



SORTA/Metro
Board Meeting
March 26, 2024
9:00 am-10:00 am Eastern Time

SORTA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 26TH, 2024 – 9:00 A.M
SORTA BOARD ROOM 6th FLOOR
525 VINE STREET,
CINCINNATI, OHIO, 45202

General Items:

- Call to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Hearings from citizens
- Chairman Update

Action Items:

- 1 Approval of Board Minutes February 27th, 2023

Finance Committee (Sonja Taylor)

Action Items:

- 2 Approval of Appointment to Ohio Transit Risk Pool (OTRP) Board of Trustees
 - 2.1 Action Item:
- 3 One Year Sponsorship Investment for Red Bike
 - 3.1 Action Item:

Planning & Operations Committee (Blake Ethridge)

Briefing Items:

- 4 Financial Results for February 29th, 2024 (Andy Aeillo)
- 5 Metro on the Move (Darryl Haley)
- 6 New Business
- 7 **Executive Session**
- 8 “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...”

Other Items:

Adjournment

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for

Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

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, February 27th 2024, 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony Brice, Dan Driehaus, Trent Emeneker, Blake Ethridge, Neil Kelly, Pete Metz, Briana Moss and Gwen Robinson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Bedi, Amanda Carleski, Chelsea Clark, Rod Hinton, Kreg Keesee, Sara Sheets, KZ Smith and Sonja Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS: Andy Aiello, John Edmondson, Darryl Haley, Adriene Hairston, Brandy Jones, Natalie Krusling, Tenecia Le'Flore, Bradley Mason, Kevin Ruth, August Schweitzer and Mike Weil

LEGAL COUNSEL: Anthony Osterlund (Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP)

GUEST/PUBLIC PRESENT: David Wormald, AECOM; Dan Cahall, COA

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

HEARING FROM CITIZENS

None

CHAIRMAN UPDATE

None

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 16TH, 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Keesee made a motion that the minutes from the January 16th, 2024, board meeting be approved as previously mailed and Ms. Clark seconded the motion.

By voice vote, the SORTA Board approved the minutes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 6: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT NO: 122-2023 FOR BRT ENGINEERING & DESIGN SERVICES

Mr. Ethridge moved for adoption and Mr. Keesee seconded the motion. The contract approves a 5-year contract with WSP USA, Inc., total cost not to exceed the value of \$36,000,000.

By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the resolution.

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By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the resolution.

PLANNING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF JANUARY 31ST, 2024

Mr. Aiello presented the January financial results. Total revenues were \$13.2 million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$17k. Total expenses were \$12.8 million, which is favorable to budget by 894k. Surplus/Deficit was \$0.5 million, which was favorable to budget by \$877k. Ridership was 987k, which is unfavorable to budget by 129k. Mr. Aiello presented the Investment of Funds Reserve Summary

with a total All Securities at \$173,222,636, Net Unrestricted Securities Available at \$16,114 and Net Unrestricted Securities and 2024 Operating Budget Surplus at \$2,769,211. 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. Each year we make a visit to Capitol Hill to share our successes and the impact we've been able to make thanks to the federal funds we've received. This month Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Transportation announced the awarding of more than \$100 million in investments to support quality public transportation in Ohio and Metro was awarded \$2.8 million in funds for our real-time E-paper signage project, long-range transportation plan, one badge to rule them all project upgrade our badging system and funds to purchase handheld data collection hardware. Metro celebrated Ohio Loves Transit the week of February 11-17 and Black History Month SBA signing on February 16th. National Transit Employee Appreciation Day will be on March 18, the Golden Bus Awards are scheduled for March 21 and Metro will offer free rides on March 16th and November 5th for Election Day. Mr. Haley then concluded his report.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

EXECUTIVE SESSION

N/A

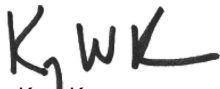
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees has been scheduled for
March 19th, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.
the SORTA/Metro Board Room, at 525 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

APPROVED:


Kreg Keese
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:


Darryl Haley
CEO/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-17

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT TO OHIO TRANSIT RISK POOL (OTRP) BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WHEREAS:

1. By Resolution 2019-32, the SORTA Board of Trustees authorized Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority to become a member of the Ohio Transit Risk Pool and join with other political subdivisions in maintaining a joint self-insurance pool under Chapter 2744 of the Ohio Revised Code.

2. The SORTA Board also appointed the CEO/General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer as voting trustee to the Ohio Transit Risk Pool Board of Trustees. and in the absence of the voting trustees to appoint the Chief Operating Officer (COO) as alternate trustee to serve and vote in the absence of the voting trustee.

3. Staff recommends the SORTA Board of Trustees to appoint the Chief of Staff as an alternate trustee to the Ohio Transit Risk Pool (OTRP) Board of Trustees.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

4. The SORTA Board desires to appoint Chief of Staff (COS) as an alternate trustee to the Ohio Transit Risk Pool (OTRP) Board of Trustees to serve and vote in the absence of the voting trustee, CEO/General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer.

5. The SORTA Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this board and of any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

6. This resolution is effective immediately upon its adoption.

MOVED BY: Sonja Taylor SECOND BY: Tony Brice
VOTE Aye: Mr. Brice, Dan Driehaus, Blake Ethridge, Neil Kelly, Pete Metz, Briana Moss and Sonja Taylor
Nay: None
Abstain: None
ABSENT AT THE TIME: Chelsea Clark, Rod Hinton, Kreg Keese, Gwen Robinson, Sara Sheets and KZ Smith
PRESENT NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Trent Emenecker
ABSENT NON-VOTING MEMBERS AT THE TIME: Jay Bedi and Amanda Carleski
APPROVED: March 26th, 2024



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION ITEM

DATE: March 2024

FROM: Andy Aiello, Chief of Staff

PROJECT NO.:

REQUEST: Approval of Appointment to OTRP Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND

In 2019 Metro became a member of the Ohio Transit Risk Pool (OTRP). We joined with other political subdivisions to maintain a joint self-insurance pool under Chapter 2744 of the Ohio Revised Code.

BUSINESS PURPOSE

The agreement and Bylaws of the Ohio Transit Risk Pool require that persons representing member agencies must be selected by the governing body of that organization.

PROJECT FINANCING

N/A

PROJECT PROCUREMENT

N/A

PROJECT DIVERSITY

N/A

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Approval of a resolution that appoints the Chief of Staff (COS) as an alternate trustee to the Ohio Transit Risk Pool (OTRP) Board of Trustees to serve and vote in the absence of the voting trustee, Chief Executive Officer/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer (CEO).

Section 306.53 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) notes that, as a regional transit authority, Metro may cooperate with other governmental agencies of the state, or the United States, to carry out the purposes set forth under ORC 306.31.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION ITEM

DATE: March 2024

FROM: Andy Aiello, Chief of Staff

PROJECT NO.:

REQUEST: One Year Sponsorship Investment for Red Bike

BACKGROUND

Red Bike is a Cincinnati non-profit, station-based bike share system.

BUSINESS PURPOSE

Metro would like to invest \$100,000 for a 1-year/1-time marketing sponsorship partnership with Red Bike with the stipulation that Metro will be engaged in the decision-making process for the Red Bike operation over the next year.

PROJECT FINANCING

N/A

PROJECT PROCUREMENT

N/A

PROJECT DIVERSITY

N/A

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

The Board of Trustees directs Metro staff to invest \$100,000 for a 1-year/1-time marketing sponsorship partnership with Red Bike with the stipulation that Metro will be engaged in the decision-making process for the Red Bike Operation over the next year.



Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Financial Summary - February 2024

Report Out Date – March 19, 2024

Agenda – Financial Summary

- Statement of Operations for February '24
 - Revenue Chart
 - Expense Chart
 - Key Drivers
 - Detail Profit & Loss Statement
- Investment Funds Reserve Summary
- Investment Balance Update (separate attachment)



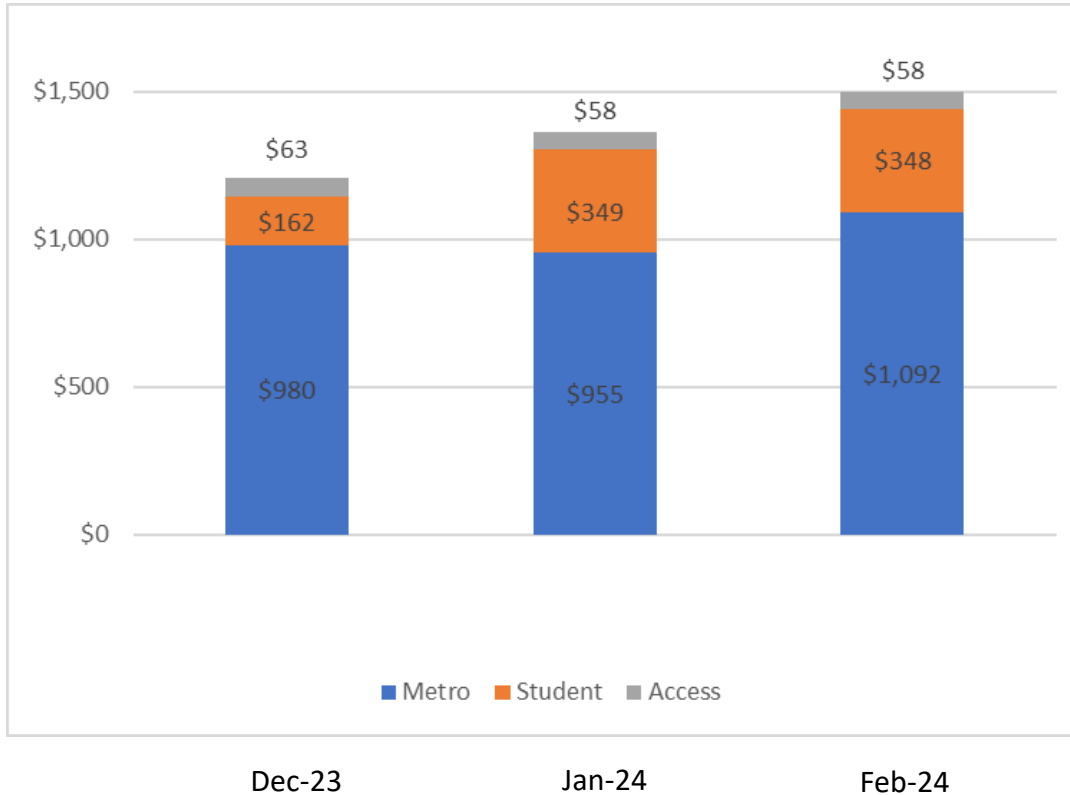
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS



FEBRUARY 2024 – FARE REVENUE SOURCES

3 MONTH TREND – DECEMBER 2023 THRU FEBRUARY 2024

In Thousands



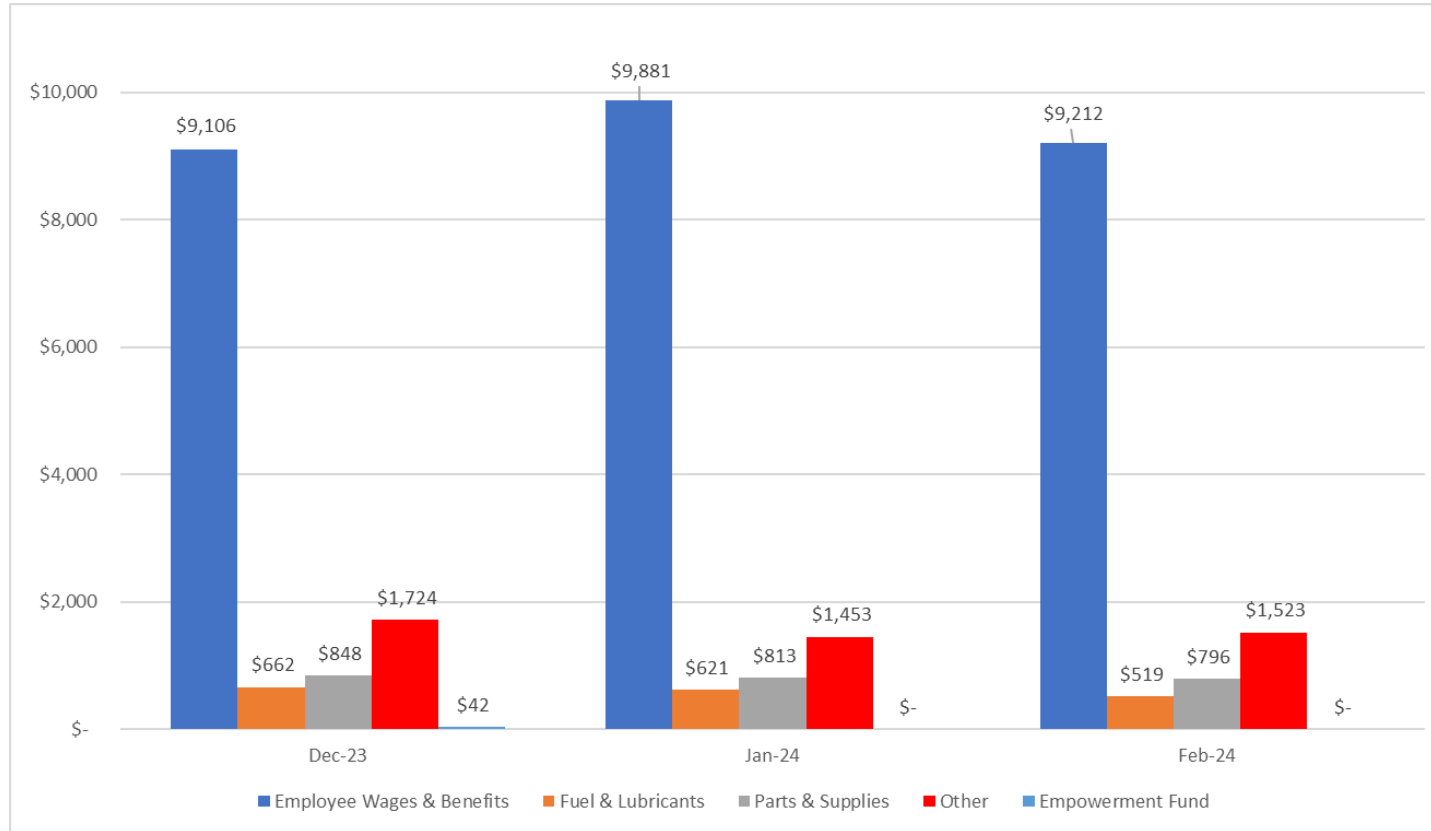
Month	Days per Month	Avg Rev per Day
Dec-23	31	\$32
Jan-24	31	\$31
Feb-24	29	\$38

Note: Number of Weekdays within each corresponding month as follows: Dec 21 (incl Christmas), Jan 23, Feb 21

FEBRUARY 2024 – OPERATING EXPENSE SOURCES

3 MONTH TREND – DECEMBER 2023 THRU FEBRUARY 2024

In Thousands



Summary

- Total Revenue \$12.6M - favorable to Budget \$147k
- Total Expense \$12.1M - favorable to Budget \$734k or 5.7%
- Surplus / (Deficit) \$0.6M - favorable to Budget \$881k
- Note: Ridership total is 1,060k – unfavorable to Budget (29k) or (2.7%)

Revenue

- Total Operating Revenue \$1.7M - favorable to Budget \$193k or 13.0%
- Non-Transportation \$782k - unfavorable to Budget (\$46k) or (5.6%). Root Cause: Interest income on investments
- County Sales Tax \$9.3M – on Budget; actual November receipts recorded to 2023
- Federal Grants \$0.8M - on Budget

Expense

- Wages & Benefits \$9.2M - favorable to budget \$158k or 1.7%
- Fuel and Lubricants \$519k - favorable \$118k or 18.5% to Budget. Root Cause: Market Fuel Price per gallon
- Parts & Supplies \$796k - favorable \$23k to Budget or 2.8%
- All Other \$1.5M – favorable Budget \$435k. Root Cause: Outsourced Services \$281k due to timing of projects

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority 2024 Profit & Loss Statement



2 Mo Ending February 29, 2024 (\$ In Thousands)	Month				Year to Date				
	Actual	Budget	Fav(Unfav)		Actual	Budget	Fav(Unfav)		Prior Year
Ridership									
Regular	874,086	906,601	(32,515)	(3.6%)	1,691,216	1,846,414	(155,198)	(8.4%)	1,721,328
CPS	165,891	163,842	2,049	1.3%	316,324	321,316	(4,992)	(1.6%)	310,916
Subtotal Fixed Route	1,039,977	1,070,443	(30,466)	(2.8%)	2,007,540	2,167,730	(160,190)	(7.4%)	2,032,244
Access	14,883	14,782	101	0.7%	29,542	29,849	(307)	(1.0%)	27,878
MetroNow!	5,209	4,101	1,108	-	9,980	7,946	2,034	-	-
Total Ridership	1,060,069	1,089,326	(29,257)	(2.7%)	2,047,062	2,205,525	(158,463)	(7.2%)	2,060,122
Operating Revenue									
Metro Fares	\$ 1,092	\$ 1,002	\$ 90	9.0%	\$ 2,047	\$ 2,041	\$ 6	0.3%	\$ 1,928
Access Fares	58	56	2	3.6%	116	113	3	2.7%	108
MetroNow! Fares	10	8	2	25.0%	20	16	4	25.0%	-
CPS Fares	348	218	130	59.6%	697	447	250	55.9%	734
Other	167	198	(31)	(15.7%)	345	405	(60)	(14.8%)	434
Total Operating Revenue	1,675	1,482	193	13.0%	3,225	3,022	203	6.7%	3,204
Non-Operating Revenue									
County Sales Tax	9,327	9,327	-	-	19,313	19,313	-	-	19,992
ARP	-	-	-	n/a	-	-	-	n/a	4,200
ARP Comp	-	-	-	n/a	-	-	-	n/a	5,000
Federal Subsidies	843	843	-	-	1,685	1,685	-	-	2,400
Non Transportation	782	828	(46)	(5.6%)	1,629	1,702	(73)	(4.3%)	1,037
Total Non-Operating Revenue	10,952	10,998	(46)	(0.4%)	22,627	22,700	(73)	(0.3%)	32,629
Total Revenue	12,627	12,480	147	1.2%	25,852	25,722	130	0.5%	35,833
Expenses									
Employee Wages & Benefits	9,212	9,370	158	1.7%	19,093	19,579	486	2.5%	16,870
Fuel & Lubricants	519	637	118	18.5%	1,140	1,391	251	18.0%	1,194
Parts & Supplies	796	819	23	2.8%	1,612	1,708	96	5.6%	1,379
Empowerment Fund	-	-	-	n/a	-	-	-	n/a	83
Other	1,523	1,958	435	22.2%	2,976	3,768	792	21.0%	2,754
Total Expenses	12,050	12,784	734	5.7%	24,821	26,446	1,625	6.1%	22,280
Surplus(Deficit) Before Adj	\$ 577	\$ (304)	\$ 881		\$ 1,031	\$ (724)	\$ 1,755		\$ 13,553



Investment Funds Reserve Summary

Overnight Investments	\$35,978,724
Securities & CD's	\$141,899,548

Total All Securities (2/29/2024)	\$177,878,272
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Current Capital Reserve Obligations

<i>BRT Project Development (Hamilton & Reading Corridors)</i>	\$36,000,000
<i>Future BRT Capital Match (Fed 70% & Local 30%)</i>	\$54,000,000
Total BRT	\$90,000,000
Local Match - FTA and ODOT Grants	\$10,762,725
100% Local Projects (<i>Prior Years Open + Current Year</i>)	\$41,943,101
2 Months of Operating Expenses	\$24,000,000
All Other Obligations	\$6,500,000

Total Current Capital Reserve Obligations	\$173,205,826
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Net Unrestricted Securities Available	\$4,672,446
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2024 Remaining Operating Budget Surplus Mar - Dec (Deficit)	\$3,056,610
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Net Unrestricted Securities + '24 Operating Budget Surplus	\$7,729,056
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From Darryl Haley, Metro CEO
& General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



March 2024

Happy Spring!

Celebrating the best of the best! Last week, we held our 3rd annual Golden Bus Awards at Music Hall, where we celebrated our Silver Wheel Award recipients and our Golden Bus Award winners. We are grateful for such amazing team members who show up every day with dedication and passion for the community we serve.



Go Metro, Go Reds: The community is invited to take Metro free to cheer on the Reds on Opening Day, March 28. All Metro service, fixed-route, Access and MetroNow! will be free to ride. It's a great opportunity to introduce our community to just how easy it is to go Metro to the game all season long. Also, join us or look for Metro in the Opening Day parade.

Grants to improve our system: We are grateful to have received two grants this month to continue efforts to improve our transit network and customer amenities. The Ohio EPA awarded us \$3.8 million from their Diesel Emission Reduction Grant to replace four aging diesel buses with Hybrid technology buses. The Ohio Department of Transportation awarded Metro \$1 million to support of Bus Stop Enhancement Project, which will help us replace 4,000 bus stops throughout our service area.

National Transit Employee Appreciation Week: We had a wonderful time celebrating our more than 1,100 team members last week for National Employee Appreciation Week. A special thank you to Council Member Meeka Owens and Board Member Gwen Robinson for joining us to celebrate.



Welcome to the Fleet: This month we welcomed 10 new Access vehicles into our fleet donning the new logo wrap. These vehicles are the newest editions since 2019 and are equipped with low-floor wheelchair ramps, which are more reliable compared to lifts.



Thank you,

Darryl Haley
CEO/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer