

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

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, March 26th 2024, 9:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony Brice, Dan Driehaus, Trent Emenecker, Blake Ethridge, Neil Kelly, Pete Metz, Briana Moss and Sonja Taylor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Bedi, Amanda Carleski, Chelsea Clark, Rod Hinton, Kreg Keeseee, Gwen Robinson, Sara Sheets and KZ Smith

STAFF MEMBERS: Andy Aiello, John Edmondson, Darryl Haley, Adriene Hairston, Brandy Jones, Natalie Krusling, Tenecia LeFlore, 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; Nan Cahall, COA

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**HEARING FROM CITIZENS**

None

**CHAIRMAN UPDATE**

None

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Ethridge made a motion that the minutes from the February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, board meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Driehaus seconded the motion.

By voice vote, the SORTA Board approved the minutes.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Ms. Taylor reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on March 19<sup>th</sup> 2024, and there were items(s) to present for Board Approval.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 17: APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT TO OHIO TRANSIT RISK POOL (OTRP) BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Ms. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Brice seconded the motion. The resolution approves 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 voting trustee, CEO/General Manager/Secretary of State.

By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the resolution.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 18: APPROVAL OF ONE YEAR SPONSORSHIP INVESTMENT FOR RED BIKE**

Mr. Metz moved for adoption and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion approves a (1) year sponsorship with Red Bike, total cost not to exceed the value of \$100,000.

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 March 19<sup>th</sup> 2024 and there were no items(s) to present for Board Approval.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF FEBRUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

Mr. Aiello presented the February financial results. Total revenues were \$12.6 million, which was favorable to budget by \$177k. Total expenses were \$12.1 million, which is favorable to budget by 734k. Surplus/Deficit was \$0.6 million, which was favorable to budget by \$881k. Ridership was 1,060k, which is unfavorable to budget by 29k. Mr. Aiello presented the Investment of Funds Reserve Summary

with a total All Securities at \$177,878,272, Net Unrestricted Securities Available at \$4,672,446 and Net Unrestricted Securities and 2024 Operating Budget Surplus at \$7,729,056. 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. We celebrated the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Golden Bus Awards last week at Music Hall, on March 28<sup>th</sup> all bus services will be free and Metro will be in the Opening Day parade. We were awarded two grants this month. The Ohio EPA awarded us \$3.8 million from their Diesel Emission Reduction grant to replaced four aging diesel buses with Hybrid technology buses and the Ohio Department of Transportation awarded Metro \$1 million to support the Bus Stop Enhancement project that will help us replace 4,000 bus stops throughout our service area. We celebrated 1,100 team members last week for National Employee Appreciation Week and we welcomed 10 new Access vehicles into our fleet donning our new logo wrap. These vehicles have low-floor wheelchair ramps, which are more reliable compared to lifts.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

N/A

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Ethridge moved and Mr. Brice 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..."

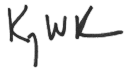
#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees has been scheduled for  
**April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.**  
the SORTA/Metro Board Room, at 525 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

APPROVED:



Kreg Keesee  
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:



Darryl Haley  
CEO/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer