

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, April 22nd 2025, 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tianay Amat, Jay Bedi, Tony Brice, Dan Driehaus, Blake Ethridge, Kala Gibson, Neil Kelly, Pete Metz, Briana Moss, Greg Simpson and KZ Smith

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Chelsea Clark, Trent Emeneker, Sara Sheets and Sonja Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS: Andy Aiello, John Edmondson, Adriene Hairston, Darryl Haley, Natalie Krusling, Bradley Mason, John Ravasio, Tony Russo, Bill Spraul and Tim Walker

LEGAL COUNSEL: Kim Schaefer (Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP)

GUEST/PUBLIC PRESENT: Andy Shenk (Better Bus Coalition), Renee Kabin, Hazen Elzarka (University of Cincinnati) and Frank Busofsky (Buesch)

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

Andy Shenk (Better Bus Coalition) proposed that the kids bus fares are reviewed.

Renee Kabin expressed concerns about fare increases.

Hazen Elzarka (University of Cincinnati) is looking forward to the research partnership with UC and Metro

CHAIRMAN UPDATE

N/A

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Ethridge made a motion that the minutes from the March 25th, 2025 and April 15, 2025, board meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion.

By voice vote, the SORTA Board approved the minutes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. Ethridge reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on April 15th 2025, and there were no items(s) to present for Board Approval.

PLANNING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Driehaus reported on the Planning and Operations Committee meeting held on April 15th, 2025, and there were items(s) to present for Board Approval.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 14: APPROVAL OF MODIFIED CONTRACT AWARD 22016-R18-5 PAYCOR HRIS SYSTEM

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. The modified contract will approve a 10- year contract with Paycor, Inc., at a total cost not to exceed \$1,513,904 an increase from \$1,382,671, an increase of \$131,233.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 15: APPROVAL OF MODIFIED CONTRACT AWARD 146-2024 ALTERNATE ENERGY CONSULTANT

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. The modified contract will approve a 1- year contract with WSP, USA, at a total cost not to exceed \$128,168 an increase from \$98,773, an increase of \$29,375.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 16: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD 132-2024 QUEENSGATE RETAINING WALL DESIGN

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. The contract will approve a 4.5-year contract with Michael Baker International, Inc. at a total cost not to exceed \$868,974 for the Queensgate Retaining Wall and Concrete Replacement.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 17: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD 134-2024 LONG RANGE TRANSIT PLAN

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. The contract will approve a 2-year contract with Alfred Benesch & Company, at a total cost not to exceed \$606,382 for a long-range transit plan.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 18: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD 001-2025 OPERATOR UNIFORMS

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. The contract will approve a 3-year contract with Galls, LLC., at a total cost not to exceed \$1,573,092 for operator uniforms.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 19: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD 015-2025 FAREBOX WORKROOM EXPANSION

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. The contract will approve a 1-year contract with Jostin Construction Inc., at a total cost not to exceed \$598,400 for farebox & fleet services office expansion.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PARATRANSIT COMMITTEE

Ms. Kelly reported on the Paratransit Committee meeting held on April 17th, 2025, and there were no items(s) to present for Board Approval.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF MARCH 31ST, 2025

Mr. Walker presented the March financial results. Total revenues were \$14.3 million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$246k. Total expenses were \$13.7 million, which is favorable to budget by \$785,000. Operating Capital Contribution was (\$0.6) million, which was favorable to budget by \$539k. Ridership was 1,159k, which is unfavorable to budget by 48k. Mr. Walker presented the Cashflow and Obligation Report with a total All Securities at \$155,763,377, Net Unrestricted Securities Available at (\$3,162,127) and Net Unrestricted Securities and 2025 Operating Budget Surplus at \$4,108,874. Mr. Walker then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

METRO ON THE MOVE

Mr. Ethridge presented the Metro on the Move report. He shared that today is earth day, Darryl being recognized at the April 15th Reds game for his accomplishments as Metro's CEO, Sara Sheets being appointed as SORTA's Vice Board Chair, Fare Improvement/restructuring, Opening Day, MetroRapid Dates, Metro Wins APTA Security Merit Award and Khaled's recent promotion.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, DISMISSAL, DISCIPLINE, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, OR COMPENSATION OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE...."

Mr. Ethridge made a motion that the Committee go into executive session as provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) to "consider appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee . . ." and Mr. Metz seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Committee approved the motion and went into executive session at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Ethridge made a motion that the Committee return to regular session and Mr. Metz seconded the motion. The Committee approved the motion and returned to regular session at 7:54 p.m.

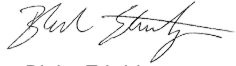
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees has been scheduled for
May 27th, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.
the SORTA/Metro Board Room, at 525 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

APPROVED:



Blake Ethridge
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:



Darryl Haley
CEO/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer