
NIAGARA FRONTIER TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY Monthly Board Meeting July 23, 2020

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:
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        Commissioner Adam Perry (Presiding over meeting)
        Commissioner Michael Hughes
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        Commissioner Wesley Hicks
        Kimberley Minkel (Executive Director)
4
        David State (General Counsel)
        John Cox (Chief Financial Officer)
5
        William Vanecek (Director, Aviation)
        Tom George (Director, Public Transit)
6
        John Schaefer (Director, Engineering)
        Darren Kempner (Manager, Government Affairs)
        Helen Tederous (Director, Public Affairs)
        Darlene Jaeger (Assistant to Executive Director)
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        MEMBERS ON THE PHONE:
        Chair Sister Denise Roche
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        Commissioner LaVonne Ansari
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        Commissioner Joan Aul
        Commissioner Anthony Baynes
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        Commissioner Bonita Durand
        Commissioner Margo Downey
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        Commissioner Charles Gurney
        Commissioner Philip Wilcox
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        Steve Duquette (Chief Information Officer)
        Karen Novo (Director, Human Resources)
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17
               Good afternoon, Commissioners.
   MR. STATE:
                                                  We'll do
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        the roll call to make sure we have a quorum.
            Commissioner Ansari?
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    COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Present.
21
   MR. STATE:
                Aul?
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    COMMISSIONER AUL:
                       Here.
23
   MR. STATE:
                Baynes?
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1
            Demakos?
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   MS. MINKEL: Peter, was that you?
3
   MR. STATE: Commissioner Demakos?
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            Commissioner Downey?
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   COMMISSIONER DOWNEY: Here.
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   MR. STATE: Commissioner Durand?
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    COMMISSIONER DURAND: Present.
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   MR. STATE: Commission Gurney?
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            Commissioner Hicks?
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            Commissioner Hughes?
    COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Here.
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   MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
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   COMMISSIONER PERRY: Here.
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   MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
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   CHAIR SISTER ROCHE:
                        Here.
              And Commissioner Wilcox?
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   MR. STATE:
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   COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Here.
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   MR. STATE: Okay. So that does give us seven, and
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       that's a quorum, Mr. Chair.
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    COMMISSIONER PERRY: Okay. So just a reminder,
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       especially when we're taking votes -- and the
22
       general counsel will also verify this. When
23
       we're calling the roll -- when he's calling the
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roll, when everyone speaks, just make sure they repeat their name before they start speaking so we know who it is for the record.

The general counsel has advised that a quorum is present pursuant to the bylaws, and I'm going to call the meeting to order. This meeting of July 23, 2020 of the NFTA Board of Commissioners.

And at this point, I am physically present in the room, as is Commissioner Hughes, but other commissioners, as noted, are present electronically through speakerphone. And I've agreed to preside over this meeting. So I'm going to ask for -- and I may do this more than once. I'm going to ask for unanimous consent, meaning that if you have an objection, so state it. If you don't have an objection, we will pause and then determine that we have unanimous consent, in other words without objection, to a few matters that we're going to go through.

So I'm going to ask for unanimous consent that I preside over this meeting of July 23, 2020. And asking for unanimous consent?

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And hearing no objections, I will so serve
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 2
       as presiding over this particular meeting.
 3
            And the first matter is the approval of the
       June 25, 2020 regular meeting minutes. So I need
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5
       a motion to approve the minutes.
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    COMMISSIONER HUGHES: So moved.
    COMMISSIONER PERRY: By Commissioner Hughes.
8
            And we need a second.
    COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Second. Commissioner Wilcox.
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10
    CHAIR SISTER DENISE: Second. Sister Denise.
11
    COMMISSIONER PERRY: I heard Commissioner Wilcox
12
       first with a second. We have a motion and a
13
       second.
14
            Do we want to do unanimous consent, Mr.
15
       General Counsel?
16
   MR. STATE:
                That's what I would recommend.
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    COMMISSIONER PERRY: All right. Very well. So since
18
       we have a motion and a second, I'm going to ask
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       for unanimous consent that the referenced meeting
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       minutes be approved. And if there are no
       objections?
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22
            That motion carries by unanimous consent.
23
       And the meeting minutes of the June 25, 2020
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meeting are approved.

And by the way, I didn't call for discussion on that particular one, but obviously any members who have discussion or any opposition can certainly jump in and say that.

And I want to move right along to the executive director's report and turn it over to Executive Director Minkel.

MS. MINKEL: Thank you. A couple of things for the board. Since we did not have committee meetings earlier today, as a reminder I sent all the information that you would normally receive in your committee packages, all the various metrics, performance, to keep the board up to date.

That's also posted on our website. But, there are a couple of things that I want to call attention -- call to your attention.

One is safety and security, which always remains paramount in everything that we do.

Despite some of the challenges during the pandemic, our injuries and illnesses are down.

We have a six-percent reduction in reportable injuries. Lost time days are also down. And the

number of lost time injuries remain the same as what they were last year. This is important because we have in your report our quarterly reports for Workers' Comp. And for the first quarter of the year, we only have nineteen Workers' Comp. claims, which is very low and very noteworthy, because as we try to control costs, as we are losing operating assistance and revenue, it's really important that we do everything that we can to control those costs. So I wanted to make mention of those that are in your report.

I also wanted to make mention that our diversity council is focused and engaged. They are focusing on three main initiatives this year in support of our overall strategic plan. The three areas are hiring and promotions; training, particularly as it relates to social ethics; and then the third area is celebrating cultures. So that's going to be the focus throughout the year. They're hard at work and they're very engaged, and we're very excited about their work and what this means to the Authority.

I also wanted to mention to the board that we are still desperately trying to schedule our police exam. We are anticipating that it's going to be broken up over several days with several different sessions. We have over thirteen hundred applicants who want to take the exam, and in the pandemic world, it's difficult to schedule all thirteen hundred, so we're trying to find locations and be able to administer this in a safe way.

There is no meeting in August, so the next scheduled meeting for the board will be -- for our board meeting and committee meetings will be on Thursday, September 24th.

And then two things -- two other things for the board. I wanted to make mention that we were notified yesterday by the American Public Transportation Association that the NFTA Metro is going to be recognized as the winner of the APTA's 2020 rail safety and security gold award for light rail. That's the highest honor that you can get. I already mentioned about how important safety and security is to our

organization, so I'm incredibly proud of the great work that Metro, particularly the light rail, is doing when it comes to safety and security.

The award will be given to us on March 20,
'21 at the APTA Expo, so more to come at a later
date. I'll be bringing in some individuals that
we will recognize who helped contribute to this
award, so we're very excited about that.

And then, finally, I wanted to recognize

Darlene Jaeger. This is her last board meeting.

We will be having an open house for her on August

20th, so any board member -- I'll send out more

details -- who want to stop by and wish her well.

She's calling it a wake, but that's not a fair

assessment. It's a celebration. We're going to

miss her smiling face. She's always been very

helpful to all of us over the years. So we wish

her a very healthy, safe, happy, and long

retirement. So thank you, Darlene.

MS. JAEGER: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Ms. Minkel?

23 MS. MINKEL: Yes?

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1
   COMMISSIONER HICKS: Hi. It's Wesley Hicks.
                                                  Ι
2
       wanted to let you know that I signed in.
                                                  First,
       congratulations to Darlene. I wanted to let you
3
4
       know that I'm going to sign off and probably come
5
       down to the meeting in person. Okay?
6
   MS. MINKEL:
                Oh, that would be wonderful.
7
   COMMISSIONER HICKS: All right. So I'll see you
8
       shortly. Thank you very much.
9
   MS. MINKEL: Okay. Thanks, Wes.
10
   COMMISSIONER PERRY: It sounded like we had two
11
       people join in during your report. Commissioner
       Hicks and?
12
13
   MS. MINKEL: Did someone else join?
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   COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes. Anthony Baynes.
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   MS. MINKEL:
                 Great. Thank you, Anthony.
16
   COMMISSIONER BAYNES: You're welcome.
17
   MS. MINKEL: And that concludes my report.
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   COMMISSIONER PERRY: Thank you, Executive Director.
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            And moving on now to the NFTA corporate
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       report, and the activities of the audit,
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       governance and finance committee and that report,
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       which is going to be -- are we going to go first
23
       to Mr. Cox for the financials?
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1 MS. MINKEL: The financials, yes.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: So we'll start with CFO John Cox for the financials.

MR. COX: Yes. Thank you. Good afternoon, commissioners. If you could refer to page nine in your packet. For the month of June, 2020, we had a negative variance to budget of thirty-five thousand dollars; and on a year-to-date basis, it was a negative variance to budget of nineteen thousand dollars.

Total operating revenues and assistance were below budget by one point four million or seven point two percent for June; and on a year-to-date basis, it was four point six million or seven point six percent. And June was the end of the first quarter of our fiscal year.

Now, the revenue shortfalls were primarily due to Metro passenger fares had a negative variance to budget for the month of June of two point nine million or ninety-six percent. And I'll just point out that we reinstituted fares on June 29th, so there were two days where we were actually collecting fares in the month of June.

And on a year-to-date basis, we have a negative variance on fares of nine point one million or ninety-nine percent year to date.

Our STOA. We actually last week received our first STOA payment. Versus budget, it was reduced by twenty-seven percent, so we adjust our numbers. We were originally estimating a negative -- a reduction of twenty-five percent, so for the month of June, that was one point eight million dollars; and year-to-date, that's four point two million dollars. And if that were to continue on an annual basis, that would be a reduction of sixteen point eight million dollars.

And as I've said in prior meetings, of course, you know, the state -- without action at the federal level as far as, you know, additional funds being made available to help out states and local governments -- I believe that there's some talk of that. It's hard to tell whether we would see further reductions or whether it would maintain at this level or possibly some either restoration or full restoration, but I think that's all dependent on action at the federal

level.

Now, BNIA revenues, one point eight million or thirty-three percent below budget in June; and on a year-to-date basis, six million dollars or thirty-five percent below budget.

NFIA revenues were one hundred and sixty-six thousand or seventy-four percent below budget in June. On a year-to-date basis, it was five hundred and twenty-six thousand or sixty-six percent. And these revenue shortfalls have been partially offset by CARES Act funding that we received from both the FTA and the FAA. And we used approximately five point one million in June, and that would be sixteen point three million year to date.

Our total operating expenses were below budget by one point seven million or ten percent; and on a year-to-date basis, it was below budget by four point eight million or nine percent. And this is primarily due to lower expenses across the board due to reductions in cost via delayed purchases and cost controls. Of course the exceptions being any operationally critical or

safety-sensitive expenditures that we have to incur, and also with favorable pricing for commodities, again, because of the lower demand of diesel, gasoline and natural gas.

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And just as -- you know, as I have been in past months, to put it into perspective just how important the CARES Act assistance is for both Metro, the two airports and the NFTA as a whole, it really has been a financial lifeline. Without it, during the month of June, we would have recognized a five point one million dollar negative variance to budget and it would have been a three point nine million dollar budget --I mean -- I'm sorry. Not budget, but deficit in the budget in the month of June. And on a year-to-date basis, we would be looking at a sixteen point four million dollar negative variance to budget and thirteen point one million dollar deficit.

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

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Any questions for Mr. Cox?

Anybody on the phone?

Hearing none, we have, it looks likes from the agenda, seven resolutions that the executive director will go through for us.

MS. MINKEL: Yes. Thank you, Adam.

So starting on page seventeen of the attachments that I sent out to you. The first corporate resolution, staff is looking for a renewal agreement with Insight Public Sector for our Adobe license. This would be at a cost of twenty-six thousand three hundred and sixty-six dollars and one cent per year. This would be a three-year term. By doing a multi-year term, we are able to lock in and save money.

There are a number of resolutions you may have noticed last month, the month before and this month where we are trying to lock in so that we can ensure either no increases or budget certainty, or even better yet, savings going forward. And since they're multi-year agreements, they come to the board. So this is an example of one of those.

The next resolution on page eighteen is a network agreement with Verizon Wireless. This is

at a cost of five thousand per month for thirty-six months. Again, another way to lock in. The actual cost will be somewhat dynamic. It will be based on the bandwidth allocation that we're actually using, so it will range anywhere between twenty-five hundred and forty-five hundred per month. And, again, this is a three-year agreement.

The next corporate resolution on page
nineteen is a maintenance agreement with ABB
Enterprise Software. This is our annual
maintenance agreement for our Ellipse system.
The amount is one hundred and twenty-nine
thousand three hundred and eighty-three dollars
and seven cents, or a two point two percent
increase over last year's maintenance software
agreement.

On page twenty, staff is looking for the board to authorize a lease agreement with Reef Creations for space at 485 Cayuga. They've been a tenant with us since 2017. The lease is for space at 485 Cayuga, a little over fifty-four hundred square feet of light industrial space and

five hundred and thirty-one square feet of storage space. The initial rent would be seven ninety-eight per square foot for the industrial space and a little over four dollars per square foot for the storage space, or forty-five thousand three hundred and thirty dollars per year. We are including a three-percent escalator for a three-year term that would expire on September 30th, 2023.

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The fifth corporate resolution is an authorization for an amendment. This is amendment number five with Recovery Management Solutions for space at 485 Cayuga. And in the resolution we included the various amendments over the past several years, along with the original lease. And as you can see, the space needed has grown over this time. They currently lease a little over eleven thousand five hundred square feet. They are looking to add an additional one thousand forty-eight square feet under their existing lease. The term would be the same, at the same rate, ten dollars and seventeen cents for two months, and then after

that, once it's in sync with the previous other amendment, it would be subject to a three-percent escalator come November. This additional space does not require any build-out work. So this will bring their annual lease up to a hundred and twenty-six thousand three hundred and sixty-five dollars to the Authority.

On page twenty-two, staff is looking for a lease agreement with Ivergent at 247 Cayuga Road. They've been a tenant since 2015. They're looking to continue to lease four hundred and ninety-four square feet of class C office space. The initial term of the lease would start from September and go through February at a rate of twelve dollars and seventy-five cents per square foot for eighteen months, and then after that, there would be a three-percent annual increase. This will have a four-year term, subject to our approval.

And the final resolution is an authorization for a lease agreement with J and G Merchandise, also at 247 Cayuga Road. They've been a tenant with us since 2016. They currently lease a

little over two thousand square feet of class C light industrial space and a hundred and fifty-two square feet of storage space. The initial rent for this would be ten dollars and twenty-five cents per square foot, and three dollars and eighty-five cents per square foot for the storage space, or twenty-one thousand seven hundred and twenty dollars per year. This would also have a three-percent annual escalator. That would expire on August, 2021. And they would also have the option for two additional one-year leases with our approval.

And those are the corporate resolutions.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Okay. I'd like to start with a motion just by unanimous consent to take the seven resolutions as a single batch. So I need a motion for that.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: So moved.

19 COMMISSIONER PERRY: And a second?

20 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Second. Sister Denise.

21 | COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Second. Anthony Baynes.

22 COMMISSIONER PERRY: We'll give that one to Sister

Denise for the second. That was a toss-up, jump

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ball.
1
            And then I'm going to say -- this is
3
       unanimous consent, so if you have an objection,
 4
       state it; otherwise, we're going to move on to
5
       taking it as a batch. Any objections?
 6
            Hearing no objection, we're going to take
       them as a batch by unanimous consent.
8
            Now I need a motion to approve the seven
       resolutions.
9
10
    COMMISSIONER HUGHES: So moved.
11
    COMMISSIONER PERRY: By Commissioner Hughes.
12
            And a second?
13
   COMMISSIONER AUL: Joan Aul. Second.
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   COMMISSIONER PERRY: Okay. We have a motion and a
15
       second.
                Any questions? Any discussion?
16
            Hearing none, Mr. General Counsel, are you
17
       going to call the roll now?
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   MR. STATE: Yes, Chair.
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    COMMISSIONER PERRY: Excellent.
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   MR. STATE:
              Commissioner Ansari?
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   COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
22
   MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
   COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
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- 1 MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
- 2 COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.
- 3 MR. STATE: Commissioner Durand?
- 4 COMMISSIONER DURAND: Yes.
- 5 MR. STATE: Commissioner Hicks?
- 6 Commissioner Hughes?
- 7 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.
- 8 MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
- 9 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Yes.
- 10 MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
- 11 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
- 12 MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
- 13 COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
- 14 MR. STATE: Any other commissioners wishing to vote
- that I have not called?
- 16 | COMMISSIONER GURNEY: Sam Gurney. Yes.
- 17 MR. STATE: Thank you, Commissioner Gurney. Anyone
- 18 else?
- 19 Item passes.
- 20 | COMMISSIONER PERRY: And those resolutions pass as a
- 21 batch. And also noting that now Commissioner
- 22 Gurney is here, so it looks like we have ten in
- 23 total.

And so we're going to move on now to the aviation business group report. And because of the mode we're operating in, I'm going to ask if Mr. Vanecek wouldn't mind taking us through the agenda.

MS. MINKEL: Highlights.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Yes. With the highlights,

8 please.

9 MR. VANECEK: Just the highlights?

10 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Yes.

MR. VANECEK: Highlights. Okay. Highlights or lowlights, depending on how you look at it I quess.

We'll look at -- first, we'll start with BNIA and the enplanement numbers. So we had budgeted about two hundred and sixteen thousand. We got thirty -- just under thirty-five thousand for the month of June, which was eighty-four percent less than budget. And year to date we were six hundred and fifty-seven thousand six eighty-one last year. And we're at fifty-seven thousand one eighty-nine this year. That's a ninety-one percent decrease on the enplanement

numbers.

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If you look at Niagara Falls, similar, similar numbers there. Not quite as bad, but they were -- last year budget we had -- or, last year enplanements were seven thousand six twenty-two and we're at two thousand three ninety-two so it's about a seventy-percent decrease. And year to date was twenty-nine thousand six sixty-six. We're at four thousand two fifty-two and that's eighty-six percent down. So those are the highlights. And of course those are driving significant budget challenges for us as we're significantly down in all of our revenue lines. And, you know, until traffic picks up, we're just going to continue to try to keep the expenses as low as possible. We have done a good job of that. We have no overtime, reducing costs So we're holding our own, but wherever we can. we're also being supplemented, as John Cox mentioned, with some of the CARES Act funding that we need. So those would be the highlights of that end of the operation. Are there any questions?

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Any questions from anybody on the phone for Mr. Vanecek on those highlights?

And hearing none, thank you very much.

And now I'd like to ask the executive director to take us through the two resolutions that we have.

MS. MINKEL: Great. Thank you.

There are two resolutions within aviation starting on page twenty-six of the material that I sent you. The first one, staff is recommending a change order to Pike Company's construction contract. This is a three hundred and thirty-eight thousand one hundred and three dollar increase. That will revise the contract value to fifty-three million seven hundred and eighty-four thousand three hundred and seventy dollars.

As part of this change order, there are essentially a couple different components that are driving this. The first, about half of the change order is related to varying site conditions. So when you get out there and you start doing construction, sometimes things aren't

as you anticipate, either the existing as-built drawings that we had were not correct from the previous terminal installation or you find site conditions, you strike oil when you don't intend to, so to say. So a hundred and sixty-five thousand eight hundred and ninety-six dollars are related to those type of situations.

And then there's two hundred and twenty-one thousand that are related to design inconsistencies. So as part of the design work that had been done, there were some errors and omissions. To date we have gone back after, for design support, and we have received two hundred and twenty-seven thousand value of rework as it relates to that. So we are holding them responsible and accountable for those design inconsistencies.

And then we do have a component of enhancements. So when you're out there, sometimes you see opportunity for improvements.

And the enhancements are twenty-seven thousand four hundred and nineteen dollars. And this is for low-profile barriers that we decided we could

keep and reuse, so we wanted to buy those as part of this project.

There were also seventy-seven thousand dollars worth of cost reductions that are included as part of this change order.

The second resolution within aviation is on page thirty-two. And this is for our landing fee tariff at the Buffalo Airport. So our landing fee tariff is cost compensatory at the Buffalo Airport. It's more arbitrary at the Niagara Falls Airport. And as you can imagine, the landing weights have been greatly reduced. Bill already went through the decline in enplanements that we saw year to date, ninety-one percent decline, which is certainly significant.

MR. VANECEK: And approximately fifty percent of flights.

MS. MINKEL: Fifty percent, yeah.

So last year our landing rates -- we are recommending a landing rate that is three dollars and seventy-one cents higher than last year or a seventy-six percent increase. Slightly less than that from the previous year. This would be a

sixty-four percent increase over two years ago. 1 2 So staff is recommending an eight dollar and 3 fifty-eight cents per thousand pounds of gross certified landing weight; and for the 4 5 non-signatory carriers, a rate of ten dollars and 6 seventy-three cents per thousand pounds. has been communicated to the airlines, so they 8 understand the challenge. The rate would be 9 effective July 1st of this year and would go through June -- the end of June of next year. 10 11 Certainly we hope that next year we will be coming to the board with a much lower landing fee 12 13 tariff. But, this is something that all airports 14 across the U.S. and probably across the world are 15 having to contend with at the moment. 16 And those are the two resolutions in 17 aviation. 18 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: May I? 19 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Yes, please, Commissioner 20 Hughes. 21 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Just on the change order -- I 22 don't know if it's Bill or Kim. Whether it's 23 five percent, two percent, it's still a million

dollars. How are we feeling about Pike these
days in terms of accountability and getting this
done? This is at least the second, if not maybe
the third change order that we've had to vote on.

- MR. VANECEK: I think they're doing a great job out there, quite frankly. And, you know, these were really -- a big chunk of these were unforeseen conditions, a lot of it. And then the other piece of it is the design deficiencies which --
- 11 COMMISSIONER AUL: I'm sorry. This is Joan Aul. We
 12 can't hear Bill's response. I'm sorry.
 - MR. VANECEK: Oh, I'm sorry. So the question was, how are we feeling about Pike Corporation as our general contractor for the construction of the job. And I'm saying I think they're doing a really good job. Again, some of these were unforeseen, you could not have anticipated them because they weren't showing up on as-builts anywhere. So when they hit something, they have to then address that. So that was I think about a hundred and sixty-five, a hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars there.

The other ones were design inconsistences. 1 2 So Jacobs is our design, and so John Schaefer has 3 been doing a great job of working with them to 4 get value for those design inconsistencies. 5 then the other ones were smaller pieces, so --6 MS. MINKEL: Yeah. And to put it in perspective, a 7 million dollars is a lot --COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah. But I know change orders 8 9 are the norm in this world. 10 MS. MINKEL: Change orders are the norm. Typically, 11 you're anywhere between five to ten percent of 12 the project. We're at two percent now. 13 Schaefer and his team are doing an excellent job. 14 I think they think it's their money. I mean, 15 they are very careful about every dime that's 16 being spent out there. 17 MR. VANECEK: And along with that, I mean, they've 18 still been able to keep the schedule, which is I 19 think really important when they have come across 20 these unknown factors, it's still a pretty --21 they're almost dead on schedule, correct? 22 MR. SCHAEFER: Yes. And if you don't mind me adding 23 on this topic?

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   MR. VANECEK: No. Please.
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   MR. SCHAEFER:
                   So it's a great point about -- it's
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       about two, a little over two percent, and we're
       just over a third of the project. Just using big
4
5
       numbers for the discussion purposes, a third of
       the way, multiply by three, puts it at about six
6
       percent what we're trending to. So on any
8
       project, we're happy anywhere under ten, ten or
       under. So the trend, if you will, is okay.
9
       number is still big, we're still doing our best
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11
       to keep it down, but when you put it in
       perspective of the project, it's still within the
12
13
       norm.
14
    COMMISSIONER HUGHES:
                         Okay.
                                 Thanks.
15
    COMMISSIONER PERRY:
                        Thank you.
16
            Any other questions from the phone?
17
                         Yes.
                                This is Bonnie Durand.
    COMMISSIONER DURAND:
            On the second resolution, has that already
18
       been implemented? I thought I heard that it was
19
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       effective July 1st and that the carriers had
       already been informed of it. So is that already
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MS. MINKEL: Yes, that is true. Although, I don't

in place or did I misunderstand?

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- believe they've been invoiced yet at this point
 so --
- MR. VANECEK: That's correct. They pay the landing fees in the subsequent month, so July's payment will happen in August.
- 6 MS. MINKEL: In August, right.
- 7 MR. VANECEK: But they have been informed. We had a phone teleconference with all the airlines participating, so they are ready to pay it.
- 10 COMMISSIONER DURAND: Okay. So this does not require
 11 board approval before you start to act on it. Is
 12 that what I'm hearing?
- 13 MR. VANECEK: No. We should approve it now.
- 14 MS. MINKEL: No, it does require board approval.
- But, they would be invoiced at the end of this

 month, so -- and of course, the rate, it would be

 effective July 1st.
- 18 COMMISSIONER PERRY: But technically we could vote
 19 against it if we --
- MS. MINKEL: Right. And I don't think it's
 technically a ratification that I'm bringing to
 the board. Right? It's kind of a gray area.
- 23 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Well, I think we'll be fine

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voting on it.
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            Any other questions or comments?
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             Then I'd like to take the two resolutions as
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       a batch and request that that be done by
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       unanimous consent. So I need a motion to take
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        the two as a batch.
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            Commissioner Hughes?
    COMMISSION WILCOX: So moved. Commissioner Wilcox.
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    COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second.
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    COMMISSIONER PERRY: You've got that.
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            And then by unanimous consent -- if there
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       are any objections?
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            Hearing no objections, we will take them as
14
       a batch. So I need a motion to approve the two
15
       resolutions.
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    COMMISSIONER HUGHES: So moved.
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   COMMISSIONER PERRY: By Commissioner Hughes.
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            And a second?
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    COMMISSIONER GURNEY: Sam Gurney.
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    COMMISSIONER PERRY: By Commissioner Gurney.
            And any further discussion or questions on
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22
       these two resolutions?
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            Hearing none, we can call the roll.
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- 1 MR. STATE: Roll call. Commissioner Ansari?
- 2 COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
- 3 MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
- 4 COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
- 5 MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
- 6 COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.
- 7 MR. STATE: Commissioner Durand?
- 8 COMMISSIONER DURAND: No.
- 9 MR. STATE: Commissioner Gurney?
- 10 COMMISSIONER GURNEY: Yes.
- 11 MR. STATE: Commissioner Hicks?
- 12 Commissioner Hughes?
- 13 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.
- 14 MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
- 15 | COMMISSIONER PERRY: Aye.
- 16 MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
- 17 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
- 18 MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
- 19 COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
- 20 MR. STATE: Item passes.
- 21 | COMMISSIONER PERRY: And there are no abstentions or
- 22 negatives? Only one negative.
- 23 MS. MINKEL: One negative.

1 MR. STATE: One negative.

2 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Okay. Very well.

3 So that motion passes and those two resolutions are approved.

And now moving on to the surface transportation business group report and turning it over to Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you, Commissioner Perry.

Similar to the aviation committee, we will have Tom George go through the financial business update for the surface transportation area.

MR. GEORGE: Thank you and good afternoon. Starting with the financial report. Most of it was covered in the audit and governance financial report. A couple of items. We did receive a hundred and five thousand dollars in fares during the month of June for the last two days, June 29th and 30th, so we were two million eight hundred and fifty-eight thousand unfavorable for the month.

We did have some positive Erie County sales tax which was from the impact of a quarterly deferment. That came in favorable. Overall our

total local assistance was a hundred and fifty-six thousand favorable. Unfortunately, the state operating assistance has been a challenge for us. When we did the adjustments for the first three months based on what they received, we were one point eight five two -- or, eight million unfavorable for the month.

Total operating assistance. We did use the CARES Act funding of four point two four seven million to balance our budget this month. But, we are seeing positive trends on every category in operating expenses.

On page nine of your books, there is a graph that we very seldom refer to. It's color coded and it tells the story in a tremendous fashion. If you look at our revenue assistance, the federal revenue assistance is bright green which reflects the CARES funding. The local and state is bright red which reflects what we're seeing there. And then our expenses are all light green and dark green which reflects that we're doing a really nice job on keeping our costs down and reflecting that. So that's a snapshot in time.

I don't reference that graph very often, but I think it does tell a story.

Overall we are on budget for the year using the CARES Act funding. So far year to date we've used twelve million six hundred and eighteen thousand of the CARES Act funding in this fiscal year forward to balance our budget.

Moving on, if there's no questions on finances, I would like to discuss the Metro initiatives status report. A couple of items of interest in that. Surface and development. The corridor development. We've talked about the Bailey Avenue corridor for quite some time, looking at a collaboration with the City of Buffalo and opportunities for transit in there. We do -- that study is nearing completion, and we do anticipate coming back to the board here in September or October with a presentation on the results of that. So we're excited to talk about that.

On the Amherst light rail extension, we're in the process of advancing the NEPA portion of the environmental clearance. You may recall that

we did get a letter from the Federal Transit Administration. They're now entering into the lead agency status for the NEPA, so we're working with them both on a scope of work for the environmental clearance as well as a scope of work for our consultant to provide the products that are necessary to move through that. is a BRT component in that. We're discussing We're also discussing the environmental assessment versus the environmental impact statement needs. And then we're also in the process of discussing the retention of a third-party consultant to act as FTA's agent to streamline the review process. We'll have more on that I would suggest in the next couple of months.

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On the DL and W Rail Station project, we're moving forward. You'll see a board action for your approval today where we'll be asking to move forward with the final design on the undesigned components or the components that are nearly completed, and those include both the station itself within the DL and W and the stair tower

access on South Park and Illinois Street.

There's also a component in there which will enhance the pedestrian crossing at grade in the Canalside area. By completing this design, it will allow us to go to construction for a complete, operational station with access both on South Park as well as on the river side and allow us then to move into operation of that station upon completion.

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And then the last item I wanted to talk about was fare collection system. We are moving forward with that. We're under construction in our underground stations, putting fare gates in those or getting ready for the fare gates. have a board action in front of you today for us to move to our contractor to provide all merchant services which gets us entirely out up to PCI compliance and merchant elements of that. Included in that is software support as well as some second-line maintenance support for our staff, where we'll continue to do the design of that -- or, the maintenance activities associated with that system.

Also of note is we've just completed pilot installation of eight fare boxes in our system. Those buses are on the street and they're operating, so we will be actually out collecting fares with new fare boxes on eight buses. It should be seamless to our customers as all of the existing fare media that we use today will be accepted on those fare boxes. So this will give us a nice trial run to see how those are working.

And if there's any questions on that, I'll continue.

Just a quick note on ridership, of interest. Current ridership as of today is basically flat after we put the fares back in place. The bus daily ridership is approximately fifty percent of where we were in '19. Our rail ridership is about forty-five percent of where we were in '19 at the same time. And paratransit ridership is about thirty-five percent. So there's a lot of rebound ready to go here.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Do we have a sense that those are the same riders coming back but in smaller numbers or that there are different riders who

are now using the system that make up part of that?

MR. GEORGE: We have a sense that it's the same riders coming back, albeit a smaller number of those. So we're seeing that. And we did see a pretty good drop on the bus side when we reinstated fares. We anticipated that. What we did not see was a drop on the rail side. As a matter of fact, the rail moved back up a little bit. So we recognize that the free fare initiative was really impacting the bus side much more than the rail side.

Okay. If there's any other questions, the last thing I had was our NFTA accessibility advisory committee was held on June 25th, and we went through with that group all of our COVID activities.

(Whereupon, Commissioner Wilcox joined the meeting.)

MR. GEORGE: We had indicated to them that we were re-collecting fares on the 29th. We talked about the notices that we had and we talked about some issues relative to our rider's guide being

reviewed. We brought some folks in to look at step and stand configurations on new buses, and then there was some questions about how many riders on the paratransit and how many riders we're allowing at a time. Currently, we're limiting that to one and in some cases two riders per trip. At thirty-five-percent capacity, you'll see it's really not a challenge for us at this point.

And then the last comment was our citizens advisory committee meeting. There was not a meeting in June, but there is one tonight at five-thirty p.m., and that is a virtual meeting.

And that's all I had on my report.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Just on those virtual meetings for those committees, are those open to the public so anybody can log on?

MR. GEORGE: No, they're not. Just as our general committee meetings are not open to the public, neither are the virtual meetings.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Okay.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Any other questions for Tom?

Hearing no other questions, we do have nine

resolutions for approval.

MS. MINKEL: Thank you. I'm going to do this a little bit different than how I normally go through the resolutions, because normally I will present the resolution after the committee meetings, and one of these is something that I've asked Tom to spend a little bit of time on that it would normally be a discussion items, so I'm going to pause when I go through them, turn it over to Tom so he can highlight it, and then I'll continue with the resolutions.

So the first one is an authorization for a supplemental agreement with Mott McDonald. This is to complete the design of our DL and W Station that Tom mentioned earlier. To complete the work, specifically the design for the station boarding platform, the access from the station boarding platform to the second floor of the DL and W, would increase the agreement as a supplemental agreement of six hundred and seventy-eight thousand eight hundred and thirty-two dollars. We put Mott McDonald on pause as we advanced and worked through with the

developer, Sam Savarino, for the second floor of the DL and W. We didn't think it made sense to go back and rework and do that separately. So we've had those discussions and we're ready to proceed and complete that design. So this is for that work.

The second resolution on page forty-one in what I handed out for you. Staff is going to be looking for authorization for an agreement with Albright-Knox Art Gallery. And this is for them to do a mural project on our DL and W. We have thirteen panels that are available that Tom is going to go through a presentation. And this would be a two-year agreement with Albright-Knox to paint panels using various -- twelve different artists over the course of two summers, six each year.

This is a similar agreement to what we've done with Albright-Knox when we did the Freedom Wall a couple of years ago outside our Cold Springs facility. It would -- the anticipated life of the artwork is assumed to be about ten years, so they would be responsible for

maintaining that and taking it down at the end of the useful life. The Authority would have the ability to reject any of the art. We have an art committee. Commissioner Hicks serves on that committee.

COMMISSIONER HICKS: You read my mind because I was wondering when --

MS. MINKEL: Yes. So we would absolutely engage you, using your artistic eye to help look at some of this.

But now I'm going to turn it over to Tom to show the project and what's envisioned. And this was a separate attachment, to those commissioners on the phone, that you would have received in your packet, if you want to refer to those drawings.

So Tom?

MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Kim. Just to be clear, we're calling it the DL and W community art project, rail yard and shops facility. It's a bit of a misnomer. We consider the DL and W the entire complex down there, but this art project really is not on any of the historic DL and W facility.

It's located on our yard and shop facility which was built in the '80's, and that's what depicted in the photographs is the actual yard and shop facility that we operate our maintenance out of.

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So, you know, we have a long legacy of art in the community, supporting initiatives which provide the -- you know, a canvas for discretion and dialogue. So we've done this a number of This is, you know, just another effort times. for us to go ahead and do that collaboration in the community. We feel it brings a lot of added value to our investments and it really fosters a lot of engagement with the stakeholders in the community and it creates a positive image for us. And you've seen some of the stuff we've done recently with the Freedom Wall, the work that we've done at Utica Station and the Allen Medical Campus work that we've just recently completed, along with a long legacy of stuff that we've done.

So the project overview. Kim covered a lot of it. Once again, this is a picture of the wall. We've got a group of community

stakeholders and businesses collaborating with us and Albright-Knox. Right now there's sixteen different outside entities, businesses and communities, individuals that have donated money or made a commitment to donate money. So it's a public art project to enhance this downtown area. We feel very strongly. It's South Park Avenue. Once again, this wall is I believe three hundred and twenty-three feet long and twenty-four feet high. To say it's not very humanizing or it's not very warming is kind of an understatement. It's very isolating.

But the architecture does lend to creating this mural project because there's thirteen of these panels that can be broken up and used for individual pieces. As Kim indicated, twelve of the panels will be used in the project. Six will be completed this year and six again next year.

So the concept is to provide the project which will offer accessibility to the art. And, you know, these are great projects because they eliminate barriers for a lot of people to go and see art where they'd have to go into whether it

be a museum or a gallery, and this is out in the public as much art is. And really trying to create a memorable experience down there and utilizing our facility to do that.

There's three projects that inspired this.

Findlay Market in Cincinnati, the Eastern Market in Detroit as well as the Wynwood Walls in Miami, all very similar projects in the community that really inspired what we're looking to do here.

And, frankly, the Freedom Wall, but this is more of a clear art project versus a wall that memorializes something in the community.

So the artists that have been identified by Albright-Knox for the year -- for this year have been identified here. We've got two from Buffalo, one from Rochester, one from Chicago, one from Cleveland and one from Detroit. So we're bringing international art talent into the community as well as leveraging our own artists here in Western New York.

And conceptual works are presented here.

These were provided. These are the concepts of what will be going up there. As these evolve and

develop, you know, we'll see what they look like, working with Albright-Knox on that. They're looking to get started immediately with going ahead and prepping the walls for the project.

So Cobblestone Live is an event that happens annually. Not this year, but annually it happens. And this was really some of inspiration, some of the catalyst for doing this. The goal is to have all twelve panels completed by next year's Cobblestone Live which is generally the first week in August. So as I said, we'll be working through, with your approval today, six of the panels this year, and then six other panels which will be completed prior to the end of July of next year.

So if there's any questions, I'll be glad to try to answer them.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Any questions on the phone?

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes. It's Sister Denise. I have one. When you say we'll be doing six this

22 MR. GEORGE: I mean 2020, this summer.

year, do you mean 2020 or 2021?

23 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Oh, wow.

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   MR. GEORGE:
                 Yeah.
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    COMMISSIONER PERRY: Any other questions?
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            Commissioner Hughes?
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   COMMISSIONER HUGHES:
                          I saw the artists that were
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       selected and I see that there's diversity in the
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       artists.
                 Are we comfortable that the output will
       be diverse in terms of representation and all
       that?
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   MR. GEORGE:
                 You know, so we really rely on
       Albright-Knox and their public art initiative to
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       really take the lead on this. And, you know, our
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       experience with them has been very positive.
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       experience with them on the Freedom Wall, that
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       started with challenges, but I believe that
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       Albright-Knox learned a lot through that process.
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       I believe they really turned that initial
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       negative into a positive and have become a real
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       proactive player. So our comfort level is very
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       high with the Albright-Knox, and the fact that
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       the language is in contract that allows us to,
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       you know, have some oversight and control over
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       that gives us that comfort level.
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    COMMISSIONER HUGHES:
                          It's a tremendous project.
                                                       You
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just don't want to come off tone-deaf, you know, three months from the now considering, you know, where our ridership is and what our employees represent.

- MR. GEORGE: And the position I have here, as the Authority, I recognize that I really have very little art talent or recognition for art. I know what I enjoy and I know what I like and what I see, but that doesn't really represent anything. So I get that comfort level, frankly, from having the professionals at Albright-Knox in that position.
- MS. MINKEL: And art is somewhat subjective, right?

 I mean, we think of Shark Girl, where there are people who love her, people who hate her. But we have the ability to reject anything, and working with the Albright-Knox as we did with our Allen Street Station, we suggested changes, they worked with us, and I think it was a wonderful project at the end of the day.
- COMMISSIONER HICKS: The only challenge with this is you have six or seven different artists and, you know, there's the possibility that there can be

no continuous theme, just sort of random sort of 1 2 stuff, and that concerns me. At least I feel 3 there should be an effort to put all the artists together to discuss what their individual ideas 4 5 were and how they could potentially be modified 6 to get more of a theme rather than individual pieces of art that may not fit the wall. 8 know what I mean? Just to be clear, you don't want individual stuff that has no connection. 9 10 I think there's -- well, as an art MS. MINKEL: 11 gallery, right, when you hang up the individual 12 pieces --13 COMMISSIONER HICKS: But they don't put 14 impressionists with abstract artists. They don't 15 put, they don't put, you know, Lococo with, you 16 know -- they just don't do that. All right? 17 even the art gallery is thematic, okay, is 18 essentially what they do. So same thing with 19 If you have some people that are doing this. 20 sort of abstract sort of stuff, you want to make sure that the panels kind of work together. 21 22 MS. MINKEL: Yep. Yep. I agree. 23 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Are there other questions or

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comments before we go on to the -- you're going
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       to go on to --
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   MS. MINKEL:
                 Yes.
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    COMMISSIONER PERRY:
                         There's another question?
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    COMMISSIONER DURAND: I have another question.
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       is Bonnie Durand again.
            Is the Albright-Knox in total control of
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        selection of the artists? I say that because I'm
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        looking at the concept of local artists versus
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       non-local artists. And the first six, if I'm not
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       mistaken, they are more out-of-town artists than
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       there are Buffalo artists. So do we have any say
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       in that?
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   MR. GEORGE:
                 To date we've relied on the
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       Albright-Knox to lead the program and develop the
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       program.
                 We've not imposed any kind of
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        restrictions on it.
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    COMMISSIONER DURAND: Okay.
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   MR. GEORGE:
                 They've made a commitment to the local
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       artists as well as, as I said, trying to bring
        international talent in as well. So the first
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       four that are -- or, three -- I mean, Rochester,
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        I quess, is local, but not. But, the first three
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are from the nation and they may actually try to
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       bring folks in that are not from the U.S. as well
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       to try to bring an international flavor to it as
       well.
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    COMMISSIONER DURAND: All right. Thank you.
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    COMMISSIONER PERRY: Any other questions or comments?
            So from what you're describing, Tom and Kim,
       if it is called or looks like Green Lightning, we
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       would have a veto; is that correct?
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   MS. MINKEL: That's correct.
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    COMMISSIONER PERRY: Got it.
                                  Just channeling a
       little Jimmy Griffin here.
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   MS. MINKEL: Right. So I can continue with the
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       other --
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    COMMISSIONER PERRY: Yes, please.
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   MS. MINKEL:
                 -- resolutions?
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            Starting on page forty-four, staff is
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       looking for a supplemental agreement with LTK who
       is our design support and construction monitoring
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       for our fare collection system. This would be a
       not-to-exceed amount of nine hundred and
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       fifty-six thousand five hundred and twenty
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       dollars. A couple of things with this.
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brought LTK in to help with our fare box collection project as it relates to network connectivity, PCI compliance, and to help us with the concept of merchant of record as we advance the project.

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Another component of this is that we need to utilize LTK longer than anticipated because the project is delayed as it relates to the pandemic. Specifically, Scheidt and Bachmann is who is doing the work is a company from Germany. So as international travel restrictions occurred, that delayed the project. But they also have an office in Toronto and the bridges have been closed, so that's caused a number of delays. So this is to keep them engaged and to continue to provide the design support and construction monitoring services for our project as it goes forward. And as Tom indicated earlier, we are already out there testing. We have eight of the boxes on our buses, as we're testing those going forward.

The fourth resolution in surface on page forty-six is for Horizon Masonry Restoration.

And this is a lump sum bid amount, six hundred and fifty-nine thousand forty-five dollars for the first year agreement. This could be a multi-year agreement. We would utilize the services based on the funding that we have available. This award that we're asking for board approval is for the year-one work only. would include the roof replacement and masonry rehabilitation at the Cold Springs storage building and masonry rehabilitation at our Babcock bus garage. Horizon was the low bid and they will meet our established DBE goals which is seventeen percent. They identified their DBE participation as twenty-five percent.

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On page forty-eight, staff is looking for an authorization for agreement with Occhino Corp.

This is for our bus loop reconstruction at our Utica Station. This was also a low bid of seven hundred and thirty-four thousand nine hundred and thirty-six dollars. The DBE goal for this was also seventeen percent, and Occhino has identified their DBE participation as seventeen point two percent for this work.

On page fifty, staff is looking for an authorization for agreement with the Buffalo Board of Education. And this is for a one-year agreement for the 2020-2021 academic school year. This is for us to continue to provide bus and rail services with Buffalo Public Schools. Essentially, the agreement is the same as what's been in place for the past two years, with a two There are and a quarter percent escalator. provisions as it relates to the pandemic. example, we may be required to accommodate different capacity issues. We may need to send out more buses. And if so, there would be accommodations for that as part of this agreement. The level of service that we provide may be restricted. It may be less days of operation. So there would be provisions in this agreement depending on what's required when we go into the new school year. And as many of you know, I think all of that is still being determined and evaluated as we speak, so providing some flexibility working with the Board of Ed, knowing that time is of the essence I

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think is important. But it's anticipated that this would mirror pretty much what we have in place from the previous years.

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On page fifty-two, staff is looking for an authorization for agreement with Parise Mechanical. This is for an air handling unit for our MTC facility. The air handing units that we have are original to the building that was constructed in 1979 and later rehabbed in the The lump sum bid amount is two hundred 1980s. and fifty-six thousand dollars. Parise was the low bidder. They are meeting our MBE, WBE and SDVOB goals. They identified their MBE participation as thirteen percent, slightly higher than our goal; their WBE participation is zero; and their SDVOB participation is seven percent, slightly higher than our goal.

Item number eight on page fifty-four. Staff is looking for an extension of our antenna site license agreement with M and T Bank. This is for the operation of the public Wi-Fi along our light rail system. Staff is recommending a three-year extension to that agreement. The original

agreement goes back to 2015, where M and T as a sponsor installed into our electrical cabinets a number of routers and antennas to provide this free Wi-Fi coverage which runs along Main Street from North Street to Scott Street, as well as areas of Canalside and the Erie Basin Marina. It's been a wonderful service and I know it's been received very well throughout the community.

And the final resolution is an authorization for a change order with Scheidt and Bachmann. As I mentioned earlier, Scheidt and Bachmann is our fare collection system upgrade project. Staff is looking for the board to approve a five-year operating and support agreement. Early on in the project, we brought in an outside company to come in and take a look at PCI compliance, Payment Card Industry compliance, as it relates to our network, and making certain that we have a secure system so we don't have identity theft or the loss of information as it relates to banking information, credit card usage and those issues.

And it became very clear as a result of that audit that we don't have systems in place and it

would require quite a bit in terms of capital improvement and operating going forward to get to where we need to be to be PCI compliant. So part of this agreement puts all of that backbone on S and B's network going forward. So that will help address any of the PCI audit findings that we had. This will also train our staff which is important for capabilities and maintenance going forward.

The first year of operation -- because this is an operating agreement -- would be seven hundred and seventy-four thousand dollars in year one. We anticipate to pay as part of this fiscal year a hundred and fifty thousand, because it's not up and running yet. And based on the delays as it related to the fact of the pandemic and restricted travel, we anticipate a hundred and fifty thousand for this fiscal year. In years two through five, that would be nine hundred and thirty-four thousand dollars a year, also subject to a CPI index, depending what that might be in future years. So this will amend the total contract to twenty-seven million nine hundred and

thirty-eight thousand dollars, and it will now include five years of operation support that previously we did not have as part of the agreement.

And those are the nine surface resolutions.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Okay. What I'd like to do for these is I'd like to have a motion to take them as a batch all together, with the proviso that I will be abstaining on two of them, numbers two for Albright-Knox and number eight for M and T.

And there may be other members who are going to abstain on any number of them, but I'd still like to take them as a batch and the general counsel can record the abstentions and tally whether the resolutions pass or not.

Is that acceptable, General Counsel?

17 MR. STATE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Okay. So I'd like a motion to

take them as a batch, subject --

20 COMMISSIONER AUL: Mr. Chair?

21 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Yes? Yes?

22 | COMMISSIONER AUL: I'm sorry. It's Joan Aul. I too

will abstain from number eight.

1 COMMISSIONER PERRY: All right. Very well. 2 Anybody else want to register an abstention 3 so the general counsel can calculate when we vote on them? 4 5 Hearing no others --6 COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Chairman, this is Anthony. I'm 7 abstaining from M and T and the art gallery also. COMMISSIONER PERRY: Okay. So another two and eight 8 9 guy. 10 Anybody else? We want to give you a minute 11 to do this and that will speed it up so we don't 12 have to do them all individually. Anybody else? 13 Okay. Hearing none, we're going to give it 14 a shot. So a motion to take them as a batch, 15 subject to the members' statements that the 16 general counsel has recorded. 17 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: So moved. 18 CHAIR SISTER DENISE: I'll move that. 19 COMMISSIONER PERRY: By Commissioner Hughes. 20 And second by Sister Denise. 21 CHAIR SISTER DENISE: Sister Denise, yeah. 22 COMMISSIONER PERRY: And we're going to do this by 23 unanimous consent. So without objection, if I

- 1 hear no objection, we're going to go ahead and
- 2 have a motion to take them as a batch.
- 3 COMMISSIONER HICKS: So moved.
- 4 | COMMISSIONER PERRY: Okay. So we have no objections.
- And now I need a motion to take them as a
- 6 batch, and that was by Commissioner Hicks.
- And a second?
- 8 COMMISSIONER GURNEY: Sam Gurney.
- 9 COMMISSIONER PERRY: By Commissioner Gurney.
- 10 And then general counsel will call the roll.
- 11 MR. STATE: Yes, for approval.
- 12 Commissioner Ansari?
- 13 COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
- 14 MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul? Who, again, is
- abstaining on item number eight.
- 16 COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes. Confirming, yes, with an
- abstention on number eight.
- 18 | MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes? Abstaining on item
- 19 two and also item eight.
- 20 COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Correct. And that's a yes.
- 21 MR. STATE: Thank you.
- 22 Commissioner Durand?
- 23 COMMISSIONER DURAND: Yes.

- 1 MR. STATE: Commissioner Gurney?
- 2 COMMISSIONER GURNEY: Yes.
- 3 MR. STATE: Commissioner Hicks?
- 4 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Yes.
- 5 MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
- 6 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.
- 7 MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry? Who is abstaining on
- 8 items two and item eight.
- 9 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Correct. And aye.
- 10 MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
- 11 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
- 12 MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
- 13 COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
- 14 MR. STATE: All items pass, Mr. Chair.
- 15 | COMMISSIONER PERRY: Okay. Very well. All items
- 16 pass and those resolutions are all adopted.
- 17 And that concludes that portion of the
- 18 agenda for surface transportation. And do we
- 19 have a general counsel's report that we can do in
- 20 open session?
- 21 MR. STATE: Yes, sir. Just very quickly. I provided
- 22 a general counsel report on the yellow pages in
- 23 the middle of your packet. Just a litigated

matter that -- personal injury action scheduled for jury trial in September. The asterisk to that is of course whether we will be picking juries in September. But, at least at this point, the trial judge has indicated that she would like to proceed on September 10th. It is an accident with an automobile and a bus. We are being sued by the passenger in the automobile. You can see her alleged injuries. Settlement discussions continue, so obviously that would be the other way the case could be resolved.

Pending any questions, which if they get into significant detail, I would recommend for executive session, that's the general counsel report.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: All right. And if there are no questions for the general counsel or any other comments, we do have a request by the Chair for an executive session, so I'm going to ask the general counsel to state for the record the basis for going into executive session and then we're going to ask for a motion.

MR. STATE: Board has requested an executive session

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to receive legal advice and guidance as to the
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       mayor's request to rename Utica Street Station.
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       That is an appropriate basis as legal advice and
       would require a motion, a second and a vote.
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   COMMISSIONER PERRY: So we need a motion to go into
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       executive --
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   COMMISSIONER DURAND: So moved.
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   COMMISSIONER PERRY: So that was by Commissioner
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       Durand.
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            Second?
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    COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Second.
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   COMMISSIONER PERRY: By Commissioner Hughes -- or,
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       sorry. Commissioner Hicks. They both start with
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       an H.
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            By Commissioner Hicks.
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            And can we do this just as a -- do we need a
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       roll call for this or no?
   MR. STATE: You can do unanimous consent.
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    COMMISSIONER PERRY: Then we'll ask -- I'm going to
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       ask for unanimous consent, so without objection,
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       to go into executive session. Are there any
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       objections?
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            And hearing none, we are now going to enter
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executive session. 1 2 (Whereupon, the Board went into Executive 3 Session.) 4 COMMISSIONER PERRY: And we have now concluded our 5 executive session. And for the sake of clarity, 6 I would ask that the general counsel make a statement or a comment post executive session. 8 MR. STATE: So the board met in executive session, 9 and I'm going summarize the unanimous action by 10 The board, subject to any corrections the board. 11 by members that were in the session, the board 12 has unanimously requested staff to prepare a 13 resolution regarding a naming tribute of Mr. 14 Coles for the Utica Street Station, as was 15 requested by the mayor and other public 16 officials. So staff will obviously follow that 17 directive. We'll prepare a formal resolution to 18 be considered by the board at the next meeting in 19 September. 20 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Okay. And, now, if that 21 concludes your comment on what we did in 22 executive session --23 MS. MINKEL: And just one clarification. This is for a naming tribute for Robert T. Coles for the building at Utica Station, correct?

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Yes.

MS. MINKEL: Yes.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: Yes. It's for that building which he designed to bear his name and whatever other, whatever other tribute inside as the board discussed.

And do we have any questions, comments or anything else regarding what the general counsel stated from anybody on the phone? Or anybody -- any of the commissioners present?

Okay. And now -- so that business is concluded, and now we're going to continue on with some more material for the meeting, including what we're going to look at now. And the executive director is going to present something regarding fiscal impacts and a COVID-19 update.

MS. MINKEL: Yeah. So thank you, Adam.

So a couple of updates for the board. We first want to give you a picture as fiscally where we stand as it relates in terms of

operating assistance particularly, so I asked

Darren Kempner to provide an overview, and he'll

talk a little bit about what he's hearing from

the hill as to what might happen in terms of

assistance down the road.

MR. KEMPNER: Thank you, Kim.

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COMMISSIONER HICKS: Federal?

MS. MINKEL: Federal, yeah. And state.

So there's a couple PowerPoint slides MR. KEMPNER: here in your packets. This is an update through And the columns that we presented here are 2021 budget numbers, our year-to-date variance on these large items, and then a forecast variance to the end of the year. So I think there are four themes we all know about that are impact -continuing to impact these numbers. Obviously working from home for a number of regional residents. And then the summer surge of COVID-19 across the country certainly. And then the travel advisory, which at this last meeting was just going into effect for travel from certain restricted states, and that list has continually changed and grown, in fact. And then the general

impact on the economy and state finances from all of that.

So as you see, passenger fares there obviously down through June almost a hundred percent. We had, I think one or two days of collection. And the forecast through the end of the year with fifty-percent of budgeted passenger fares to be collected at a loss of twenty-two point two million. At the airport, concessions and commissions, the budgeted number there, we've seen it through June, the year-to-date down about seventy percent. And so forecasting that out to the end of the year, about the same impact on our budget, twenty-two point two million. Those numbers have changed, maybe even slightly for the worst since I even put this together.

- MR. VANECEK: Yeah. And also, you know, the closing of the Canadian border --
- 19 MR. KEMPNER: Thank you.

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MR. VANECEK: -- impacting this by -- you know, we get about thirty percent of our traffic that would typically drive down and fly out, and that's -- there's nothing coming from there for

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MR. KEMPNER: So maybe it's a good moment to take a step back. That's something, the border closure, we've talked with our federal electeds about over the past few days, as well as using this presentation to explain our revenue losses and the impact on the Authority of COVID-19.

Erie County sales tax, down year to date about twenty percent, an estimated four point five million in losses for the year. That's about twenty percent. That's certainly -- that I mean, I think that's what could be worse. local government and state government are seeing, but there's certainly a lot of headwinds there. And then as John mentioned before, state transit operating assistance down twenty-seven percent. We received our payment two months late and twenty-seven percent short. So the total loss of that would be sixteen point five million. have no more information to share to date on what the next payment may look like or when it would come in.

If you could flip to the next slide now.

Thanks.

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And then the obvious impact on our capital projects. Passenger facility charges at the airport are the main source of funding that we use to fund aviation projects, along with aviation improvement grants. And with the seventy-percent decline that we are forecasting, that would be a loss of almost seven and a half million dollars, so certainly a significant impact there. And then the last, this is a somewhat arbitrary number, but state transit capital assistance, we show a fifty-percent loss We have no indication of any state there. transit capital at the current moment coming our We've continued to ask the state, but as way. their financial situation has become a little bit clearer as not at all clear, they have been continuing to hold on those contracts and that assistance.

So overall, that's the picture as of the end of June and now looking forward. And we'll continue to communicate that to our federal electeds. What we're hearing just as of

yesterday is that the CARES Act two point o, the next assistance package, did include -- the Republican proposal will include some funding for airports again and nothing for transit. We're continuing to advocate, and obviously that proposal will require quite a bit of negotiation going forward, but we're in this with the MTAs and all the other medium to small-sized transit agencies in the country. As we look at our next budget year, we're -- we think we'll really start to feel these impacts without any additional assistance. Now is the time, certainly the time to act with -- through the federal government, so we'll continue to advocate there.

And that concludes my report.

COMMISSIONER HICKS: So without federal help, this goes on -- a vaccine maybe March, April, maybe.

Ramp up. You know, they'll give it to healthcare workers first, and so we're probably talking about another eighteen months possibly. And then you're going to have people are not going to take the vaccine because they think it's a conspiracy. So the question is, are you going to allow them,

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those who are not vaccinated, to get on public
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       transportation?
                         That's a question you're going
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       to have to ask as well, because we could
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       essentially have an inundation of people.
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       question for that preamble is, how long can we
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       survive without any help?
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   MS. MINKEL:
                 The amount of federal funding that we
       received covers five months' worth of expenses.
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       That's assuming no other operating assistance.
       It's been difficult to predict --
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    COMMISSIONER HICKS: Five months from today?
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   MS. MINKEL:
                 Five months from the time -- it
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       provided -- no. Five months' worth of operating
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       expenses total, assuming no other outside
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       assistance. Based on what I've seen, we're good
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       through the end of this year, and then we're in
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       trouble. Then we hit the wall.
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    COMMISSIONER HICKS: That's January, 2021.
   MS. MINKEL:
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                 January, February, yeah.
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    COMMISSIONER HICKS: Without additional federal
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       assistance?
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   MS. MINKEL: Without assistance. And so Tom and Bill
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       talked about what we're doing to control our
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expenses. You see our spending is down. There's no overtime. There's no, no nothing. We're not filling positions unless they're operationally critical. We are doing everything we can because of the uncertainty. Now, if, if there's additional federal funding, if there's additional state funding. If our STOA -- for example, if the state were to receive federal assistance, that helps them with aid to localities and they could do something to help with our STOA, that would also be beneficial. But we really need the federal government, really need the federal government to provide --

- 14 COMMISSIONER HICKS: To step up.
- 15 MS. MINKEL: To step up.

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- 16 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Just one more question.
- 17 our ask be for total funding or would it be a
- combination of fund -- give me this and loan me X 18
- 19 and we'll pay back over the following --
- 20 It would be for total funding. MS. MINKEL:
- 21 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Total funding.
- 22 MS. MINKEL: We are -- we had just started to recover
- 23 from the economic recession of 2008. Just

Started. There was an article in The Buffalo

News that was carried by The New York Times that

talked about the transit death spiral. And it's

happening all across the nation. And we are

absolutely no different. And the last thing you

want to do to spur economic recovery is stop

people from getting to their jobs and getting

work. So from a transit side, that's desperately

needed.

From an aviation side, which we've never encountered before, if we don't have help to keep the airport open, you're grounding planes. The Buffalo airport alone provides over one billion in terms of economic activity, and so that spurs into tax dollars and it helps with hotels and restaurants. We need travel to continue and we know that won't happen until, until there's a vaccine and people are comfortable traveling again, which could be a year.

COMMISSIONER HICKS: Because not only the vaccine, efficacy, who gets it first, the ramp-up. I mean, all this is --

MS. MINKEL: Right. And so we need help for -- to

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get us however long that takes. Probably another year.
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- COMMISSIONER HUGHES: At this point you're just talking about expense control. You're not talking about significant cuts. That's probably the next conversation or step when you talk about rebalancing the budget come end of year.
- Right. We've already looked on transit 8 MS. MINKEL: 9 as to what that would look like, and, you know, we've been adjusting service based on ridership. 10 11 Our -- some of our expenses have gone up. Right? Particularly with cleaning and PPE, as I'm sure 12 13 you're seeing, and it's been significant. If you 14 can find it, you're paying a premium. 15 were paying a premium to get whatever we needed 16 to protect our employees. And we'll continue to 17 do everything we can to protect our employees, but it's --18
- 19 COMMISSIONER HICKS: How many employees altogether at 20 the NFTA?
- 21 MS. MINKEL: We have just about sixteen hundred employees.
- 23 | COMMISSIONER HUGHES: But you're talking draconian

cuts.

MS. MINKEL: Based on these numbers, we're talking draconian cuts.

The other challenge we have on the capital side, we have a short construction season here in Western New York, and we're already moving into August, so we've lost the season. We couldn't award any new projects, we didn't dare, because we don't have the funding. But even more so, we have projects that are in the queue that were working -- with the exception of the terminal enhancement project because we were bonded for that so we have that funding in place. But, some of the projects on the rail side were relying on funds that were supposed to come our way that have been slowed because of the economic crisis. That's why the line of credit that we have is critical.

- 19 COMMISSIONER HICKS: And that's with M and T?
- 20 MS. MINKEL: That line of credit is with --
- 21 MR. COX: M and T.
- MS. MINKEL: M and T. And that related -- that's tied strictly to the COVID funds. We were unable

- to secure an additional line of credit because we 1 2 have no other sources to offset that line of 3 credit from. 4 COMMISSIONER HICKS: I thought M and T was reasonable 5 (inaudible). 6 MS. MINKEL: Well, but they also --7 They're a bank. COMMISSIONER PERRY: 8 MR. COX: We asked for -- they were just Yeah. 9 concerned about the uncertainty and extending 10 additional credit to us, whether we would be able 11 to repay it, because the source of repayment 12 being funding, so --13 MS. MINKEL: So it's challenging.
- 14 COMMISSIONER HICKS: When you need money, they don't
 15 want to give it to you. When you don't need it,
 16 they want to give it to you.
- MS. MINKEL: It's a challenging environment. We're

 not alone. So we're hoping -- you know, we're

 not a lone voice. All across the nation, all

 transit and airports have the same ask and so

 hopefully that will help.

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On the aviation side, Bill, maybe you can show those TSA numbers.

MR. VANECEK: Sure.

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- MS. MINKEL: Because on the airport side, we're experiencing something a little bit different and that's because of the utilization with our friends from the north, the Canadians who can't come down and fly.
- 7 MR. VANECEK: Okay. So what this slide is showing, this was comparing 2019 to 2020, on a seven-day 8 9 moving average from March, March of 2020 to where 10 we're at today in July. So you can see back in 11 the prosperous days -- these are last year's numbers. You know, on average, during the year, 12 13 they're almost at twenty-two point five million 14 people flying a day out of the United States 15 based on those seven-day averages. And then you 16 see what happens in 2000 -- this year now in 17 2020, it just tanked immediately in terms of in 18 less than a month, it was almost bottomed out. 19 And they were looking at numbers that were 20 just -- it was just mind-boggling when you're 21 only looking at maybe a little over five hundred 22 thousand now flying out relative to two point 23 five million passengers last year.

So we looked at this and then we said, well, how are we trending? Are we trending in a similar fashion. And if you go to the next slide, you're going to see something where it's almost an identical slide. Right? Now, these here represents, you know, our spring break period and those types of things that we typically have in the spring, so we have a little bit more bounce. But, generally speaking, if you were to go back, it still looks pretty similar on that end. And then again down here, the same thing.

Now, we had started to trend back up after a horrible April and started getting some flights coming back and coming back. And now suddenly as the quarantine rules are going in and we're having fewer people being comfortable flying to the states that have been identified, the Canadian border still being, you know, closed, we are starting to see -- and this is going to go down -- this is going to start falling fairly quickly I think going forward. So that's what, that's what we wanted to show you today.

I do want to say something else about the airport, though, too. United Airlines came out yesterday and talked about how they're going to now mandate masks for every touch point with a United employee at the airport, which I think is a good thing. It's a really good thing. You know, really, if I had it my way, I'd say why don't we just make them wear it from the day you step in the door -- or, from the moment you step in the door until you're gone and off the plane and out of the other airports.

So all the airlines now have lined up and they're all doing the same thing. Southwest just said it, American said it, so they're all now getting onboard with that, so that's -- I think that's a positive note because that will help get people more comfortable going into -- you know, they're never going to get super comfortable, but they'll get more comfortable about flying.

And then the next thing we wanted to show you is the terminal expansion. Quick little update. Love to show you the updates. And in two months from now, you're going to see a really

significant change.

You can go ahead and go to the next slide.

So this is now the east concourse. So now all the glass on the east side of the concourse exiting is in place. The front will be something different. Right? Obviously we're -- this is not going to have any glass on this end. So this is a really big moment for us to see all the glass go up. It also helps because now they're really making hay on the inside here putting up walls where our administrative offices will be and then from the exiting concourse and all that. So they're really making some good, good progress on the east side.

And then next is the west side. So the last time you saw some of this was when they were doing the beam raising and it was very small.

Well, that's all in. It's actually much farther even after a week because they have a lot of the decking on -- they have a lot of the decking already on top. That's going to then take the concrete forms, et cetera. They expect to have all of the steel in place by the end of next

week, I believe, on the west side.

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You can go to the next slide.

And this was just kind of a -- it was kind of a cool look through the window of the terminal. But it was raining, kind of had a nice effect. But now you can really visualize how you're going to get to the terminal going in over here.

Then the other thing I want to talk about -so these are JetBlue planes. And as I mentioned before, our number of flights have dropped by about fifty percent. And we're not alone. mean, airports across the country have all done that. They have all experienced about a fifty-percent reduction in flights. So they want -- they asked us, can we park planes here for a long period of time at your airport? we said of course you can do it. So it will drive a little bit of revenue for us. But, we have right now ten JetBlue airplanes that are just sitting mothballed for the foreseeable future. And, you know, it's a little sad sight to see, but I'm glad it's going to give us at

least a little bit of added revenue, so that's where we're at.

- COMMISSIONER HICKS: Do they have to maintain those planes? I mean, they're just sitting there. You know, a vehicle sitting dormant requires -- so do they have crews that come out and maintain them?
- MR. VANECEK: Yes. Yes. I don't know if you can see it on there, but their engines are all covered with coverings so birds can't get in or animals can't get into those sensitive areas there. But they wanted to do it at an airport if they can that's operating because they know we have security. That's another consideration.
- COMMISSIONER HUGHES: That's a good question.

 Niagara Falls, considering where they fly and what's going on.
- MR. VANECEK: They're a lesser schedule. They're still flying, but, you know, their schedule that they have in Niagara Falls is not very robust and so it hasn't changed too dramatically. They're still flying. Spirit is still flying and so is Allegiant, so they're pretty close to what they

normally would fly. 1 2 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Who is going to get into a 3 tube wearing -- masks are important, right? 4 work. They're great. I wear mine all the time. 5 And the fact is you cough, someone coughs, and 6 air flies, goes in your eyes. No one is going to get into a tube. Okay? This is, this is -- I 8 can't see anyone with common sense flying for at 9 least a year. 10 MR. VANECEK: I mean, again, you know, we did see 11 some of that coming back up and then when the rebound that happened, particularly in the 12 13 southern states, came back in, now that's when 14 we're seeing that dip again. So that's I think a 15 valid observation. People may have to rethink of 16 whether or not they're really going to --17 COMMISSIONER HICKS: Yeah. You get on a plane -- one 18 plane with a hundred people on it with six of 19 them coming down with COVID, you're shut down 20 That's the -- we leave it shut down until again. 21 you find some way to treat this. 22 MR. VANECEK: I hear you. I agree wholeheartedly. 23 COMMISSIONER HICKS: And we as an organization you

have to realize there's not to going to be an income stream for some time.

MS. MINKEL: For sure.

And then, finally, I'm going to ask Tom to give us an update. We mailed out a book to all the commissioners. Hopefully, you received it. I also sent it to you electronically as a PDF. It's our 2019-2020 annual performance book as it relates to surface transportation. So Tom is just going to point out a few highlights on this.

MR. GEORGE: Normally, I go through the book page by page. I'm not going to do that to you today.

COMMISSIONER HICKS: Oh, that's good.

MR. GEORGE: So we generally give this out in May of every year. We're a little delayed this year.

Apologizes for that. We've had some extenuating circumstances that got in the way. I'll just talk about a couple things you'll find in here.

So we do continue to reference benchmarking throughout the document with our peers. So we continually update with that process. We're seeing some riders per revenue hour and mile bus consistency, so we've been able to maintain a

consistency even though our ridership has dropped a little bit. Our rail, we're seeing an erosion of that because our rail service stayed exactly the way it is.

Our on-time performance last year was the best it had been in a number of years, so we've really improved that. We've seen improvements in our deadhead efficiency which is really an effort to improve the way we operate. We've seen a real nice decrease in the percent of our fleet beyond the usefulness -- beyond their useful life or useful mileage. So the investment that we've been making in the vehicles has been a real positive for that.

Paratransit ridership continued to rise
through last year. And then the number of
subscribers on our social media and instant
alerts has gone up again. We've had real
positive results for complaints -- for
commendations, and our complaints have remained
flat, so that's been fairly good. Then there's a
section in the book on customer satisfaction.
Positive gains on almost every metric, so that

was a real nice thing there.

On the revenue, I point it out every year.

I'd be remiss if I didn't again this year. Our fare revenue has been flat where we've seen nice growth in the assistance, so that was a challenge that we're trying overcome. Our expenses have remained flat or are down from previous years, so we've -- even prior to COVID, we'd done a nice job on containing expenses.

And the last thing I just wanted to point out, I think is interesting, is a significant change in operator tenure. In '15 we had fifty-five percent of our operators had over twenty years of experience with us. This year, thirty-seven percent. So we've seen a significant erosion of the experience of our operators. It's great getting a lot of new fresh blood and talent in here.

Then the last thing I just want to say is I have no idea what this is going to look like next year, but it's going to be an experience to take a look at it. So thank you. This will be sent to our elected officials. It's our role of

- trying to maintain transparency and it is updated on our website, so thank you.
 - MS. MINKEL: Thanks, Tom. And thank you for the great job that you and your team have done. The numbers are really positive. I wish we could spend more time highlighting all the good and less time highlighting the bad, as we talked about the financials earlier. But certainly the Metro team did a great job, so thank you.

10 And, Mr. Chair, that's all we have.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: All right. And if there's no other business that any board members have to bring to the attention of the body, that concludes the business end of the meeting of the NFTA board of commissioners.

Motion to adjourn.

17 COMMISSIONER HICKS: So moved.

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18 COMMISSIONER PERRY: By Hicks.

19 COMMISSIONER WILCOX: So moved.

20 | COMMISSIONER PERRY: Second by Wilcox.

21 All those in favor? Unanimous consent.

22 | COMMISSIONER HICKS: Aye.

23 UNIDENTIFIABLE COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

1 STATE OF NEW YORK) 2 SS: 3 COUNTY OF NIAGARA) 4 5 I, Valerie A. Rosati, a Notary Public in and 6 for the State of New York, County of Niagara, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above transcript of a 8 video recording was taken down by me in a 9 verbatim manner by means of Machine Shorthand, 10 and that the transcript was then reduced into 11 writing under my direction. I further CERTIFY that the above-described 12 13 transcript constitutes a true and accurate and 14 complete transcript of the video recording. 15 16 17 VALERIE A. ROSATI, Notary Public. 18 19 20 21 22 23

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