

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 9:00 AM
SORTA/Metro, Mt. Adams Board Room
602 Main Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Dunn, Ken Reed, Heidi Black, Maurice Brown, Brendon Cull, Gary Greenberg, Mary Miller, Gwen Robinson, Karl Schultz, Daniel St. Charles, Bradley Thomas

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kreg Keesee

STAFF MEMBERS: Dwight Ferrell, Donna Adkins, Matt Conover, Alison DeFisher, Butch Gaut, Paul Grether, Darryl Haley, Sallie Hilvers, Brandy Jones, Maria Jones, Carla McHale, Ted Meyer, Demarcus Peters, John Ravasio, David Riposo, Ronnie Salerno, Shannel Satterfield, Monai Smith, Alan Solomon

OTHERS: Kim Schaefer (Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP), Sharon Coolidge (Enquirer), Jeremy Moses (Citizen), Alan Dicken (AMOS Project), Ginger Bruner (AMOS Project), Andy Shenk (Citizen), Troy Miller (ATU Local 627), Troy Jackson (AMOS Project), Renita Daly (AMOS Project), Nathan Alley (Sierra Club), Gina Marsh (Human Services Chamber), Cristina Burcica (Citizen), Ayinde Okhomisi (AMOS Project), Elizabeth Hopkins (Citizen), Donna Porter-Jones (Citizen), Nick Sunyak (City of Cincinnati), Tana Weingartner (WVXU)

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: Helen H. Black

The Oath of Office was administered to new SORTA Board Member, Helen H. Black by Kim Schaefer of Vorys, Sater, Seymour, and Pease, LLP.

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

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

Elizabeth Hopkins addressed the Board as a lifelong rider of Metro and expressed the importance of transit for those that are growing up in poverty. She also stated that transit is not just about poverty but should support everyone.

Andy Shenk addressed the Board. He lives in Mt. Adams and does not own a car. He encouraged the Board to consider how to fund and improve transit. He thanked the Board for their work.

Troy Miller, ATU President, addressed the Board regarding the weapons policies, outdated stickers on buses and employees needing proper weapons policy training. He also announced that he would be in Columbus next Thursday regarding transit funding from the state.

Troy Jackson, Director of AMOS Project, addressed the Board. He stated that the individuals of his congregation depend on public transportation. He is interested in playing a role in the efforts for funding transit. He expressed that he and his organization are adamantly opposed to cutting the earnings tax.

Reverend Alan Dicken, AMOS Project and Carthage Christian Church, addressed the Board. He stated that the individuals in the community rely exclusively on Metro to get them to work, school, and church. He stated he wants to partner with SORTA in working towards funding.

Nathan Alley, Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club, addressed the Board. He stated they are a new group whose focus is on access to transportation.

PREPARATION FOR A PUBLIC TRANSIT BALLOT INITIATIVE IN 2017

Mr. Ferrell stated that three different scenarios were presented; ½ cent, ¾ cent, and 1 cent. Discussion occurred on how to pay for the various options. Metro is facing a \$2.5M deficit for 2018. Staff has been asked to present options that consist of a mixture of the three options if a levy is not placed on the ballot. The presentations will be made in the committee meetings.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 17, 2017 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Reed made a motion that the minutes of the January 17, 2017 meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Cull seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the minutes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The finance committee did not meet for the month of February.

PLANNING & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Ms. Robinson reported on the Planning & Operations Committee meeting that was held on February 14, 2017. The committee reviewed the Proposed Streetcar Monthly Pass. The city would like to implement a streetcar only pass that would be separate from the current Metro 30 day pass. The process for such a change includes the City of Cincinnati requesting a policy change and SORTA responding to the request, this includes a task order for consulting services for Title VI and revenue/ridership analysis, which is a federal requirement by law. Title VI analysis of policy areas to be affected by the change include but are not limited to, access, payment, fare media, price, fare product options and transfers.

BRIEFING ITEMS

Ridership Report for December 2016

Mr. Conover provided the December 2016 ridership report. In review the total ridership was 1,115,305, which was 4.0% below projections. On-time performance was 86.9% for local routes, against a goal of 88%. Local routes are carrying 20.2 passengers per hour, against a goal of 20.7 and express routes are carrying 12.8 passengers per trip, against a goal of 16.2. The December 2016 Access ridership report; total ridership for Access was 17,579, up 4.4% from projections. Year-to-date Access ridership was up 2.9% or 12,336 rides. On-time performance was 94.6% against a goal of 93%. The Cincinnati Bell Connector ridership report for December 2016; total ridership was 52,209, down 40.6% and 35,806 from projections. On-time performance was 27.6% against a goal of 95.0%. The streetcar is carrying 41.2 passengers per hour against a goal of 52.8.

Rail Update

Mr. Grether presented the January 2017 Cincinnati Bell Connector (CBC) monthly report. He discussed safety metrics, noting that 73% of safety-related incidents involve another vehicle and 23% involve pedestrian interactions, such as jay-walking. Since revenue service for the Cincinnati Bell Connector began, there have been thirteen reportable incidents. Safety-improvement activities are taking place and include additional signage (pedestrian warning, no stopping on tracks), reviewing potential traffic safety devices, and vehicle incident/blocking log provided to stakeholders.

Mr. Grether explained some of the security updates which include; SORTA/CPD transit details are currently doing fare enforcements. Transdev/CPD detail will take over in February.

Mr. Grether provided some updates on additional marketing and communication for the Streetcar. Streetcar made an appearance in the 2017 Super Bowl commercial. There is a new information display in the sales office and City Beat ads.

Mr. Grether gave the committee an update on the progress of Trapeze/ITS, they are continuously providing their on-site technical presence. A few stations need improvements, which include 12th/Vine Street, in which the antenna needs to be raised to provide a better signal. The station at 4th/Main, needs an antenna enhancement. The delayed message on the signs have been updated with an informative canned message, pre-programmed as well as arriving zones adjusted for better performance.

Mr. Cull brought up some concerns with the current technology being used; he challenged the organization to think about ways to provide a newer technology for the Streetcar. Mr. Ferrell reminded the committee that new technology takes time and money. Mr. Cull would like the Board to stay informed and updated on this matter.

Transdev has a new General Manager Luke McCaul from Boston, Transportation/Safety Manger is Susan Duffy from Utah and Maintenance Manager Curtis Ailes from Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Grether also provided the committee with a ridership update. Total ridership for the month of January 2017 was 35,334 which was unfavorable by 59.59%. Mr. Grether provided key statistics for the streetcar, included trips scheduled (2315) , trips operated (2127) , missed trips (192), late trips (657), extra train hours (73.7), blockages (70), signal failures (12), close calls (17), TAPS Track Access Permits (29), and charters (1). Current fleet status all cars are in service with exception of car 1177 due to collision damage on 11/22/2016.

Monthly Finance Report

Mr. Riposo presented the December 2016 financial report. Total revenues were \$8.2 million, which is favorable to budget by \$326,000 or 4.2%. Total expenses were \$8.1 million, which is unfavorable to budget by \$255,000 or 3.2%. Budgeted prior years reserves of \$43,000 were used in December. The end result was a net favorable variance of \$70,000 for the month. Local capital of \$70,000 has been added back for December and \$829,000 year-to-date has been applied as previously approved to balance the Operating budget. Fare revenue was unfavorable to budget by \$35,000 or 2.3% for the month due to ridership being 5.1% under budget.

He also presented the Cincinnati Bell Connector financial report for December 2016. Total revenues were \$316,085, which is unfavorable to budget by \$14,991, or 5%. Total expenses were \$332,247, which is unfavorable to budget by \$1,171, or 0%. The end result is a net unfavorable variance of \$16,162 for the month. Mr. Riposo then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

CEO Presentations: Ted Meyer & Alan Solomon

Dwight A. Ferrell, CEO & General Manager presented Mr. Meyer, Manager of Service Planning & Scheduling, with his 35 year pin. Mr. Solomon, Accounting Manager, was recognized for the 25th consecutive year that we received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

CEO BOARD UPDATE

Mr. Ferrell stated that the Request for Proposals (RFP) is being issued soon for a new bus shelter and bench advertising contractor. He invited members of the Board to join him at the various Coffee Chats scheduled for the community to talk with him about the state of Metro and the AECOM plan and to join him for the CEO Onboards. He highlighted the *Commendation Section* of the CEO Board Update and deferred to the reading of the other areas of the *CEO Board Update*, found in the Board books.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Schaefer, SORTA's general council, addressed the issues regarding the new weapons policies and stated revised policies would be forthcoming.

Mr. Reed moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Dunn seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 9:00 AM, the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio.

APPROVED:



Jason Dunn
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:



Dwight A. Ferrell
CEO & General Manager