

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, July 15, 2014, 9:00 a.m.  
SORTA/Metro Mt. Adams Board Room  
602 Main Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

**BOARD MEMBERS**

PRESENT: Jason Dunn, Brennan Grayson, Kreg Keesee, Ken Reed, Gwen Robinson, Karl Schultz, Brandi Stewart, Brad Thomas

**BOARD MEMBERS**

ABSENT: Frank Bowen, Suzanne Burke, Greg Hothem, Lamont Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS: Terry Garcia Crews, Donna Adkins, Bill Desmond, Jill Dunne, Inez Evans, Paul Grether, Jennifer Haines, Darryl Haley, Mary Moning, Wright Parkes, Mike Restle, Frank Spataro

OTHERS: Phillip Jacobs, J W Jones Center; Troy Miller, ATU Local 627 President; Nick Sunyak, City of Cincinnati; Chris Wetterich, Business Courier

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE**

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

**OATH OF OFFICE: KREG KEESE**

Mr. Desmond administered the oath of office to new SORTA board member Kreg Keese.

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

Mr. Dunn asked if there were any citizens present who would like to address the board; there were none.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 17, 2014, MINUTES**

Mr. Thomas made a motion that the minutes of the June 17, 2014, regular meeting be approved as previously mailed, and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the minutes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning & Operations**

Mr. Thomas reported the Planning and Operations Committee met on Tuesday, July 8, 2014. Mr. Grether had provided a rail update noting we are on time and on budget for the streetcar project.

Mr. Thomas then proposed the following resolutions for board approval:

**Proposed Resolution No. 2014-17:** Approval of Additional Authorization for Cincinnati Streetcar Project Consulting Services

Mr. Schultz moved for adoption and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. SORTA staff recommends the Board grant additional authorization to this task order contract with TRA for rail activation, safety and operating plans in the amount of \$371,409. This authorization would increase the total not-to-exceed amount from the current \$351,934 to \$723,343. These funds are available in the streetcar grant and will have no impact on SORTA's budget.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2014-17.

**Proposed Motion:** Legal Services

Mr. Schultz moved for adoption and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. This motion approves a new engagement letter with Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP for continuation of legal services through June 30, 2016. The current rates will remain through June, 2015 and increase by \$10 per hour for the second year.

By voice vote, the Board approved the motion.

**Proposed Resolution No. 2014-18:** Approval to Purchase Paratransit Vehicles

Mr. Schultz moved for adoption and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The current Access paratransit bus fleet consists of four (4) ambulatory and 45 lift-equipped vehicles. The maintenance department has inspected the fleet and recommends that four (4) of the lift-equipped vehicles be replaced due to high mileage and their general condition in accordance with the fleet replacement schedule. These vehicles will be purchased through the Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchasing Program at an estimated cost of \$82,273 each or a total of \$658,184 for eight (8) vehicles.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2014-18.

**Proposed Resolution No. 2014-19:** Fleet and Facilities Pest Control

Mr. Schultz moved for adoption and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. This service is a necessary component in providing our customers and our employees a clean, safe and pest free ride and workplace. It includes Metro's fleet of 356 buses in revenue service, 58 non-revenue vehicles, three (3) facilities (Queensgate, Bond Hill and Silverton) and two (2) office locations (Metro Sales Office and the Gwynne Building). SORTA staff recommends a three (3) year contract be awarded to Terminix with a total cost not to exceed \$121,060.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2014-19.

**Proposed Resolution No. 2014-20:** Approval of Fiscal Years 2015-2017 DBE Goal

Mr. Schultz moved for adoption and Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires grantees to establish goals every three (3) years for expenditures for goods and services from small business, minority- and women-owned firms certified by ODOT as Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs). SORTA staff recommends establishing a DBE goal of 18.23%, which was calculated based on FTA-approved methodology.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2014-20.

**FINANCE**

Ms. Stewart reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on Thursday, July 10, 2014. Ms. Stewart reviewed the route profile and fuel hedging reports, discussed the key budget assumptions and noted that the committee tabled the contingency reserve funding.

Ms. Stewart then proposed the following resolutions for board approval:

**Proposed Resolution No. 2014-21:** Approval of Contract for Health Insurance

Ms. Stewart moved for adoption and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. Since 2010, SORTA has contracted with United Healthcare (UHC) to provide health insurance coverage for hourly and salaried staff employees. The current health insurance contract expires December 31, 2014. United Healthcare offered a renewal policy with no increase in premiums. SORTA staff and Horan Associates reviewed the options and recommends the Board approve the proposal of United Health Care for a one-year policy at a total cost not to exceed \$9,400,000.

Mr. Grayson commented that the Union was a participating partner in this process and he thanked them for their help in this endeavor.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2014-21.

**Proposed Resolution No. 2014-22:** Appointment of Todd Cooper as a Royal Coachperson

Mr. Reed moved for adoption and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. This appointment as a Royal Coachperson is in recognition of the dedication and service of Mr. Todd Cooper to the people of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2014-22.

**FINANCIAL AND RIDERSHIP REPORTS (June)**

Reports were provided. Mr. Restle highlighted the Monthly Financial Report noting that our fare revenue is unfavorable to budget due to snow and our fare deal is also unfavorable to budget. Access revenue is down, ridership is down, but running close to anticipation. Expenses are favorable to budget.

**CEO'S REPORT**

Ms. Crews highlighted activities in July including the Streetcar branding firm selection, the Uptown transit district ribbon-cutting ceremony, the interactive voice response system that is

currently being tested, and the Cincinnati Public Schools contract changes. Ms. Crews also noted that Metro has partnered again this year with ArtWorks and Give Back Cincinnati. Metro participated in "Operational Handshake" to say thank you to operators during Safety Month in June. Ms. Crews updated the Board on Metro's fitness centers that are updated with better equipment, providing a better environment and flexibility for staff.

Mr. Grether gave the Cincinnati Streetcar Update highlighting the quarterly review meeting at the FTA Region 5 offices and participation in the ADA compliance meeting. Mr. Grether discussed the key schedule milestones. The Cincinnati Streetcar Transportation, Maintenance, and Operations Plan (TMOP) has been submitted to FTA for review. SORTA conducted a Safety and Security Review Committee (SSRC) meeting, and SORTA staff has coordinated meetings between Trapeze and CAF USA. Mr. Grether reviewed potential upcoming board action items related to the streetcar.

Ms. Evans presented the Key Performance Indicators for January-June, 2014 underlining Metro On-Time Performance, Customer Complaints, Preventable Accidents, Mechanical Service Interruptions and Access Productivity.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business to report.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19, 2014, at 9:00 a.m., the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio

Mr. Thomas made a motion that the board go into Executive Session as provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1), "to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee...." and Mr. Reed seconded the motion.

By roll call vote, the Board approved the motion and went into Executive Session at 10:30 a.m.

It was properly moved and seconded that the Board return to regular session. The Board approved the motion and returned to regular session at 12:05 p.m.

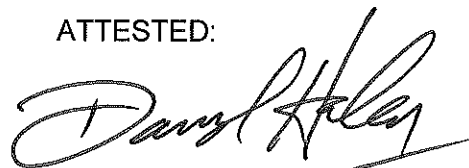
The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

APPROVED:



Jason Dunn  
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:



Darryl Haley  
Interim CEO & General Manager