Tommy Parker versus NFT Metro. This is the result of a rear-end motor vehicle accident that occurred on September 7th, 2018. The plaintiff was looking to make a left turn -- left-hand turn to enter the underground parking ramp over by $M$ and $T$. The bus started up, but had to stop suddenly when the vehicle in front quickly stopped. They tried to swerve but there were parked cars to the right of the bus, so the bus operator was not able to swerve to avoid the incident. The bus did sustain minor driver-side side-view mirror damage, and the SUV sustained minor damage to the right rear taillight area. This individual on his own began to see a chiropractor, a massage therapist. He also began
treatment with a local surgical practice for neck and shoulder complaints. He did have a prior neck injury. I should mention he was also not wearing his seat belt. He only missed a few days of work. At our request we did have him examined by an orthopedic doctor who observed objectively that the physical exam was completely normal and that the individual did show pre-existing extensive degenerative disease.

The plaintiff had numerous expert witnesses that were set to testify at a trial jury (sic). He also had medical professionals and an economist who was prepared to show the growth of the future medical expenses into the future. The initial demand was one point two million dollars. The plaintiff's counsel remained steadfast with that initial demand. Eventually, the judge became involved and the demand was reduced to eight hundred and fifty thousand. And after the jury was selected, an agreement to settle was achieved at two hundred thousand, subject to board approval. So we think it's in the best interest of the Authority and we're
recommending settlement.
And the final resolution is a lease agreement with John Kratz who is doing business as the Affordable Computer Solution at 247 Cayuga Road. Affordable Computer Solution has been a tenant since 2019. Their lease expires at the end of this month. They're looking for an additional term of a lease for one year that would start November 1st and two additional one-year renewals at our option. The annual rent rate will be twelve fifty per square foot or just under sixty-three hundred per year, and subject to a three-percent escalator for the remaining two years.

And those are the corporate resolutions, Sister.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: I'm going to suggest that we take number three separately and number six separately since they're of a different nature, and then we can discuss whether we will do the others together. So let's look at resolution number three first, the authorization for collective bargaining agreement with Teamsters

Local 264.
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Motion to approve.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: And second?
COMMISSIONER PERRY: Second.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Any discussion, questions? All
in favor -- or, we're going to go through David. Sorry.

MR. STATE: Roll call vote on resolution number
three.
Commissioner Ansari?
COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Blue?
COMMISSIONER BLUE: 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 Tucker?
COMMISSIONER TUCKER: Yes.
MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
MR. STATE: Any other commissioners voting on that item?

Thank you. Item passes.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And now we're going to look at number six, the lease, for recommendation. Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER PERRY: So moved.
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Second? Okay. Any questions or
comments? I will ask for a roll call vote.
MR. STATE: Roll call vote on resolution number six.
Commissioner Ansari?
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: She stepped out.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.

MR. STATE: Commissioner Blue?
COMMISSIONER BLUE: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hicks?
COMMISSIONER HICKS: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
COMMISSIONER PERRY: 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.
Commissioner Aul, do you wish to vote on
this?
COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul votes yes on that.
MS. MINKEL: Ansari.
MR. STATE: I'm sorry. Commissioner Ansari votes yes on item six.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Is there any objection to taking
numbers one, two, four, five and seven together?
COMMISSIONER PERRY: I'll move them.
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Second? Okay. Is there any
questions or any comments?
Okay. Roll call.
MR. STATE: Vote on resolution one, two, four, five and seven.

Commissioner Ansari?

COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Blue?
COMMISSIONER BLUE: 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 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 move on to the aviation business group report, and I would ask Commissioner Perry to report.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Yes, Sister. The aviation group met earlier today for a very brief meeting. Just a couple of highlights, then I'll Mr. Vanecek if he wants to add any more additional highlights from the meeting.

We spent quite a bit of time on the terminal enhancement project which, according to the schedules that we were presented, is finishing well ahead of the original schedule with construction complete in April of next year. And it looks like we're going to have a completion before Thanksgiving for which hopefully we can all give thanks.
Also, we talked extensively about the -- in
addition to the timing, we talked extensively about the cost factors and the process which the NFTA engages in under the legal standards that govern its mode of operation. And although I think staff is trying to say that we can't, we can't be as impressed as we are with this because there's all these safeguards, I totally reject that. We are -- $\operatorname{c}$ can speak for myself, and $I$ hope for all my fellow commissioners that we're impressed that we've -- that this staff has accomplished this great project ahead of schedule and in very reasonable financial terms in the middle of a pandemic all these years without any major hiccups or anything and that we're going to see a completely transformed airport that looks nothing like it did before. When people come to this airport, their already very high level of customer satisfaction is going to be matched by something that is beyond what they imagined before. So next time, we're going to also beat John Wayne International, the number one airport in all of North America. And so we did spend a lot of time on that. I think it's very
important. I think everybody should come out and look at that.

We also covered a number of items related to air service returning, the returning Canadian travelers. The expression by airlines and the moves by these airlines to continue or restart flights at the Niagara Falls International

Airport, which is very important that that airport is there and will provide service to Canadian travelers and U.S. travelers, and that through all of the financial difficulties and the concerns we had that we did our duty to keep that critical engine of economic development open throughout the pandemic with a decimated level of service and now it's here. And it's here to keep the air base operating, because as we've talked about over and over and as NIMAC has worked tirelessly for all these years to keep that base open because we need that base for our national security and for our regional economy that this is a part of that. It's the other side of the coin, to the economic development of Western New York and now it's there and we can work.

And those are just the highlights that $I$ wanted to give. Bill, is there anything else? Or, Kim, is there anything else? I don't see any resolutions.

MS. MINKEL: There's three.
COMMISSIONER PERRY: Oh, there are three? I always miss those.

MS. MINKEL: So we are spending money.
COMMISSIONER PERRY: I'm too busy talking -- anyway, so if there's anything we want to highlight other than the resolutions or just go to the resolutions.

MS. MINKEL: You know, I would just echo what you said, and thank you for your kind words. You know, I want to give accolades to John Schaefer and his team who really have done an outstanding job helping advance that terminal expansion project. And Bill Vanecek and his team in working to keep everything in order, from traffic to key parts of the operation. Really I think at the four years' end, so many people are going to be impressed when they travel in and out of Buffalo airport that's really the front door to
the Western New York community. So thank you for those kind words.

And there are three aviation resolutions. The first starts on page twenty-nine. It's an authorization for agreement with Boingo Wireless for high-speed Internet service. This would be a five-year agreement that would start on February 1st, 2022. We did issue an RFP. We only received one response and that was Boingo, who has been operating at the airport for a number of years.

So as part of the agreement, they will
furnish and install improvements to enhance the existing Wi-Fi. We talked about the new space that's at the airport. Obviously we need to make certain that we have Internet access in that new space. So they're going to invest just under fifty thousand to build that out in that new area. And this should be done within thirty to sixty days after we issue the notice to proceed for the work. And they will continue to provide unlimited free forty-five-minute Internet sessions that will require the patron to view an
approximately thirty-second advertisement. We will receive compensation equal to thirty percent of their gross revenues which is estimated to be about sixty thousand annually. And, additionally, we will be entitled to thirty percent of any additional monies that are received through the Verizon Passport, AT and T Passport or the cellular carrier fees from systems which may be installed during the term. I also want to mention as part of this agreement the established ACDBE goal was ten point one one percent, and they're committed to achieving those goals.

The second aviation resolution on page thirty-one is a change order with Allied Universal Security Services for both Buffalo airport and Niagara Falls airport. Allied Universal was awarded a five-year contract through a competitive process back in 2017 . They're responsible for the unarmed security guard services which includes traffic control at the Buffalo airport. During the project that Commissioner Perry highlighted, we did need to
have additional services to help with traffic congestion. And as part of the newly expanded west end limousine lot, that also required additional services.

Additionally, the prevailing wages increased back in July. They went from twenty-one eighty-four to twenty-two eighty-eight. So as part of the contract, they are required to provide for prevailing wage which means that we need to compensate them for that as well.

The contract with Allied Universal is in its final year, so next year we will be bringing a new agreement to the board for an armed security services going forward.

And the third resolution under aviation is an authorization for procurement with General Atomics International Services. This is for potassium acetate in the amount of three hundred and forty-two thousand a hundred and sixty-two dollars. Potassium acetate is a fluid that we use at the airports to help with de-icing. General Atomics International was the low bid. We went out for a bid for this procurement.

Empire State Development has excluded this procurement from MWBE requirements because there are no New York State certified providers for this service; and, likewise, NFTA has excluded this procurement from $S D V O B$ requirements because there are no New York State certified providers for this service.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you, Kim. I'm going to suggest we take these three resolutions as a group, unless there's an objection to that.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'll make a motion to approve all three.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Second.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. Any questions or comments on any of these resolution? If not, I'll ask David State to do a roll call vote, please.

MR. STATE: Roll call on aviation items one to three. Commissioner Ansari? COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.

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

COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Blue?
COMMISSIONER BLUE: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
COMMISSIONER PERRY: Aye.
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: Any other commissioners registering a vote on those items?

Item passes.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. Thank you all. Surface transportation now, and I look to Mike Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you, Sister. Surface transportation committee meeting did occur this morning. We were part of the abbreviated meeting structure. The meeting was highlighted by the

2021 onboard survey, the summary of findings, which the survey occurs about every three years.

Tom, $I$ don't know if you want to talk in more detail about Metro initiatives or your performance goals and measures and $I$ know you did talk about the community and stakeholder meetings that occurred this past month.

MR. GEORGE: Yeah. Just a couple of items. Under the initiatives, we are rolling out our new service in Niagara Falls on December 5th of this year, and as part of that, we've got a major initiative going on for public information that will include both website information, handouts on the bus, rider alerts, but also starting on the Friday before, on December 3rd, we'll have staff at both the Niagara Falls Transportation Center, the Portage Road Transportation Center, to help our passengers with the information on the changes. And that will continue on through to the Wednesday following the changes that will be put in place. We also talked a little bit about the light rail extension and the public scoping process
that's associated with the federal initiative, and the DEIS that's going on in that public scoping. The public scoping comment period is now closed and we'll be moving forward completing the draft environmental impact statement.

And then the third initiative discussed today was the DL and $W$. We're nearing completion on the phase one of that project which includes all of the infrastructure, the track work, the catenary. And I'm pleased to say that at today's meeting, you will be asked to review a board action to approve a contract for the second phase which includes all of the stations. And I'm sure Kim will go into that in more detail.

I did have a discussion with the board as well about our paratransit service and we've seen a spike in the complaints. And we talked at length about how our operator shortage has really created an environment where we're having to put more people on the vehicles and extend the length of those trips. It's putting stress on our operators as well as our passengers, and this really highlights the challenges that we're
seeing relative to the operator shortage.
And then $I$ did go through the CAC and AAC reports. And I'd like to say that today at two-thirty, we have our AAC committee meeting and we're initiating a workshop by which we'll be doing a work plan for that group moving forward to focus on initiatives for them. And our CAC meeting is for November 18 th.

And the last thing I'd just like to note relative to the onboard survey is that it is on our website. We did go through some of the high-level details. There's an enormous amount of information in there that really tells the story about what our customers see, our demographics, where they're going and how they're using our system, and that's really being heavily used by our planning staff to put our service in place and try to address the community's needs.

And that's my report.
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Barring any other questions, that will conclude the surface committee report, and there are six items for approval.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Okay. The resolutions, Kim.

MS. MINKEL: Thanks. There are six surface items. The first one starts on page thirty-seven. Staff is recommending that the board award design services to $M$ and E Engineering for a total lump sum amount of a hundred and forty-six thousand two hundred and forty-seven dollars. This is for the replacement of the conduit and wiring under our Summer/Best Station loading platform within Metro.

Staff did go out and issue an RFP. We did receive a number of responses. I will highlight the scoring which is on page thirty-eight.

M and E scored the second highest. Mott
MacDonald scored the highest; however, we were not able to come to an agreement with Mott MacDonald on the design fee in line with the engineer's estimate. The engineer's estimate was a hundred and forty-three thousand, and there was a significant discrepancy. So consistent with our qualification based procurement guidelines, we then went to the second highest ranked qualified technical proposer which is $M$ and E Engineering, and we're recommending them to
provide for this work.
The second surface resolution is an award for a construction contract to Mark Cerrone in a total lump sum bid amount, which is the base bid plus the alternate number one, of sixteen million three hundred fifty-one thousand five hundred and six dollars and fifty cents. This is for the phase two work that Tom had mentioned just a moment ago. So this is to incorporate the station into our $D L$ and $W$ facility. So this will provide a new station boarding platform area with access to the Buffalo Riverwalk, the east stair elevator tower located on South Park and Illinois Avenues, and connection along the DL and $W$ second floor between the east stair elevator tower and the boarding platform area.

The established -- the MWBE and SDVOB goals were six percent, twelve percent and four percent. Cerrone has identified their MBE participation as one point seven one percent and WBE participation as just under one percent. Cerrone has indicated that they would be applying for a partial waiver of the established goals.

Cerrone identified their SDVOB participation as point four five percent and indicated that they would also be submitting a partial waiver because there are insufficient construction services providers to satisfy the stated goals.

On the design support and construction monitoring contract that staff is asking the board to award to Mott MacDonald for a cost plus fixed fee not-to-exceed amount of two million four hundred forty-seven thousand six hundred and forty-three dollars would be to support the design and construction monitoring. $M$ and $M$ was the design for this work early on. The board had awarded that design portion back in 2017. The MWBE and SDVOB goals were sixteen percent, fourteen percent and three percent, respectively; and $M$ and $M$ has identified their $M B E$ participation as eleven point three percent, their WBE participation at just under nineteen percent, and their $S D V O B$ participation as three point eight four percent.

On page forty-three, staff is recommending a change order number ten with Mark Cerrone on the

DL and $W$ station rail system and site work project for phase one as Tom had identified earlier. The change order would be in the amount of a hundred and ninety-eight thousand six hundred and seventy-one dollars and sixty-four cents. This is for two components. The first is to demolish the special events station. So that represents just under a hundred and ten thousand of the change order. This was an oversight on the staff's part. We didn't think about taking down what was there. And when we were out there, I think Tom saw it and said, you know, I think we need to take that down. So we're asking for a change order to do that work. The second component, just over eighty-nine thousand is to address the differing and varying site conditions that were encountered out there as part of the work.

The fourth resolution is a change order with Patterson-Stevens. This is for a fastener and pad project phase ten. This is to increase the amount by five hundred fifty-one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five dollars. This is really
based on adjusted quantities to go a little bit further down the line to fix the worn, corroded rails and the fastening system and to do the selected tunnel crown repairs to improve the reliability and safe operations of our rail.

The fifth resolution is also a change order. This is with DCB Elevator. And this is for the station elevator controller replacement project for them to replace and upgrade the elevator doors throughout the eighteen elevators that we have in our underground stations. The change order would increase DCB Elevator's construction contract by two hundred and ninety-five thousand sixty dollars and eighty cents. There's a fair amount of corrosion and deterioration out there in the system. They are used quite extensively. So this is to do that work out in our rail system.

And then the final resolution in surface is an agreement with Lucchini. This is for wheels on our light rail vehicles. A hundred and forty wheels. It would be a two-year agreement with a total two-year aggregate cost of a hundred and
fifty-four thousand dollars. Staff did go out with a competitive bid. We did receive five responses. Lucchini was the lowest cost and one of the lowest in terms of turnaround time in providing these wheels. These wheels are needed for service reliability and safety for our railcars.

Lucchini, however, does not meet the New York State Buy America requirements, so staff is asking the board to waive those requirements based on safety and reliability of the system. The two companies who could meet the Buy America requirements require a lead time of thirty-nine and forty-five weeks, compared to the twenty-three-week delivery for Lucchini. And as I had mentioned before, Lucchini was at a significantly lower cost, a hundred and fifty-four thousand versus the three hundred and fifteen thousand or three hundred and ninety-six thousand to meet the requirements. I should also mention Lucchini did receive a positive review from another New York transportation agency, the MTA, which uses the wheels both at their Metro

North and their Long Island Railroad System.
Empire State Development has excluded this procurement from MWBE requirements because there are no New York State certified providers of this product; and, similarly, SDVOB requirements have also been excluded.

And those are the resolutions, Sister.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much. Is there anyone who would like to take any of these resolutions separately?

COMMISSIONER PERRY: I'd like to abstain on three of them.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: You want to abstain?
COMMISSIONER PERRY: On three of them.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Okay.
COMMISSIONER PERRY: Which I could specify when you want.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Okay. Any other comments?
Okay. May $I$ have a motion to look at all six at one time?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'll make a motion to approve one through six.

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

COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Second.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER AUL: Joan Aul. Second.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Okay. And I'll ask for a roll
call vote, remembering Commissioner Perry.
MR. STATE: Roll call vote on items one through six.
Commissioner Perry, why don't we ask you
just -- can you give us the abstentions now?
COMMISSIONER PERRY: Two, three, six.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry is abstaining on two,
three and six. Thank you.
Roll call vote on items one through six.
Commissioner Ansari?
COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Blue?
COMMISSIONER BLUE: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.
MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?

COMMISSIONER PERRY Aye, except to abstaining on two, three, six. Affirmative to the remainder.

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: Items passes.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much. Do we have
a general counsel report?
MR. STATE: We do, Sister. Right before the previous meeting minutes tab, there's some blue sheets that are the general counsel's report. We always like to advise the board of upcoming trials. So there are two jury trials scheduled in December, both motor vehicle accidents. And one is before Judge Ogden and that's being handled by John DePaolo from our staff; and the other is in front of Judge Walker and that is being handled by Vicky. We will keep the board updated. As you know, as these cases get closer to the jury pick or sometimes during the jury pick, there could be
developments. Settlement discussions tend to get more focused, motions, et cetera. We'll keep the board updated on this.

And that concludes the report.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. Any questions?
Is there a need for an executive session?
MR. STATE: No, Sister.
CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Okay. It's time for a motion for adjournment.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: SO moved. COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second. CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: I think we'll skip the vote.

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.



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