

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Monday, February 25, 2008, 9:45 a.m.  
The SORTA/Metro Board Room  
1014 Vine Street, Suite 2000  
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202

**BOARD MEMBERS**

PRESENT: Robert W. Buechner; Margaret C. Gutsell; Stephan M. Louis;  
William L. Mallory, Sr.; Melody Sawyer Richardson; Lamont Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael H. Setzer, H. Theodore Bergh, Marilyn G. Shazor,  
Bill Desmond, Sallie Hilvers, Tim Reynolds, Donna Adkins, Perriann Allen,  
John Davis, Deb Drayton, Colin Groth, Mike Restle, Carole Senior, Vance  
Thomas, Katie Wellman

OTHERS: Melissa McVay, City of Cincinnati; Reggie Victor, City of Cincinnati

**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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Louis made a motion that the minutes of the January 8, 2008, regular meeting be approved as previously mailed and Dr. Gutsell seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes. Mr. Taylor made a motion that the minutes of the February 4, 2008, special board meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Mallory seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

**MEET THE TEAM**

Mr. Setzer introduced Deb Drayton, Vance Thomas and Katie Wellman who were instrumental in their assistance with negotiations of the new labor contract.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

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

**1. Proposed Resolution No. 2008-11: Approval of Sewer Easement at Eastern Avenue near Delta Avenue**

Mr. Mallory moved for adoption and Mr. Louis seconded the motion. This resolution grants to the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio, a permanent sewer easement at Eastern Avenue near Delta Avenue at a total cost not to exceed \$4,986. The resolution further authorizes the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute the agreement on behalf of SORTA.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-11.

**2. Proposed Resolution No. 2008-12: Approval of Contract for Harper's Station Layover and Park and Ride**

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Dr. Gutsell seconded the motion. This resolution approves continued funding for the Harper's Station layover, turnaround and park and ride, and authorizes and directs the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to sign the contract for a total cost not to exceed \$22,200 per year for three years.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-12.

**3. Proposed Resolution No. 2008-13: Approval of CAD/AVL Consultant Contract**

Dr. Gutsell moved for adoption and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. This resolution awards Booz/Allen/Hamilton a contract to provide CAD/AVL consultation services at a total cost not to exceed \$37,922. This resolution also authorizes the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute the contract on behalf of SORTA.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-13.

**4. Proposed Resolution No. 2008-14: Approval of Addendum to Billboard Advertising Agreement**

Mr. Buechner moved for adoption and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. This resolution approves the Addendum to Lease Agreement between SORTA and Norton Outdoor Advertising and authorizes and directs the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute such agreement on behalf of SORTA. This agreement will begin on March 1, 2008, and expire on February 28, 2013.

By roll call vote the Board approved Resolution No. 2008-14.

**5. Proposed Resolution No. 2008-15: Approval of Bus Procurement**

Mr. Mallory moved for adoption and Dr. Gutsell seconded the motion. The resolution awards to New Flyer a contract at a total cost not to exceed \$121 million for the furnishing of up to 300 40-foot low-floor buses through 2013, and execute an initial order for 24 clean diesels and 6 hybrids for delivery in late 2008 or early 2009. This resolution furthermore authorizes the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute the contract on behalf of SORTA.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-15.

**6. Proposed Resolution No. 2008-16: Amendment to Bus Advertising Contract**

Mr. Buechner moved for adoption and Mrs. Richardson seconded the motion. This resolution approves an amendment to the bus advertising contract with Advertising Vehicles, Inc. to reduce the letter of credit requirement from \$125,000 to \$75,000 and authorizes the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute such amendment on behalf of SORTA.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-16.

**7. Proposed Resolution No. 2008-17: Authorization to Donate Buses to Everybody Rides Metro**

Dr. Gutsell moved for adoption and Mrs. Richardson seconded the motion. This resolution ratifies the donation of the proceeds of the sale of five additional buses to Everybody Rides Metro. The resolution further authorizes the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to donate the proceeds to ERM from the sale of up to 240 buses which are being replaced by coaches purchased under the new five-year contract to begin February 2008. These proceeds will be placed in a special fund to be used as needed, and if not needed, that fund will start to build an endowment for Everybody Rides Metro.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-17.

**8. Proposed Motion: Distribution of Everybody Rides Metro Tokens**

Mr. Buecher moved for adoption and Mrs. Richardson seconded the motion. This motion provides that tokens to be distributed to low-income clients of Everybody Rides Metro partner agencies that are designated by the IRS as 501(c)(3) organizations be sold at \$1.00 each in an effort to extend donations and grant proceeds distributed by ERM to as many low-income riders as possible with a limited impact on Metro, subject to SORTA staff reporting back to the Board prior to December 31, 2008.

By voice vote the Board unanimously approved the motion.

**9. Proposed Motion: Approval of Modification of Access Fares**

Mr. Mallory moved for adoption and Dr. Gutsell seconded the motion. This motion rescinds the portion of resolution 2007-64 "Acceptance of Public Hearing Record and Approval of Fare Increase for 2008" that raised Access fares from \$1.50 to \$2.00 in Zone 1 (city) and from \$2.00 to \$2.50 in Zone 2 (county). The increase in Access fares was subsequently dropped from SORTA's requested fare increase of City council in January 2008.

By voice vote the Board approved the motion.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Setzer reported that the total cost of the Access contract with MV Transportation that was approved at the January board meeting (2008-01) was inadvertently left off of the resolution. In order that the amount of the contract be officially entered into the public record, he reiterated that the total cost of the 10-year contract (five years, plus five additional option years) was \$75,984,455.

Mr. Setzer also directed the board's attention to a letter written by Mr. Anthony G. Smith, principal of Robert A. Taft Information Technology High School. In the letter, Mr. Smith praised several Metro

employees for their assistance during the transition when the school moved into swing space at another location. Mrs. Richardson suggested the letter be forwarded to the Cincinnati Enquirer.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Richardson presented past-chair Mr. Taylor with a commemorative gavel plaque expressing Metro's appreciation for his service as board chair from January 2006 through October 2007.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

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

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:

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Melody Sawyer Richardson  
Chair

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H. Theodore Bergh  
Secretary-Treasurer