

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, November 18th 2025, 9:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony Brice, Chelsea Clark, Dan Driehaus, Blake Ethridge, Briana Moss, Sara Sheets, Greg Simpson, KZ Smith and Rickell Smith

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Tianay Amat, Jay Bedi, Trent Emeneker, Kala Gibson, Neil Kelly, Pete Metz and Sonja Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS: Andy Aiello, Steve Anderson, Scott Enns, Adriene Hairston, Christina Harvey, Brandy Jones, Natalie Krusling, Brad Mason, John Ravasio, Jason Roe, Tony Russo, Khaled Shammout, Bill Spraul, Tim Walker and Mike Weil

LEGAL COUNSEL: Kim Schaefer (Vory's)

GUEST/PUBLIC PRESENT: Rowan Grisez (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. Rowan Grisez from the Better Bus Coalition discussed the move of bus routes 21 and 78 from the government square and asked us to restore the bus stop location for these routes.

CHAIR UPDATE

Mr. Ethridge is thankful for the support of the community, elected officials and leaders, the recent passing of the government square resolution and for everyone that came today to support metro today.

MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Clark made a motion that the minutes of the October 28th, 2025, 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. Clark reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on November 11th 2025, and there were items(s) to present for Board Approval.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF OCTOBER 31st, 2025

Mr. Walker presented the October financial results. Total revenues were \$14.4 million, which was favorable to budget by \$272K. Total expenses were \$14.3 million, which is unfavorable to budget by \$451k. Operating Capital Contribution was \$0.1 million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$179k. Ridership was 1,341k, which was unfavorable to budget by 40k. Mr. Walker then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 48: DECEMBER 2025 – NOVEMBER 2026 PROPERTY & GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGES

Ms. Clark moved for adoption and Mr. Brice seconded the motion. The resolution is for approval of the December 2025 – November 2026 Property & General Liability Insurance Coverages.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 49: APPROVAL OF 2026 BUDGET

Mr. Ethridge moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The resolution is for approval of the 2026 budget.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PLANNING AND OPS COMMITTEE

Mr. Ethridge reported on the Planning and Ops Committee meeting held on November 11th 2025, and there were items(s) to present for Board Approval.

PROPOSED MOTION: APPROVAL OF SAFETY PLAN

Mr. Ethridge moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The motion approves the 2026 Agency Safety Plan.

By roll call, the SORTA Board approved the motion.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 50: APPROVAL OF PROPERTY PURCHASE FOR WALNUT HILLS TRANSIT CENTER

Mr. Ethridge moved for adoption and Mr. Brice seconded the motion. The resolution is for approval of the property purchase for the Walnut Hills Transit Center for the following four (4) Hamilton County parcels totaling 0.977 acres, (067-0003-0063-00, 067-0003-0071-00, 067-0003-0072-00 and 067-0003-0075-00 on behalf of Metro from Triple R. Associates, LTD. Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for the total amount of \$1,050,000.00.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 51: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD 101-2025 DRIVER BARRIERS FOR METRONOW VEHICLES

Mr. Ethridge moved for adoption and Mr. Brice seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 101-2025 on behalf of Metro and Queen City Engineering and Design Services, PLLC., at a total cost of \$113,100.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 52: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD 123-2025 LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LEGAL SERVICES

Mr. Ethridge moved for adoption and Mr. Brice seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 123-2025 on behalf of Metro and Dinsmore & Shohl Attorneys, with a not to exceed value of \$200,000.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES

Mr. Aiello presented the progress and priorities report and reviewed the Government Square Updates, FTA Triennial Review Close Out, Metro Leadership and ATU Local 627 Leadership, Community & Civic Presentations, and Meet Joe.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

MEET JOE LOCAL 12 NEWS

Local 12 featured a 4 year old Joe from Anderson Township who is fond of metro buses. Metro surprised him recently with a bus tour.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees has been scheduled for
December 16th, 2025, at 6:00 P.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