

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, September 15, 2015, 9:00 a.m.  
SORTA/Metro Mt. Adams Board Room  
602 Main Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

**BOARD MEMBERS**

PRESENT: Jason Dunn, Maurice Brown, Brendon Cull, Kreg Keesee, Mary Miller, Ron Mosby, Ken Reed, Karl Schultz, Daniel St. Charles, Brad Thomas

**BOARD MEMBERS**

ABSENT: Gregg Hothem, Jack Painter, Gwen Robinson

**STAFF MEMBERS:**

Dwight Ferrell, Donna Adkins, Charlene Brown, Matt Conover, Deb Drayton, Butch Gaut, Paul Grether, Jennifer Haines, Darryl Haley, Sallie Hilvers, Arnold Isham, Brandy Jones, JoDawna Miles, Wright Parkes, John Ravasio, Alex Reed, Alan Solomon, Randy Weaver

**OTHERS:**

Nick Sunyak, City of Cincinnati; Troy Miller, ATU Local 627; Chris Wetterich, Business Courier; Christine Woeste, Vorys, Stater, Seymour and Pease

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**OATH OF OFFICE: MARY MILLER**

Mr. Desmond administered the oath of office to new SORTA board member Mary Miller.

**STAR AWARD PRESENTATION**

Mr. Weaver gave a background on the STAR Award and gave a description of the events that took place. Ms. Brown was dispatched to bring a bus back to the garage. When she arrived, the operator informed Ms. Brown that a passenger, still on the bus, was acting strange. Ms. Brown noticed the passenger was incoherent and disoriented. A road supervisor was dispatched and Ms. Miles responded. Ms. Miles assessed the situation and together they decided to call for help. Ms. Brown and Ms. Miles may have, indeed, helped to save a life. Mr. Ferrell and Mr. Dunn presented the STAR Award to Metro Mechanic Charlene Brown and Metro Road Supervisor JoDawna Miles for going above and beyond the call of duty.

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

Mr. Dunn asked if there were any citizens present who would like to address the board.

Mr. Miller updated the Board on activities of the ATU to push for transit funding in the State and across the country.

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 18, 2015 REGULAR MINUTES**

Mr. Reed made a motion that the minutes of the August 18, 2015, regular meeting be approved as previously mailed, and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the minutes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Planning and Operations Committee**

Mr. Thomas reported on the Planning and Operations Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015, and proposed the following resolutions to the Board for approval:

**Proposed Resolution No. 2015-24: Approval of Lease Agreement with Sam's Club (\*)**

Mr. Schultz moved for adoption and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Sam's Club on North Bend Road at I-74 has been a well-utilized park and ride for 19 years. Counts at this location indicate that over 150 people use this park and ride on a daily basis. The current amended agreement expires September 30, 2015. Wal-Mart/Sam's Club has agreed to extend this contract for an additional year, with no additional cost, from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016. Staff recommends that the current license agreement with Wal-Mart/Sam's Club for a park and ride on North Bend at I-74 be amended to extend the term through September 30, 2016, at a total cost not to exceed \$32,760.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2015-24.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Keesee reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on Thursday, September 10, 2015, and proposed the following resolution to the Board for approval:

**Proposed Motion: Appointment of Secretary-Treasurer**

Mr. Reed moved for adoption and Mr. Cull seconded the motion. The position of Secretary-Treasurer is a statutory office required by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). These statutes designate the Secretary-Treasurer the fiscal officer of the regional transit authority and custodian of its funds and records. The ORC further directs that the secretary-treasurer "shall furnish bond in such amount as is determined by the board of trustees"; which has been set at \$100,000 and will be purchased by SORTA. It is recommended that the SORTA Board appoint the CEO, Dwight A. Ferrell, as Secretary-Treasurer.

By roll call vote, the Board approved the Motion.

**RIDERSHIP REPORTS FOR JULY 2015**

Mr. Conover presented the July ridership report. Mr. Conover stated that July ridership was down 2.5% to budget, down 31,904 rides and on a year to date basis total ridership was down 4.7% to budget, down 453,255 rides. Mr. Conover then presented graphs depicting trends in ridership by month for various categories including fixed route, students, paratransit, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati State, and Fare Deal. The Board discussed various impacts on ridership and Mr. Ferrell gave the Board an update on how staff will be projecting ridership going forward.

Mr. Dunn also briefed the Board on the Metro Task Force Team and what is expected to come to the Board within the next few months.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JULY 2015**

Mr. Solomon presented the July financial report. Total passenger fares were unfavorable to budget by \$106,000 and year to date unfavorable by \$703,000. Total revenues were \$7.8 million, which is favorable to budget by \$27,000, or 0.3%. Total expenses were \$7.8 million, which is favorable to budget by \$28,000, or 0.4%. The end result is a net favorable variance for the month of \$55,000 and \$800,000 favorable year to date.

**BOARD UPDATE**

Mr. Ferrell updated the Board on the upcoming Miller-Coors Free Rides on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, the Be Streetcar Safe campaign, upcoming major projects, the YP Entertainment Bus, and recent employee commendations.

**STREETCAR UPDATE**

Mr. Grether provided a streetcar update noting that Transdev staff mobilized three staff positions in Cincinnati and that a series of kick-off meetings with Transdev and various Metro departments and the City of Cincinnati. Mr. Grether gave updates on the rail activation committee, two newly executed task orders, ticket vending machines, and SORTA and the city staff met to finalize procedures for reimbursement of SORTA for streetcar operating costs. Mr. Grether continued with a brief update on the streetcar vehicles, wheel truing machine, safety and security certification, advertising/sponsorships, and marketing/education.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business to report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Reed made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session as provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(2) "To consider the purchase of property for public purposes..." and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion.

By roll call vote, the Board approved the motion and went into Executive Session at 9:45 a.m.

Mr. Reed made a motion that the Board return to regular session and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion and returned to regular session at 10:30 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

APPROVED:

Jason Dunn  
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:

Dwight Ferrell  
CEO & General Manager