

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, March 20, 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; Lamont Taylor; Joe Zimmer

**BOARD MEMBERS**

ABSENT: Jason Riveiro

STAFF MEMBERS: Terry Garcia Crews; Donna Adkins; Perriann Allen; Bill Desmond;  
Inez Evans; Butch Gaut; Tim Harrington; Darryl Haley; Sallie Hilvers;  
Lou Ann Hock; Kim Lahman; Ted Meyer; Mary Moning; Mike Ongkiko;  
Wright Parkes; Alex Reed; Mike Restle; Terri Stevens; T.J. Thorne;  
Mike Weil

OTHERS: Brian Gay, City of Cincinnati; Troy Miller, Amalgamated Transit Union  
Local 627; Keith Law, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 627; Donald  
Mills, Ohio River Way; Chris Moran, League of Women Voters; Kevin  
Mulcahy, MV Transportation; Tony Osterlund, Vorys Sater Seymour &  
Pease; Will Scott

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Mr. Hodges administered the oath of office to new SORTA board member Lamont Taylor, who had previously served on the board. Mr. Rugless welcomed Mr. Taylor back to the Board and introductions were performed. Mr. Taylor's appointment brings the Board to the full complement of 13 members. Several City of Cincinnati SORTA Board appointments are due to be renewed by the end of April.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Hodges made a motion that the minutes of the February 12, 2012, regular meeting be approved as previously mailed, and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the minutes.

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

Mr. Miller introduced Keith Law, who has been a Metro employee since February, 1990, and is a bus operator at Queensgate. He has been a union steward for almost 10 years.

Mr. Rugless asked for a moment of silence for Tyala Frazier, the nine-year-old daughter of a Metro employee who was hit by a car and killed. Ms. Garcia Crews then provided a brief explanation of the accident.

Mr. Desmond then introduced Timothy (T.J.) Thorne, the new Systems Safety Director. He joined Metro in February and has 25 years of experience in industrial safety and health.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Finance Committee**

Mr. Hothem provided the Finance Committee report. New Board member Mr. Cooper has joined the committee and will be a great addition to the board with his experience in business, finance and law. The committee reviewed the fuel hedging report and the audit report. The 2012 audit schedule has been revised to add the IT Change Management audit to this year, while a system-wide disaster recovery audit will be performed in 2013. The biennial budget schedule was also reviewed with the process starting in May and the budget being sent to the city in October, for approval at a November city council meeting.

### **Planning and Operations Committee**

After summarizing the Committee meeting held on March 13, Mr. Schultz put forth the following resolutions for approval:

1. **Proposed Resolution No. 2012-06: Transit Security Services**

Mr. Reed moved for adoption, and Ms. Burke seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes staff to accept a three-year federal Department of Homeland Security grant of \$411,083, which will enable SORTA to expand its utilization of off-duty police details and provide additional security for passengers and employees.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2012-06.

2. **Proposed Resolution No. 2012-07: Approval of Agreement with Fifth Third Bank for Funding Route 11**

Mr. Reed moved for adoption, and Mr. Dunn seconded the motion. This resolution approves an agreement between SORTA and Fifth Third Bank to extend the Rt. 11 Madison Road bus route to Fifth Third Bank's Madisonville Operations Center. The new contract will be in effect from March 4, 2012 through March 3, 2015. Fifth Third will pay SORTA \$43,490 for the first year – funding for the second and third year will be negotiated at a later date.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2012-07.

3. **Proposed Resolution No. 2012-08: Advertising Services for Creative Development and Media Buying**

Mr. Reed moved for adoption, and Mr. Dunn seconded the motion. This resolution approves a one-year contract with Powers Agency for advertising services at a cost of \$112 per hour plus expenses, for a total cost not to exceed \$250,000. Funding for this procurement is 100% local and has been included in SORTA's 2012 operating budget.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2012-08.

#### 4. Proposed Resolution No. 2012-09: Fleet and Facilities Pest Control

Mr. Reed moved for adoption, and Mr. Dunn seconded the motion. This resolution approves a two-year contract with Action Pest Control for pest control services for Metro's fleet of 344 buses, 56 non-revenue vehicles, three facilities and two office locations at a total estimated cost of \$109,416. Funding for this procurement is 100% local and has been included in SORTA's 2012 Operating budget.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2012-09.

#### **February Financial Reports, December Transit Fund Revenue Update and February Ridership Report**

Mr. Restle presented the February financial report. Total revenues were about \$6.9 million, which is unfavorable to budget by \$121,000. Total expenses were about \$6.8 million, which is favorable to budget by \$265,000. This results in an overall net favorable variance for the month of about \$144,000. Year-to-date through two months, we are overall favorable to budget by \$536,000.

Mr. Haley presented the February ridership summary report. Regular ridership is up 4.0%, which equates to over 47,000 rides. School ridership is up 35.9% for compared to February, 2011, and paratransit is 2.2% below 2011 (or 320 trips). Total ridership for the month is up 6.0% above 2011 and 0.7% above budget.

Ms. Hock presented the transit fund report for January and February. Projected revenue through February was estimated at \$7,483,746 with actual revenue totaling \$7,281,881 for a difference of \$201,865. Monthly projected expenses were estimated at \$7,611,344 with actual expenses totaling \$7,922,327 for a difference of \$310,983.

#### **CEO'S REPORT**

Ms. Crews asked Mr. Harrington to explain the two new electronic signs that will be installed at all eight Government Square shelters and other locations that will give passengers real-time information on bus departures. The signs will also tell passengers if the bus is delayed and other messages as needed. A sign will also go in the booth at Government Square with actual bus departure times listed.

Ms. Crews traveled to Washington DC several times in February and March and feels those outreach visits with Ohio and federal officials are paying off. She also met with Ohio Department of Transportation Director Jerry Wray to discuss SORTA's funding needs, which included state grant applications we submitted for additional buses. Soon after that meeting, SORTA received word that we received 5 of the 6 buses we had requested on the grant application. Also in March she and Mr. Dunn will travel to Washington DC with the Chamber of Commerce, and then Ms. Crews will travel to Cleveland with several city/business/community leaders for the Bus Rapid Transit Leadership Academy where she will make a presentation. Other on-going projects include the streetcar DBE workshop, Bus Rapid Transit bus order and World Choir Games preparation.

Metro has scheduled several public meetings the week of March 26<sup>th</sup> with consultants from Nelson-Nygaard. The consultants are also meeting with several business and community leaders that week for their input.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Rugless asked that the board complete the survey link that was emailed to them and to be prepared to assist Ms. Crews in community outreach however they are able.

Mr. Rugless reminded the board about Metro's communication policy and asked that board members let staff know when they have been contacted for interviews so that the message from Metro is consistent.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. in the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Reed made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session as provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(3) for "conferences with an attorney . . . concerning disputes that are the subject of pending or imminent court action . . .". Mr. Dunn seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved the motion and went into Executive Session at 10:35 a.m.

Mr. Reed made a motion that the Board return to regular session, and Mr. Hothem seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion and returned to regular session at 11:30 a.m.

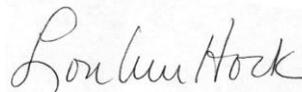
The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

APPROVED:



Sean Rugless  
Chair

ATTESTED:



Lou Ann Hock  
Secretary-Treasurer