

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
The SORTA/Metro Mt. Adams Board Room
602 Main Street, Suite 1200
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Frank Bowen; Suzanne Burke; Todd Cooper; Jason Dunn; Tom Hodges;
William L. Mallory, Sr.; Ken Reed; Gwen Robinson; Karl Schultz; Lamont
Taylor; Joe Zimmer; Brad Thomas

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT: Gregg Hothem

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

OTHERS: Mark Bennett; Brian Gay, City of Cincinnati; Mr. Frankenstein; Barry
Horstman, Cincinnati Enquirer; Troy Hoskins, ATU Local 627; Tom
Luken; Donald Mills, Ohio River Way; Troy Miller, ATU Local 627; Tony
Osterlund, Vorys Sater Seymour & Pease; Tom Sherman; Doug
Sizemore, AFL-CIO Cincinnati

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Bennett, Mr. Miller, Mr. Sizemore, Mr. Luken, Mr. Sherman and Mr. Frankenstein all individually spoke in favor of SORTA continuing its lawsuit against the City of Cincinnati to prevent the city from taking money from the transit fund for purposes other than transit. All six speakers strongly urged the board not to drop the suit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Operations Committee

Proposed Resolution No. 2012-10: Access Bus Washer System

Mr. Schultz moved for adoption, and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. This resolution approves a contract with Westmatic Corporation to replace the Access bus washer system at a total cost not to exceed \$148,900. Funding for this procurement is from SORTA's capital grants program with an 80% federal contribution and 20% local match. This project will have a 5% DBE participation.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2012-10.

Governance and Nominating Committee

Mr. Schultz, Chair of the committee, stated that the Governance and Nominating Committee nominates J. Thomas Hodges as Chair and Suzanne Burke as Vice Chair of the SORTA Board. Mr. Schultz then moved to accept the nominations and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board unanimously approved the motion. The Board congratulated the officers and wished them luck.

Proposed Motion: Appointment as Directors of Everybody Rides Metro

Mr. Schultz moved for adoption, and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. This motion appoints Jason Dunn, Steve Gibbs and Paul Sittenfeld as directors of Everybody Rides Metro with terms to expire June 30, 2015.

By voice vote, the Board unanimously approved this motion.

Proposed Resolution No. 2012-11: Appointment of Margaret C. Gutsell as a Royal Coachperson

Mr. Schultz moved for adoption, and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. This resolution appoints Margaret C. Gutsell 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. 2012-11.

Proposed Resolution No. 2012-12: Appointment of Jason P. Riveiro as a Royal Coachperson

Mr. Schultz moved for adoption, and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. This resolution appoints Jason P. Riveiro as a Royal Coachperson of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority in recognition of his service to the people of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2012-12.

Proposed Resolution No. 2012-13: Appointment of Sean Rugless as a Royal Coachperson

Mr. Schultz moved for adoption, and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. This resolution appoints Sean Rugless as a Royal Coachperson of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority in recognition of his service to the people of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2012-13.

Proposed Resolution No. 2012-14: Appointment of James R. Tarbell as a Royal Coachperson

Mr. Schultz moved for adoption, and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. This resolution appoints James R. Tarbell as a Royal Coachperson of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority in recognition of his service to the people of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2012-14.

April Financial Reports, December Transit Fund Revenue Update and Ridership Report

Mr. Restle presented the April financial report. Total revenues were about \$7.4 million, which is unfavorable to budget by \$62,000. Total expenses were about \$7.3 million, which is favorable to budget by \$90,000. This results in an overall net favorable variance for the month of about \$28,000. Year-to-date through the first quarter of the year we are overall favorable to budget by \$487,000.

Mr. Haley presented the April ridership summary report. Regular ridership was down 1.7%, which equates to over 21,000 rides. School ridership is up 48.9% for April compared to April, 2011, and paratransit is 6.3% below 2011 or 926 trips. Total ridership for the month is 3.2% above 2011 and 0.6% above budget.

Ms. Hock presented the transit fund report for April. Projected revenue through April was estimated at \$15,962,961 with actual revenue totaling \$16,460,238 for a difference of \$497,277. Monthly projected expenses were estimated at \$15,174,460 with actual expenses totaling \$15,403,200 for a difference of \$228,740.

CEO'S REPORT

Ms. Lahman presented the ridership development progress report. She is focusing on four areas to increase ridership: Uptown (home to four of the city's six largest employers with 50,000 total employees; Government (partnership with the City of Cincinnati), Businesses (Duke Energy, Enquirer, Fifth Third Bank, Kroger, US Bank and Omnicare) and Universities/Colleges (UC, Cincinnati State, Brown Mackie College, Xavier and College of Mount St. Joe). She pointed out that all activities of expanding employer pass programs and generating new revenue streams are a part of SORTA's Strategic Development Plan.

Ms. Garcia Crews showed the board the certificate of recognition SORTA is sending to Akron Metro with Mr. Reed in honor of Bob Pfaff who is retiring.

Ms. Garcia Crews updated the board on the surface transportation reauthorization programs, the streetcar project and the World Choir Games. Metro recently hired Paul Grether as the Rail Development Manager who will take the lead on the streetcar project. She has been heavily involved in community engagement, meeting with NAACP executive committee and membership, Chris Finney from COAST, Leadership Cincinnati class 35, Invest in Neighborhoods, served as a judge at the Simon Lazarus Jr. Human Relations Awards and represented Metro at the Bike Friendly Destination Awards. She also appeared (with Sallie Hilvers) on the Lincoln Ware radio call-in program and SisterSpeak.

Metro has partnered with ATU Local 627 to form an Employee Wellness Committee to help employees and their families learn how to be a healthier.

Ms. Crews then gave a shout out to Brandy Jones for all of her hard work in coordinating the Adopt a Class program with the Academy of World Languages. The last event of the school year will be a pizza lunch for students and their Metro pen pals on May 11.

Board member Lamont Taylor, Will Scott, Metro employee Carole Senior and Ms. Crews met to discuss the revitalization of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation officials (COMTO).

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. in the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio.


EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Schultz 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. Reed seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved the motion and went into Executive Session at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Reed made a motion that the Board return to regular session, and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion and returned to regular session at 11:40 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

APPROVED:


J. Thomas Hodges
Chair

ATTESTED:


Lou Ann Hock
Secretary-Treasurer