

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 6:00 P.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, Dan Feldman, Patrick Giblin, Paul Grether, Darryl Haley, Adriene Hairston, Sallie Hilvers, Mary Huller, Michelle Jeng, Brandy Jones, Caprice Jones, Maria Jones, Mark McEwan, Ted Meyer, Mary Moning, John Ravasio, Cindy Resor, David Riposo, Shannel Satterfield, Khaled Shammout, and Mike Weil

OTHERS: Kim Schaefer (VSSP), Chris Moran (LWV), Hannah Escamilla (Cincinnati Enquirer), Cam Hardy (BBC), Marilyn Wall (Sierra Club), Troy Miller (ATU), Joy Shirman (Mainstream), Gina March (Human Services Chamber), Reginal Harris (Human Services Chamber), John Brazina (City of Cincinnati), Chip Gerhardt (Government Strategies)

**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 were recited.

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

**Annie Davis:** Ms. Davis from the Association of the Blind, Cincinnati Chapter expressed her concerns with waiting for access service during increment weather. She also addressed the MOVI app not properly working and hopes Metro implements a new communications programs for blind and visual impaired individuals.

**Philp Jacobs:** Mr. Jacobs was concerned with restroom availability for bus operators, he asked the SORTA Board to consider placing restrooms at Government Square. Mr. Jacobs also, requested Metro offer "senior citizen" passes.

**Mark Saaman:** Mr.Samaan from the Better Bus Coalition presented a bus lane network data sheet to the Board. This map included weekday passenger load by street and passengers by directions from north, south, east and west. Mr. Samaan stated this information also included TANK's data, and requested SORTA to present this Bus Only Lane data sheet to the City of Cincinnati.

**CHAIRMAN UPDATE**

Mr. Keesee briefly updated the Board regarding execution of the snow and ice removal contract, KPI information in their binders, and announcing the Nominating Committee for elections in January.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 16, 2018 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Robinson made a motion that the minutes of the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting be approved as previously mailed and Ms. Miller seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the minutes.

**EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Keesee reported on the Employee Relations Committee that was held on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Keesee reported on the Executive Committee that was held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Ms. Black reported on the Finance Committee meeting that was held on November 7<sup>th</sup> and presented the following to the Board for approval:

**Proposed Motion: Approval of Legal Service Expenditures with Dinsmore & Shohl, LLC**

Mr. Cull moved for adoption and Ms. Miller seconded the motion. This motion allows SORTA to approve a purchase order for legal services with Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP for the time period of November 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 at the rates set forth in the engagement letter at a cost not to exceed \$35,000 for additional funds and services, bringing the total contract amount up to \$275,000. By voice vote, the Board approved the motion.

**Proposed Motion: Approval of Legal Service Expenditures with Vorys, Sater, & Pease, LLC**

Mr. Cull moved for the amendment and Mr. Hoffmeister seconded the motion. This motion authorizes a purchase order for legal services with Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP for the time period of November 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 at the rates set forth in the engagement letter at a cost not to exceed \$35,000 for additional funds and services, bringing the total contract amount up to \$275,000.

**Proposed Resolution No. 2018-51: Approval of 2019 Budget and Funding Request**

Mr. Cull moved for adoption and Mr. Hinton seconded the resolution. The resolution approves the 2019 operating plan budget of \$100,043,338 (\$99,862,058 for operating and \$181,280 for capital), an amended request for funding from the Transit Fund be submitted to the City of Cincinnati in the amount of \$53,018,720 for operating and \$181,280 of capital for a total amount of \$53,200,000. Also approves to use up to \$3,000,000 of its Contingency Reserve Fund to balance the 2019 budget.

By roll call vote, the Board approved Resolution No. 2018-51.

**PLANNING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Cull reported on the Planning and Operations Committee that was held on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and presented the following to the Board for approval:

**Proposed Motion: Adoption of 2019 Annual Board Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Robinson moved for adoption and Ms. Wyenandt seconded the motion. This motion is to adopt the 2019 Board Meeting schedule beginning with the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to alternate meeting times from 6:30 P.M and 8:30 A.M.

By roll voice vote, the Board approved the motion.

**Consent Items:**

Mr. Cull moved for adoption of the consent agenda items and Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Board approved Resolution No. 2018-52 through Resolution No. 2018-54.

**Proposed Resolution No. 2018-52: Approval of Sales Office Lease**

This resolution approves a five (5) year lease agreement with MCA Center, LLC at a cost not to exceed \$183,681 and a five year sublease with TANK for 33% of the lease cost payable to SORTA. Also, approves an additional \$3,700 to cover the cost of property tax and supplies in the current agreement.

**Proposed Resolution No. 2018-53: Approval of Lease Agreement for Bus Tires and Service**

This resolution authorizes SORTA enter into a five (5) year contract with Bridgestone Americas Tire Operation, LLC, for tire leasing and service at a total cost not to exceed \$3,886,968.

**Proposed Resolution No. 2018-54: Approval of Park-n-Ride Lease Agreement with Kings Island**

This resolution authorizes SORTA enter into a one (1) year lease agreement with Kings Island Company for the leasing of one hundred and sixty (160) parking spaces at the Kings Island Park-n-Ride, at a total cost not to exceed \$43,420 (which includes up to \$17,500 for maintenance expense).

**REINVENTING METRO COMMITTEE**

Mr. Ethridge reported on the Reinventing Metro Committee that was held on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. He thanked regional transit leaders from BCRTA, TANK, and Dearborn County for attending the meeting.

**COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hinton reported on the Executive Committee that was held on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**BRIEFING ITEMS**

**AECOM FINAL PRESENTATION**

Mr. Geltman from AECOM presented an updated report that included statistics on a regional bus network, fare policy and revenue allocation, access services, and economic benefits information. The Committee accepted the report as presented.

**UC FINAL PRESENTATION**

Mr. Nicak from the University of Cincinnati Economics Center provided an updated report that includes access to jobs, characterizations of commuter patterns, Metro operations and capital spending, regionalization, and peer city analysis update. The Committee accepted the report as presented.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2018**

*Mr. Keesee deferred this report; stating information was available in the Board books.*

**MONTHLY RIDERSHIP REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2018**

*Mr. Keesee deferred this report; stating information was available in the Board books.*

**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 8:10 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 8:30 A.M., the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:

Kreg Keesee  
Chair, SORTA Board

David A. Riposo  
CFO/Secretary Treasurer