

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
The SORTA/Metro Mt. Adams Board Room
602 Main Street, Suite 1200
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Suzanne Burke; Todd Cooper; Jason Dunn; Margaret Gutsell;
Tom Hodges; Gregg Hothem; Ken Reed; Sean Rugless; Karl Schultz;
Jim Tarbell; Joe Zimmer

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT: Jason Riveiro

STAFF MEMBERS: Terry Garcia Crews; Donna Adkins; Perriann Allen; Lisa Aulick;
Jill Dunne; Inez Evans; Tim Harrington; Darryl Haley; Sallie Hilvers; Lou
Ann Hock; Kim Lahman; Kevin Mischler; Mary Moning; Mike Ongkiko;
Wright Parkes; Alex Reed; Mike Restle; Terri Stevens

OTHERS: Brian Gay, City of Cincinnati; Troy Miller, Amalgamated Transit Union
Local 627; Caroline Miller, League of Women Voters; Donald Mills, Ohio
River Way; Chris Moran, League of Women Voters

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

Ms. Miller attended the recent streetcar groundbreaking held in front of Memorial Hall and thanked Metro staff and board members for attending and showing their support. Mr. Tarbell commented on the well-attended event and the presence of U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood. He declared it a great event and a great day for the city.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Mr. Hodges administered the oath of office to new SORTA board members Todd Cooper, Partner at Squire Sanders, and Joe Zimmer, executive secretary of the Greater Cincinnati Building & Construction Trades Council. Board members and staff present then introduced themselves to Mr. Cooper and Mr. Zimmer and welcomed them to the board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Community & Government Relations Committee**

Ms. Burke reported on the exciting presentation by Starboard Strategies at the committee meeting detailing the community engagement plan. Several objectives and a theme for the campaign (“Way to Go*.....a new direction for Metro”) have been identified. The committee is anticipating assistance from board members in building relationships with community and business leaders. Mr. Rugless welcomed the newer board members and gave them some background on and the purpose of Metro’s community engagement plan.

Governance & Nominating Committee

Mr. Hodges put forth the following resolutions for approval:

Proposed Resolution No. 2012-03: Appointment of Minette Cooper as a Royal Coachperson

Mr. Hodges moved for adoption, and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. This resolution appoints Minette Cooper as a Royal Coachperson of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority in recognition of her service to the people of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2012-03.

Planning & Operations Committee

As the result of Mr. Shultz’s absence at the Planning and Operations Meeting, the committee report was presented by Mr. Reed who put forth the following resolutions for approval:

3. Proposed Resolution No. 2012-04: Approval of Contract for Bus Procurement

Mr. Reed moved for adoption, and Mr. Dunn seconded the motion. This resolution approves a sole source contract with Gillig LLC for the purchase of up to 32 40’ diesel transit buses at \$413,609 each for a total cost not to exceed \$13,235,488. Hampton Roads Transit in Hampton, VA, has assigned to SORTA its options for 32 diesel buses and allows the option to purchase 40’ diesel buses and/or 40’ BRT plus vehicles. Funding for this procurement includes Federal funds from two sources: 2012/13 CMAQ grant (which requires a 30% local match) and 2011 Clean Fuels grant (which requires a 20% local match). This funding, including the required local match, has been included in SORTA’s 2012 capital budget.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2012-04.

4. Proposed Resolution No. 2012-05: Approval of Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) Consulting Services

Mr. Reed moved for adoption, and Mr. Dunn seconded the motion. This resolution approves a one-year contract with Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates to prepare a Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) and fare structure analysis at a total cost of \$321,387.40. Funding for this procurement is 100% local and is included in SORTA’s 2012 operating budget.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2012-05.

December & January Financial Reports, December Transit Fund Revenue update and January Ridership Report

Mr. Restle presented the December and January financial reports. For December total revenues were about \$7.2 million, which is unfavorable to budget by \$32,000. Total expenses were about \$6.9 million, favorable to budget by \$281,000. This results in an overall net favorable variance for the month of about \$249,000. For the year, total revenues were about \$84.0 million which was unfavorable to budget by \$1.5 million and total expenses were about \$83.1 million which is favorable to budget by \$2.4 million. Overall for the year, we are favorable to budget by about \$949,000.

For January, total revenues were about \$7.7 million which is unfavorable to budget by \$22,000. Total expenses were about \$7.3 million, which is favorable to budget by \$414,000 resulting in an overall net favorable variance for the month of about \$392,000.

Ms. Hock presented the transit fund report. For 2011, actual transit fund revenue was \$1,785,684 more than projected while actual expenses were \$206,931 more than was projected.

Mr. Restle presented the January ridership summary report. Regular ridership is up 1.2% which equates to over 14,000 rides. School ridership is up 45.3% for this month compared to January, 2011, and paratransit is 0.5% above 2011. Total ridership for the month is up 5.2% above 2011 and 1.0% below budget.

CEO'S REPORT

Ms. Garcia Crews introduced new employees Kim Lahman, Ridership Development Manager, Terri Stevens, Executive Assistant, and Alex Reed, E-Media Coordinator. Ms. Dunne and Mr. Reed then showed board members the new Metro website which was developed with help from tech savvy customers and customers who have disabilities. Riders are now able to access the website using their Smartphones or Blackberries and the site is now easier and more user-friendly.

The visit to Capitol Hill with Patton Boggs was phenomenal – best visit of her professional career. Some discussion regarding transit center concept so representatives can visualize how the grant money SORTA has and will be awarded is being used. The visit laid the groundwork for acquiring additional grant dollars. She also met with State Rep. Alicia Reece to provide an overview of SORTA's operations and ask for her assistance on HB 384.

Metro is waiting for the results Financial Management Oversight review that was performed late last year. The results of the procurement audit are in. Deficiencies were found from three years ago but the new procurement director is in place and the department is moving forward.

The Metro/TANK Cross-River Shootout basketball game was held on Feb. 18 with Metro emerging victorious. Ms. Garcia Crews then provided an update on George Porzuc, who suffered a heart attack the previous week, and Mr. Schultz updated the board and staff on the condition of former SORTA board member Ed Humphrey.

NEW BUSINESS

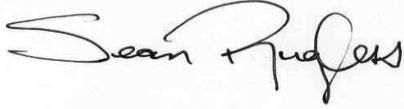
Mr. Rugless appointed Mr. Cooper to the Finance Committee and Mr. Zimmer to the Planning & Operations Committee. He reminded the board that Ms. Adkins will be contacting them to

check their availability for a board orientation to be scheduled sometime in April.

NEXT MEETING


The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. in the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio.

APPROVED:



Sean Rugless
Chair

ATTESTED:



Lou Ann Hock
Secretary-Treasurer