

**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, December 16th 2025, 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tianay Amat, Jay Bedi, Tony Brice, Dan Driehaus, Trent Emeneker, Blake Ethridge, Pete Metz, Briana Moss, KZ Smith, Rickell Smith and Sonja Taylor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Chelsea Clark, Kala Gibson, Neil Kelly, Sara Sheets and Greg Simpson

STAFF MEMBERS: Andy Aiello, Pat Gibson, Adriene Hairston, Christina Harvey, Brandy Jones, Natalie Krusling, Sharyn Lacombe, Brad Mason, John Ravasio, Jason Roe, Tony Russo, Khaled Shammout, Bill Spraul, Tim Walker and Mike Weil

LEGAL COUNSEL: N/A

GUEST/PUBLIC PRESENT: Cameron Hardy and Rowan Grisez (Better Bus Coalition), Mark Edwards (Citizen), Matt Smeal (CTSD) and Anshul Sulchlecha (Downtown Residents Council)

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. Anshul Sulchlecha from the Downtown Residents Council asked the board to restore service to area D for bus routes 21 and 78.

Mr. Rowan Grisez from the Better Bus Coalition asked the board to restore service to area D for bus routes 21 and 78. He recently missed a transfer bus at the government square because of the bus stop move.

Mr. Cam Hardy from the Better Bus Coalition asked the board to stream the meetings. He asked the board to restore service to area D for bus routes 21 and 78 as his mother is not riding the bus at this time because of the bus stop move. He mentioned that everyone needs to collaborate about the safety at the government square and asked how many people rode the bus today.

CHAIR UPDATE

Mr. Ethridge recapped the good news from 2025. We said goodbye to great leaders and hello to a new leader, Andy Aiello. It is great that we are transporting so many students every day. There has been an immense amount of work done in regards to BRT.

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Driehaus made a motion that the minutes of the November 18th, 2025, board meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Brice seconded the motion.

By voice vote, the SORTA Board approved the minutes.

Mr. Driehaus made a motion that the minutes of the December 2nd, 2025, board meeting retreat be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Brice seconded the motion.

By voice vote, the SORTA Board approved the minutes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Ethridge reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on December 9th 2025, and there were items(s) to present for Board Approval.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF NOVEMBER 30th, 2025

Mr. Walker presented the November financial results. Total revenues were \$14.7 million, which was favorable to budget by \$249K. Total expenses were \$13.6 million, which is unfavorable to budget by \$150k. Operating Capital Contribution was \$1.1 million, which was favorable to budget by \$98k. Ridership was 1,067k, which was unfavorable to budget by 214k. Mr. Walker then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 53: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR EXCESS WORKERS COMPENSATION

Mr. Ethridge moved for adoption and Ms. Moss seconded the motion. The contract will approve 2026 Excess Workers Compensation on behalf of Metro and Assured Partners from January 1, 2026 – January 1, 2027, at a total cost not to exceed \$132,108.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PLANNING AND OPS COMMITTEE

Mr. Ethridge reported on the Planning and Ops Committee meeting held on December 9th 2025, and there were items(s) to present for Board Approval.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 54: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR 33-2020 TRAPEZE SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Mr. Metz moved for adoption and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 33-2020 on behalf of Metro and Trapeze Software Group, Inc., increasing the total not to exceed value from \$2,890,296 to \$5,559,926, an increase of \$2,669,630.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 55: APPROVAL OF CONTACT AWARD FOR 45-2020 APC REPORTING SOFTWARE

Mr. Metz moved for adoption and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 45-2020 on behalf of Metro and Urban Transport Associates, Inc., increasing the total not to exceed value from \$322,840 to \$459,360, an increase of \$136,520.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 56: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR 100-2025-RFP-L STAKEHOLDER SURVEYS

Mr. Metz moved for adoption and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 100-2025-RFP-L on behalf of Metro and ETC Institute, at a total cost of \$631,750.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 57: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD 141-2025-SS FOR ANNUNCIATOR REMEDIATION

Mr. Metz moved for adoption and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 141-2025-SS on behalf of Metro and Trapeze Software Group, Inc., at a total cost of \$339,682.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED MOTION: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD 144-2025-SS-L PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES

Mr. Metz moved for adoption and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 144-2025-SS-L on behalf of Metro and Vory's Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP., at a total cost of \$300,000.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 58: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD 2016-R PAYROLL HUMAN RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM

Mr. Metz moved for adoption and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 2016-R on behalf of Metro and Paycor Inc., increasing the total not to exceed value from \$1,513,904 to \$2,504,528, an increase of \$990,624.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES

Mr. Aiello presented the progress and priorities report and reviewed the Procurement Department now reports to the CFO, Project Management Office reports to Chief of Staff, Operator Training Manager reports to Operations as well as the addition of Transit Operator Success Coaches and the Implementation of a new Maintenance Apprenticeship Program.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees has been scheduled for
January 27th, 2026, 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