

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 8:30 A.M.  
SORTA/ Metro  
602 Main Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Heidi Black, Brendon Cull, Blake Ethridge, Allen Freeman, Robert Harris, Roderick Hinton, Thaddeus Hoffmeister, Kreg Keesee, Pete McLinden, Mary Miller, Gwen Robinson, and Kathleen Wyenandt

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Maurice Brown

STAFF MEMBERS: Dwight Ferrell, Donna Adkins, John Edmondson, Dave Etienne, Patrick Giblin, Paul Grether, Darryl Haley, Adriene Hairston, Sallie Hilvers, Mary Huller, Brandy Jones, Caprice Jones, Maria Jones, Mark McEwan, Ted Meyer, Mary Moning, Cindy Resor, David Riposo, Ronald Salerno, Shannel Satterfield, Khaled Shammout, and TJ Thorn

OTHERS: Troy Miller (ATU), Cam Hardy (BBC), Chris Moran (L.W.V.), Joe Vogel (WSP), and Tony F. (Citizen), Jamar Dunbar (Metro Operator), Mark Samaan (BBC), Laura Hamilton (BBC), Hannah Sparlim (Enquirer), Randy Tucker (Enquirer), Zach Cuni (Citizen), Barbara Wolf (BBC), Bill Rinehart (WVXV), Angela Gibson (Vorys), Matt Jones (CBC), Nick S. (City Beat), Jeff Pastor (City of Cincinnati), Steven Megerle (City of Cincinnati), and Celeste Treece (BBC), James Moore (Metro Operator), Craig Whitehead (Metro Operator), Tom Rousakis (EY), Rob Tague (EY), Dan Jerneycic (EY), Gina Marsh (Human Services Chamber), Reggie Harris (Human Services Chamber), Nick Vehr (Vehr Communications), Darcy (Vehr Communications), Pete Metz (City of Cincinnati) and Chip Gerhardt (Government Strategies Group)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Keesee, SORTA Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**VISION AND MISSION**

SORTA's vision and mission statements was recited.

**CEO AWARD**

Mr. Craig Whitehead was presented the CEO S.T.A.R. award for his quick thinking and actions in coming to the aid of a child along his route. Whitehead spotted a small child wondering alone with two dogs when she followed one of the dogs into the street into oncoming traffic.

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

Mr. Keesee asked if there were any citizens present who would like to address the Board.

1. **Jamarr Dunbar Metro Operator:** Has concerns about recent operator assaults; he noticed a blind spot at Oakley Transit Center and asked that operators be notified when route changes are made.
2. **Troy Miller from ATU:** He explained his concern about operator assaults, shared information about a House Bill currently going through Congress focused on the protection of operators.
3. **Mark Samaan from Better Bus Coalition (BBC):** He expressed the need to have SORTA on the 2018 ballot, stating we need maximum mobility soon.

4. **Cam Hardy from Better Bus Coalition (BBC):** He stated his concerns about the need for a solution to the budget deficit, also had concerns that some of the buses have no air conditioning.
5. **Laura Hamilton from Better Bus Coalition (BBC):** As a past rider, she stated she is a supporter of Metro and would like to see SORTA on the ballot, so the voters could decide.

#### **CHAIRMAN UPDATE**

Mr. Keesee briefly updated the Board on his recent trip to Washington, D.C. where he discussed potential funding & Transportation Empowerment Fund along with Council member David Mann.

#### **APPROVAL OF MAY 15, 2018 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Freeman made a motion that the minutes of the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting be approved as previously mailed and Ms. Wyenandt seconded the motion.

By voice vote, the Board approved the minutes.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Ms. Black reported on the Finance Committee meeting that was held on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018. There were no action items presented to the Board.

#### **PLANNING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Planning and Operations Committee did not meet for the month of June.

#### **BRIEFING ITEMS**

##### **Third Party Independent Financial Review**

Mr. Tague of Ernst & Young LLP (“EY”) presented the draft independent financial review, explaining that the review was completed with information supplied by SORTA for use by its client, the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber & Cincinnati Business Committee. The report covered an overview of SORTA’s historical financial performance, recent cost and revenue source initiatives, items that have impacted SORTA’s financial picture, benchmarking data for 2011-2016 compared to peer agencies, a review of 10 year financial projections developed by SORTA management, trend projections and potential opportunities for cash flow, cost savings and revenue enhancements.

The Board thanked Mr. Tague and the EY team for the thorough report and also thanked staff for their time and efforts in providing the required information to the EY team.

##### **Monthly Financial Report for May 2018**

Mr. Riposo presented the May 2018 financial reports. Total revenues were \$8.4 million, which is favorable to budget by \$165,000. Total expenses were \$8.6 million, which is unfavorable to budget by \$301,000 or 3.6%. The final result was a net unfavorable variance of \$111,000 for the month. Fare revenue was favorable to budget by \$174,000. Mr. Riposo then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

He also presented the Cincinnati Bell Connector financial report for May 2018. Total revenues were \$303,392 which is unfavorable to budget by \$27,136 or 8%. Total expenses were \$324,522 which is favorable to budget by \$6,006 or 2%. The end result is a net unfavorable variance of \$21,130 for the month. Mr. Riposo then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

The Board accepted the report as presented.

##### **Ridership Report for May 2018**

Mr. McEwan presented the May 2018 ridership reports. Total ridership for the month of May was 1,215,654, which was above budget. On-time performance was 81.3% for local routes, against a goal of 88%. Local routes are carrying 19.1 passengers per hour, against a goal of 20.7 and express routes are carrying 14.2 passengers per trip, against a goal of 16.2. Missed Trips for the month was 291 against 65,725 total trips.

The May Access ridership report; total ridership for Access was 20,836, 5.7% above budget. On-time performance was 93.5% against a goal of 93.0%.

The Cincinnati Bell Connector ridership report for May 2018; total preliminary ridership was 51,105, 5.7% and 3,087 below budget. Average Headway (Peak/Off Peak) was 13:30/16:02 against a goal of 12:00/15:00.

The Board accepted the report as presented.

**CEO BOARD UPDATE**

Mr. Ferrell deferred his report; stating information was available in the Board books.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 6:00 P.M., the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio.

APPROVED:



Kreg Keese  
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:



David A. Riposo  
CFO/Secretary Treasurer