

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 25th 2025, 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony Brice, Chelsea Clark, Dan Driehaus, Trent Emeneker, Blake Ethridge, Kala Gibson, Briana Moss, Sara Sheets, Greg Simpson, KZ Smith and Sonja Taylor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Tianay Amat, Jay Bedi, Neil Kelly, Pete Metz and Gwen Robinson

STAFF MEMBERS: Andy Aiello, Steve Anderson, Adriene Hairston, Natalie Krusling, Sharyn Lacombe, John Ravasio, Tony Russo, Bill Spraul and Tim Walker

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

GUEST/PUBLIC PRESENT: Andy Shenk (Better Bus Coalition) and Barbara Wolf (Better Bus Coalition)

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

Andy Shenk from Better Bus Coalition spoke about bus purchases for the bus rapid service. Center doors with a large space would be advantageous for strollers, wheelchair and bike access.

CHAIRMAN UPDATE

Attended the MTIF signing ceremony today.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 31ST, 2025 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Ethridge made a motion that the minutes from the January 31ST, 2025, board meeting be approved as previously mailed and Ms. Clark seconded the motion.

By voice vote, the SORTA Board approved the minutes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. Clark reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on February 18th 2025, 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 February 18th, 2025, and there were items(s) to present for Board Approval.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO 5: APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY RESPONDER MOU:

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The contract approves a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Cincinnati for Metro's use of Community Service Officers.

By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO 6: APPROVAL OF TITLE IV UPDATE

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion approves the 2025-2027 Title VI Service Standards Update.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 7: APPROVAL OF MODIFIED CONTRACT AWARD 60-2022 OPERATOR UNIFORMS

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Mr. Brice seconded the motion. The modified contract will approve a 6-month contract with Galls, LLC., at a total cost not to exceed \$1,751,251 an increase from \$1,567,251 for operator uniforms.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PARATRANSIT COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Moss reported on the Paratransit Coordination Committee meeting held on February 20th, 2025, and there were no items(s) to present for Board Approval.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF JANUARY 31st, 2025

Mr. Walker presented the January financial results. Total revenues were \$13.2 million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$715k. Total expenses were \$13.8 million, which is favorable to budget by \$715,000. Operating Capital Contribution was (\$0.6) million, which was favorable to budget by \$688k. Ridership was 991k, which is unfavorable to budget by 106k. Mr. Walker presented the Investment of Funds Reserve Summary with a total All Securities at \$155,010,818, Net Unrestricted Securities Available at (\$5,072,275) and Net Unrestricted Securities and 2025 Operating Budget Surplus at \$2,660,726. Mr. Walker then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

METRO ON THE MOVE

Mr. Aiello presented the Metro on the Move report. He shared legislative engagement, BRT Gets a Name to include remaining public meeting dates, Darryl Haley Day, employee appreciation week and golden bus awards.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees has been scheduled for
March 25th, 2025, 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