



SORTA/Metro
Board Meeting
May 26, 2026
9:00 am-10:00 am Eastern Time

SORTA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 26th, 2026 – 9:00 A.M.

SORTA BOARD ROOM 6th FLOOR

525 VINE STREET,
CINCINNATI, OHIO, 45202

General Items:

- Call to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Hearings from citizens
- CEO Star Award: Latasha Underwood
- Chair Update

Action Item:

- 1 Approval of Board Minutes April 28th, 2026

Finance Committee (Blake Ethridge)

Briefing Item:

- 2 Financial Results for April 30th, 2026 (Tim Walker)

Planning & Operations Committee (Pete Metz)

Action Item:

- 3 Proposed Resolution: Contract Award for 045-2026 Articulated Buses (Jeff Mundstock)
 - 3.1 Action Item:

Procurement Consent Agenda:

- 4 Proposed Resolution: Contract Award for 014-2026 Government Square Redesign (Khaled Shammout)
 - 4.1 Action Item:
- 5 Proposed Resolution: Contract Award for 022-2026 HVAC Maintenance & Repair Services (Jeff Mundstock)
 - 5.1 Action Item:
- 6 Proposed Resolution: Contract Award for 025-2026 MetroNow! Vehicles (Jeff Mundstock)
 - 6.1 Action Item:

7 Proposed Resolution: Contract Award for 037-2026 Maintenance Uniforms (Jeff Mundstock)

7.1 Action Item:

8 Proposed Resolution: Contract Award for 070-2026 Electronic Fare Payment Validators (Khaled Shammout)

8.1 Action Item:

Briefing Items:

9 Progress and Priorities (Andy Aiello)

10 New Business

Other Items:

Adjournment

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for

Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

CEO STAR Award – Latasha Underwood



Access Operator **Latasha Underwood**, a nine-year employee, showed good judgement and compassion recently when she noticed a passenger had collapsed during an Access trip. Identifying the signs of a possible stroke, she acted quickly and communicated the situation to ensure the passenger received emergency medical care as soon as possible, most likely saving this person's life. She was also honored by Goodwill, this passenger's employer, for her good deed.

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 28th 2026, 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tianay Amat, Tony Brice, Chelsea Clark, Blake Ethridge, Kala Gibson, Pete Metz, Briana Moss, Sara Sheets,

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Bedi, Dan Driehaus, Trent Emenecker, Neil Kelly, Greg Simpson, Rickell Smith, KZ Smith and Sonja Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS: Andy Aiello, Adriene Hairston, Brett Isaacs, Brandy Jones, Natalie Krusling, John Ravasio, Jason Roe, Khaled Shammout, Bill Spraul, Tim Walker and Mike Weil

LEGAL COUNSEL: Tony Osterlund (Vory's)

GUEST/PUBLIC PRESENT: Edith Stoops (Activist), Robert Harris (Previous Board Member), Justin Blumhurst (Capabilities, LLC.) and

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

Ms. Edith Stoops requested that service routes be restored to New Path Child and Family Solutions (East Campus), located at 274 Sutton Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230, and to Stepping Stones, located at 5650 Givens Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45243. Ms. Stoops also reported a recent experience in which her return trip home, after being picked up by Access (paratransit), required approximately two hours to get home.

Justin Blumhurst requested that service routes be restored to New Path Child and Family Solutions (East Campus), located at 274 Sutton Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230, and to Stepping Stones, located at 5650 Givens Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45243.

Robert Harris asked the board to consider expanding service.

CHAIR UPDATE

Mr. Ethridge discussed the new bus stop event and electric bus event.

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Metz made a motion that the minutes of the March 24th, 2026, board meeting be approved as previously mailed and Ms. Clark seconded the motion.

By voice vote, the SORTA Board approved the minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF MARCH 31ST, 2026

Mr. Walker presented the March financial results. Total revenues were \$15.3 million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$328K. Total expenses were \$14.2 million, which is favorable to budget by \$185k. Operating Capital Contribution was \$1.2 million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$207k. Ridership was 1,038k,

which was unfavorable to budget by 143k. Mr. Walker then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 73: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR 001-2026 PROMOTIONAL ITEMS AND APPAREL

Mr. Metz moved for adoption and Mr. Brice seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 001-2026 on behalf of Metro and EAC Promos, Inc., with a not to exceed value of \$420,000.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 74: APPROVAL OF 016-2026 BUS REPLACEMENT PARTS

Mr. Metz moved for adoption and Mr. Brice seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 016-2026 on behalf of Metro and Muncie Transit Supply, Cummins, Gillig LLC., MJ Service Industries, Mohawk Mfg., and Vehicle Maintenance Program, Inc., with a total not to exceed value of \$1,071,186.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES

Mr. Aiello presented the progress and priorities report and reviewed the State Legislature Engagement, Federal Funding Update, Workforce Investment, Marketing Metro and Going “Greener.”

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

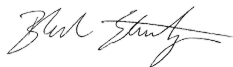
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees has been scheduled for **May 26th, 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



Financial Summary

April 2026



metro
your way to go

Agenda – Financial Summary

- Statement of Operations for April '26
 - Key Drivers
 - Detail Profit & Loss Statement
 - County Sales Tax Trend
- Cashflow and Obligation Report
- Investment Balance Update

Profit & Loss – Summary / Key Drivers

Summary

- Total Revenue \$15.2M - favorable to Budget \$639k or 4.4%
- Total Expense \$14.6M - unfavorable to Budget (\$349k) or (2.5%)
- Operating Capital Contribution \$0.6M - favorable to Budget \$289k
- Note: Ridership total is 1,283k – favorable to Budget 359 or 0.0%

Revenue

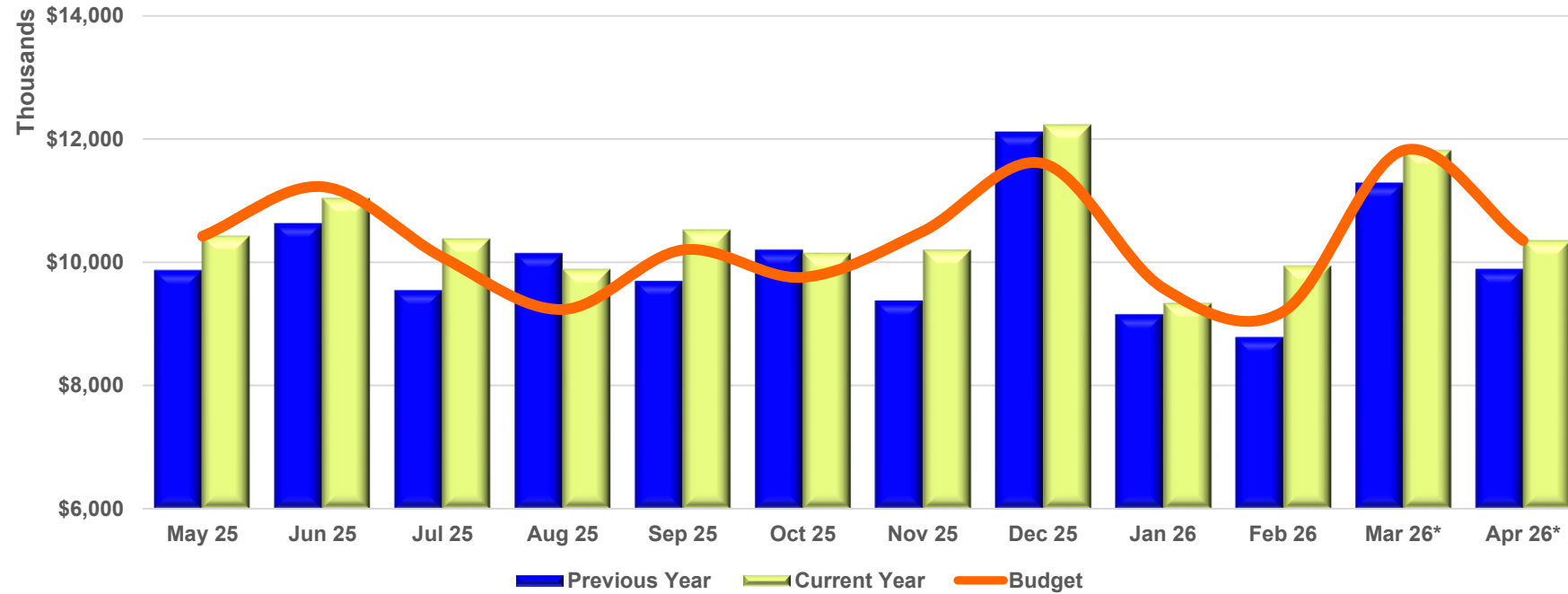
- Total Operating Revenue \$2.0M - unfavorable to Budget (\$100k) or (4.7%)
- Non-Transportation \$0.5M – unfavorable to Budget (\$23k) or (4.0%)
- County Sales Tax \$11.1M – favorable to budget \$761k due to receipt of February actuals
- Federal Grants \$1.5M - on Budget

Expense

- Wages & Benefits \$10.9M - unfavorable to budget (\$497k) or (4.8%)
- Fuel and Lubricants \$782k - unfavorable to budget (\$152k) or (24.2%)
- Parts & Supplies \$1,051k – unfavorable to Budget (\$68k) or (7.0%)
- All Other \$1.8M – favorable to Budget \$370k

4 Mos Ending Apr 30, 2026 (\$ In Thousands)	Month				Year to Date				
	Actual	Budget	Fav(Unfav)		Actual	Budget	Fav(Unfav)		Prior Year
Ridership									
Regular	1,037,318	1,028,931	8,387	0.8%	3,714,516	3,774,976	(60,460)	(1.6%)	3,627,664
CPS	214,552	220,000	(5,448)	(2.5%)	680,878	710,000	(29,122)	(4.1%)	696,847
Subtotal Fixed Route	1,251,870	1,248,931	2,939	0.2%	4,395,394	4,484,976	(89,582)	(2.0%)	4,324,511
Access	15,959	16,010	(51)	(0.3%)	59,685	59,226	459	0.8%	57,106
MetroNow!	14,771	17,300	(2,529)	(14.6%)	57,343	63,800	(6,457)	(10.1%)	41,285
Total Ridership	1,282,600	1,282,241	359	0.0%	4,512,422	4,608,002	(95,580)	(2.1%)	4,422,902
Operating Revenue									
Metro Fares	\$ 1,136	\$ 1,211	\$ (75)	(6.2%)	\$ 4,267	\$ 4,637	\$ (371)	(8.0%)	\$ 4,175
Access Fares	66	61	5	8.3%	250	227	23	10.0%	206
MetroNow! Fares	37	35	2	5.5%	148	140	8	5.8%	83
CPS Fares	560	615	(55)	(9.0%)	1,782	1,979	(197)	(10.0%)	1,803
Other Contract Revenue	221	196	24	12.3%	842	765	78	10.2%	762
Total Operating Revenue	2,019	2,119	(100)	(4.7%)	7,288	7,748	(460)	(5.9%)	7,029
Non-Operating Revenue									
County Sales Tax	11,115	10,354	761	7.3%	41,455	40,949	506	1.2%	38,727
Federal Subsidies	1,476	1,476	-	-	5,904	5,904	-	-	6,052
Non Transportation	543	566	(23)	(4.0%)	2,083	2,241	(158)	(7.1%)	2,638
Total Non-Operating Revenue	13,134	12,396	738	6.0%	49,442	49,094	348	0.7%	47,417
Total Revenue	15,153	14,515	639	4.4%	56,730	56,842	(112)	(0.2%)	54,446
Expenses									
Employee Wages & Benefits	10,909	10,412	(497)	(4.8%)	42,382	41,597	(785)	(1.9%)	39,505
Fuel & Lubricants	782	629	(152)	(24.2%)	2,494	2,567	73	2.8%	2,517
Parts & Supplies	1,051	982	(68)	(7.0%)	3,932	3,975	43	1.1%	3,780
Everybody Rides Metro Fund	37	35	(2)	(5.0%)	109	140	31	22.5%	75
Other	1,808	2,179	370	17.0%	7,593	8,645	1,052	12.2%	7,844
Total Expenses	14,586	14,237	(349)	(2.5%)	56,509	56,924	415	0.7%	53,721
Operating Capital Contribution	\$ 567	\$ 277	\$ 289		\$ 221	\$ (82)	\$ 303		\$ 725

County Sales Tax – Year to Date



(\$000's)	May 25	Jun 25	Jul 25	Aug 25	Sep 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26 *	Apr 26 *
Current Year	\$10,429	\$11,042	\$10,384	\$9,891	\$10,526	\$10,151	\$10,201	\$12,230	\$9,341	\$9,945	\$11,815	\$10,354
Budget	\$10,423	\$11,227	\$10,081	\$9,234	\$10,201	\$9,756	\$10,501	\$11,605	\$9,584	\$9,196	\$11,815	\$10,354
Previous Year	\$9,875	\$10,636	\$9,551	\$10,149	\$9,696	\$10,205	\$9,380	\$12,116	\$9,159	\$8,788	\$11,291	\$9,895

* March through April of 2026 are recorded at estimates based on current year trends due to the delay in reporting from State Office

Cashflow and Obligation Report

Overnight Investments	\$16,551,370
Securities & CD's	\$104,347,041

Total All Securities (4/30/2026)	\$120,898,411
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Current Capital Reserve Obligations

<i>BRT Project Development (Hamilton & Reading Corridors) - Amts Pd</i>	\$26,869,327
<i>Future BRT Capital Match (Fed 70% & Local 30%)</i>	\$40,500,000
Total BRT	\$67,369,327
Local Match - FTA and ODOT Grants	\$6,421,334
100% Local Projects (<i>Prior Years Open + Current Year</i>)	\$24,080,030
2 Months of Operating Expenses	\$26,000,000
All Other Obligations	\$3,500,000

Total Current Capital Reserve Obligations	\$127,370,691
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Net Unrestricted Securities Available	(\$6,472,280)
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2026 Remaining Operating Budget Surplus (Deficit) May-Dec	\$6,951,000
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Net Unrestricted Securities + '26 Operating Budget Surplus	\$478,720
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APPROVED: May 26, 2026



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION ITEM

DATE: May 19, 2026
FROM: Jason Roe, Director of Procurement
 Jeff Mundstock, Director of Fleet & Facilities
PROJECT NO.: 45-2026 Articulated Buses
STRATEGIC: Grow Ridership and Connect the Region
REQUEST: Contract Award

BACKGROUND

Metro routinely partners with regional transit providers on joint procurements to leverage collective purchasing. In 2025, Metro and eleven other transit agencies partnered with NEORide, to award a 5-year cooperative purchasing agreement for the manufacture of fixed route buses. NEORide as the lead agency conducted a Request for Proposals, facilitated the evaluation of all received vendor submissions, and recommended final award.

BUSINESS PURPOSE

The cooperative Master Service Agreement (MSA) contract with NEORide is an indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract. Under such a contract, Metro specifies a minimum and maximum order quantity at the time of award, then issues individual purchase orders as funding is available for the delivery of finished products. In support of the long-range transit plan and the bus replacement schedule Metro specified a minimum number of twelve (12) and a maximum number of twenty-eight (28) 60' articulated vehicles for our needs.

The purpose of this contract is to authorize the purchase of twelve (12) vehicles.

PROJECT FINANCING

The budget for this project is \$15M (\$1,250,000 per unit) and will be financed using a combination of FTA funding (70%, \$10,500,000) and budgeted local capital (30%, \$4,500,000).

The final cost of the project is flat to budget.

Purchases under the MSA are contingent on the participating agency's ability to proceed. Agencies have the option to not purchase their allocated vehicles due to lack of available funding, cancelation of funding, and/or any unforeseen operational changes.

PROJECT PROCUREMENT

The vehicles will be purchased through NEORide MSA contract, 2025-01. As such, no market competition is required by SORTA.

NEORide conducted a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP). The scope of the RFP included a total of 14 distinct vehicle configurations, with each configuration receiving one to four master contract awards, based on vendor submissions and anticipated future procurement volumes. The evaluation of proposals focused on technical compliance, vendor capability, vehicle availability, and alignment with fleet



modernization goals. The RFP resulted in 4 technically capable and compliant vendors being awarded contracts.

New Flyer-MCI is the only awarded vendor supplying 60' articulated diesel vehicles.

Pricing is determined to be fair and reasonable based on the NEORide independent cost estimate and price analysis. The base vehicle cost of the NEORide MSA is less than peer state of Washington's cooperative agreement base vehicle cost.

SMALL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

This project is a sole source award with no subcontracting opportunities. As such, no small business engagement goal has been established.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Staff recommends the Board of Trustees approve a resolution authorizing the CEO/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or the Director of Procurement to execute Contract No. 045-2026, on behalf of Metro with New Flyer-MCI, with a not to exceed value of \$15,000,000.

Project	Method	Vendor	Award	Term	Funding
014-2026 <i>Government Square Transit Center Design</i> <i>Connect the Region**</i>	Request for Technical Proposal (RTP)	MSA Design	\$492,361 \$169,849	3 years June 2026 – May 2029	Budgeted Local Capital
022-2026 <i>HVAC PM & Repair Services</i> <i>Highly Effective Organization**</i>	Request for Proposal (RFP)	Peck, Hannaford & Briggs	\$1,169,908	3 years June 2026 – May 2029	Budgeted Local Operating
025-2026 <i>MetroNow! Vehicles</i> <i>Grow Ridership**</i> <i>Connect the Region**</i>	Invitation for Bid (IFB) Coop	Transportation Equipment Sales Corporation	\$3,053,489	1 year June 2026 – May 2027	FTA Grants (80%) Budgeted Local Capital (20%)
037-2026 <i>Maintenance Uniforms</i> <i>Highly Effective Organization**</i>	Request for Proposal (RFP)	Galls, LLC	\$276,900	3 years June 2026 – May 2029	Budgeted Local Operating
045-2026 <i>Articulated Buses</i> <i>Grow Ridership**</i> <i>Connect the Region**</i>	Request for Proposal (RFP) Coop	New Flyer-MCI	\$15,000,000	5 years June 2026 – May 2031	FTA Grants (70%) Budgeted Local Capital (30%)
070-2026 <i>Electronic Fare Payment Validators</i> <i>Grow Ridership**</i>	Request for Proposal (RFP) Coop	Masabi LLC	\$1,071,194	1 year June 2026 – May 2027	Unbudgeted Local Capital

*denotes non-competitive or non-negotiable award
 **denotes the strategic priority the contract supports

Metro MAX Spend Summary
(Maximizing Access for XBE's)

Total Awards for Month **\$21,063,852**
Total MAX Spend for Month **\$169,849**



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION ITEM

DATE: May 19, 2026
FROM: Jason Roe, Director of Procurement
 Khaled Shammout, Deputy Innovation and Vision Officer
PROJECT NO.: 014-2026 Government Square Transit Center Design
STRATEGIC: Connect the Region
REQUEST: Contract Award

BACKGROUND

The Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) has a downtown transit hub, Government Square Transit Center (GSTC), located on Fifth Street between Walnut and Main Streets. The GSTC is the flagship transit center in the central business district downtown. Since its construction, GSTC hasn't had minimal upgrades or renovation work done. Over the past 15 years, numerous issues with the facility have started to develop. Issues such as uneven pavements, fading of glass and canopy colors, deterioration of wooden seats, among others are not only aesthetically unappealing, but are also making the facility somewhat unsafe.

BUSINESS PURPOSE

SORTA requires the services of an A&E firm to evaluate the current facility and the area around it, engaging with stakeholders, and developing comprehensive design plans that improve efficiency, passenger comfort, pedestrian accessibility, and safety. The goal is to improve the walkability and safety of the area around the transit center by creating an attractive, welcoming, livable, and safe downtown environment. It is also important to create a connection for pedestrians and cyclists to access business, government services, restaurants, and performing arts events. The redesign shall incorporate sustainable practices, consider the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), and support multimodal transportation connections.

PROJECT FINANCING

The budget for this project is \$492,361 and is included in the approved FY2026 Capital budget. Local Capital funding will be allocated, and no other funding will be utilized.

The final contract(s) cost is \$492,361 and is flat to budget.

PROJECT PROCUREMENT

Based on the complexity of the project and the requirements outlined in the scope of work, the solicitation was issued as a Request for Technical Proposals. Procurement targeted 12 firms identified as being qualified to perform the required scope of work. Firms identified as being able to likely perform subcontracting work as part of the scope of work were also identified and notified of this solicitation.



Five proposals were received and thoroughly evaluated. The results of the evaluation are shown within the table below:

Vendor	Firm Experience and Qualifications (Subjective) Points Based 400 Points (40%)	Staff Qualifications & Experience (Subjective) Points Based 350 Points (35%)	Project Approach (Subjective) Points Based 250 Points (25%)	Total Score (Max Score 1000)
MSA Design	352.5	293.5	203.8	849.75
HOK	336.3	267.3	212.3	815.75
Arcadis	323	245.5	189.5	758
AECOM Services of Ohio, Inc.	312.5	260.5	177.5	750.5
Bialosky + Partners Architects, LLC	298	255	174.3	727.25

Upon completion of the evaluation process, MSA Design was identified as the highest-ranked firm based on a qualifications-based selection method. MSA Design submitted the proposal determined to be the most advantageous to SORTA.

SMALL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

Vendor Engagement consulted the six directories to identify ready, willing and able registered XBE vendors. 17 unique registered firms were identified in NAICS code 541310 who are in Ohio and Kentucky. Based on the relative availability of registered vendors and requirements of the scope of work, a 14% goal was recommended for this project. All identified vendors were notified of the opportunity and encouraged to participate in the project.

The final award value of \$492,361 includes **awards to XBE subcontractors totaling \$169,849, or 34%** of the total award. **One subcontractor is new to Metro.**

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Staff recommend the Board of Trustees approve a resolution authorizing the CEO/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or the Director of Procurement to execute Contract No. 014-2026, on behalf of Metro with MSA Design, with a not to exceed value of \$492,361.

MEMBERS AT

THE TIME:

APPROVED: May 26, 2026



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION ITEM

DATE: May 19, 2026
FROM: Jason Roe, Director of Procurement
 Jeff Mundstock, Director of Fleet & Facilities
PROJECT NO.: 022-2026 HVAC Preventive Maintenance & Repair Services
STRATEGIC: Highly Effective Organization
REQUEST: Contract Award

BACKGROUND

The Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) requires a certified HVAC Contractor to establish and maintain a continuous, comprehensive preventative maintenance program as well as provide repair services as needed across all facilities. Service locations for this contract include all operating garages, the Riverfront Transit Center, and radio towers.

BUSINESS PURPOSE

Certified Contractor services are required to ensure all facilities HVAC equipment are properly maintained. This program will ensure the reliable, efficient, and safe operation of critical HVAC equipment, minimize system downtime, extend asset life, support operational continuity; and reduce overall cost of HVAC repair and replacement cost through proactive maintenance and early issue detection.

PROJECT FINANCING

The budget for this contract is \$1,169,908 allocated over 3 years (\$389,969 per year for FY2026-FY2029). This contract is approved in the FY2026 Operating Budget and included in our long-term financial plans. Future allocations will be included in the annual operating budget review and approval process.

The final cost of the project is flat to budget.

PROJECT PROCUREMENT

Staff determined that several suppliers could meet the requirements of the contract and could supply multiple variations of uniform materials and options. As such, a request for proposals ("RFP") sourcing method was selected. Under this method, responses are evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the solicitation and ranked from highest to lowest. The proposer scoring the highest is considered as proposing the best value to Metro and selected for award.

Staff targeted 14 contractors known to be capable of fulfilling the requirements of the contract in addition to those notified through Metro's e-procurement platform. 34 vendors downloaded solicitation materials and 2 submitted responses. 1 vendor responded that they did not have the current capacity to support the full scope of services but would be interested in spot opportunities if they arise.



Peck, Hannaford & Briggs is determined to have submitted a proposal acceptable to SORTA; it has the capacity to fulfil this contract and is recommended for award. Procurement negotiated a fixed labor rate contract and successfully negotiated a reduction in parts and materials markup from 15% to 12% for a 3% cost savings.

The NTE for Preventive Maintenance is \$406,920. The NTE for Repair Services is \$762,988. Markup for materials and parts is NTE 12% throughout the contract term. The total NTE of this contract will be \$1,169,908

The pricing was determined to be fair and reasonable based on the independent cost estimate, current and historical rates for the same services.

SMALL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

Staff determined that no supplier diversity goal was required based on the limited number of certified XBE firms capable of performing the requirements of the contract and the limited subcontracting opportunities. As such, no goal was established for this award.

The final award included no small business participation.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Staff recommends the Board of Trustees approve a resolution authorizing the CEO/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or the Director of Procurement to execute Contract No. 022-2026, on behalf of Metro with Peck, Hannaford & Briggs, with a not to exceed value of \$1,169,908.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-77

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT NO 25-2026 METRONOW! VEHICLES

WHEREAS:

1. The MetroNow! Program is an on-demand transit service.
2. Metro uses a custom built 10-passenger vehicle to deliver MetroNow! Service.
3. The MetroNow! service offerings continue to expand to support improved service delivery across its operating areas.
4. In support of Metro's Strategic Priority Grow Ridership and Connect the Region to maintain the established implementation timeline for Zones 5 and 6, additional vehicles are required to adequately support operations and ensure seamless coverage of the newly added territories.
5. SORTA staff recommends approval to execute Contract No. 25-2026 on behalf of Metro with Transportation Equipment Sales Corporation, with a not to exceed value of \$3,053,489.
6. The expenditure will be financed using a combination of FTA Funding (80%, \$2,442,791) and budgeted local capital (20%, \$610,698).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

7. The board authorized the CEO/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or the Director of Procurement to execute Contract No. 25-2026 on behalf of Metro with Transportation Equipment Sales Corporation, with a not to exceed value of \$3,053,489.

MOVED BY: Pete Metz

SECOND BY: KZ Smith

VOTE Aye: Ms. Amat, Mr. Driehaus, Mr. Ethridge, Mr. Metz, Ms. Moss, Ms. Sheets, Mr. Smith and Ms. Taylor

Nay: None

Abstain: None

ABSENT AT
THE TIME: Mr. Brice, Ms. Clark, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Kelly and Ms. Smith

PRESENT
NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Trent Emenecker Greg Simpson

ABSENT NON-
VOTING
MEMBERS AT
THE TIME: Jay Bedi
APPROVED: May 26, 2026



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION ITEM

DATE: May 19, 2026
FROM: Jason Roe, Director of Procurement
 Jeff Mundstock, Director of Fleet & Facilities
PROJECT NO.: 25-2026 MetroNow! Vehicles
STRATEGIC: Grow Ridership and Connect the Region
REQUEST: Contract Award

BACKGROUND

The MetroNow! program is an on-demand transit service, designed to serve areas with limited public transportation. Metro uses a custom built 10-passenger vehicle to deliver MetroNow! service. As service hours expand, ridership grows, and new zones are added, additional vehicles are needed to keep pace with demand.

BUSINESS PURPOSE

The MetroNow! service offerings continue to expand to support improved service delivery across its operating areas. To maintain the established implementation timeline for Zones 5 and 6, additional vehicles are required to adequately support operations and ensure seamless coverage of the newly added territories.

The purpose of this contract award is to authorize the purchase of seventeen (17) vehicles to support MetroNow!.

PROJECT FINANCING

The budget for this project is \$3,053,489 (\$179,617 per unit) and will be financed using a combination of FTA funding (80%, \$2,442,791) and budgeted local capital (20%, \$610,698).

The final cost of the project is flat to budget.

PROJECT PROCUREMENT

The vehicles will be purchased through Ohio Department of Transportation contract, 252-24. As such, no market competition is required by SORTA.

The Ohio Department of Transportation conducted a competitive Invitation for Bid (IFB) which resulted in 5 vendors being awarded contracts. TESCO is the only awarded vendor supplying vehicles that meet the MetroNow! vehicles specifications.

This is a fixed-fee contract with a 1-year period of performance, expiring in June 2027.

Pricing is determined to be fair and reasonable based on the approved pricing on State of Ohio Contract # 252-24 and the per vehicle unit cost has not increased since our last order in August 2025.

**SMALL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT**

This project is a sole source award with no subcontracting opportunities. As such, no small business engagement goal has been established.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Staff recommends the Board of Trustees approve a resolution authorizing the CEO/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or the Director of Procurement to execute Contract No. 25-2026, on behalf of Metro with Transportation Equipment Sales Corporation, with a not to exceed value of \$3,053,489.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION ITEM

DATE: May 19, 2026
FROM: Jason Roe, Director of Procurement
 Jeff Mundstock, Director of Fleet & Facilities
PROJECT NO.: 037-2026 Maintenance Uniforms & Work Shoes
STRATEGIC: Highly Effective Organization
REQUEST: Contract Award

BACKGROUND

The Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) provides uniforms to all new hourly maintenance employees, along with an annual allowance to ensure uniforms are properly maintained. This benefit helps ensure employees consistently wear OSHA-compliant attire, enhancing workplace safety while promoting a professional and uniform appearance across the workforce.

BUSINESS PURPOSE

SORTA requires a qualified uniform service provider capable of supplying all required uniform items, including embroidery, patch application, and necessary alterations. These services are provided in accordance with the terms outlined in the collective bargaining agreement with the union.

PROJECT FINANCING

The budget for this contract is \$276,900 allocated over 3 years (\$92,300 per year for FY2026-FY2029). This contract is approved in the FY2026 Operating Budget and included in our long-term financial plans. Future allocations will be included in the annual operating budget review and approval process.

The final cost of the project is flat to budget.

PROJECT PROCUREMENT

Staff determined that several suppliers could meet the requirements of the contract and could supply multiple variations of uniform materials and options. As such, a request for proposals ("RFP") sourcing method was selected. Under this method, responses are evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the solicitation and ranked from highest to lowest. The vendor scoring the highest is considered as proposing the best value to Metro and selected for award.

Staff targeted 11 vendors known to be capable of fulfilling the requirements of the contract in addition to those notified through Metro's e-procurement platform. 35 vendors downloaded solicitation materials and 3 submitted responses. 1 vendor was deemed non-responsive due to submission incompleteness as they did not submit pricing for all three years of the contract.



Proposals were evaluated based on the criteria included in the solicitation and ranked from highest to lowest. The highest ranked vendor is considered as proposing the best value to Metro. The outcome of the evaluation process is shown below:

Vendor	Project Approach (Subjective) Points Based 450 Points (45%)	Firm and Staffing Qualifications (Subjective) Points Based 250 Points (25%)	Price (Objective) Reward Low Cost 300 Points (30%)	Total Score (Max Score 1000)
Galls, LLC	406.7	224.7	300	931.33
Ace Uniforms LLC	396.3	221	200.3	817.61

Proposers provided sample pricing within their business proposals. The pricing was determined to be fair and reasonable based on the independent cost estimate, competition and current rates for the same services.

SMALL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

Staff determined that no supplier diversity goal was required based on the limited number of certified XBE firms capable of performing the requirements of the contract and the limited subcontracting opportunities. As such, no goal was established for this award.

Staff targeted 2 certified XBE vendors known to be capable of performing the requirements of the contract. 1 firm submitted a response.

The final award included no small business participation.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Staff recommends the Board of Trustees approve a resolution authorizing the CEO/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or the Director of Procurement to execute Contract No. 037-2026, on behalf of Metro with Galls, LLC, with a not to exceed value of \$276,900.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION ITEM

DATE: May 19, 2026
FROM: Jason Roe, Director of Procurement
 Khaled Shammout, Deputy Innovation and Vision Officer
PROJECT NO.: 070-2026 Electronic Fare Payment Validators
STRATEGIC: Grow Ridership
REQUEST: Contract Award

BACKGROUND

Metro currently has contract 099-2024 with Masabi to provide EZ-Fare, a mobile application that provides passengers with itinerary planning, mobile ticketing, and real-time vehicle location services. The robust SaaS platform provides functions such as mobile-based and web-based fare payments, on-board validation, smartcard integration, account-based ticketing, and other ticketing solutions.

BUSINESS PURPOSE

The current onboard vehicle electronic validators are beyond their useful life and are considered obsolete. Through a cooperative purchasing agreement with NEORide, Metro will be able to purchase the 470 validators needed to upgrade the hardware on all revenue vehicles to new modern equipment. The contract is needed to fulfil the project goals of improving customer experience when purchasing and utilizing fares and improved management of services.

PROJECT FINANCING

The budget for this project is \$1,071,194 and will be financed using local Capital funds.

The final cost of the project was not included in the FY2026 Capital budget.

PROJECT PROCUREMENT

The electronic fare validators will be purchased through NEORide MSA contract, 099-2024. As such, no market competition is required by SORTA.

Metro routinely partners with regional transit providers on joint procurements to leverage collective purchasing. In 2024, Metro and twenty other transit agencies partnered with NEORide, to award a 5-year cooperative purchasing agreement for mobile, web and electronic fare payment services and solutions. NEORide as the lead agency conducted a Request for Proposals, facilitated the evaluation of all received vendor submissions, and recommended final award to Masabi LLC.

SMALL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

This project is a sole source award with no subcontracting opportunities. As such, no small business engagement goal has been established.



RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Staff recommends the Board of Trustees approve a resolution authorizing the CEO/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or the Director of Procurement to execute Contract No. 070-2026, on behalf of Metro with Masabi LLC, with a not to exceed value of \$1,071,194.

Progress & Priorities

Spotlight on the top five

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From **Andrew C. Aiello**, Metro CEO &
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



May 2026

This monthly report provides a high-level overview of several key initiatives currently being advanced by the Metro leadership team. The updates below reflect continued momentum and progress aligned with Metro's long-term priorities.

1. **Metro Wins Top National Safety Award:** Metro was recognized by the American Public Transit Association (APTA) as the recipient of the 2026 Bus Safety & Security Excellence Gold Award during last week's annual Mobility Conference. Metro earned this national recognition for our innovative and proactive efforts to enhance safety and strengthen security through improved emergency preparedness plans, strong partnerships with ATU, and ongoing collaboration with community safety partners and first responders. Congratulations to our Safety & Security Department for their outstanding leadership and commitment.

To further celebrate these achievements, we hope you will join us for our annual **Safety Awards Celebration on June 25**. The event will recognize safety milestone award recipients and honor National Safety Council's "Two Million Mile Award" inductee, Metro Operator Clausell Marshall, for operating more than two million miles over 30 years without a single preventable accident!

2. **Metro Achieves Two Major Operational Milestones:** At the end of April, Metro achieved two operational milestones not seen since the 2010's. First, Metro's fixed-route operator workforce reached full staffing levels, meeting – and slightly exceeding – the budgeted headcount. This accomplishment contributed directly to the second milestone: achieving 99.5% service reliability across the fixed-route system, surpassing the 2026 year-end goal of 99.4%. These achievements reflect the dedication and hard work of employees across the organization. Thank you to the entire Metro team for this outstanding effort.
3. **City Council Update:** Earlier this month, we presented before Cincinnati City Council's Climate, City Services and Infrastructure Committee as part of the annual City/SORTA agreement to provide updates on major initiatives, current projects, and system impacts. The presentation included updates on MetroRapid BRT, future MetroNow! service zones, and plans for the new Walnut Hills Transit Center. Metro also shared that, since 2020, service miles within City limits have increased by 15%, and service hours have increased by 11% as part of our Reinventing Metro service improvements. Thank you to Committee Chair Councilmember Meeka Owens for her continued support of Metro.
4. **Metro X UC Partnership Grows:** The partnership between Metro and the University of Cincinnati will take a significant step forward this fall. Metro will introduce a new public transit route that will connect the City of Blue Ash and the UC Blue Ash campus to Clifton, Uptown, and UC's main campus. This new year-round, public route, will create additional opportunities to grow ridership among both Uptown commuters and students. Additionally, Metro will

Progress & Priorities

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From **Andrew C. Aiello**, Metro CEO &
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continue the University Discount Program where all UC students, faculty, and staff can ride Metro for free. UC will be funding the partnership at just under \$1M per year.

5. **Federal Transportation Reauthorization Bill.** The next Transportation Reauthorization Bill will set the policy direction for USDOT and the Federal Transit Administration programs for the next five years. The first version of the bill was passed by US House, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee last week. Overall, the bill represents solid, sustained investment in public transportation. Metro staff and our industry partners will continue to review and track the bill as it makes its way through the legislative process.

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aiello".

Andy Aiello

