

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
SORTA/Metro Mt. Adams Board Room
602 Main Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Jason Dunn, Brendon Cull, Gregg Hothem, Kreg Keesee, Mary Miller, Jack Painter, Ken Reed, Brad Thomas

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT: Maurice Brown, Ron Mosby, Gwen Robinson, Karl Schultz, Daniel St. Charles

STAFF MEMBERS: Dwight Ferrell, Donna Adkins, Richard Bannon, Michelle Cantor, Matt Conover, Bill Desmond, Dave Etienne, Butch Gaut, Paul Grether, Darryl Haley, Sallie Hilvers, Olivia Jones, Mary Moning, Wright Parkes, John Ravasio, Alan Solomon, Thomas Stringer, Vance Thomas

OTHERS: Troy Miller, James Brown, Frank Harper, Inga McGlothlin, ATU Local 627; Robert Shuemak, Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities; Nick Sunyak; City of Cincinnati, Bob Herring; Citizen

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ridership Report for January 2016

Mr. Conover provided the January 2016 ridership report and stated that total ridership was 1,198,092, which was 1.03% below projections. On-time performance was 89% for local routes against a goal of 88%. Local routes are carrying 19.71 passengers per hour, against a goal of 20.7 and Express Routes are carrying 15.93 passengers per trip, against a goal of 16.2. Mr. Conover also presented the January Access Ridership report and noted that total ridership for Access was 16,925 in January, 0.7% above projections. Year to-date Access ridership was up 5.7% or 12,109 rides. On-time performance was 94.06% against a goal of 93%.

January 2016 Financial Report

Mr. Solomon presented the January financial report. Total revenues were \$7.8 million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$66,000 or 0.8%. Total expenses were favorable to budget by \$228,000 or 2.9%. The end result was a net favorable variance of \$119,000 for the month. Fare revenue was unfavorable to budget by \$32,000 or 2.0% for the month, due to lower ridership, which was 2.4% under budget for regular service. Mr. Solomon then reviewed with the Board the significant contributing factors to these variances.

Rail Report

Mr. Grether presented the February update for the Streetcar. He noted that the fourth streetcar has been received and will be entered in routine testing shortly. Mr. Grether also discussed Transdev mobilization, as well as the Safety and Security Certification process. He, along with Mr. Desmond, provided a brief update to the Board on the Voluntary Tax Incentive Contribution Agreement (VTICA); the two anticipate this agreement will be presented to the Board for approval in April.

Mr. Grether confirmed that SORTA will not use bus money for the Cincinnati streetcar.

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

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

Mr. Miller stated that there have been issues regarding on-time performance, manpower, and the Operator Training Program; there have been additional conversations on how many runs did not go out. He requested that the Board take a look at these issues, which were not present a year ago.

Mr. Harper addressed the Board regarding the Operator Training Program and morale of the instructors. He explained that instructors are being interrupted as they are training due to lack of manpower.

Ms. McGlothlin stated her concern that instructors are not aware of who is actually in charge of the training department. She feels that being an operator is not just a job; it is a career and newly hired operators are not receiving adequate training.

Mr. Brown addressed the Board. He reiterated Ms. McGlothlin and Mr. Harper's remarks regarding operator training and expressed concerns about new schedules and the manpower needed to meet demands.

Mr. Ferrell introduced Mr. Thomas Stringer, the new Chief Operations Officer, to the Board as well staff and others. He noted that Mr. Stringer, as well as staff, is aware of the shortage in operators, and the issues within the Operator Training Program. Mr. Ferrell also said that the Planning & Operations committee will make a presentation next month regarding the training process as well as missed trips, and on-time performance. Mr. Ferrell explained that during SORTA's Strategic Plan process, some of these issues have already been addressed.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 16, 2016 REGULAR MINUTES

Mr. Reed made a motion that the minutes of the February 16, 2016 regular meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Finance Committee**

Mr. Keese reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on March 8, 2016 and proposed the following to the Board for approval:

Proposed Resolution No. 2016-08: Approval of the 2017 Budget and Funding Request

Mr. Thomas moved for adoption. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. This resolution approves the 2017 Budget and Funding Request and includes a request of funding from the City of Cincinnati's Transit Fund of \$51,342,503 for operating purposes and \$1,957,497 for capital. Mr. Keese noted that this is a preliminary budget as the City of Cincinnati operates on a July 1 – June 30 fiscal

calendar, which is different than SORTA's January 1 – December 31 calendar. He clarified that a finalized budget will be prepared by SORTA staff and submitted to the Board for approval later in the year. Mr. Keesee noted the capital items that were moved from 2017 to 2018.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2016-08.

Planning and Operations Committee

Mr. Thomas reported on the Planning and Operations Committee meeting held on March 8, 2016 and proposed the following to the Board for approval:

Proposed Resolution No. 2016-09: Approval of 2016 Triennial Title VI Program Update

Mr. Reed moved for adoption and Mr. Painter seconded the motion. This resolution approves SORTA's updated Title VI program; as a recipient of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) financial assistance SORTA must carry out U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Title VI regulations and provide an update every three years.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2016-09.

Executive Committee

Mr. Dunn reported on the Executive committee meeting held on March 14, 2016. He noted the key learnings and recommendations provided by Metro Futures Task Force, which included that SORTA's current business model is not sustainable at current funding levels. Mr. Dunn noted that their recommendations included continuing the balanced scorecard strategic planning efforts as well as the possibility of a ballot issue that extends permanent public funding through a sales tax.

He noted that the Board will be receiving additional reports within the coming months that will help SORTA to make its decision.

Community and Government Relations Committee

Mr. Cull reported on the Community and Government Relations Committee meeting held on March 14, 2016 and proposed the following to the Board for approval:

Proposed Resolution No. 2016-10: Approval of Contract for Advertising Agency of Record

Mr. Cull moved for adoption and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. This resolution approves a contract with Affirm Agency for advertising services, for a two (2) year base contract term (April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2018), with an option year (3) at a total cost not to exceed \$600,000 (\$200,000 per year). By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2016-10.

BOARD UPDATE

Mr. Ferrell provided his February 2016 update; making specific note of the 60 operator commendations received during the month of February.

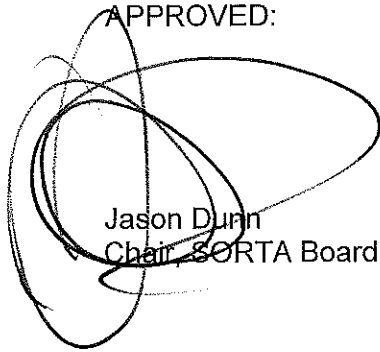
NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Reed moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Dunn seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

NEXT MEETING


The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 9:00 a.m., the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio.

APPROVED:



Jason Dunn
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:



Dwight Ferrell
CEO & General Manager