

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, October 15, 2013, 9:00 a.m.
SORTA/Metro Mt. Adams Board Room
602 Main Street, Suite 1200
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Frank Bowen, Suzanne Burke, Todd Cooper, Jason Dunn,
Brennan Grayson, Gregg Hothem, Ken Reed, Gwen Robinson,
Karl Schultz, Brandi Stewart, Lamont Taylor, Brad Thomas

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS: Terry Garcia Crews, Donna Adkins, Perriann Allen, Daron Brown,
Bill Desmond, Deb Drayton, Ca'Sandra Erdman-Oncay,
Inez Evans, Paul Grether, Darryl Haley, Tim Harrington,
Sallie Hilvers, Kim Lahman, Mary Moning, Wright Parkes,
John Ravasio, Mike Restle, Frank Spataro

OTHERS: Troy Miller, ATU Local 627; Don Mills, Ohio River Way;
Chris Moran, League of Women Voters; Nick Sunyak, City of Cincinnati

CALL TO ORDER

Suzanne Burke, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2013 MINUTES

Ms. Robinson made a motion that the minutes of the September 17, 2013, regular meeting be approved as previously mailed, and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the minutes.

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Miller expressed his concerns to the Board regarding the proposed health care contract with United Healthcare.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Operations

Mr. Reed asked Mr. Thomas to provide the Rail Subcommittee update. Agenda items in that meeting included an Eastern Corridor/Oasis Line update and a streetcar status update which discussed the Operations & Maintenance planning schedule and the SORTA streetcar budget. There were also two streetcar-related resolutions amending SORTA's Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Cincinnati and to purchase radio and CAD/AVL system components.

Mr. Reed provided the Planning & Operations Committee meeting report. The meeting included a rail update and discussions on 5310 Federal Transit Administration funding, main office relocation, Route 43 extension into the Village of Evendale, and legal counsel statements. Mr. Reed then proposed the following resolutions for board approval:

Proposed Resolution No. 2013-29: Approval of Third Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Cincinnati

Mr. Reed moved for adoption, and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. This resolution approves the Third Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Cincinnati and will allow SORTA to purchase and own the Trapeze Transitmaster communication equipment and also upgrade the software system be installed on the Cincinnati streetcar. The cost will be split with the City of Cincinnati.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2013-29.

Proposed Resolution No. 2013-30: Approval to Purchase Radio and CAD/AVL System Components for Cincinnati Streetcar

Mr. Reed moved for adoption, and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes the purchase of five additional radio and CAD/AVL components from Trapeze ITS to be installed in the Cincinnati Streetcar vehicles at a total cost not to exceed \$399,559.25. Funding for this procurement is being provided by the City of Cincinnati Streetcar Project budget, which includes federal funding outside of the SORTA capital and operating budgets. The SORTA share of the TransitMaster software upgrade cost is proposed to be included in SORTA's 2014 capital budget.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2013-30.

Proposed Resolution No. 2013-31: Approval of Bus Tire Service and Lease

Mr. Reed moved for adoption, and Mr. Bowen seconded the motion. This resolution approves a five-year contract with Bridgestone Americas Tire Operation for tire service and leasing at a total cost not to exceed \$3,594,955.58. Funding for this project will be a combination of federal and local funds.

By roll call vote, the Board approved Resolution No. 2013-31, with Mr. Cooper abstaining.

Proposed Resolution No. 2013-32: Approval of Contract for Innovative Workforce Training

Mr. Reed moved for adoption, and Mr. Bowen seconded the motion. This resolution approves a contract with Clarke Power Service, Inc., to provide advanced hybrid system training for front line mechanics and supervisors at a total cost not to exceed \$231,357.28. Funding for this procurement is \$206,973 in federal funding and up to \$24,384.28 in local funding.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2013-32.

Proposed Resolution No. 2013-33: Approval of Contract for New Buses

Mr. Reed moved for adoption, and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. This resolution approves a contract with Gillig for the purchase of a minimum of 40 up to 107 transit buses and authorizes staff to execute an initial order for 12 40 foot low-floor diesel transit buses at a total estimated cost not to exceed \$53.5 million (estimated cost per bus of \$437,137.09). Funding for this

procurement is a combination of federal and local funds.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2013-33.

Proposed Resolution No. 2013-34: Approval of Contract for Health Insurance

Mr. Hothem moved for adoption, and Ms. Burke seconded the motion. This resolution approves the proposal of United Healthcare for the purchase of health insurance coverage for one year for hourly and salaried staff employees at a total cost not to exceed \$11,480,000.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2013-34.

Finance

Mr. Hothem reported the Finance Committee met on October 10, and another meeting is planned on October 24. The major agenda items were discussion of the preliminary operating budget and an update on the business continuity plan, along with the investment of funds report for September and the fuel hedging report for the third quarter. The 2014 budget will be approved by the Board in November and presented to the City of Cincinnati for Council approval in December. The "meat" of the 2014 and 2015 budgets was reviewed and the 2013 budget was projected through the end of this year. The 2015 and capital budget will be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Hothem said Terry and her staff did an excellent job on the budget this year.

FINANCIAL AND RIDERSHIP REPORT (SEPTEMBER)

Mr. Restle provided the financial report. Total revenues were about \$7.5 million, which is favorable to budget by \$40,000 and total expenses were about \$7.4 million, favorable to budget by \$31,000. Result is a net favorable variance for the month of about \$72,000. Year-to-date, we are favorable overall to budget by just under \$1.2 million.

Mr. Haley provided the ridership report. Year-to-date ridership has decreased from 2012 numbers by 3.5% and is 1.3% below budget.

CEO'S REPORT

Ms. Crews provided the board update. She introduced Frank Spataro, the new Executive Director of Human Resources. Other topics discussed included the joint Healthcare Committee, a new internal communication directed at managers to help keep them informed, the State of Metro annual meeting, talks with Megabus regarding parking at the Riverfront Transit Center (RTC), the RTC Open House on November 16, and the Artworks/Metro bus shelter project. She and Vice Chair Schultz attended the American Public Transportation Association annual meeting in Chicago earlier this month. Staff members Sallie Hilvers and Daron Brown also attended this meeting. Ms. Crews moderated a session entitled "The Human Factor – Transit's Greatest Asset" where Daron made a presentation about workforce development and hybrid training funded by a Federal Transit Administration grant. Vice Chair Schultz added that Daron's presentation was outstanding and felt it was important for him to be there to see what was going on in transit to help understand the business a little better. Mr. Schultz recommended that a different board member try to attend the annual meeting each year.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Grayson made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session as provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(2) for "Conferences with an attorney...that are the subject of pending or imminent court action..." and 121.22 (G)(4) for "Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations...with public employees..." and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved the motion and went into Executive Session at 10:40 a.m.

Mr. Reed made a motion that the Board return to regular session, and Mr. Hothem seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion and returned to regular session at 11:05 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, at 9:00 a.m. in the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

APPROVED:


Suzanne Burke
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:


Terry Garcia Crews
CEO & General Manager