

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, August 17, 2012, 9:00 a.m.  
The SORTA/Metro Mt. Adams Board Room  
602 Main Street, Suite 1200  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

**BOARD MEMBERS**

PRESENT: Todd Cooper; Tom Hodges; Gregg Hothem; William L. Mallory, Sr.;  
Ken Reed; Karl Schultz; Lamont Taylor; Brad Thomas

**BOARD MEMBERS**

ABSENT: Frank Bowen; Suzanne Burke; Jason Dunn; Gwen Robinson; Joe Zimmer

STAFF MEMBERS: Terry Garcia Crews; Donna Adkins; Perriann Allen; Bill Desmond;  
Inez Evans; Paul Grether; Tim Harrington; Darryl Haley; Sallie Hilvers;  
Lou Ann Hock; Kim Lahman; Mike Ongkiko; Wright Parkes; Mike Restle

OTHERS: John Duncan, National Express; Brian Gay, City of Cincinnati; Troy Miller,  
ATU Local 627; Don Mills, Ohio River Way; Chris Moran, League of  
Women Voters; Reco Owens, ATU Local 627; Mike Roth, MV Transit

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Hodges, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Reed made a motion that the minutes of the July 17, 2012 regular meeting be approved as previously mailed, and Mr. Mallory seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the minutes.

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

Dan Lincoln from the Greater Cincinnati Convention & Visitors' Bureau thanked Metro for the flawless work on transportation during the World Choir Games. He presented Mr. Hodges, Ms. Crews and Ms. Evans with a certificate of appreciation and a silver medal.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Governance & Nominating Committee**

Mr. Mallory provided a synopsis of the Governance & Nominating Committee meeting held on August 8, 2012. During that meeting, Mr. Mallory reiterated the responsibilities of that committee. Ms. Crews provided an update of the board orientation process and survey results and upcoming board training opportunities. She also discussed the reactivation of the Cincinnati chapter of the Conference of Minority Transit Officials (COMTO) and stated that Mr. Lamont Taylor, as president of the committee, would provide an update and report on his recent trip to the COMTO conference in Denver, Colorado.

**Planning & Operations Committee****Proposed Resolution No. 2012-17: Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with the University of Cincinnati**

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption, and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Because the University of Cincinnati is moving from quarters to semesters and the current contract expires on August 26, several changes in the contract were negotiated. This resolution authorizes the CEO to execute a three-year agreement (2012-2014) with the University of Cincinnati for its employees and students to ride SORTA buses. The contract will result in a minimum of \$500,000 per year in revenue.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2012-17.

**Proposed Resolution No. 2012-18: Approval of Contract for Uptown Transit District Final Design**

Mr. Hothem moved for adoption, and Mr. Mallory seconded the motion. This resolution approves the proposal of MSA Architects to prepare the final design of the Uptown Transit district at a total cost not to exceed \$377,070.29.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2012-18.

**Finance Committee**

Mr. Hothem reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on August 15, 2012. The committee reviewed the key budget assumptions and the five-year capital plan for 2013-2014. They also heard results of the streetcar review conducted by Clark Schaefer and an update of the internal audit summary. There was a report on the letter Metro sent to the Federal Transit Administration in response to two deficiencies identified in the in the Final Procurement System Review report and the results of the FEMA Desk Review. There was also a discussion lead by Mr. Reed regarding SORTA's self-insured liability program and conducting an actuarial study of SORTA's liability claims.

**CEO'S REPORT**

Ms. Crews provided an update of activities since the last board meeting, including a tour of the Queengate garage by Rep. Denise Driehaus; meetings with Rep. Louis Terhar and Senator Bill Seitz; discussions with the Ohio Department of Transportation regarding the Oasis Line; and a series of World Choir Games appreciation lunches for Metro employees.

Other activities were a visit with Cincinnati City Councilmember Christopher Smitherman to Jerusalem Judson Meadows to discuss residents' transportation concerns; a joint Labor/Management committee meeting and meetings with Vice Mayor Roxanne Qualls and Agenda 360 Director Mary Stagaman regarding Bus Rapid Transit.

Upcoming projects include the FTA BRT Workshop at the end of October and a partnership with Freestore Foodbank on the Rubber Duck Regatta.

Mr. Grether provided the streetcar update. The City of Cincinnati has completed final designs and Metro will submit comments back to the City. He was in a meeting with the FTA to update them on progress. There are concerns regarding the implementation schedules, especially with

utility relocation. The city will engage in a concerted effort to work out the utility issues with Duke Energy. Once there is a final design, the city will begin the construction procurement process, but the city will need to know the utility relocation schedule in order to start the process. Construction is estimated to start after the first of the year, contingent on getting the utility relocation schedule.

Ms. Evans reported on the performance dashboards. On-time performance is down traditionally during this part of the year due to construction delays. Metro is starting a service improvement team to look at the top five routes out of Bond Hill and Queensgate that have issues and work to improve OTP on these routes. Preventable accidents are above goal, as are the mechanical service interruptions (not including the regen issue). Customer complaints are above goal and tied in with OTP, i.e., the top complaint is late buses. Access OTP is above goal and productivity is at goal.

Ms. Crews reported Metro's cost of the World Choir Games was \$309,837. Between what was budgeted in the 2012 budget and the \$180,000 request from the transit fund through City Council, the cost for operating the service was covered.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to report.

### **COMTO REPORT**

Mr. Taylor presented an update of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO). Mr. Taylor explained the history of COMTO, benefits of joining and the reactivation of the local chapter. He also discussed current and future activities and the National Meeting & Training Conference held in Denver in late July. The next chapter meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Parsons Brinckerhoff, 312 Elm Street, Suite 2500.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. in the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

APPROVED:



J. Thomas Hodges  
Chair

ATTESTED:



Terry Garcia Crews  
CEO