

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, June 24th 2025, 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tianay Amat, Tony Brice, Blake Ethridge, Kala Gibson, Neil Kelly, Pete Metz, Sara Sheets, Greg Simpson and KZ Smith

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Bedi, Chelsea Clark, Dan Driehaus, Trent Emeneker, Briana Moss and Sonja Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS: Andy Aiello, Adriene Hairston, Brandy Jones, Natalie Krusling, John Ravasio, Tony Russo, Bill Spraul and Tim Walker

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

GUEST/PUBLIC
PRESENT: Barbara Rhoades (OTRP)

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

N/A

CHAIRMAN UPDATE

Blake spoke about the recent employee safety awards luncheon and the recent appointment of Andy Aiello as CEO/General Manager.

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Ethridge made a motion that the minutes from the May 27th, 2025, board meeting be approved as previously mailed and Ms. Sheets seconded the motion.

By voice vote, the SORTA Board approved the minutes.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 24: APPROVAL OF 2026 GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Metz moved for adoption and Ms. Amat seconded the motion to approve the 2026 grant application.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED MOTION: APPROVAL OF OKI BOARD APPOINTMENT

Mr. Metz moved for adoption and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. The motion will appoint Andy Aiello as SORTA's representative to the OKI Board of Trustees and Khaled Shammout as the alternate.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 25: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT MODIFICATION FOR 18-2022 SECURITY CAMERAS

Mr. Metz moved for adoption and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. The contract modification will approve modified contract no. 18-2022 on behalf of Metro and Security 101 Ohio, LLC., increasing the total not to exceed value from \$1,012,767 to \$1,111,670, an increase of \$98,883.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF MAY 31ST, 2025

Mr. Walker presented the May financial results. Total revenues were \$14.1 million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$639k. Total expenses were \$13.4 million, which is favorable to budget by \$359k. Operating Capital Contribution was (\$0.7) million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$134k. Ridership was 1,163k, which is unfavorable to budget by 134k. Mr. Walker presented the Cashflow and Obligation Report with a total All Securities at \$165,598,516, Net Unrestricted Securities Available at \$891,875 and Net Unrestricted Securities and 2025 Operating Budget Surplus at \$6,783,875. 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 successful triennial review, fare policy updated, tap & save and rider rewards, MetroRapid Progress, CPS partnership and CEO engagement.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

NEW BUSINESS**EXECUTIVE SESSION CONFERENCES WITH AN ATTORNEY FOR THE PUBLIC BODY CONCERNING DISPUTES INVOLVING THE PUBLIC BODY THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF PENDING OR IMMINENT COURT ACTION ...;**

Mr. Ethridge made a motion that the Board go into executive session as provided in "Ohio Revised Code 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...;" and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Committee approved the motion and went into executive session at 6:56 a.m.

Mr. Ethridge made a motion that the Board return to regular session and Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. The Committee approved the motion and returned to regular session at 7:37 p.m.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 26: SETTLEMENT

I move that the Board approves the terms of the settlement of the litigation as presented and discussed in executive session, and that the CEO is authorized and directed to take all necessary actions to finalize and execute the settlement agreement and any related documents, and to perform any other acts required to effectuate the settlement.

Mr. Ethridge moved for adoption and Mr. Brice seconded the motion to approve the resolution.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees has been scheduled for
July 22nd, 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