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, October 28th 2025, 6:00 p.m.
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	Tianay Amat, Chelsea Clark, Dan Driehaus, Trent Emeneker, Blake Ethridge, Kala Gibson, Briana Moss, Sara Sheets, Greg Simpson, Rickell Smith and Sonja Taylor
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:	Jay Bedi, Tony Brice, Neil Kelly, Pete Metz and KZ Smith
STAFF MEMBERS:	Andy Aiello, Scott Enns, Adriene Hairston, Christina Harvey, James Hubbard, Brandy Jones, Natalie Krusling, John Ravasio, Jason Roe, Tony Russo, Khaled Shammout, Bill Spraul, Tim Walker and Mike Weil
LEGAL COUNSEL:	Kim Schaefer (Vory's)
GUEST/PUBLIC PRESENT:	Andy Shenk (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

Mr. Andy Shenk from the Better Bus Coalition discussed government square and read a statement from approximately two weeks ago from the Better Bus Coalition.

CHAIR UPDATE

Mr. Ethridge discussed the Metro State of the Union, MetroNow Launch 4, BRT Engagement and Government Square.

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Ethridge made a motion that the minutes of the September 23rd, 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 October 21st 2025, and there were no items(s) to present for Board Approval.

PLANNING AND OPS COMMITTEE

Mr. Ethridge reported on the Planning and Ops Committee meeting held on October 21st 2025, and there were items(s) to present for Board Approval.

GOVERNMENT SQUARE PRESENTATION:

Mr. Spraul and Mr. Aiello presented Government Square Presentation.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 41: APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT SQUARE

Mr. Ethridge moved for adoption and Ms. Sheets seconded the motion. The resolution is for approval of government square.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 42: APPROVAL OF RAIL RIGHT OF WAY SALE – DELEGATE AUTHORITY

Ms. Clark moved for adoption and Ms. Amat seconded the motion. The resolution will authorize the Chief Executive Officer/General Manager (CEO/GM) to execute all documents and take all actions necessary for the sale of real estate parcels related to rail right of way.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 43 APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD 11-2023 3CDC GOVERNMENT SQUARE CLEANING

Ms. Sheets moved for adoption and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 11-2023 on behalf of Metro and 3CDC increasing the total not to exceed value from $1,135,530 to $1,656,870, an increase of $521,340.

Ms. Clark abstained from voting.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 44: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD 44-2025 ADVERTISING AGENCY OF RECORD

Mr. Ethridge moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 44-2025 on behalf of Metro and Gatesman, Inc., at a total cost of $10,000,000.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 45: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD 45-2025 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

Mr. Ethridge moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 45-2025 on behalf of Metro and ABM eMobility, Inc., at a total cost of $1,911,145.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 46: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD 76-2025 BUS STOP SIGNS AND POLES

Mr. Ethridge moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 76-2025 on behalf of Metro and A&A Safety, Inc., at a total cost of $5,633,142.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 47: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD 118-2025 PARATRANSIT VEHICLES

Mr. Ethridge moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 118-2025 on behalf of Metro and Transportation Equipment Sales Corp. (TESCO), at a total cost of $684,588.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2025

Mr. Walker presented the September financial results. Total revenues were $14.1 million, which was unfavorable to budget by $226k. Total expenses were $14.3 million, which is unfavorable to budget by $200k. Operating Capital Contribution was ($0.2) million, which was unfavorable to budget by $426k. Ridership was 1,280k, which is unfavorable to budget by 110k. Mr. Walker presented the Cashflow and Obligation Report with a total All Securities at $153,163,001, Net Unrestricted Securities Available at ($1,136,848) and Net Unrestricted Securities and 2025 Operating Budget Surplus at $2,858,152.
Mr. Walker then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES

Mr. Aiello presented the progress and priorities report and reviewed the increasing Access, Honoring our Veterans, Bus Stop Sign Celebration, Legislative Meetings and Red Bike Partnership.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:07 p.m. Mr. Ethridge moved and Ms. Moss 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…”

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Ethridge moved and Mr. Amat seconded to return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees has been scheduled for
November 18th, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.
the SORTA/Metro Board Room, at 525 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

APPROVED:

Blake Ethridge
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:

Andy Aiello
CEO/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer