

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, August 8, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
The SORTA/Metro Board Room
1014 Vine Street, Suite 2000
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Robert W. Buechner Daniel S. Peters
Stephan M. Louis Lamont Taylor
Robert P. Mecklenborg

STAFF MEMBERS

PRESENT: Michael H. Setzer Michael L. Brown
H. Theodore Bergh Gregory J. Lind
Marilyn G. Shazor Sheila M. Stanfill
Sallie L. Hilvers Timothy D. Harrington
Richard L. Moore J. Darryl Haley
(Legal Counsel) Patricia A. Drybala

OTHERS

PRESENT: Mark L. Bennett, ATU Local 627
Chris Moran, League of Women Voters

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Lamont Taylor, Chairman of the SORTA Board, noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order.

HEARINGS FROM

CITIZENS: Mr. Taylor asked if there were any citizens who would like to address the Board; there were none.

APPROVAL

OF MINUTES: Mr. Peters made a motion that the minutes of the June 13, 2006 regular meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

MEET THE TEAM:

Mr. Setzer introduced Greg Lind, RCC Manager, and Sheila Stanfill, RCC Traffic Controller (and Acting RCC Manager in Mr. Lind's absence). The Radio Control Center (RCC) operates 24/7 and has 7 traffic controllers and 4 sub-controllers. They keep tabs on 257 AM buses and 273 PM buses each weekday, making certain a block is filled and on time. During a blizzard, it may handle 2,500-2,600 calls in one day. The RCC also has a close working relationship with the police and initiates detours in response to police matters.

COMMITTEE REPORTSOPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Louis stated the Committee met and has the following items to be presented to the Board:

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-25, Approval of Contract for Radiator Repair and Recore

Mr. Peters moved for adoption and Mr. Louis seconded the motion. Mr. Setzer stated that this is outsourcing of bus radiator repair. The lowest and best bid was from D & R Radiator at a total cost of \$83,070.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-25.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-26, Approval of Contract for On-Board Video Monitoring Systems

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mr. Peters seconded the motion. Ms. Shazor stated that this is for installation of up to 150 systems over approximately 2 years at a total cost of \$903,540. The contract is for 5 years to purchase and install up to 500 systems. However, staff will stay abreast of any changes in technology and is only asking the Board to approve this initial purchase of 150 systems.

Mr. Louis asked if these installations were replacements of current systems. Ms. Shazor responded that some were replacements, but some were also new. Ms. Shazor then reviewed the bid process with the Board.

Mr. Mecklenborg asked if bus activity was able to be viewed as it occurred with these systems. He also inquired about retention of the video. Ms. Shazor responded that the video was stored on a hard drive and was viewed as needed. She indicated that she was not familiar with the statutory regulations related to retention of the video, but could obtain that information for the Board. The Board then discussed the value of having on-board video monitoring on buses.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-26.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-27, Renewal of Membership In American Public Transportation Association For 2006-2007

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. Mr. Setzer stated that this is for renewal of SORTA's membership in the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) at a total cost of \$37,289. APTA is an organization that most, if not all, transit systems belong to and one that SORTA has held membership since becoming a public agency. APTA provides research, education and communicates with Congress on behalf of the agency. The membership dues were below \$25,000 and, therefore, did not require Board approval. Membership dues now include funding for a previously separate APTA program, (PT)2, which itself had cost \$50,000 per year.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-27.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-28, Approval of SORTA's Fiscal Year 2007 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Goal

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. Mr. Setzer stated that this is for establishment of SORTA's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal as required by FTA.

Mr. Mecklenborg asked if a certain percentage is required. Mr. Bergh responded that there is no minimum percentage that is required to meet, just that a goal is set.

Mr. Louis asked if the Government Square project met its goal for DBE. Mr. Setzer responded that the goal was 7.5% and the project fell short of meeting that goal. One firm that presented itself as a DBE was unable to get certified. Mr. Setzer added that even this latest goal of 4.5% for federally assisted projects is ambitious.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-28.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-29, Approval of SORTA's Internal Goal For Its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program For Fiscal Year 2007

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. Mr. Setzer stated that this is for establishment of SORTA's internal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal which has been set at 7.5%. Unlike the FTA goal, this goal applies to all expenditures and not just federally assisted.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-29.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Peters stated the Committee met and has the following items to be presented to the Board:

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-30, Authorization To Donate Buses To Everybody Rides Metro

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. Mr. Peters stated that SORTA gets a low amount of funds for the sale of these buses. Giving the minimal proceeds to the foundation would be a source of funding for the foundation. After discussion among the Board members concerning the use of these proceeds to fund the foundation and the possibility of delaying a vote until there were more Board members available for a vote, it was decided to add language to the proposed resolution to limit it to the proceeds from no more than 40 buses. Mr. Taylor moved for adoption as amended and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-30 as amended.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-31, Election of "Everybody Rides Metro" Directors

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. Mr. Peters reviewed the 4 individuals previously appointed as foundation directors: Mr. Buechner, Mr. Louis, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Setzer, and stated that this resolution is to add 5 additional directors: Suzanne Hopkins, William Mallory, Randy Murphy, Paul Sittenfeld, and Marsha Watts-Vischer.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-31.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Setzer informed the Board that at the recent annual meeting of the Conference of Minority Transportation Professionals, Mr. Taylor was named Emerging Leader of the Year 2006. Mr. Taylor thanked his fellow Board members for their active participation as a Board; he believes this sets SORTA apart from other transit boards and contributed to his selection for the award.

Mr. Setzer gave the Board several photo's of the recently dedicated Anderson Township Park & Ride. Mr. Setzer stated that this project was managed and funded by the Township with assistance from Metro and is an excellent example of cooperation and of using transit to enhance other development.

Mr. Setzer informed the Board that operations will resume at Government Square beginning August 20, 2006. Introduction of the new low-floor buses and the new website, including trip planner interactive web service, will also occur the same date. Mr. Setzer introduced Tim Harrington, IT Manager, and Darryl Haley, Customer Relations Manager, who then gave the Board a demonstration of the trip planner.

Mr. Setzer stated that the trip planner software is the same software as that used for operating schedules, which is Trapeze, and any changes to operating schedules will automatically update the trip planner. Mr. Haley added that this will ensure consistent information among the different sources for schedule information.

Mr. Louis inquired about electronic schedule display at Government Square. Mr. Setzer responded that the conduit is there for schedule display, or real-time information, however, funding is not available to implement it at this time.

Mr. Louis suggested considering sponsorship of next departure time information in areas of heavy use.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Taylor confirmed that Mr. Buechner has been moved from the Operations & Management Committee to the Planning & Development Committee.

Mr. Buechner introduced a resolution for Board consideration by which the Board would be on record as supporting an educational initiative being announced on August 16, 2006, by Dr. Zimpher of the University of Cincinnati and Dr. Blackwell of Cincinnati Public Schools that identifies transportation of students to and from classes as an integral part of the success of the initiative which is graduating a significantly higher percentage of local students from college. Passage of the resolution would not only allow for SORTA's support, but also assistance addressing any special transportation needs for students benefiting from the opportunity to attend institutions of higher learning.

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. The Board discussed the necessity of resolutions first being addressed in committee. Mr. Moore confirmed that the Chairman could allow it for Board consideration without having come through committee if, at his determination, it is not significant business. Mr. Taylor made such a determination.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-32.

Mr. Taylor stated that there had been discussion in both committees concerning changing from monthly to bi-monthly Board meetings. Mr. Mecklenborg stated that as a new member of the Board, it was beneficial for him to attend monthly meetings. Mr. Moore stated that the Chairman does reserve the right to cancel a Board meeting. Following some discussion among the Board members, Mr. Taylor stated that further discussion concerning a change to the frequency of Board meetings would take place in committee.

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday September 12, 2006, 10:00 a.m., SORTA/Metro Board Room, 1014 Vine Street, Suite 2000, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Taylor made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Peters seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:

Lamont Taylor
Chairperson

H. Theodore Bergh
Secretary-Treasurer