

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, September 12, 2006, 9:30 a.m.
The SORTA/Metro Board Room
1014 Vine Street, Suite 2000
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT:	Robert W. Buechner	Robert P. Mecklenborg
	Stephan M. Louis	Melody Sawyer Richardson
	William L. Mallory, Sr.	Lamont Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS

PRESENT:	Michael H. Setzer	Eunice Brown
	H. Theodore Bergh	Princess R. Williams
	Marilyn G. Shazor	David M. Warning
	Timothy J. Reynolds	Carole E. Senior
	Richard L. Moore	Patricia A. Drybala
	(Legal Counsel)	

OTHERS

PRESENT: Eileen Enabnit, City of Cincinnati
Chris Moran, League of Women Voters
Judith A. Titchener, AMOS
Ed Lenihan, Center for Independent Living Options

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:

Ms. Titchener asked what SORTA was doing to make riding the bus safer. She also inquired about who an organization such as St. Vincent de Paul should contact concerning getting a reduced fare.

Mr. Bergh confirmed that the foundation recently established by SORTA, Everybody Rides Metro, has had discussions with St. Vincent de Paul and other agencies regarding subsidized fares.

Mr. Setzer responded that safety, from both crime and vehicular accidents, is SORTA's single highest priority with bus operators. Our customers are far safer on the bus than in a car. In over 30 years of operations, SORTA has had no on-board fatalities. Lack of safety is the perception, not the reality. In addition to emphasizing safety with bus operators, SORTA uses cameras on buses and works with police, even employing off duty police for on-board security. Security while waiting for the bus is a greater customer concern than while on board a bus. Mr. Setzer stated that SORTA has a Safety Committee to address safety concerns.

Mrs. Richardson suggested that a member of the Safety Committee serve on her Community Advisory Committee.

**APPROVAL
OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Buechner made a motion that the minutes of the August 8, 2006 regular meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mrs. Richardson seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

MEET THE TEAM:

Mr. Setzer introduced Eunice Brown, Operations Manager, and Princess Williams, Bus Operator. Hamilton County Prosecuting Attorney, Joe Deters, wrote a letter to Mr. Taylor expressing his deep appreciation for the testimony and conduct of Ms. Williams following a criminal incident in November, 2005, during which two individuals filed a weapon from a vehicle at a passenger waiting to board the bus being operated by Ms. Williams. Ms. Williams' testimony led to the conviction of the two individuals in court. Her response was not only an example of doing a job well, but also demonstrated her concern for the safety of her passengers. Messrs. Taylor and Setzer presented Ms. Williams with a certificate of appreciation from the SORTA Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Taylor stated the Committee met jointly with the Planning and Development Committee.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Louis stated the Committees met and have the following items to be presented to the Board:

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-33, Approval to File Applications With The Federal Transit Administration and The Ohio Department of Transportation For Assistance For FFY 2007 and SFY 2007.

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. Mr. Setzer stated that this is to authorize filing applications with FTA and the State of Ohio for capital funds. Mr. Bergh gave a presentation illustrating the anticipated deficit for replacement of buses due to a shortage of FTA grants and local funds beginning in 2009.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-33.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-34, Designation of OKI As Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Program Recipient and Administrator

Mr. Buechner moved for adoption and Mrs. Richardson seconded the motion. Mr. Buechner stated that this would allow SORTA to be able to receive funds from these two programs.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-34.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-35, Approval of Sam's Club Park and Ride Agreement Extension

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. Mr. Louis stated that this renewal of an existing lease is consistent with SORTA's other leases and that the federal funds used for the expense must be spent on park and ride locations.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-35.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-36, Approval of Contract For The Purchase of Remanufactured Diesel Engines

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. Mr. Buechner stated that this is for the replacement of diesel engines for 12 Access vehicles.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-36.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-37, Approval of Internal Audit Consulting Contract

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Louis seconded the motion. Mr. Louis stated that the Committees received a presentation by Clark Schaefer Consulting LLC. One advantage to utilizing this outside firm is that they will perform a risk assessment review to determine audit priorities in 2007. The contract cost is not to exceed \$65,000 per year for two years, for a total of \$130,000.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-37.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Setzer informed the Board that in honor of the five-year anniversary of 9/11, Metro buses ran with their headlights on all day on September 11, 2006.

Mr. Setzer informed the Board that for the Riverfest service on Sunday, September 3rd, Metro provided approximately 17,600 trips, about 2,500 more than last year.

OATH OF OFFICE: The oath of office was administered to Mr. Mallory by Mr. Moore. The Trustees welcomed Mr. Mallory to the SORTA Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Setzer informed the Board that the next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 10th, conflicting with the APTA Annual Meeting which the Board Chairman and three staff members plan to attend. A joint meeting of the Operations & Management and Planning & Development committees be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2006, at 8:30 a.m., followed by the Board meeting at 10:00 a.m., at SORTA/Metro, 1014 Vine Street, Suite 2000, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Setzer called the Board's attention to the replicas of panels at the new Government Square that were displayed in the board room. The Government Square historical placards were developed by Dan Hurley.

Mr. Taylor made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Louis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion and the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:

Lamont Taylor
Chairperson

H. Theodore Bergh
Secretary-Treasurer