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## NIAGARA FRONTIER TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY Monthly Board Meeting March 25, 2021

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Transcript of Video Recording of Proceedings held at NIAGARA FRONTIER TRANSPORTATION

AUTHORITY, 181 Ellicott Street, Buffalo, New York,

stenographically transcribed by VALERIE A. ROSATI, Notary

Public.

## 1 MEMBERS IN THE BOARDROOM: 2 Sister Denise Roche (Chair) Commissioner Adam Perry 3 Kimberley Minkel (Executive Director) David State (General Counsel) 4 John Cox (Chief Financial Officer) William Vanecek (Director, Aviation) 5 Tom George (Director, Public Transit) Darren Kempner (Manager, Government Affairs) 6 Helen Tederous (Director, Public Affairs) Lara Seniw (Assistant to Executive Director) Robert Jones (Manager, Service Planning) 8 MEMBERS ON THE PHONE: 9 Commissioner LaVonne Ansari 10 Commissioner Joan Aul Commissioner Anthony Baynes 11 Commissioner Michael Hughes Commissioner Jennifer Persico 12 Commissioner Stephen Tucker Commissioner Philip Wilcox 13 Steven Duquette (Chief Information Officer) Karen Novo (Director, Human Resources) 14 John Schaefer (Director, Engineering) Christine D'Aloise (Director, Risk Management 15 and Special Projects) 16 17 18 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Good afternoon, commissioners 19 This will begin the regular board and others. 20 meeting of the Niagara Frontier Transportation 21 Authority for March 25th, 2021. And we have a busy agenda today, so we're going to get started 22 23 right away.

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   MS. MINKEL: We have to do a roll call.
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    CHAIR SISTER ROCHE:
                         I'll ask Dave to do the roll
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        call so we know who's here.
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   MR. STATE:
               Yes. So do the roll call. We need six
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       commissioners for our quorum, so let's see who we
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       have.
            Commissioner Ansari?
    COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Present.
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   MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
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    COMMISSIONER AUL: Present.
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   MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
            Commissioner Blue?
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            Commissioner Downey?
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   COMMISSIONER DOWNEY: Here.
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   MR. STATE: Commissioner Hicks?
            Commissioner --
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   COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Hello. Anthony Baynes.
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   MR. STATE: All right. Thank you, Commissioner
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       Baynes.
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            Commissioner Hicks?
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            Commissioner Hughes?
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   COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Here.
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   MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
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- 1 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Present.
- 2 MR. STATE: Commissioner Persico?
- 3 COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Here.
- 4 MR. STATE: Commissioner Tucker?
- 5 COMMISSIONER TUCKER: Present.
- 6 MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
- 7 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Present.
- 8 MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
- 9 COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Here.
- 10 MR. STATE: Thank you. We have more than six,
- 11 Sister.
- 12 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Good. Thank you.
- 13 I will now ask for approval of the minutes.
- 14 And you all received a copy in your packet. So
- may I ask for a motion to approve the minutes?
- 16 | COMMISSIONER PERRY: So moved.
- 17 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And a second?
- 18 | COMMISSIONER AUL: Joan Aul. Second.
- 19 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you, Joan.
- Is there any discussion?
- 21 If not, all in favor of accepting the
- 22 minutes --
- 23 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Aye.

1 UNIDENTIFIED COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

2 CHAIR SISTER DENISE: Do we need a roll call?

MR. STATE: No, Sister. For this we've been doing a unanimous consent motion. If anyone has an objection to the minutes, they should make it now; otherwise, we would record it as a unanimous

7 vote.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Very good. And that takes us to the executive director's report which is exciting.

MS. MINKEL: Thank you, Sister.

A couple of things for the board today.

First, I wanted to invite board members to the unveiling of the new Merchants Insurance Station at Seneca. This will be on Monday at ten a.m.

It should be a great event. Maybe not quite as warm and sunny as today; but, nevertheless, the station looks great and we look forward to that unveiling.

I'm also pleased to report that any NFTA employee who wanted to have access to the vaccine was provided access. So at this point in time, it's difficult for us to know exactly how many,

but we think between a third, up to a half of our workforce is currently vaccinated.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Good. Great.

MS. MINKEL: I also wanted to recognize staff who continue to do a great job with our expenses during a financially challenging time. John will highlight that our expenses are down by almost twenty-two million dollars, or an eleven percent decrease. This is to help offset the forty-two percent decline in revenue that we've been experiencing as part of the pandemic.

Similarly, staff continues to focus on safety. We have a great start for the new year. Both our recordable and lost-time injuries are down. They're down forty-five percent compared to the same point in time as last year.

I'm also pleased to report that we received an A grade on our MWBE report card from Empire State Development for 2020. This grade is a measure of our effectiveness and success on MWBE efforts as an agency. I want to congratulate our purchasing department under Dave State's leadership and our EEO department on the

tremendous progress they've made in this particular area of operations.

And, finally, I know he's not on the line.

He's going to be joining us later. I just wanted to thank Commissioner Hicks who leads our art committee. We met earlier this week. We selected a beautiful mural for our Portage Road Transportation Center. I also wish to thank the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area who helped vet a number of the six finalists. Excellent submissions. It was difficult to choose, but we're very happy with our choice.

And that concludes my report, Sister.

14 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Great. Are there any questions of Kim?

Thank you, Kim. I know it's been quite a full month, even though things seem slow to the rest of us.

I'm going to move forward now to the corporate report, and I'm going to ask John Cox to take us through the financials, please.

MR. COX: Yes. Thank you, Sister.

Good afternoon, commissioners. Starting on

page seven, we have the month of February's performance report, and also only page nine is year-to-date through February numbers.

For the month of February, 2021, we had a negative variance to budget of eight hundred and seventeen thousand dollars; and on a year-to-date basis, it was two million seventy-three thousand dollars.

Total operating revenues and assistance were above budget by two million three hundred and forty-four thousand dollars or twelve percent; and on a year-to-date basis, below budget four million ninety thousand dollars or one point eight percent.

Revenue shortfalls were primarily due to

Metro passenger fares. We had a negative

variance -- and this has been consistent

throughout the year so far -- of approximately

one point nine million dollars, and that's down

sixty-three percent from budget; and on a

year-to-date basis, we're down twenty-two point

one million or sixty-eight percent.

Now, the decrease in ridership is through

most of the year we had no Buffalo Public Schools. Of course we did have a partial reopening beginning February 1st, so that has resulted in some incremental increases, but not, not something that is really hitting the books at this point and that's material.

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Reductions in STOA year to date, we're looking at a negative variance right now of one point one million. Now, we did get a partial reinstatement from the previous reduction that we had seen. We had seen reductions in the twenty-seven to thirty percent area for the first three quarters, but we have gotten a partial restoration. So for the month of February, we're up -- we have a positive variance of one million dollars there. And we're looking like we're going to come in about ten million dollars below budget by the end of year. And that change, that reduction, actually takes us back down to approximately a seventeen percent reduction in our STOA for this year.

BNIA operating revenues, one point three million or twenty-four percent below budget for

February. That shows you that there has been some increase in enplanements there. On a year-to-date basis, we're at nineteen point eight million or thirty-two percent below budget year to date.

NFIA operating revenues are two hundred and twenty-six thousand or seventy-nine percent below budget, and one point eight million or seventy-two percent below budget year to date. And that shows you how so much more of the, of the enplanements out of NFIA are Canadian travelers versus the mix of travelers, which is much more -- more American, but fewer Canadians as far as percentage mixed in. So that's why you see that much larger decrease as far as percentage versus budget.

These revenue shortfalls of course have been offset by CARES Act funding from FTA and FAA. We used approximately four point five million of that in February, and year to date we've used fifty-four point seven million.

Our total operating expenses were below budget by two point three million or thirteen

point one percent, and twenty-one point eight million or eleven percent. And as Kim had mentioned, of course we're still -- all of the staff are doing a great job controlling costs. Across the board we had lower expenses. Again, we're through delayed purchases seeking better discounts and of course cost controls. Of course the exception being anything critical or safety sensitive. Those expenditures are still occurring. And we continue to see favorable pricing because of the slow-down economically worldwide in diesel, gasoline and natural gas.

Now, the one exception I will point out was electric. We did see a blip. We actually were over budget by eighty-three thousand or twenty-one percent, and that was due to the February cold snap. I'm sure you saw much of the news about Texas. Now, we weren't directly affected by that, but it was a cold snap, so it did temporarily drive up some of the electric prices that we saw too.

Now, the CARES Act assistance for both Metro and the two airports, as I've stated before, is a

financial lifeline. Without it we would have recognized a five point four million dollar negative variance to budget and four point nine deficit in the month of February; and on a year-to-date basis, we would have had a negative variance of fifty-six point eight million dollars and recognized a deficit of fifty-one point two million dollars on a year-to-date basis.

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

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Very good. Any questions for John?

Okay. Thank you, very much. You're doing a great job keeping things rolling.

We have some corporate resolutions, and I will ask Kim to present those, please.

MS. MINKEL: Thank you, Sister.

So the first two resolutions I think we're going to take out separately. Those have to do with a revised operating and capital budget is the first one, and the second one is the adoption of a five-year operating and capital plan.

So to take the first one, the revised

budget, in a little bit more detail, I'm going to turn it over to John Cox to take us through some of the revisions that are in that budget.

MR. COX: Okay. Thank you, Kim.

Now, commissioners, if you can refer to page sixteen in your packets. And before I go into the detail, I just wanted to go over the, the budget timeline just as a refresher of that process. Of course, you know, we bring -- we have the discussion in November, and we typically bring the initial budget to you to vote on in December. We upload into PARIS on December 31st, at the end of that month. The governor's budget which comes out typically in the month of January.

Based on that, we revise our budget so -and so that would be today's meeting where we
bring the revisions based on updated information
that we have. Then after we approve that,
there's -- typically the timing is that the
legislature and the governor signs the budget on
March 31st. Then we approve this revised budget
and we upload that into PARIS on March 31st. And

then the start of the new fiscal year for both

New York State and the NFTA starts on April 1st.

And that's just a reminder, just a refresher on

how the budget process actually works and the

timing of it.

Now, on page sixteen, just to touch on some of the highlights as far as what's contained in this budget. At this point we still have base fares remaining at two dollars. We do have a decrease in some fares and also some revenues at the airport, and that's a total decrease of about two million dollars as you see under operating revenues.

Below that is the operating assistance, and that includes -- we originally had included a certain amount of federal assistance because we were anticipating what's called -- CRRSA I believe is the acronym, or essentially Cares 2.0. So you see the ten million dollar increase there. So that has -- we've included that in our budget, so that's one of the major adjustments we've made.

It also -- we haven't -- we're keeping Erie

County sales tax flat -- or, I'm sorry. Slight increase at seven percent. We have mortgage tax flat. We're anticipating the Metro fares, as far as actual ridership, we've looking at our fares actually being decreased from the fiscal year 2021 budget by about sixteen point eight million or forty-seven percent. In the CRRSA Act, in total we received for Metro forty-three point two million, BNIA got five point three million and NFIA got one point five million. We're budgeting BNIA enplanements remaining decreased at approximately sixty percent from last year's budget, and NFIA for the year being seventy-three percent decreased from fiscal year '21's budget.

We did have personnel, we have an increase in there of one point eight percent or three million. And that is based on contractual salary increases and increases in fringe costs. And this is -- also, I want to point out that includes no new positions in the budget.

So ultimately what we did is we had the decrease in our revenues, a slight increase in the operating assistance, and that was offset by

increased net operating items in capital. We had some increases there as far as some additional capital items, and also included an increase in the funding of the Metro self-insurance reserves.

Now, if you look at the bottom of the page, you'll see that there weren't many significant changes. Most of the effects flow through because of the -- we'll call it Cares 2.0. You see the effects, who the recipients are. They flow through BNIA, NFIA and Metro and the transportation center. So overall there weren't a lot of significant changes. It was mainly just lowering some operating revenues based on enplanements, what we think is going to happen with ridership, and an increase in our operating assistance and some increased capital expenditures and additional, additional reserves of the Metro self-insurance fund.

- MS. MINKEL: Great. Thanks, John. Do you want to take us through the five-year --
- 21 MR. COX: Yes.

- 22 MS. MINKEL: -- capital and operating plan?
- 23 MR. COX: Sure. Sure. Okay. I'll move on to the

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five-year --
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    COMMISSIONER PERSICO: I'm sorry. This is -- I'm
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       sorry, John.
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   MR. COX:
              Sure.
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    COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Can you hear me?
                                              This is Jen
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       Persico.
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   MS. MINKEL:
                 Yes, we can hear you.
    COMMISSIONER PERSICO: I just had a question.
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       that there was just a recent -- I'm sorry.
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       you hear me?
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   MS. MINKEL:
                 We can hear you.
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    COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Oh, terrific. Sorry.
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       the recent announcement from the governor's
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       office that they didn't expect to -- given the
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       federal funding trickling down, that they didn't
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       expect the reductions that were planned in the
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       original budget, did you guys have time to
       incorporate that in the projections in this
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       particular budget or would that be something that
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       you would be further updating, or is it in here?
    MR. COX: That is not contained in here. And, also,
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       I will point out that the -- well, I guess we'll
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       keep it simple, the CARES Act 3, which is the
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- third round, is not included in here too. We didn't have time to incorporate that in this document.
  - MS. MINKEL: But, also, you're right. Albany has not finalized their budget yet, so what we have in here is what's in the executive budget. Both the Assembly and Senate have their ask in. When that gets finalized, we make adjustments throughout the year. But what's in here from a state level is what was in the governor's budget that was introduced in January. And we have to do --
- 12 COMMISSIONER PERSICO: So hopefully we'll be --
- MS. MINKEL: I was going to say we have to do it that way because --
- 15 COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Sure. Of course. Especially
  16 because --
- 17 MS. MINKEL: I'm sorry.

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- COMMISSIONER PERSICO: I know. It's so difficult to
  do this via phone. You know, I just -- so things
  will look a little bit better maybe in the coming
- 22 MS. MINKEL: Yes. We're very optimistic.
- 23 COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Great. Thank you.

MS. MINKEL: And just before we leave the budget for this year and go to the five-year plan. know, I just want to stress, you know, overall this is a slight increase from what was brought to the board in December. It's a three point six percent increase. And really the only reason why we were able to do this is because of the support from Senator Schumer and all our federal delegation on the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, or the CARES 2.0 that John had mentioned, because, collectively, both from the transit and aviation side, that brought in almost fifty million dollars which help offset the decrease in revenue that we're experiencing in terms of passenger fares, enplanements being down, and the decrease in STOA.

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So I also want to mention, the federal dollars will also help us to restore some of the funding in our self-insurance reserves that we've been essentially borrowing from to help get us by during this difficult time. So we're certainly very appreciative of the federal assistance. And

now John will take us through the five-year plan, and in that we will also see the benefit of that additional federal assistance in out years.

So, John?

MR. COX: Yes. Commissioners, if you can turn to page thirty-seven in your packet. I will just touch on some of the highlights of this -- this is the five-year operating and capital plan that we're required to put together to give us some idea of what -- put some financial planning together for the future.

Now, revenue. Top line revenues. We have Metro passenger fares. We have revenues increased based on an estimated ridership recovery. We have it starting this year at forty percent of pre-pandemic levels, eventually looking at a recovery over those five years to ninety percent by the 2026 fiscal year.

Metro fares. We have an increase in fiscal year, fiscal year 2023. That is I believe --

Chris, is that a quarter increase that's in there? Fifty -- is it fifty cents? I think -- I believe it's --

- 1 MS. MINKEL: It's a quarter.
- 2 MR. COX: It's a quarter, I believe.
- 3 MS. MINKEL: It's a quarter.

MR. COX: Yes. And the last fare increase that we implemented was in 2020 -- excuse me. In 2012.

Buffalo Niagara International, BNIA, we have our concessions and commissions increasing based on estimated enplanement recovery. We're looking at a five-year recovery starting at forty-one percent of pre-pandemic, which would be 2019, and increasing to ninety-eight percent. So essentially by the end of the five years, we'll be fully recovered as far as enplanements at the airport.

Niagara Falls. We have an increase there.

We're looking at being at twenty-seven percent of pre-pandemic during this fiscal year, and by the end of the five years being at sixty-two point --excuse me. Sixty-two percent of pre-pandemic enplanements, which, again is 2029 (sic).

Erie County sales tax. We have a small increase. That's only half a percent. And that's just -- that's due to the post-pandemic

economic uncertainty. We're also seeing the same with mortgage tax.

New York State operating and STOA. We have in there assistance increasing ten percent annually. And that's consistent with what we are asking and the rest of upstate transit authorities are asking for over the next five years as part of the plan.

Federal/state preventive maintenance.

Again, because it's -- we don't know exactly what that will be because of, again, the economic uncertainty. So we have that at about a half a percent. The federal airport coronavirus -- or, CARES Act for the airport, BNIA, we have that being fully utilized next fiscal year. But, again, you know, that will have changed, that assistance, because we have -- let's call it CARES 3.0.

All of the represented -- on the expense side, all of the represented and non-represented salaries are based on contractual agreements and recent proposals that we made. Our health insurance. We have seen -- it's interesting that

we did -- you know, there was a lot of uncertainty of what was going to happen during Were our expenses going to spike, which was certainly a possibility during this pandemic. But, we have so far, at least through, through February, we actually haven't seen a big spike in our health costs. It has been actually slightly below budget. And part of that we believe is due to we didn't see the big increase in expenses that we anticipated potentially from COVID. But, as a result of COVID, many procedures, many doctors' visits and things like that actually initially went -- you know, those actually didn't occur this year. So we may see a little bit of a spike up in this new fiscal year, but, you know, that's to be expected because all of those procedures and office visits and so -- didn't occur this year, so we will potentially see some -- so with that, we're looking at a five percent increase next year.

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As our Workers' Comp. for both NFTA and Metro, we have a ten percent increase, based on recent trends, Metro transit fuel power

increasing three percent.

And then on the capital side, we're looking at Metro capital is increasing approximately fifteen million dollars in fiscal year 2023. That's because of some of the significant projects. We have new buses that we'll be purchasing, an upgrade to our OrbCAD system, which is the system that runs all the buses and where they're located so that you always know where they are, and also some additional yard management software and that would be the light rail yard.

The BNIA capital. Of course we have the continuing project that's already occurring with the airport with the improvement project out there. We have some additional expenditures that would be a new snozzle which is a truck with a nozzle on it that allows you to pierce an airplane and put foam into it. We have some -- replacing some revenue control equipment and some additional shuttle buses. And then at NFIA we have -- out there we have some parking lot construction. In fiscal year '25 we have the

actual revenue control equipment that controls access to the parking lots.

Now, if we turn to page forty, you can see we have our total operating assistance. We start out with the current budget that we're shortly going to be using starting April 1st all the way through fiscal year '26.

Starting with our total operating assistance, revenues and assistance, which is the second line down, we're starting at approximately two hundred and fifty-seven million, and by the end of the five-year period we're at two hundred and seventy-six million, approximately, which is a seven percent increase in our revenues over that time period.

Now, if you turn to page forty-one, you'll see here is our additional operating assistance. What we have included in here, which is important to point out, if you go to the bottom of page forty-one, there's a line just before your total line. You'll see additional operating and capital assistance. So starting this year, we have zero there. That's because we've received

the CARES 2.0.

Now, if you look at fiscal year ending '23 through '26, we start with fifty-six million and it goes out, you know, thirty-six million, thirty million, twenty-three million. That is the additional assistance that we would need to maintain our current operations. And that is because of all the economic downturn and all of the challenges that we're seeing as far as ridership, enplanements, everything happening in all of our business centers, this would be the number -- it totals up to approximately a hundred and forty-seven million dollars -- that we would need to maintain our operations.

Now, I will point out that this doesn't include any additional state assistance that we may get or -- it doesn't, it doesn't include that, and it also doesn't include CARES 3.0 which is the most recent one that was passed I believe on March 13th. So that will be a mitigating factor to this amount, and so that will lower this dollar amount significantly. But, that's what we would need based on the first two rounds

that we got to continue our operations as an organization.

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Now, if you turn to page twenty-four, we have our total operating expenses over that five-year period. Where we're starting at this year's budget, which is two hundred and seventeen million, approximately, in expenses to two hundred and fifty million over that five-year period, you're looking at a fifteen percent increase in expenses. So that shows you, you know, this is something we typically experience where as we have a hard time having our revenues keep up with our expenses, and as we project out into the future, it's typically where you'll see expenses increase at a higher level. And that's where that, again, that additional assistance comes in and helps mitigate that. But we're still -- that's always a trend that we are dealing with on a regular basis.

Now, if you turn to page forty-three, again, we have Metro. This is the consolidated budget, so this is all of the buses and the rail. You know, over the five years as far as revenue,

we're going up approximately eleven percent, and that includes of course as I pointed out before you'll see the additional operating and capital assistance. We have a number there which is included in with that number. We're going up eleven percent. And, again, operating expenses on the Metro as a whole are going up fifteen percent.

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Now, on page forty-four, I'd like to touch base on BNIA. Their revenues -- actually, if you -- over the five years it's actually going down, and it's going down approximately seven percent. And part of that is that, a little bit different than Metro, BNIA operates typically off of the revenues that they generate. So they've gotten some influx of additional federal assistance which you typically would not get at the airport. So, you know, we've got some of it coming in front-loaded and then it's tailing off. And we still have the, you know, the slow recovery. So it's actually -- in the end we're coming down as far as our, our revenues. that's not something to be concerned about. It's

just that what's happening is we're just -- we're taking that federal assistance out.

And one of the things that I'd like to point out. We also have in here those additional amounts. We have -- we were running into an initial issue with not having enough enplanements, not generating enough revenue. And what happens is is we can't cover our expenses and we can't meet bond -- we have a bond covenant that we can't meet. So because we're just not -- we just don't have enough enplanements coming in. So if you look, under revenues and assistance, the additional airline billings, we have fiscal year '23 versus fiscal year '24. There's two numbers there you'll see, approximately six point nine million and five point six million.

Now, what that would be is we run out of federal assistance by applying that to debt service. And what happens is we wouldn't have had enough and we wouldn't have had enough enplanements to generate enough revenue to cover a bond covenant which requires us to have a certain amount of profits.

With the most recent -- I'd like to point out, though, that that has now just been mitigated with the most recent CARES 3.0. We'll be able to apply that to debt service coverage and then going -- so those will be zeroed out, and then going forward in the out years, we should be generating enough revenue where that doesn't have to occur.

Now, if we can turn to page forty-five, I'll just touch base briefly on NFIA. On a year-to-date basis -- or, excuse me. Over the five-year projection, if you look at their revenues from an operating basis, their revenues are increasing thirty-two percent. But, we also have some significant amounts in additional operating capital assistance, so we do have about four million -- between four million and three point five million that we would need to make this be a -- to balance essentially NFIA's budget.

We have some increases in operating expenses, but the biggest challenge we face is that we just don't have enough traffic there.

And there are a couple of things that will be hitting in the out years. We currently have Seneca proceeds that we are budgeting and anticipate receiving, but that runs out in December of 2023, so we'll be losing approximately a million dollars a year there.

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And, also, again, as I mentioned with BNIA, you know, typically it's just revenue. isn't a lot of federal assistance. The current federal assistance that we're getting for both the airports, which includes NFIA, will be, of course, running out. We'll be using that up. And then we run into an issue where in those out years, we face some challenges. And we're going to need to work on ways of developing additional revenue streams to help balance that. Because ultimately what happens is with deficits at NFIA, those deficits end up coming out of BNIA --BNIA's airport development fund. excuse me. So it will be -- eventually what will happen in those out years, if we don't address that revenue issue what will happen is it will start to draw down BNIA's airport development fund and start to lower that, so we have to come up with a way to address that in the out years.

So I know I hit -- that was a lot of information, but it's just, you know, we have to put these projections together. It helps us -- and we're also required to do this, of course, you know, and put it out there every year. It helps us to project and look at -- you know, put together what our expenses are going to be, what kind of capital items we need, and it gives us an idea of, you know, what's coming down the pike and what's out there in the future and gets us thinking about how we're going to address these things as we move forward and these out years become current budget years.

MS. MINKEL: So just a couple of points I want to emphasize. This five-year plan does not include the federal assistance through the American Rescue Plan Act. We're still waiting on the apportionment numbers to know exactly what that will be. However, based on estimates that we received from Senator Schumer's office, it looks like it's a combined a hundred and one million

dollars for both transit and aviation. And that's important because as we look to years two and three of this plan, there's a combined deficit of a hundred and five million dollars. So this Act was always anticipated that it would help with the COVID relief over the next couple of years.

We don't really know what the COVID tale is, how long before things return back to normal, but at least with that federal assistance, it helps cover that projected deficit. And in this five-year plan, we are not anticipating ridership and enplanements to return to pre-pandemic levels until fiscal year ending '26 before that occurs.

So those are the two plans. Are there any questions on the five-year plan or on the budget?

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: I think you've done a remarkable job because it's an enigma to know when things are going to return or even if they will return to the same way. But, this gives us a nice baseline to work with and to modify as we go along, so it's well done, well thought through.

MS. MINKEL: So with that, Sister, I would ask that

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the board approve and adopt both the fiscal year
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       ending '23 budget and the five-year operating and
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       capital plan for NFTA.
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    CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Good.
                                Thank you. And we'll
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       take those one at a time. So let's first look at
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       the revised operating and capital budget.
       that would be the budget ending in fiscal '23.
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            Could I have a motion please to accept?
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    COMMISSIONER PERRY: So moved.
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    CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: And a second?
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    COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second. Mike Hughes.
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    COMMISSIONER AUL: Joan Aul.
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   CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you, Mike.
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            Are there any questions or comments that you
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       want to make before we vote?
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            Okay. All of those who approve of accepting
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       the revised budget, please indicate by saying
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       aye, and it will be a roll call vote.
   MR. STATE: Roll call vote on -- this is item number
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       one, corporate resolution item one.
            Commissioner Ansari?
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    COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Aye.
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   MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
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1 COMMISSIONER AUL: Yes.
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- 2 MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
- 3 COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.
- 4 MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
- 5 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.
- 6 MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
- 7 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Affirmative.
- 8 MR. STATE: Commissioner Persico?
- 9 COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Yes.
- 10 MR. STATE: Commissioner Tucker?
- 11 COMMISSIONER TUCKER: Yes.
- 12 MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
- 13 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
- 14 MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
- 15 COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
- 16 MR. STATE: Any other commissioners that have joined
- that wish to register a vote on the item?
- 18 Thank you. Item passes.
- 19 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Item passes. Thank you.
- Now, the adoption of the five-year operating
- 21 and capital plans. And I would ask for a motion
- 22 to accept -- or, a motion to vote on this item?
- 23 COMMISSIONER PERRY: So moved.

- 1 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: And a second, please?
- 2 COMMISSIONER AUL: Joan Aul. Second.
- 3 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you.
- And remember as you vote, of course you can
- 5 say aye or nay or abstain. And we'll do this by
- 6 roll call.
- 7 MR. STATE: Roll call vote once again.
- 8 Commissioner Ansari?
- 9 COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Aye.
- 10 MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
- 11 | COMMISSIONER AUL: Aye.
- 12 MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
- 13 | COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Aye.
- 14 MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
- 15 | COMMISSIONER HUGHES Aye.
- 16 MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
- 17 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Aye.
- 18 MR. STATE: Commissioner Persico?
- 19 COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Yes.
- 20 MR. STATE: Commissioner Tucker?
- 21 COMMISSIONER TUCKER: Yes.
- 22 MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
- 23 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.

1 MR. STATE: Commissioner Wilcox?

2 COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.

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MR. STATE: Any other commissioners, either

4 Commissioner Blue or Commissioner Hicks, wish to

5 register a vote on this?

Item passes.

7 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you.

Now, we have the resolutions three through

9 six. And, Kim, you'll lead us?

10 MS. MINKEL: Yes. Thank you, Sister.

So corporate resolution number three starts on page forty-eight. Staff is looking for an agreement with FirstLight. This is for network support throughout our Authority. This is a five-year agreement. The total cost of the agreement over five years is five point five million dollars. Currently, we have an agreement with FirstLight. We pay around nine hundred thousand a year. This new contract, however, though, is going to provide some additional services. Particularly, we are adding increased

more and more cyber security attacks. We also

security and penetration scanning in light of

have more equipment. When you take a look at every one of our buses out there, each one of them are loaded with a fair amount of technology. It's also going to provide the equivalent of three full-time staff members to help support over seven hundred pieces of network equipment.

We did go out with an RFP. We received two proposals. FirstLight was selected the highest. The MWBE goals for this were five percent, zero percent and zero percent for SDVOB. FirstLight has identified their participation of zero percent for MBE, WBE participation of seven percent, and they are seeking a waiver from ESD for the MBE goals.

I wanted to use this particular resolution to highlight something for the board. If you take a look on page forty-nine, you will see in the selection criteria that for projects such as this and other projects that we have, when we evaluate them, we look at and we score them based on a couple different factors. One qualification is experience. That's extremely important given the project. We take a look at the technical

criteria, their approach to the project. Cost obviously is just as important.

But, we also look at diversity practices.

And this is something that goes back to 2017 when we changed our procurement guidelines. And we thought it was important that we -- and I think this is -- you know, helps us get that A report card grade from Empire State Development, is that we pay particular attention to diversity. So when we advertise this, we send out a questionnaire, and you get points based on the answer of the questionnaire.

I will say that the questionnaire or the evaluation for diversity practice is somewhat skewed in that a larger company can benefit.

They are more likely, for example, to have a chief diversity officer compared to smaller organizations. But, it's our hope that over time as we put this out there, as we help educate vendors who will bid on NFTA work, that they become more aware of some of the things that we're looking for and help improve diversity throughout the region.

The fourth resolution starting on page fifty is an authorization for agreement with Marsh.

This is our insurance broker for the NFTA. This will be a seven-year agreement. Essentially, it's three years with the option -- our option to renew for four additional years, at a cost of a hundred and ninety-five thousand in year one, one ninety-nine five in year two, two hundred and four thousand in year three, two hundred and eight thousand in year five, two thirteen in year six -- somehow I'm counting wrong. Two hundred and seventeen thousand five hundred in year six, and then two hundred and twenty-two thousand in the seventh year.

We did go out, again, for an RFP. We received three responses. We scored Marsh the highest based on similar scoring criteria that I had just mentioned for the previous resolution.

The MBE, WBE and SDVOB goals were seventeen percent, thirteen percent and one percent, respectively, and they have identified that they will meet those goals, with the exception of the SDVOB. Their participation would be zero

percent, and we are granting them a waiver on that. Our previous broker was Aon. They provided excellent service for the Authority over the past twelve years. Prior to Aon, we had Marsh for a number of ten years, so we have good experience with them. The broker helps with the placement of our property and casualty insurance as well as any other additional risk management resources. And given the breadth and depth of our agency, it's important that we have that support and those resources to help us manage our losses.

The fifth corporate resolution is on page fifty-three. Staff is looking for a license agreement with Erie County. This is for them to have access at 61 and 68 Smith Street. This is so that they can address invasive species control on their property. Prior to the use of any herbicides or pesticides, they will have to get permission from both the county and the NFTA, and we need to make certain that it's on the approval list that the DEC and EPA may have out, and they would get that before they access the site.

On page fifty-four is the sixth and final corporate resolution. This is for a lease agreement with Top Seedz. Actually, it's a lease amendment where they're looking to increase the storage space at 247 Cayuga. We had a previous tenant who has vacated the space, so we have twenty-three hundred square feet that is now available, and they are looking to rent that space at a rate of four dollars and twenty cents per square foot. It would increase on October 1st of 2021 by three percent.

Since they are a tenant and have been a tenant for a couple of years at this space, this initial rent is only for four months, and then it will be coterminous with their existing rent agreement that they have. The total rent for the twenty-eight month term will be twenty-three thousand four hundred and eighteen dollars and nine cents. There was a mistake in the earlier submission that we had sent out to the board. So the correct number is twenty-three thousand four hundred and eighteen dollars and nine cents.

And those are the corporate resolutions,

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       Sister.
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    CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much. Any
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       questions of Kim?
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            May I have a motion to take resolutions
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       three, four, five and six together as a unit?
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    COMMISSIONER PERRY: Motion to move those as a unit.
    CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And a second?
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   COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Commissioner Wilcox. Second.
   COMMISSIONER AUL: Joan Aul. Second.
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   COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Jen Persico. Second.
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    CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much.
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   MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul.
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   CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: I appreciate that you have to
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       get off mute and then get back on.
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            I will ask you, please, if you choose to
       abstain from any of them to let us know which one
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       that would be. Any questions before we go?
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            Okay. For the resolutions, we will call the
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       roll, please.
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   MR. STATE: All right. This is on items three
       through six, corporate resolutions, motion to
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       approve.
            Commissioner Ansari?
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- 1 COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
- 2 MR. STATE: Commissioner Ansari is a yes.
- 3 Commission Aul?
- 4 COMMISSIONER AUL: Aye.
- 5 MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
- 6 COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Aye.
- 7 MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
- 8 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Aye.
- 9 MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
- 10 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Yes.
- 11 MR. STATE: Commissioner Persico?
- 12 COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Yes.
- 13 MR. STATE: Commissioner Tucker?
- 14 COMMISSIONER TUCKER: Yes.
- 15 MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
- 16 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
- 17 MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
- 18 | COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
- 19 MR. STATE: Any other commissioners voting on this?
- 20 Item passes.
- 21 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. Now, the aviation
- 22 business group, and I turn to Commissioner Perry.
- 23 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Thank you, Sister. Consistent

with our recent practices, I'm going to ask Bill Vanecek to take us through the AIP and other items.

MR. VANECEK: Thank you, Commissioner Perry.

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So the projects that are underway for the Buffalo Niagara International Airport include first and foremost the terminal enhancement As you know, that's a forty-one thousand square foot addition to the east side and an eleven thousand square foot addition to the west side. In addition, we'll be renovating thirty-nine thousand square feet. At this point the west expansion escalator, elevator, solar panels, exterior building envelope and terrazzo flooring are in progress. Carousel number two is in process and we expect to have that one up and operating by mid April or so. I think right now they're targeting the 9th, but we'll say between the 9th and the end of April. And then we will -- we are shooting for and I think we're going to be able to get there, the complete expansion of both the west -- the west expansion and the east expansion by June of '21 -- of this

year. So that will take care of really the expansion areas and what will be left is just the two other carousels and those will be wrapped up by March of 2022.

The subsurface wetland program. This is where we treat our de-icing --

Oh. Commissioner Perry?

COMMISSIONER PERRY: So the original RFP for the design for this was November, 2015. Seems like a long time ago.

MR. VANECEK: That was the, that was the request for proposal. You've got it.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: And now we're less than a year from the last component of baggage carousel three and four being completed according to schedule.

16 MR. VANECEK: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER PERRY: And it took all this time for Newell Nussbaumer to interview you and do an article in Buffalo Rising.

MR. VANECEK: Well, we do thank Newell for getting us a little bit of press out there. It's been very positive, so we're thankful for what we can get.

So the next project is the subsurface

engineered wetlands project. Full construction activities began on March 8th by Kandey Company, and with WSP as the construction managers on that. The notice to proceed was January, '21 and the project close-out will be by the end of this year, so we'll be in good shape for treating our spent glycol going into those areas.

The Buell Avenue parking lot. This is an area where we're going to be allowing the relocation of about four hundred employee parking spaces. We'll also increase parking spaces near the terminal, obviously, for BNIA customers, and we will have a park and ride location there for our Metro customers. Notice to proceed will be issued in April of 2021 for construction.

Runway 5-23 is going to be a major project.

That project will determine, will determine the next key mill and overlay as well as full-depth replacement of the pavement that are on the runway. It will also include pavement markings, lighting modernizations and drainage systems. In February of 2021 we issued the notice to proceed for design, so that is, that is underway.

Niagara Falls. We have one project up
there. It's taxiway D. This is our main access
to the main runway from the terminal. And the
project, again, is going to be a mill and overlay
as necessary, and any full-depth replacement as
well. It will also include pavement markings and
replacement lighting and drainage. The notice to
proceed for construction is October of this year.

Moving ahead to the business update. Our enplanements for February were down seventy-five percent over budget, and for the year we're eighty-four percent below budget, again, because of the pandemic and really no change in patterns of travel at this point. However, I will say that over these next three days starting today, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, we will average over thirty-five hundred passengers per day. And that's a huge jump from what we've been seeing in the past. So with any luck -- and I'll reach down and hit the wood on the table here. Right? That this will continue to show an upturn in the travel patterns that we so desperately want to see.

Our February deficit was seven hundred and ten thousand unfavorable to budget. Year to date we are showing a net surplus of two million four thirty-eight, fifty-eight percent unfavorable to what we had anticipated.

Let's see. And then moving forward to
Niagara Falls. Our enplanements at Niagara Falls
came in just over two thousand for the month of
February. That was eighty-five percent below
what we had anticipated. And year to date we are
eighty-seven percent below what we had
anticipated as well. And this is really being
driven by a couple of things, as far as the
surplus -- the deficits, the deficit of a hundred
and fifty thousand at Niagara Falls, the variance
portion really is attributable to the lack of
parking. I mean, parking is our biggest revenue
at both airports, but you significantly get hit
by the ones up in Niagara Falls.

So then next up would be -- if we look at the number of flights that were going out of Buffalo in 2021 versus 2022 (sic), when you compare these, you're seeing a significant drop.

Sixty-three percent in the actual flights scheduled and then the -- or, I'm sorry. In the actual flights flown. And scheduled was seven hundred and seventy-two.

What we're seeing is a pattern amongst the airlines that if they offer a flight in -- let's say in the morning, and they don't have a lot of passengers on it, they're going to -- they're canceling that and then they're putting the additional passengers on other flights that are flying to the same destination to make better use of their aircraft. So we're seeing a little bit of that. So forty-three flights were canceled in February due to the low loads on those flights.

At Niagara Falls, a couple of things.

Allegiant is flying. Spirit is not. They have indicated to us that they will consider maybe flying starting in the summer of this year. So we're in a holding pattern with Spirit.

And then a couple of other things. Our twelve-month period ending November, '20 versus the same year last year was sixty-five percent negative versus an average across the country of

fifty-four percent. Again, that tells you the
impact of the Canadian border as it's
demonstrated here. We should all be pretty much
on par within the United States border, not
relying on the Canadian traffic.

Niagara Falls. Similarly, they do get also a little bit of that impact as well. Not as much, though, than we would anticipate. So, again, Spirit is anticipating re-evaluating for the summer months.

And that concludes my report on the operations.

And are we saving discussion items for later, Kim?

15 MS. MINKEL: Yes.

16 MR. VANECEK: Okay. Are there any questions on

17 those?

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18 | COMMISSIONER PERRY: Any questions?

19 And, Sister, that --

20 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Any news on the Canadian

21 situation?

22 MR. VANECEK: No. They've once again -- they've

punted again and kicked it out another month. I

see no reason that they're going to open it until 1 later -- if I had to guess, probably late fall maybe. There's really no movement at all. 3 4 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Late fall? 5 MR. VANECEK: Late fall. That would be my guess. 6 COMMISSIONER PERRY: So that means like December. MR. VANECEK: Yes. I mean, that's what we're hearing 8 the chatter being. 9 COMMISSIONER PERRY: So you mean no Crystal Beach, 10 no --11 MR. VANECEK: No Crystal Beach. I mean, the beach 12 exists, but --13 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Yes. Yes. Thanks for that. 14 MR. VANECEK: Thank you. 15 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Thank you, Bill. 16 And that concludes the aviation report. 17 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much. 18 We have a few resolutions, and I'll ask Kim, 19 please, to take us through those. 20 MS. MINKEL: Yes. Thanks, Sister. 21 There's three aviation resolutions.

start on page fifty-seven. The first one, staff

is looking for an authorization for a change

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order with Pike Company. This is for the expansion project at the Buffalo airport that Bill highlighted earlier. This will be a hundred and eighty-nine thousand eight hundred and twenty-five dollar increase to the contract. The revised contract value would be just under a three percent overall increase. We're trying to -- normally with these projects of this nature, if you keep it under five percent, it's considered a good job. At this point we are about seventy-five percent overall complete with the project.

The reason for the increase is -- it falls under a couple different categories. One is unforeseeable varying site conditions that amounts to thirty-three thousand six hundred and thirty-five dollars. So these are things that come as a surprise when you get into the walls, you find that, for example, the framing conditions weren't known until they actually got into the walls so changes need to be made based on what was designed.

But a hundred and fifty-two thousand three

hundred and seventy dollars is related to design consistencies. So, for example, a big item, the twenty-six thousand three hundred and twenty dollar item for a pedestrian breach system, ceiling mesh. This is a requirement that TSA has so that when you go from the secure to the non-secure area, someone can't throw something up above the ceiling and cause a security breach For these items, it's important that the there. board know that for any rework we are getting a credit. And to date we have received a three hundred and fourteen thousand rework reimbursement credit has already been received for any of these design inconsistencies.

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The next category is enhancements. So these are the type of things that when they're out there, sometimes it becomes apparent that we could improve the project. So we have twenty-one thousand eight hundred and twenty dollars worth of enhancements to the projects.

And then the final category, we do have a credit or cost reduction of eighteen thousand to the project. This work is being paid for through

both the passenger facility charge and the airport development fund, depending on the eligibility schedule as it relates to the PFC requirements.

The second resolution in aviation on page sixty-three is an authorization for an agreement with Varec for accounting software in the amount of eighteen thousand for three years and a three-year support agreement in the amount of nineteen thousand sixty-three dollars and thirty-five cents. And this is to comply with the new reporting requirements that were put in place by the airlines in 2017. This proposal is considered sole source because they are the vendor of the original equipment. And the board should know that a hundred percent of these costs are directly related and billed right back to the airlines.

And then the final resolution is an authorization for procurement with Prentice Office for passenger seating furniture at the Buffalo airport. And so this is for the new space that Bill mentioned earlier. The total

amount is three hundred and nine thousand two hundred and fifty-three dollars and fifty-four cents. Prentice Office is a New York State certified WBE. This was procured off of OGS Services. And this will fill the space of approximately twenty-nine thousand square feet and provide additional passenger seating. The board should know that for the furniture portion of this project, we are coming in overall about a hundred and fifty thousand under budget, so that's good.

And those are the three resolutions.

- MR. VANECEK: Kim, can I clarify?
- 14 MS. MINKEL: Um-hum.

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- MR. VANECEK: So this is the furniture portion, but included in this overall budget for the furniture there still needs to be purchases of planters and plants and trash can receptacles that will go in, so that will eat up some of that.
- 20 MS. MINKEL: Okay. Thanks, Bill.
- 21 | CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Okay. I think we could take
- 22 these three together.
- 23 MS. MINKEL: Um-hum.

- 1 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes. So we will take the three
- 2 resolutions together unless there is an
- 3 | objection. Any board member object?
- 4 COMMISSIONER PERRY: So moved.
- 5 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And a second?
- 6 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second. Mike Hughes.
- 7 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you, Mike.
- 8 | COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Second. Jen Persico.
- 9 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Is there any discussion,
- 10 questions, comments?
- Thank you. I don't hear any, so I'm going
- 12 to ask Dave to do the roll.
- 13 MR. STATE: Roll call votes.
- 14 Commissioner Ansari?
- 15 | COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
- 16 MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
- 17 | COMMISSIONER AUL: Aye.
- 18 MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
- 19 COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Aye.
- 20 MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
- 21 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Aye.
- 22 MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry?
- 23 COMMISSIONER PERRY: Aye.

- 1 MR. STATE: Commissioner Persico?
- 2 COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Yes.
- 3 MR. STATE: Commissioner Tucker?
- 4 COMMISSIONER TUCKER: Yes.
- 5 MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
- 6 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
- 7 MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
- 8 COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
- 9 MR. STATE: Item carries.
- 10 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And now it's time
- 11 for the surface transportation business report,
- and I turn it over to Commissioner Hughes.
- 13 | COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you, Sister. Similar to
- 14 aviation, there was no official committee meeting
- 15 this morning. With that, I'll ask Tom George to
- 16 walk us through the financials and the
- 17 initiatives report.
- 18 | MR. GEORGE: Okay. Good afternoon, commissioners.
- 19 We did cover the financials in the, in the audit
- and governance, so I will, I will refer to that
- 21 if possible. And I would like to start with the
- 22 initiatives status report. I don't have anything
- on our initiatives report for this month, but I

would like just to spend a minute on our capital project update because it's been quite some time since we've gone through that.

On our LRV midlife rebuild, that's a project that is probably older than most of us have been in our positions here in this room. I am pleased to say that we are down to our last car, car 107. We have twenty-six cars in service, and we do anticipate having car 107 completed here in the next month or so. So this will be quite the milestone for NFTA Metro and our contractors and consultants.

Also, on LR rail the pad and fastener replacement phase ten. So we are periodically replacing rail and fasteners in the tunnel. This section is from LaSalle to University Station.

That is nearing completion and should be done by May of 2021 as well. And that leads us into our next project which will be moving back to the surface. And we anticipate doing design on that project in this coming summer and fall.

The City of Buffalo's lower Main Street rehabilitation project. It's important that we

reference that today because they're nearing completion on that. Their completion schedule is for December of 2021, so December of this year. In order to get to that point, there's going to be a long period of single tracking in the summer from basically June through August. We're looking at about three months of single tracking which will have an impact on our community, so I wanted to highlight that.

And I also wanted to highlight the fact that we are also moving forward with the redesign of the Erie Canal Harbor Station. We have our consultant onboard. We're starting that design process. And the intent is as the city turns the Cars on Main Street and the Erie Canal Harbor Station over to us, we will then move in with our construction to rehabilitate that station. So that's ongoing as scheduled.

On the DL and W Station. There's significant construction going on there now. It has been for quite some time. They're making good progress on all the yards, the track, the train control, the catenary, all the support

systems for the rail, and we do anticipate advertising for bids on the station work in June of this year. So the design on that is nearing completion, and we should be nearing the bidding on that as we get into the summer.

On the fare collection upgrade. There is a number of systems ongoing testing today. We've got fare boxes in our vehicles, we have gates in the stations, we have ticket vending machines. We're in the final testing of a lot of that. And we've moving forward with a proposed start of that project in the summer of this year in time for our fall school and college programming initiation.

And then last, but not least, I just want to touch on Metro escalator replacement. You know, we talk about these projects. We're at Humboldt Station. We're replacing three escalators there this year. That's year five of our plan. We would have one more year after this that we've funded and that would be for University Station. And once we get through that, we will have replaced every single long escalator in the

system and rehabilitated every single short escalator in the system. So by the end of 2022, calendar year 2022, we should be at a point where we have all of our escalators in either new or fully rehabilitated status.

If I can shift gears a little bit and talk about ridership. Ridership has been -- remained fairly steady. Year to date we're at forty-eight percent on the bus and thirty-four percent on the rail. Couple notes, though. We did -- we are picking up a little bit, very little bit -- I don't want to say too much because I don't think it's a trend yet. But, we're seeing in March numbers starting to move north into a little bit more positive territory.

But of significant note is our paratransit ridership. Paratransit ridership as of the first week of March is over seventy percent. We were at below fifty percent in January. So I'm really excited about this because it's showing just how important we are to this community and what we're able to do for these folks and that we're there for them, and that they have a need and we're

able to support it. And you can see, again, that that ridership is starting to move up. So I'm viewing that as some normalcy in our community and some ability for a lot of our people with disabilities to be able to get back into the swing of things, because in many cases we are the sole mobility option that they have.

That's all I had in my report. I would be remiss, of course, if I didn't go over our committees. I am pleased to say that we do have a citizens advisory committee meeting this evening at five-thirty p.m. We did not have a meeting last month, so there's no report on that, but we will be meeting this evening. And as well there is an accessibility advisory committee meeting today at two p.m.

There was a meeting in February, and some of the items that were covered were the new fare system and what that means to those individuals and to get input on that. We are doing a new paratransit rider's guide. It's anticipated to be completed by early summer of 2021. We've been getting some feedback from the committee on that.

There was some questions about some overlapping audio from the vehicles. With the big buses, as they kneel, creating some challenges for people to hear that, so we're working on that. We've changed our PAL Direct online service to increase the characters on that to allow people to provide more input on their comments.

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We were also able to provide the ability for our customers to buy bulk passes. So if you're a paratransit customer, today it's four dollars a ride, but you have the ability to buy a ten-pack or a twenty-pack for three dollars and fifty cents a ride. We have now implemented that into our mobile device payment methodology, so those folks are also able to buy those discounted tickets using their mobile devices. And that was requested by that group. The MagnusCard app is also available to our customers. We went through that again with them. We're very pleased to inform them that the developmentally disabled individuals are able to use that app to navigate our system as well as the airport, I believe. that's a great service that's been put out there.

And we are also continuing our audit to fix route stop compliance. We've done this for a number of years. It was generally driven by the fact that as the bus comes to a stop, an operator is required to notify the riders of the stop that's coming up. As we build our automated system, that goes over to the automated system, which makes some of the auditing less necessary. But, we're going to still continue on because it also helps us with how our automated system is working.

There was also some suggestions that were brought into us that we're working on. And as I said, the final meeting -- or, not the final meeting, but the next meeting is today at two p.m. And that's my report. If there's any questions.

- CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much, Tom.
- 19 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thanks, Tom.
- 20 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Kim, do you want to take us
- 21 through the resolution?

- 22 MS. MINKEL: Yes. There are eight resolutions in
- 23 surface. The first one is on page sixty-seven.

And if the board would bear with me for a minute, this is a new -- a different type of procurement. It's the first time we're ever done it here at the NFTA. So this is the first time we've done a targeted procurement or a set-aside that is provided under the Public Authorities Law where the board can waive competition for the purchase of goods and services.

And we are asking that the board waive competition and approve a lump sum agreement for design services with Watts Architect and Engineering. And this is for a project that we're very excited about. And this is to improve the sidewalk area along the Freedom Wall. The Freedom Wall for -- as a reminder to existing and new board members was done on the NFTA bus wall on the corner of Michigan and Ferry Streets. And it's certainly a very moving tribute, and we think it's important that as beautiful as the wall is that the sidewalk and the landscaping and the lighting reflect that.

So this work would include the reconstruction area between the concrete wall and the street

curbing, it would install LED lighting to accent the wall portraits and it would replace some of the curbing and the sidewalk to allow for improved accessibility within that area. Watts Engineering has the, the ability and the staff to provide the -- and certainly the expertise to do this work. And the total amount for it is thirty-three thousand eight hundred and forty dollars.

The second resolution is an authorization for a contract with Scheidt and Bachman. And this is for fare media in quantities not to exceed six hundred and forty-five thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine dollars. This is for the paper fare media, which was not part of the original contract. It is considered a sole-source procurement because the manufacturer of this equipment has the media supplies that comply with the specs and warranty that's needed to operate within the system. And so the idea of this is it would be ticket stock for vending for a single use and short-term travel. And it's also the card stock that we can pass out to

Social Service agencies and bulk sales. And this is for five years to take us through five years for this project.

The third surface resolution on page seventy-two is a supplemental agreement with WSP in the amount of two hundred and seventy-eight thousand two hundred and five dollars. And this is a supplemental agreement to their phase one contract as they advance the environmental under the National Environmental Policy Act, the NEPA requirements that FTA requires us to follow as part of the light rail extension project.

So a little while back FTA had asked that as part of the NEPA review we include an alternative, the bus rapid transit system review, as part of that environmental. The environmental had been done to satisfy the state requirement under SEQR, but that in satisfying the state, we did not include BRT as an alternative, and FTA has asked that that be included. So this is to include that portion of the work. WSP participation -- WBE participation is fifteen percent, their MBE participation is nineteen

percent and their SDVOB participation is six

percent as part of this project. And this is

paid for as part of a grant that's been received

through Empire State Development.

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The fourth resolution under surface is a support agreement with Conduent Transport. This is for our OrbCAD system in Metro. It's in the amount of one million three hundred and eighty-nine thousand five hundred and forty dollars and will take us through the end of February of 2026. It's a five-year agreement. The OrbCAD system is used to monitor, control and operate our bus service. So this includes the voice, the data and the GPS, the location communications of our bus fleet. The system was competitively procured in 2009. It utilizes proprietary software, so, thus, that makes this a single-source procurement as part of our procurement guidelines. Additionally, this will help address some security issues. Cyber security is always a concern. And it's really a major step forward in how we use our OrbCAD system going forward.

The fifth resolution on page seventy-five is an authorization for agreement with DOT. a right-of-way permit for our bus loop over here by our MTC. Essentially, the bus loop is set up There's the center of the doughnut, in two ways. which is a separate permit agreement with DOT, and then the doughnut itself is what this refers And DOT is looking for a rate adjustment. The last time the rate was established was in 2013, which had a monthly rate of seventeen fifty. Effective April 1st, the rate would increase to twenty-one hundred dollars. outer edge of doughnut is where we have some NFTA employee parking and taxicab parking. The inner part is where the bus layover exists. I should also mention the maintenance of this space is our responsibility as part of this permit agreement.

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On page seventy-six, staff is looking for an agreement with 1238 Group. This is for storage space of a little over twelve thousand five hundred square feet at a rate of five dollars and twenty-five cents per square foot at a location of 222 Chicago Street. We currently are leasing

space, a little over twenty thousand square feet of indoor space that we -- is not being offered up for renewal. And we need space to put a number of our capital assets, vehicles, supplies, during the off season. So this is a space that's fairly close to our Metro rail operations that we can move that equipment to for the next couple of years.

The seventh surface resolution, staff is recommending a contract with Green Options

Buffalo which is doing business as GoBike. This is for a three-year term not to exceed seven hundred and fifty-nine thousand two hundred and twenty-five dollars and seventy-one cents. And this project is the second portion of our transportation demand management grant that was awarded to the NFTA back in April of 2019. The second grant of the TDM has a recommendation that we'll develop and implement the recommendations from the first grant that was received.

The goal of TDM in general is to decrease single-occupancy vehicles, reduce vehicle miles traveled and reduce emissions throughout the

region. So this project, which be will be managed by GBNRTC -- the NFTA is administering the grant award, but GBNRTC has agreed to manage the project for us -- will focus on regional marketing and education on TDM programs. We'll look at vanpool expansion, bike share expansion and carpool signage and promotions going forward. And this grant was funded through CMAQ funds with FTA and matching in-kind services from GoBike.

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And the final resolution under surface is on page eighty. Staff is looking for the board to adopt our Metro bus and rail service design quidelines and delivery standards. This was a discussion item at last month's board meeting. The purpose of these revised service and design quidelines that were last adopted and approved in 2012 and really go back to 1992, is to focus on equity and incorporate a transit need index as a framework for evaluating the equitable distribution of service to the community with the highest need for public transportation. goal of this is to make our buses more reliable and predictable, and it will help improve traffic

1 flow.

And a little later today, as one of the discussion items, we have Rob Jones who will talk about bus stop balancing, one of the components that's in this service design guideline and delivery standards. We're very excited about this. This is the next generation of transportation. It's really based on a lot of best practices that we're seeing not only throughout the U.S., but really throughout the world.

So those are the resolutions, Sister.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Okay. Unless there is an objection, we will take all of these eight resolutions together.

Anyone who objects to doing that?

Okay. May I have a motion, please, to accept these eight resolutions?

19 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: So moved. Mike Hughes.

20 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. And a second?

21 COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Phil Wilcox. Second.

22 COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Second. Jen Persico.

23 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. I'll turn it over to

- 1 Dave for the roll call.
- 2 MR. STATE: Roll call vote. Commissioner Ansari?
- 3 COMMISSIONER ANSARI: Yes.
- 4 MR. STATE: Commissioner Aul?
- 5 COMMISSIONER AUL: Aye.
- 6 MR. STATE: Commissioner Baynes?
- 7 COMMISSIONER BAYNES: Yes.
- 8 MR. STATE: Commissioner Hughes?
- 9 COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes.
- 10 MR. STATE: Commissioner Persico?
- 11 COMMISSIONER PERSICO: Yes.
- 12 MR. STATE: Commissioner Tucker?
- 13 COMMISSIONER TUCKER: Yes.
- 14 MR. STATE: Sister Denise?
- 15 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Yes.
- 16 MR. STATE: And Commissioner Wilcox?
- 17 COMMISSIONER WILCOX: Yes.
- 18 MR. STATE: Commissioner Perry has left the room, so
- 19 I didn't call him. But, the item passes.
- 20 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you very much. We're
- 21 going to move along now to the general counsel
- 22 report.
- 23 MR. STATE: Nothing to report today, Sister.

1 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Nothing to report. That's fine.

2 And to our presentations. So I'll turn it 3 over to Kim.

MS. MINKEL: Great. Thank you, Sister.

I'm going to turn it over to Darren Kempner to provide an update on his government affairs report and to speak a little bit to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Darren?

MR. KEMPNER: Thanks, Kim.

I've got two slides to review, federal and state government funding and finance. And I'll start just briefly, but we've said a lot of this already. The American Rescue Plan Act, as you likely know, was signed into law on March 11th. The Act appropriated thirty billion for federal transit programs as well as eight billion for federal aviation. And those amounts haven't been allocated formally yet, but from Senator Schumer's office we received some estimates for NFTA and NFTA Metro and the airport system. So I've listed those in the PowerPoint slide.

About seventy-nine point four million for

Metro and then a total of about twenty-two million for the two airports. I would mention not listed here is an allocation of eight hundred million -- out of the eight hundred million nationwide, an allocation to concessionaires at the two airports. Just like the last round, there was a smaller allocation; this one, a larger allocation. And also like previous rounds, there's a provision to fund one hundred percent of AIP projects in the 2021 fiscal year, the current fiscal year, so that translates to about a quarter million dollars for us. got two big projects, as Bill mentioned earlier, the design of the main runway in Buffalo and the taxiway D up in Niagara Falls so that's (inaudible).

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The last thing I would mention on the

American Rescue Plan, as you know, it included

three hundred and fifty billion for state and

local governments, and that obviously translates

to the New York State budget. And as

Commissioner Persico mentioned before, the

governor kind of did a bit of a reset earlier

this week in the negotiations by mentioning that the federal -- the American Rescue Plan money will certainly change the calculus here.

So part of the normal process is for the executive to propose the budget in January, and then the Assembly and Senate to do their one-house budgets as they did March 13th and 14th. I've listed last year's enacted as well as the governor and Assembly and Senate budgets here.

I think the main difference I would point out in these two 2021-'22 state budget proposals is the Senate increased STOA for NFTA by ten percent, where the Assembly actually decreased the STOA from last year's enacted budget slightly. The Assembly also created a new program for bus and bus facilities, similar to our federal bus and bus facilities program. Eighty million to be distributed across non-MTA properties which would translate to about almost nine million dollars for NFTA, and then a small bus rapid transit capital appropriation to all non-MTA properties of four million dollars.

So the next steps on the budget usually would be table targets, which is how much money each table, transportation and education, has to distribute across all areas. And those haven't been set, and with the state fiscal year rapidly approaching to close, there's a lot to be negotiated in a short period of time. As you can imagine, if you don't know how much you're going to spend, it's hard to break it up amongst everything. So I would say that we're continuing to talk to our electeds about our priorities, which certainly are listed here, but there are additional ones that are not that we've discussed with them and we'll continue to focus on those, certainly STOA capital programs for transit as well as the aviation capital grant program.

That concludes my report.

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MS. MINKEL: Great. Are there any questions for Darren?

Okay. If not, I'll turn it over to Tom George to talk about bus stop balancing.

MR. GEORGE: Yeah. Just real briefly before I turn it over to Rob. You know, we talked about this

year and I just talked about ridership being at fifty percent. And then we talk about in the budget John has presented how we anticipate that going up to ninety percent over the next few years. But, you'll see some of the routes today are certainly much better than fifty percent and some are less. So as we move through the next few years and through the next few months, we're having to take a hard look. You know, the whole industry is under immense pressure right now.

We've been solidified by the dollars that
Darren had just talked about, but at the end of
the day, we're still staring at a changed
environment and a changed community relative to
public transit. So as we start to look at every
one of these routes and look at new service
models and look at ways we're going to deliver
things to meet the needs of our community and to
address those lower ridership numbers, we also
are going to look at -- we're going to look at
every route individually. Interesting to note,
in June of 2010, the NFTA adopted a new service
approach based on a large consultant study that

was done, and we rolled out a new service then.

It was a new model that was developed eleven

years ago. And one of the comments in that study

was the fact that a lot of our stops are way too

close together and we've got a lot of stops that

we don't need.

So with that, I'm going to turn it over to Rob Jones who is going to talk a little bit about bus stop balancing and approaches that we would use. And keep in mind that as we go through the year, we're going to be looking at each one of these routes and looking at our system as a whole and this is a part of that evaluation and analysis. So with that, I'll turn it over to Rob and let him talk about our approach.

MR. JONES: Great. Thank you, Tom, for kind of contextualizing that. So before we talk about bus stop balancing, well, what is it? So really briefly, it's really a comprehensive approach to looking at not only the number of stops, but the placement of stops within your community to enhance efficiency for your customers as a baseline.

So how do we fair versus our peers? We're always looking at how we do relative to our peers. And this is a very important topic because as you can imagine buses spend nationally around twenty percent of their time at bus stops picking up passengers. That doesn't even account for the time spent at bus stops -- I'm sorry. At stops such as stoplights, stop signs, et cetera. So buses are usually moving about fifty-five to sixty percent of the time. So any way to increase that amount of efficiency so that you're moving more increases the speed there as well.

So we looked at our ABBG peers. Our bus stop spacing for only our local routes, so taking out the express routes, is about nine hundred feet between stops or about six per mile. But our peers are about fifty percent greater distance than that or about four stops per mile with about thirteen hundred fifty feet between them. So you can see that we're well below our peers in terms of how close our stops are, which is another reason why we wanted to look at that.

So in terms of, well, how are we doing?

This is a good example in terms of closeness of What we're showing on the screen some bus stops. is Elmwood Avenue where there are two stops on one block. And as you can see in the bottom left photo, you can see both of those on the same block, you could probably throw a baseball between them. They're a little bit less than two hundred feet. Oftentimes, as a former rider of the 20 Elmwood, daily rider, you would be picking up or dropping off passengers at both stops. That's an opportunity for the bus to have to pull over and get back into mixed traffic, so you have a safety concern there as well. So trying to keep buses safe obviously. But, also, just that distance, obviously walkable for the majority of our customers as well.

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So another -- well, how did we get here?

Our land use has changed a lot over time, over the last twenty years, over the last twenty-five years. We haven't necessarily responded with changing where our bus stops are. So this is an example from Fillmore Avenue, where you see two bus stops there that are about six hundred and

fifty feet from each other. But there used to be a building at that southern bus stop that's listed that is no longer there. We never moved that bus stop. So we still occasionally stop there to pick a passenger up. We still occasionally stop at the other one. consolidating those will reduce the amount of time that we have to stop at those locations. a lot of times when we go to re-evaluate routes, we're not doing very nimble. We're just saying, hey, the stop is there; we'll just leave it there in the community. And then we add new stops because new things come into the community, without removing other stops, so we're really exacerbating the problem over time without doing a comprehensive review of where these bus stops are.

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So we're really here to talk about approach. We haven't done anything yet. We're talking about, how do we approach this? And the first step was the service design guidelines, which we presented last month where we kind of changed how our spacing is for different routes, and now we

want to be able to meet those guidelines. So in terms of our approach, we need to look at a lot of different things. One is ridership, so your boardings and alightings at different stops. Also, obviously the distance between stops. What is around those stops? Do we have a transit supportive environment? Are there shelters, are there waiting areas, are there any safety concerns in those areas in terms of lighting, bad sidewalks? Really importantly is the accessibility portion of this. A lot of times we have stops in areas that maybe aren't accessible and we want to look at removing those stops and putting them in more accessible locations for individuals and as well as looking at where are important transfer locations and waiting locations in terms of the land uses around them.

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So public outreach. Obviously very important to a project like this. We don't want to just go out and start moving stops and confusing people. We want to get feedback on what we're doing, because we think that even though there's a short-term disruption to

passengers when a stop moves or is removed, long-term is a big benefit to our customers. we have numerous outreach strategies, but we're going to try to do a lot education on why it's a good idea, where the stops are, what we're removing. We're going to do that through our website and our social media as we do most things, but we're also going to seek input on where individuals would like to see a stop before removing a stop or consolidating two stops into Help us target where some of those infrastructure are as well, and obviously working with key stakeholders, including our citizens advisory committee and accessibility advisory committee. Their input is obviously very critical to a lot of the work that we do, especially when it comes to accessibility measures.

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So what are the benefits? So we contacted a couple of peer agencies including RIPTA and San Francisco MTA and TriMet to get some information from them in terms of what benefits they saw. As you can see, some of them saw up to a fourteen

percent increase in speeds. So if we're looking at speed and safety being the two biggest components to why we would do bus stop rebalancing, we're able to achieve fourteen percent. And you say, well, fourteen percent doesn't seem like a lot. But, you translate that into minutes on an hour-long route, you're talking about six, seven minutes for a passenger who needs to make a connection, needs to get to a medical appointment, needs to get to their job, it becomes important.

Secondly, you can oftentimes realize a lot of savings by then putting that savings and time back into more service on the street, being more efficient with the dollars that we have. It also allows us to consolidate our infrastructure like shelters and benches. So we often say everyone wants a shelter at every stop, but we can't really afford to do that. It's just not practical. But, if we start consolidating some stops and moving more passengers to those stops, it's easier to put shelters in those locations to make that justification for where they are.

And, lastly, it's a very cost-effective strategy. So we saw this with larger projects, the Niagara Street projects and the Bailey project, of all the technology involved in terms of transit signal priority, potentially bus lanes. All those are very expensive, whereas bus stop balancing is staff time, but it doesn't cost us money. So improving speed without spending a lot of money, we're able to do that through bus stop balancing.

So let's talk about examples. We're not the first people to be looking at this. We're actually probably one of the last. As Tom mentioned, the 2010 report said that we had a lot of bus stops. So a lot of agencies have been very creative and very comprehensive in their look at bus stop balancing. One of those is Cincinnati Metro, who had a campaign called Fast Stop, so we'll have to come up with a different name because they took the good one already. But, they were able to remove four hundred stops in the last couple of years to help speed up their service. And as you can see on the right

side there, they had a lot of different ways of doing that. They put signs up at bus stops that were slated for deletion or consolidation. They had a website dedicated for this where people could leave comments. And they provided justifications for those as well.

And one of the more important things they did is they used a Transit Center video, and Transit Center is a rider advocacy organization, and added their own kind of flare to it in order to do a public education campaign. And we're actually going to watch this brief clip now.

(Whereupon, the following audio recording was then played and transcribed.)

Some things are just better when they're further apart, like bus stops. When bus stops are too close together, it slows everyone down. With ideal stop spacing, bus routes should have about four to five stops per mile. But, the average Metro route has six to eight stops per

mile, making everyone's trip a little slower.

That's why Metro is launching Fast Stops, a bus stop balancing program designed to speed bus travel and improve efficiency.

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How did we get here? Mrs. McGillicuddy requests a bus stop near her home, and who wouldn't want to give Ms. M a bus stop. over time this leads to a bus stop on every corner, slowing down the trip for everyone. What does bus stop balancing mean for riders? Well, it typically keeps stops that are key transfer points as well as ones with high ridership. We're also evaluating stops for safety, accessibility and amenities such as shelters and benches. Stop balancing prioritizes stops near health care facilities, schools, large employers, community centers and other important destinations.

Additionally, balancing bus stops will allow Metro to make improvements at the remaining stops such as adding shelters and benches. People who can currently reach multiple stops won't see any difference.

Metro riders will soon see a bus stop
balancing pilot project on several routes. This
pilot is expected to speed up trip times for
riders and help create a more efficient system.
At the end of the pilot project, Metro will
evaluate the results and feedback from riders to
decide which routes to include in the future bus
stop balancing program.

But I don't want to walk any further.

I know, but, you know, if you'll walk just a little bit further, it means that people like me get to our doctors' appointments faster and then we'll all have more time to do the things that we love.

The Fast Stops project is just one of the many ways we're working to reinvent Metro. We invite you to get onboard and discover the ways improved public transportation can enhance the quality of life for everyone in our region.

So I think that video actually does a really

great job of kind of wrapping up all the things I just spent ten minutes talking to you about.

But, it's a really concise two and a half minute video that can go a long way to public education. So we're actually going to work with Helen's group to try to do a similar voice-over thing.

So the base of that video actually comes from Transit Center, and they have given us permission to be able to use that for our own purposes, but we can add our own voice-over and do some other educational components which is really great because all of the hard legwork has been done for us on that project.

We're really trying to get that out into the public in terms of why it's beneficial and I think people will be able to see that. I think it will be very important for our messaging.

So, overall, our next steps. We will start doing the analysis of that placement, prioritize different (inaudible) and say Metro example pilot projects on routes and see how it goes and kind of move forward. So we want to look at certain geographies and routes where maybe we have the

worst problem in terms of density or we could gain the most benefit in terms of rebalancing our bus stops in those areas and target those first.

We're going to develop a timeline and phasing plan for those. This is not going to happen overnight. This is going to be something that we're going to work toward. So we'll put that together and get feedback from the AAC and the CAC on that as well.

Coordination with ongoing municipal projects is very important. So, specifically, the City of Buffalo has a lot of projects going on right now with Abbott Road, Main Street, Niagara Street obviously. And anytime they do those, we try to get early on those projects so that we can get out there and say, okay, we're looking at our stops in these areas. If there's going to be some curbside or streetscape improvements, we want to be a part of that and how can we be mutually beneficial in this while it's happening as opposed to coming in years later and kind of worrying about it then.

And, lastly, we'll finalize our public

outreach plan and our communication efforts and put that into a final document and kind of advance that forward.

MR. GEORGE: Are you all set?

MR. JONES: I'm all set.

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MR. GEORGE: So Rob does a really nice presentation on why bus stop balancing is important. about things in a global nature here. about percentage and things like that. As we move through this, bus stops are personal. All right? Some people -- Mrs. M has a bus stop outside of her home. As we go through this process, we may find you get very granular and you start talking about individual bus stops, it becomes personal to people. So as committed as myself and my staff is, as committed as the industry is to do this type of stuff, it generally doesn't go without some hiccups and some bumps along the road, as we get into the personal situations with Mrs. McGillicuddy as the example in this case.

So we're very committed to doing this, we think it's really important to our system, but I

don't think it will be without the individual phone call or the comment as we go through the public hearings as we start to do that. And it's really critical that we look at things such as accessibility, things that really when you start to talk about vulnerable people, that we don't affect them.

So when Rob talks about his analysis, he's going to be very granular because this problem becomes very granular. But I didn't want the board just to walk away with, this is wonderful, we really support it, because we do, but at the same point in time, when we get down to the very granular moving a stop, it becomes personal to one or two people. So I just wanted to leave you with that. A little bit of a dark cloud after this wonderful, shining presentation.

MS. MINKEL: Great. Thanks, Tom.

Are there any questions on bus stop balancing?

And Tom's right. As we go through this process, I know I will receive many calls, but board members as well may receive calls as we

look to change some of our bus stops.

Okay. If there's no questions, our final presentation is an update on our terminal enhancement project. Bill?

MR. VANECEK: Thank you. I wanted to give you an update on where the terminal enhancement project is going. And this is the west side of our terminal here. And above top here you'll see all the solar panels that have been installed over here, for Kim. She likes that. Her sunny disposition made us do this. And you'll see we're starting to pour the curbside now down for the arrivals area on the west end.

So this is another view of that. So you'll see the thought here. Lots of windows, so it's going to be a lot nice and bright in there. The lower level is going to have a lot of that seating that you just approved the furniture purchase down there, which will be great. So people can pick up passengers by the curb. Over a little bit to the left, there's an area where our limos can go in and stage and people can come out and find them.

This is the west escalator. It's getting really close to being done. But what's really beautiful up here is that hickory ceiling. It's actually going to be spectacular. It's going to be a great, great welcoming aspect to our airport.

Another view of that on the next slide.

This is from down looking up and you can see how massive it is. It's going to be fantastic.

So moving ahead. This is the west end expansion. So this is where our automated screening -- exiting screening will go. It will go in an area right in this area here. And people will flow right on out and then right into the baggage claim area. So they're making good progress on that as well.

Over here is the ground transportation area. And you can see it's bright. It's going to have a lot of seating in this area in here. And so it will be a great, great opportunity for folks to come in there and relax while they're waiting for their bus coming to pick them up, or even private transportation to come into this area here, with

two huge restrooms, men's and women's on the north side of that area.

And our new baggage carousel number two.

This is the one that's going to be coming online soon. You can see how close it is right now.

It's getting very, very close, so I wouldn't be surprised if we beat the April 15th date, just like our tax returns, although that's been extended, we're not going to extend the date on this.

And you can see, again, we've got the hickory ceiling above. This area over here is where the artwork will be done. A really cool sculpture made out of hickory wood, so it will be fantastic. So we will expect that this will be open probably within, you know, maybe fifteen, twenty days. And we'll set a time for anybody that wants to come out and see it.

And then this is the west end. Again, we have that hickory ceiling. This is on the east end. I'm sorry. This is the arrivals on the east end, which comes down from are our main meet and greet area upstairs. And, again, they're

really going great guns.

Now, this is a shot of our offices. And our offices are complete. And this is going to be the reception area. So you will access it from the east end meet and greet area. You'll be able to go down and be buzzed in by our receptionist at the front desk.

And then moving on, this is kind of another angle. The door is in the corner there. You'll flow into the offices in this direction here.

And this is our main boardroom -- this is our main conference room right here. We've named it the Buffalo Niagara conference room. And this is kind of -- this can be expanded into another one which is -- next.

This is the Lake Effect conference room. We have a partition that will go up into the ceiling and we can actually expand that to make it bigger. So it's going to be a much, much larger area, actually than this conference room. We'll have a lot of room for meetings. And each of these rooms -- if you can go back a slide for a minute. You'll notice here that we have monitors

on the walls. So we'll be able to put presentations up for all of the participants.

And, likewise, there's more monitors in the other rooms as well.

And then we have a smaller staff conference room right here. We call it the Blizzard conference room. So, again, it has the monitors in here too so that we can be wired no matter where you're at. And we can rent these out to try to hopefully generate some revenue and we'll see how that works out.

We now have an actual kitchen kind of area for our staff. It was something that was missing before. We had a little, tiny room by the copier, and now we actually have some areas where they can store some of their lunch goodies and be able to clean up after themselves and eating at the table or actually just gathering for lunch and getting a table and having some conversation.

There's one more view of that here. Again, microwave, toaster, so really all the amenities you would want for a small kitchenette area.

And then that's me, doing -- hard at work

here. Very hard at work and happy. We have a nice view of the office there. Isn't that nice? And so they really did a nice job of picking out the furniture pieces for the offices. And every office is a little bit different just based on some sizes.

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And then we show you the overall view. This is our cubicle area in here, so we've got staff that work in this area back over in here.

Then, now -- I love this. The National Guard finally leaving the terminal. We're saying April 1st. It might actually be March 31st. It's going to be one of the two so -- but they'll be leaving us. And, you know, so when I was walking and doing my photos, I actually went up to them and talked to them. And I asked them if it was true that they were leaving and they said yes. So I thanked them very heartily for all that they did. Because they put up with a lot during this situation. You know, you had a lot of people that weren't -- didn't want to buy into that at all, and so they really had their hands full quite frankly. So, thank you, guys. And I

hope we don't see you again in the airport so -good luck with the rest of your careers.

And then last but not least, I wanted to give a quick update. We mentioned earlier that, you know, this is our parking garage here in pink. It's completely full today, and that's because people are paying ten dollars and they're going to be, you know, parking until that point. But, we're going to go back to what our actual rates were before the pandemic hit, which means it's twenty-four -- twenty-three dollars a day in the -- plus tax in the short-term garage.

The preferred lot, which is the green, that's another very walkable area for our patrons and it's twelve dollars a day and caps out at seventy-two dollars a week.

And then our long-term, we're going to start opening incrementally. Right now we've determined we're going to open only up to here and see how that gets filled. And we're not going to open up more of it until demand starts to recover and -- because we don't want to run -- shuttle issues are going to be the issue for

that. 1 2 And then our employee lot we've now located 3 on the west end. It's actually a shorter walk than what they had before. And so we're, you 4 5 know, we're very happy to be able to see the light ahead of us that says time to start opening 6 some things. So I just wanted to make you aware that those rates will revert back to their 8 9 official rates effective April 1. 10 And I think that's it. Thank you. Any 11 questions? 12 MS. MINKEL: Any questions for Bill? 13 MR. VANECEK: All right. Thank you. 14 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Thank you. Lots of good news. 15 And we have no executive session? MS. MINKEL: 16 No. 17 CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: Is there any other business that 18 we have to bring forward to the board? 19 Well, then I thank you all for your 20 attendance and your input, and I will call for a 21 motion to adjourn. 22 MS. MINKEL: I don't think anyone wants to adjourn.

CHAIR SISTER ROCHE: We'll just take it for granted

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that we're going to adjourn. We can stay here until later. That's fine. Thank you all.

MS. MINKEL: Thank you all.
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1	STATE OF NEW YORK)
2	ss:
3	COUNTY OF NIAGARA)
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5	I, Valerie A. Rosati, a Notary Public in and
6	for the State of New York, County of Niagara, DO
7	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.
12	I further CERTIFY that the above-described
13	transcript constitutes a true and accurate and
14	complete transcript of the video recording.
15	
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17	VALERIE A. ROSATI,
18	Notary Public.
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