

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 9:00 AM  
SORTA/ Metro  
602 Main Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Dunn, Maurice Brown, Brendon Cull, Kreg Keesee, Ron Mosby, Ken Reed, Daniel St. Charles and Karl Schultz

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Heidi Black, Gary Greenberg, Mary Miller, and Gwen Robinson

STAFF MEMBERS: Dwight Ferrell, Donna Adkins, Dave Etienne, Patrick Giblin, Paul Grether, Darryl Haley, Adriene Hairston, Sallie Hilvers, William Hock, Mary Huller, Brandy Jones, Maria Jones, Mark McEwan, Carla McHale, Ted Meyer, Heather Morris, Julie Motsch, Jeff Mundstock, Demarcus Peters, Tim Pfizenmayer, John Ravasio, Cindy Resor, David Riposo, Carlos Rowland, Ronnie Salerno, Shannel Satterfield, TJ Thorn, and Mike Weil

OTHERS: Allie Graff (Citizen), Erica Black-Johnson (Citizen), Vada Hill (Consultant), Troy Miller (ATU), Inga McGlothlin (ATU), Kimberly Schaefer (Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP), Chris Moran (Citizen), Reginald H. (Citizen), P.G Sittenfeld (Councilmember), Elida Kamine (City of Cincinnati employee), Jeff Pastor (Citizen), Tracy Grayston (Citizen), Randy Tucker (Media), Alea Hoffmaster (US Senator Sherrod Brown), Orlando King (Bus Operator), Homer Carlisle (Professional Staff Member: Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, United States Senate), Leah Hill (Legislative Assistant at United States Senate)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Dunn, SORTA Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

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

Troy Miller: "Just wanted to make the Board aware of arbitration and its cost."

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 12, 2017 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Reed made a motion that the minutes of the October 12, 2017 meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Shultz seconded the motion.

By voice vote, the Board approved the minutes.

**BRIEFING ITEM**

**CEO BOARD UPDATE**

Mr. Ferrell provided his *CEO Board Update* with a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation was an introduction of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) plan with four corridors. It also included a video and system maps explaining what BRT is and the positive impact it can have on community, city, and the region. He shared the many challenges SORTA faces such as, an aging fleet (buses and accessible vehicles) and our capital deficit from 2018-2028. Mr. Ferrell concluded his presentation introducing Mr. Homer Carlisle, Professional Staff Member: Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, United States Senate. Mr. Carlisle discussed BRT grants (funding up to 80%) and the application process.

**CEO STAR AWARD: Orlando King**

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Jason Dunn and Dwight Ferrell gifted Mr. King with the CEO Star Award. He noticed a small child wandering alone on the street. He brought the child on his bus and notified authorities, then kept the child safe until they arrived. The child was returned unharmed.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Mosby reported on the Finance Committee meeting that was held on November 9, 2017, and presented the following to the Board:

#### **Proposed Resolution No. 2017-34: Approval to Modify Year 2 Contract for Strategic Public Relations**

Mr. Mosby moved for adoption and Mr. Shultz seconded the motion. Mr. Ferrell recommended authorization to spend the full contract amount of \$300,000 through January 31, 2018. He explained SORTA spent \$132,468.96 of the \$150,000 contract for Year 1 and needed approval to spend the reminding funds of \$17,531.04 in Year 2 of the contract.

By roll call vote, the Board approved Resolution No. 2017-34.

#### **Proposed Resolution No. 2017-35: Approval of 2018 Operating Budget**

Mr. Mosby moved for adoption and Mr. St. Charles seconded the motion. Mr. Riposo presented the 2018 Operating Budget to the Committee. The presentation included: Strategic Plan – 20 X 21, Reflection on 2017 Budget Process, 2018 Budget Assumptions (Assumptions & Process, Fare Increase), Budget Summary, and 2018 Process Improvement Initiatives. He went into additional detail, discussing budget for the strategic plan, which will allow for additional training for operators and various business development plans.

The 2018 operating budget discussion addressed the potential fare increase changes that were not included in the current budget it projections assumptions, but with the City's approval fare changes will go into effect June 2018. Mr. Riposo stated the City of Cincinnati approved \$56.4M in Transit Funds and would be used for 100% operations in 2018.

Mr. Riposo stated the 2018 budget is balanced with revenue and expenses of \$98.1M, no use of Prior Year Reserves required, 100% of Transit Fund used to fund operations, and no new capital programs in 2018. The discussion also included an in-depth look at SORTA's 10-year capital plan, 10 Year Cumulative 40' Bus Replacement Schedule (based on fleet age), and 10 Year Cumulative Infrastructure Cost.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2017-35.

### **PLANNING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Planning and Operations Committee did not present a report as it did not meet in November.

### **BRIEFING ITEMS**

#### **Monthly Financial Report for October 31<sup>st</sup> 2017**

Mr. Riposo presented the October 2017 financial reports. Total revenues were \$8.2 million, which is favorable to budget by \$58,000. Total expenses were \$8.0 million, which is favorable to budget by \$125,000 or 1.5%. The end result was a net favorable variance of \$183,000 or 2.2% for the month. Fare revenue was favorable to budget by \$28,000 or 1.1%. Mr. Riposo then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

He also presented the Cincinnati Bell Connector financial report for October 2017. Total revenues were \$322,388, which is unfavorable to budget by \$8,140 or 2%. Total expenses were \$351,717 which is unfavorable to budget by \$21,189 or 6%. The end result is a net unfavorable variance of \$29,329 for the month. Mr. Riposo then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances. The Committee accepted the report as presented.

#### **Ridership Report for October 31<sup>st</sup> 2017**

Mr. McEwan presented the October 2017 ridership reports. Total ridership for the month of October was 1,342,480, which was 1.3% below budget. On-time performance was 82.9% for local routes, against a goal of 88%. Local routes are carrying 20.5 passengers per hour, against a goal of 20.7 and express routes are carrying 14.6 passengers per trip, against a goal of 16.2.

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The October 2017 Access ridership report; total ridership for Access was 20,614, 3.4% above projections. Year-to-date Access ridership was up 3.5% or 6,489 rides. On-time performance was 90.1% against a goal of 93%.

The Cincinnati Bell Connector ridership report for October 2017; total preliminary ridership was 63,413, 17.7% and 9,538 above budget. Passengers per hour were 50.8 against a goal of 52.8. Average Headway (Peak/Off Peak) was 12:55/16:34 against a goal of 12:00/15:00.

### **Rail Update for October 31<sup>st</sup> 2017**

Mr. Grether presented the October 2017 rail update. The report included safety metrics, marketing communications highlights, ridership & operations summaries, and the current fleet status. In October, 45 citations were issued.

October ridership summary includes; weekday ridership at 33,252 riders, Saturday's 19,901, and Sunday's ridership 10,260, with a preliminary total of 63,413 for the month of October. The key statistics for the streetcar, included trips scheduled (2,315), trips operated (2,159), missed trips (156), blockages (67), signal failures (7), close calls (66), TAA (7) and charters (1). Current fleet status car 1176 is still out of service due to an articulation bearing failure.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Reed made a motion that the Board go into executive session at provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(3) for "Conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action" and Mr. Shultz seconded the motion.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved the motion and went into executive session at 11:00 AM.

Mr. Reed made a motion that the Board return to regular session and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. By voice vote the Board approved the motion and returned to regular session at 12:00 PM.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 9:00 AM, the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:



Jason Dunn  
Chair, SORTA Board



David A. Riposo  
CFO/Secretary Treasurer

