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Committee Meetings

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Summary

- Cloth seats are more expensive to maintain than vinyl, a GCRTA rep said.
- No wonder people were complaining about the odors on transit! The cloth seats absorb odors!

Follow-Up Questions

- Why can't a disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) clause be included on all GCRTA contracts?
- Do board members ride the bus?
- Can the requests for proposals process stay open longer?
- Why did it take so long to replace the cloth seats? Isn't it common knowledge that it is more difficult to maintain cloth than vinyl?

Notes

Operational Planning and Infrastructure Committee

A [presentation](#) was given regarding a licensing agreement tied to the [W. 117th bridge rehab project](#). There is no convenient access to the construction site. [NeoGraf LLC](#), which is next to the site, is willing to allow access to the bridge via their property. The agreement would run from May 18 through the end of 2025. The license fees cost \$3,000/month, not to exceed \$58,400 total. RTA staff recommended approval of the agreement with NeoGraf. The committee voted to move forward with the licensing agreement, teeing it up for the full board of trustees' consideration at a later date.

RTA staff gave a [presentation](#) on the proposed Port of Cleveland Connector Track, which would connect the [RTA Waterfront line](#) to freight rail tracks at the port. The project would provide an unloading facility for new rail cars. The lowest bidder was [Kennedy Railroad Services LLC](#). [Cook Paving and Construction Company LLC](#) would meet the 5% DBE goal

on the project. This contract would not cost more than \$883,443. The committee voted to move the request forward to the full board.

Organizational Services and Performance Monitoring Committee

RTA staff [presented a plan](#) to replace the cloth seats with vinyl seats in the rail cars. [GCRTA Customer Experience Satisfaction Surveys](#) show that seats, floors and odors are the three main concerns of RTA customers. Seats have not been replaced on the light rail fleet since 2005 or on the heavy rail fleet since 2013, according to Jeff Grubb, assistant equipment manager. RTA is targeting Freedman for the contract with a 0% DBE participation goal. The committee approved the procurement for the full board's consideration.

Next, the committee considered a contract for the Rapid Station Washing and Cleaning Services project. This is a three-year contract. Two firms submitted bids. The lowest bidder was [Premier Window Cleaning LLC](#), with 17% DBE participation by [Brush Striping LLC](#). The contract is for no more than \$483,120 in a three-year period. The committee approved the procurement for the board's full consideration.

Audit, Safety Compliance and Real Estate Committee

The committee reviewed a proposed lease renewal for [2 Birds Shuttle and Detail LLC](#) (also a DBE). It is a current tenant at the Puritas-West 150th Street station. 2 Birds supplies customer service amenities such as secure overnight parking, limited shuttle service to and from the airport, auto detailing, and a retail convenience center at the Puritas station, according to RTA Senior Real Estate Manager James Rusnov. The matter was moved to the full board for future consideration.

Committee of the Whole

The committee addressed [proposed revisions](#) to the GCRTA's codified rules and regulations. There was quite a bit of legal speak in this meeting. It sounded more like a court hearing. Eventually, the committee moved the proposed edits to the next board meeting for consideration.

Next, a [presentation](#) was given on Title VII affirmative action goals. GCRTA must have a plan to follow federal guidelines for not discriminating against protected classes -- specifically "underutilization" of minorities and women -- said Senior Manager of the

Office of Equal Opportunity Felicia Brooks Williams . As far as diversity in hiring is concerned, Williams said GCRTA still has work to do to meet all its goals but noted that goals aren't quotas and the most qualified candidate is to be hired.

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