

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, December 11, 2007, 9:35 a.m.  
The SORTA/Metro Board Room  
1014 Vine Street, Suite 2000  
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202

**BOARD MEMBERS**

PRESENT: Robert W. Buechner, Stephan M. Louis, William L. Mallory Sr.,  
Melody Sawyer Richardson, James R. Tarbell, Lamont Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS  
PRESENT: Michael H. Setzer, H. Theodore Bergh, Marilyn G. Shazor,  
William Desmond, Sallie Hilvers, Tim Reynolds, Donna Adkins,  
Perriann Allen, John Davis, Colin Groth, Carole Senior, Bill Spraul

OTHERS  
PRESENT: Mark Bennett, ATU; Rob Langenderfer; Ed Lenihan; Jason Mettley, ATU;  
Richard Moore; Chris Moran, League of Women Voters

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Richardson, Chair of the Board, noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order.

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

Mrs. Richardson asked if there were any citizens who would like to address the board. There were none.

**NEW UNIFORMS**

April Cruse, William Harrison and James Hines modeled the new uniforms the uniform committee chose for the operators.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Mallory made a motion that the minutes of the November 20, 2007, regular meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**JOINT OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Planning and Development Committee Chair Mr. Buechner stated there had been a combined meeting of the Operations and Management and the Planning and Development committees immediately before the board meeting. The following items were presented to the Board:

**1. Proposed Resolution No. 2007-64: Acceptance of Public Hearing Record and Approval of Fare Increase for 2008**

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. This resolution accepts the transcript of the December 5, 2007 public hearing and approves Metro's fare changes, contingent on the approval of Cincinnati City Council.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2007-64.

**2. Proposed Resolution No. 2007-65: Approval of Contract to Upgrade Call Center and Recording Systems**

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Tarbell seconded the motion. This resolution directs the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute a contract with AT&T Ohio at a total cost not to exceed \$82,000.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2007-65.

**3. Proposed Resolution No. 2007-66: Approval of Contract for Gate Installation at Riverfront Transit Center**

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mr. Tarbell seconded the motion. This resolution approves the specifications to which bids for security fencing and gates were solicited and awards the contract to Security Fence Group. The resolution further directs the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute a contract with Security Fence Group at a total cost not to exceed \$44,962. The purchase of these gates was made possible by a grant from the Department of Homeland Security.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2007-66.

**4. Proposed Resolution No. 2007-67: Approval of Contract for Bond Hill Hydraulic Bus Lifts**

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. The Board approves the specifications to which bids for hydraulic bus lifts were solicited and awards the contract to Ott Equipment at cost not to exceed \$400,000. The resolution also authorizes the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute the contract on behalf of Metro.

By roll call vote the Board approved Resolution No. 2007-67.

**5. Proposed Resolution No. 2007-68: Approval to Purchase Replacement Paratransit Vehicles**

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Tarbell seconded the motion. The Board approves the purchase of five 2007 Model Ford E-450 diesel engine lift-equipped vehicles for Access and authorizes the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute the contract at a total cost not to exceed \$339,750.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2007-68.

**6. Proposed Resolution No. 2007-69: Approval of Contract for Bus Camera Service**

Mr. Mallory moved for adoption and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. This resolution approves the specifications for which the proposals for the repair and maintenance of video surveillance systems were solicited and awards the one-year contract (with an option for a second and third year) at a total cost not to exceed \$140,400 for all three years (\$46,800 per year). The board further directs the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute the contract on behalf of Metro.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2007-69.

7. **Proposed Resolution No. 2007-70: Approval of Amendment for Kings Island Park and Ride and Lease Extension**

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Tarbell seconded the motion. This resolution approves the Eleventh Amendment to the parking space lease with Kings Island for one year at a total cost not to exceed \$60,100. The board further directs the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute the contract on behalf of Metro.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2007-70.

8. **Proposed Resolution No. 2007-71: Approval of Contract with Duke Energy for the Route 85 Riverfront Parking Shuttle**

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. This resolution renews the existing contract between Metro and Duke Energy for calendar year 2008 at a total cost not to exceed \$231,519 and directs the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute it on behalf of Metro.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2007-71.

9. **Proposed Resolution No. 2007-72: Acceptance of Purchase of Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance**

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mr. Mallory seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to purchase a one-year policy of excess workers' compensation insurance from Midwest Employers Casualty Co. at an estimated premium of \$78,036

By roll call vote the Board approved Resolution No. 2007-72.

10. **Proposed Resolution No. 2007-73: Declaration of Official Intent with Respect to Reimbursement of Temporary Advances Made for Capital Expenditures to be Made from Subsequent Borrowings**

Mr. Mallory moved for adoption and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. This resolution declares (in the event that said borrowings occur) intent for reimbursement of advances for capital expenditures from subsequent borrowings which would include capital items in the 2007 and 2008 capital plans, projects listed but not purchased in past capital plans and specific capital assets approved by the Metro board in 2007 and 2008 but not yet purchased.

Mr. Mallory moved for adoption and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion.

By roll call vote the Board approved Resolution No. 2007-73.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Setzer had nothing to report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Todd Portune, president of the Hamilton County Commissioners, addressed the board regarding the proposed reorganization of the current SORTA board into a regional transit initiative to include the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont Counties. In addition to Commissioner Portune, a group consisting of Cincinnati City Council members John Cranley, Chris Bortz, Jeff Berding, David Crowley and Lamont Taylor from the SORTA board, met this summer to begin the process. The new board, as proposed by Councilman Cranley and Commissioner Todd Portune, would oversee how transit is administered and delivered in this region. It is hoped that eventually the board would also include Switzerland and Ohio counties in Indiana and Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties in Kentucky. Mr. Portune added that a critical element for going forward with the new initiative is ongoing discussion with Metro and Metro's belief that this is an initiative worth pursuing. Mr. Portune asked SORTA's board for their support of the group effort for the initiative, to which the SORTA board affirmed with a positive response. Commissioner Portune also expressed his support for Hamilton County's continued funding of the Warren County reverse commute and Metro's paratransit service.

Mr. Portune congratulated Mrs. Richardson on being named chair of the SORTA board at the November meeting and wished her well.

Mrs. Richardson appointed Dr. Peg Gutsell (as chair), Messrs. Tarbell and Taylor to the Nominating Committee to select SORTA board officers for 2008 and requested a recommendation for presentation at the January 8 board meeting.

Mr. Bergh reviewed the monthly financial report for the month of October during the joint committee meeting. Mrs. Richardson remarked after his report that though Metro was denied a fare increase by City Council, there will be a small surplus at the end of the year because capital dollars were used to balance the budget.

Mr. Louis thanked Metro employees for service that goes beyond what is expected to a level that is above and beyond the call of duty. He is pleased and proud to be in the same organization with a dedicated staff. The entire board enthusiastically agreed and Lamont then made a motion thanking the staff for serving Metro clients so well. The motion was seconded by board Chair Melody Sawyer Richardson and unanimously approved by voice vote.

Mrs. Richardson adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

APPROVED:



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Melody Sawyer Richardson  
Chair

ATTESTED:

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H. Theodore Bergh  
Secretary-Treasurer