

SORTA BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SORTA/METRO AT HUNTINGTON CENTER
SORTA BOARD ROOM-6th FLOOR
525 VINE STREET, CINCINNATI OHIO 45202

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, August 27th 2024, 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony Brice, Chelsea Clark, Dan Driehaus, Trent Emeneker, Blake Ethridge, Kala Gibson, Neil Kelly, Pete Metz, Briana Moss, Gwen Robinson, Sara Sheets, Greg Simpson and KZ Smith

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Tony Brice and Jay Bedi

STAFF MEMBERS: Andy Aiello, Adriene Hairston, Darryl Haley, Brandy Jones, Natalie Krusling, Bradley Mason, John Ravasio, August Sweitzer, Tim Walker and Mike Weil

LEGAL COUNSEL: Kim Schaefer (Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP)

GUEST/PUBLIC PRESENT: Ken Reed (OTRP)

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

OATH OF OFFICE: KALA GIBSON & GREG SIMPSON

Kala Gibson and Greg Simpson took their Oath of Office, and were sworn into the SORTA Board of Trustees.

ROYAL COACHPERSON AWARD: ROD HINTON

Rod Hinton was presented with a Royal Coachperson award for serving on the SORTA board from 2018 to the end of 2023.

HEARING FROM CITIZENS

N/A

CHAIRMAN UPDATE

School has started and I am hearing good things. Thanked SORTA staff for all that they have done so far.

There was a BRT meeting this morning. Looking forward to the design and the construction stage.

APPROVAL OF JULY 23RD, 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Ethridge made a motion that the minutes from the July 23rd, 2024, board meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion.

By voice vote, the SORTA Board approved the minutes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Ethridge reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on August 20th 2024, and there were no items(s) to present for Board Approval.

PLANNING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Driehaus reported on the Planning and Operations Committee meeting held on August 20th 2024, and there were items(s) to present for Board Approval.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH FIFTH THIRD FOR ROUTE 11

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The contract approves a contract with a not to exceed value of \$225,286.

By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR 120-2024 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The contract approves a contract with a not to exceed value of \$13,000 a month and yearly not to exceed value of \$156,000.

By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT MODIFICATION FOR 29-2020 GRANT CONSULTING SERVICES

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The contract approves contract modification increasing the total not to exceed value from \$99,480 to \$135,880, an increase of \$36,400.

By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT MODIFICATION FOR 101-2022 VEHICLE ADVERTISING SERVICES

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The contract approves a modified contract increasing the not to exceed value from \$990,187 to \$1,157,407, and increase of \$167,220.

By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT MODIFICATION FOR 02-2023 GOVERNMENT SQUARE SALES OFFICE DESIGN

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The contract approves a modified contract increasing the not to exceed value from \$159,355 to \$338,355, an increase of \$179,000.

By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT MODIFICATION FOR 79-2023 QUEENSGATE STRUCTURAL COLUMN REPAIRS

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The contract approves a modified contract increasing the not to exceed value from \$184,622 to \$355,502, an increase of \$170,880.

By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT MODIFICATION FOR 184-2023 PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The contract approves a modified contract increasing the not to exceed value from \$90,000 to \$250,000, an increase of \$160,000.

By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR 118-2024 MIAMI UNIVERSITY CADS PROGRAM

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The contract approves a total cost not to exceed \$201,375.

By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the resolution.

INFRASTRUCTURE, BIKE AND ROW COMMITTEE

Ms. Sheets reported on the Infrastructure, Bike and ROW Committee meeting held on August 20th 2024, and there were items(s) to present for Board Approval.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: APPROVAL 2024 TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE FUND PROJECTS

Ms. Sheets moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The resolution approves the grant funded projects that will be forwarded to the Public Works Integrating Committee of Hamilton County for approval.

By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the motion.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF JULY 31ST, 2024

Mr. Aiello presented the July financial results. Total revenues were \$13.9 million, which was favorable to budget by \$277k. Total expenses were \$14.2 million, which is unfavorable to budget by \$754k. Surplus/Deficit was \$0.4 million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$468k. Ridership was 1,037k, which is favorable to budget by 1k. Mr. Aiello presented the Investment of Funds Reserve Summary with a total All Securities at \$179,289,112, Net Unrestricted Securities Available at \$13,644,879 and Net Unrestricted Securities and 2024 Operating Budget Surplus at \$16,710,481. Mr. Aiello then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

METRO ON THE MOVE

Mr. Haley presented the Metro on the Move report. He thanked everyone that who recently joined Metro's family day on August 17 and 18 at Kings Island. Staff and SORTA board members welcomed new and returning 7th through 12th grade CPS students back to school on Metro. We were recently named a finalist for the 2024 All About Women "Best Places to Work" Award in the women of color category and the winners will be announced on September 10. He congratulated the procurement team who were recognized with an Achievement of Excellence Award by the National Procurement Institute for demonstrating high proficiency. He also congratulated Chief Communications & Marketing Officer Brandy Jones on being recognized by the Cincinnati Magazine as a Power 100 Rising Star.

Route 61 Galbraith Road Crosstown was recently added as part of our Fall service changes. Metro will be holding an Access Career Fair Extravaganza on September 28th from 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Access Family and save the Date for “State of Metro” bi-annual meeting on October 9th.

NEW BUSINESS

Chelsea asked us to for Infrastructure grant funded projects criteria.

Gwen thanked us for allowing her to attend events and participate with Metro staff.

Kala enjoyed Metro Family Day and thought it was great to see Metro employees with their families.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Ethridge moved and Mr. Driehaus seconded going into executive session.

“Section 121.22(G)(3) Conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action...”

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF EMINENT DOMAIN AUTHORITY

Mr. Ethridge moved for adoption and Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. The contract approves eminent domain authority for Walnut Hills Transit Center.

By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees has been scheduled for **September 24th, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.** the SORTA/Metro Board Room, at 525 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

APPROVED:



Blake Ethridge
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:



Darryl Haley
CEO/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer