



SORTA/Metro
Board Meeting
July 28, 2026
9:00 am-10:00 am Eastern Time

SORTA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 28th, 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

Chair Update

Action Item:

- 1 Approval of Board Minutes June 23rd, 2026

Finance Committee (Sara Sheets)

Action Item:

- 2 Proposed Resolution: Approval of 2027 Grant Application (Tim Walker/Mary Huller)
 - 2.1 Action Item:

Briefing Item:

- 3 Financial Results for June 30th, 2026 (Tim Walker)

Planning & Operations Committee (Pete Metz)

Procurement Action Item:

- 4 Proposed Resolution: Contract Award for 177-2023 BioMetric Screenings (Vickie Hickman)
 - 4.1 Action Item:

Paratransit Committee (Neil Kelly)

Briefing Items:

- 5 Progress and Priorities (Andy Aiello)
- 6 New Business

Other Items:

Adjournment

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

Tuesday, August 25th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

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 23rd 2026, 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tianay Amat, Tony Brice, Chelsea Clark, Dan Driehaus, Blake Ethridge, Kala Gibson, Neil Kelly, Briana Moss, Sara Sheets, KZ Smith and Rickell Smith

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Bedi, Trent Emeneker Pete Metz, Greg Simpson and Sonja Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS: Andy Aiello, Adriene Hairston, Bret Isaacs, Natalie Krusling, Sharyn Lacombe, Bradley Mason, John Ravasio, Matthew Reynolds, Jason Roe, Tony Russo, Bill Spraul and Tim Walker

LEGAL COUNSEL: Kim Schaefer (Vory's)

GUEST/PUBLIC
PRESENT: N/A

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

CHAIR UPDATE

Mr. Ethridge reminded that since we did not have board committees this month that the briefing items have been brought to the board meeting.

The Safety Award Luncheon is on Thursday.

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Smith made a motion that the minutes of the May 26th, 2026, board meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Brice seconded the motion.

By voice vote, the SORTA Board approved the minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF May 31ST, 2026

Mr. Walker presented the May financial results. Total revenues were \$14.8 million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$173K. Total expenses were \$14.8 million, which is unfavorable to budget by \$612k. Operating Capital Contribution was \$0.0 million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$785k. Ridership was 1,232k, which was favorable to budget by 17k. Mr. Walker then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 75: APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY RESPONDER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Mr. Kelly moved for adoption and Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The contract will approve a community responder memorandum of understanding (MOU).

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 76: APPROVAL OF 44-2025 FOR ADVERTISING AGENCY OF RECORD

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Ms. Amat seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 44-2025 on behalf of Metro and Gatesman Inc., with a total not to exceed value of \$10,355,246, an increase of \$355,246.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 77: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR 056-2026 RIVERSIDE BRIDGE REHAB

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Ms. Amat seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 056-2026 on behalf of Metro and Prus Construction Company, with a not to exceed value of \$570,025.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

Good News!

The Executive Team presented the Good News report. Ms. Hairston shared the April Silver Award recipients and Career Fair, Mr. Spraul presented the APTA Gold Safety & Security Award, Congratulations Bret Isaacs & Farewell Mike Weil, Tony Henson and Milton Willison retirement and Access 0 Preventable Accidents, Mr. Ravasio shared Cincinnati Award, Adopt-a-Class Award and DAAP Award, Mr. Mason presented Public Meeting for Route 70, Art & Transit at the Anderson Township Transit and Metro in the Community slides.

The Committee accepted the report as presented.

Ridership and Service Quality Report

Mr. Spraul presented the May 2026 ridership and service quality report. Total ridership for the month of May was 1,201,268 or 1.8% favorable to budget.

Access Total ridership for the month of May was 14,938 or 2.3% unfavorable to budget.

MetroNow Total ridership for the month of May was 15,649 or 16.3% unfavorable to budget.

Productivity, On-Time Performance, Customer Service Reports and Fixed-Route Miles Between Mechanical Service Interruptions were shared.

The Committee accepted the report as presented.

MetroRapid Update

Ms. Lacombe MetroRapid Update. Upcoming community council presentations, engagement activities, project engineering – Reading, project timelines, FTA project management oversight, project engineering – Hamilton and transit oriented development (TOD) was discussed.

The Committee accepted the report as presented.

Government Square Update

Mr. Aiello presented the Government Square Update.

The Committee accepted the report as presented

PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES

Mr. Aiello presented the progress and priorities report Metro Legislative Updates, Safety, Making Progress in Maintenance, National Attention for Regional Transit Collaboration and Safe and Secure.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Community engagement in regards to Bond Hill was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees has been scheduled for
July 28th, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.
the SORTA/Metro Board Room, at 525 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

APPROVED:



Sara Sheets Vice
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:



Andy Aiello
CEO/General Manager/Secretary-
Treasurer

ABSENT NON-
VOTING
MEMBERS AT
THE TIME: Jay Bedi
APPROVED: July 28, 2026



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION ITEM

DATE: July 28, 2026

FROM: Mary Huller, Director of Grants and Administration
Tim Walker, Chief Financial Officer

PROJECT NO.:

STRATEGIC.: Highly Effective Organization, Grow Ridership, Connect the Region,
& Drive Economic Development

REQUEST: Approval for 2027 Grant Submissions

BACKGROUND

SORTA is a Designated Recipient of federal grant funds for the Ohio portion of the Greater Cincinnati urbanized area.

Each year, SORTA must apply for federal, state, and local funds for the upcoming fiscal years. SORTA wishes to apply for the maximum amount available in federal, state, and local assistance grants offered within the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2027 that are consistent with SORTA's needs and long-term priorities.

Other sources of federal, state, and local funding or opportunities for funding and partnerships with outside agencies may become available. In such circumstances, management plans to submit applications for the maximum amounts available that too are consistent with SORTA's needs and long-term priorities.

Historically, the Board has authorized the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/ General Manager/ Secretary - Treasurer and/or the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to carry out the filing and executing of grant contracts.

BUSINESS PURPOSE

Each year, SORTA must apply for federal, state, and local funds for the upcoming fiscal year. Board approval is required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the State of Ohio. Maximum flexibility provided through a blanket approval of 2027 application efforts allows staff to react to changing conditions and quick turn-around application times at the federal, state, and local level.

Other sources of federal, state, and local funding or opportunities for funding and partnerships with outside agencies may become available. In such circumstances, management plans to submit applications for the maximum amounts available consistent with SORTA's needs and long-term priorities.

Grant funding is a significant part of SORTA's operational and capital budget, supporting ongoing efforts that include planning, operations, maintaining a state of good repair with existing assets, and capital project implementation. These efforts promote an efficient and effective organization.

PROJECT FINANCING

None

PROJECT PROCUREMENT

None

PROJECT DIVERSITY

None

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Approval of a resolution authorizing SORTA management to file funding applications with the appropriate entities for the maximum amount deemed to be in SORTA's best interest for any federal, state, and local grants or other sources of funding that may become available during the 2027 federal fiscal year.

The Board authorizes the CEO/General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer or the CFO to: (i) execute all contracts, agreements, certifications, assurances, and other documents necessary to apply for, receive and comply with such grants and sources of funding; and (ii) undertake all activities set forth in Category 01.A. of the FTA Fiscal Year 2027 Certifications and Assurances.





Financial Summary

July 23, 2026





Agenda – Financial Summary

- Statement of Operations for June '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 \$15.5M - favorable to Budget \$188k or 1.2%
- Total Expense \$14.4M - unfavorable to Budget (\$188k) or (1.3%)
- Operating Capital Contribution \$1.1M - favorable to Budget \$1k
- Note: Ridership total is 1,123k – favorable to Budget 7k or 0.6%

Revenue

- Total Operating Revenue \$1.6M - unfavorable to budget (\$151k) or (8.8%)
- Non-Transportation \$0.6M – on budget
- County Sales Tax \$11.9M – favorable to budget \$339k due to receipt of April actuals
- Federal Grants \$1.5M - on Budget

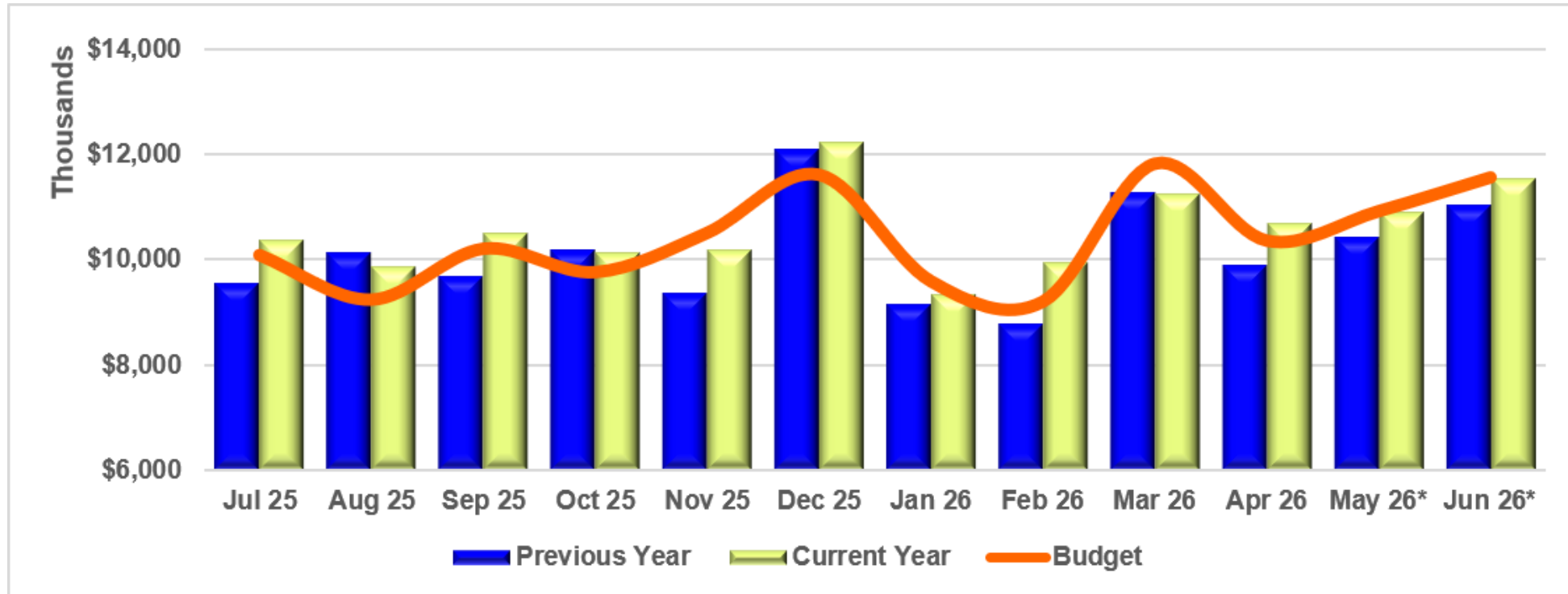
Expense

- Wages & Benefits \$10.8M - unfavorable to budget (\$356k) or (3.4%)
- Fuel and Lubricants \$776k - unfavorable to budget (\$155k) or (25.0%)
- Parts & Supplies \$1.2M – unfavorable to Budget (\$192k) or (19.6%)
- All Other \$1.6M – favorable to Budget \$505k

6 Mos Ending June 30, 2026
(\$ In Thousands)

Ridership										
Regular	1,070,549	1,051,742	18,807	1.8%	5,843,925	5,862,098	(18,173)	(0.3%)	5,605,580	
CPS	22,725	30,000	(7,275)	(24.3%)	846,011	885,000	(38,989)	(4.4%)	873,834	
Subtotal Fixed Route	1,093,274	1,081,742	11,532	1.1%	6,689,936	6,747,098	(57,162)	(0.8%)	6,479,414	
Access	15,419	15,524	(105)	(0.7%)	90,042	90,032	10	0.0%	87,353	
MetroNow!	14,684	19,500	(4,816)	(24.7%)	87,676	103,400	(15,724)	(15.2%)	62,708	
Total Ridership	1,123,377	1,116,766	6,611	0.6%	6,867,654	6,940,530	(72,876)	(1.1%)	6,629,475	
Operating Revenue										
Metro Fares	\$ 1,238	\$ 1,359	\$ (121)	(8.9%)	\$ 6,964	\$ 7,252	\$ (289)	(4.0%)	\$ 6,531	
Access Fares	58	56	2	4.0%	368	340	28	8.1%	309	
MetroNow! Fares	37	39	(2)	(5.9%)	224	214	10	4.6%	125	
CPS Fares	15	64	(49)	(76.9%)	2,301	2,501	(200)	(8.0%)	2,280	
Other Contract Revenue	220	201	19	9.3%	1,279	1,164	115	9.9%	1,160	
Total Operating Revenue	1,568	1,719	(151)	(8.8%)	11,135	11,472	(337)	(2.9%)	10,405	
Non-Operating Revenue										
County Sales Tax	11,893	11,554	339	2.9%	63,716	63,416	300	0.5%	60,775	
Federal Subsidies	1,476	1,476	-	-	8,857	8,857	-	-	9,078	
Non Transportation	554	554	(0)	(0.0%)	3,300	3,360	(59)	(1.8%)	4,023	
Total Non-Operating Revenue	13,924	13,585	339	2.5%	75,872	75,632	241	0.3%	73,876	
Total Revenue	15,492	15,304	188	1.2%	87,007	87,104	(96)	(0.1%)	84,281	
Expenses										
Employee Wages & Benefits	10,837	10,482	(356)	(3.4%)	63,931	62,531	(1,401)	(2.2%)	59,320	
Fuel & Lubricants	776	621	(155)	(25.0%)	4,235	3,809	(426)	(11.2%)	3,901	
Parts & Supplies	1,172	980	(192)	(19.6%)	5,997	5,937	(61)	(1.0%)	5,750	
Everybody Rides Metro Fund	24	35	11	30.3%	165	210	45	21.5%	135	
Other	1,561	2,066	505	24.4%	11,335	12,793	1,458	11.4%	12,261	
Total Expenses	14,371	14,183	(188)	(1.3%)	85,663	85,279	(384)	(0.5%)	81,367	
Operating Capital Contribution	\$ 1,121	\$ 1,120	\$ 1		\$ 1,344	\$ 1,825	\$ (480)		\$ 2,914	

County Sales Tax – Year to Date



(\$000's)	Jul 25	Aug 25	Sep 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	Apr 26	May 26 *	Jun 26 *
Current Year	\$10,384	\$9,891	\$10,526	\$10,151	\$10,201	\$12,230	\$9,341	\$9,945	\$11,270	\$10,693	\$10,913	\$11,554
Budget	\$10,081	\$9,234	\$10,201	\$9,756	\$10,501	\$11,605	\$9,584	\$9,196	\$11,815	\$10,354	\$10,913	\$11,554
Previous Year	\$9,551	\$10,149	\$9,696	\$10,205	\$9,380	\$12,116	\$9,159	\$8,788	\$11,291	\$9,895	\$10,429	\$11,042

* May through June 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	\$26,247,414
Securities & CD's	\$88,542,533

Total All Securities (6/30/2026)	\$114,789,947
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Current Capital Reserve Obligations

<i>BRT Project Development (Hamilton & Reading Corridors) - Amts Pd</i>	\$25,274,277
<i>Future BRT Capital Match (Fed 70% & Local 30%)</i>	\$40,500,000
Total BRT	\$65,774,277
Local Match - FTA and ODOT Grants	\$5,311,601
100% Local Projects (Prior Years Open + Current Year)	\$18,724,431
2 Months of Operating Expenses	\$26,000,000
All Other Obligations	\$3,500,000
Total Current Capital Reserve Obligations	\$119,310,309

Net Unrestricted Securities Available	(\$4,520,362)
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2026 Remaining Operating Budget Surplus (Deficit) Jul-Dec	\$5,046,000
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Net Unrestricted Securities + '26 Operating Budget Surplus	\$525,638
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Project	Method	Vendor	Award	Term	Funding
177-2023* Biometric Health Screenings Highly Effective Organization**	Sole Source Award / Contract Modification	HealthCheck 360	\$376,711 (O) \$209,000 (M)	18 Months August 2026 – January 2028	Budgeted Local Operating

*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	\$209,000
Total MAX Spend for Month	\$-
2026 Total Spend	\$45,560,501
2026 MAX Spend	\$1,110,298
2026 MAX Participation Rate	2.44%

MOVED BY:	Pete Metz	SECOND BY:	Neil Kelly
VOTE Aye:	Ms. Amat, Mr. Brice, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Metz, Ms. Moss, Ms. Sheets, Mr. Smith and Ms. Taylor		
Nay:	None		
Abstain:	None		
ABSENT AT THE TIME:	Ms. Clark, Mr. Driehaus, Mr. Ethridge, Mr. Gibson and Ms. Smith		
PRESENT NON-VOTING MEMBERS:	Trent Emeneker and Greg Simpson		
ABSENT NON-VOTING MEMBERS AT THE TIME:	Jay Bedi		
APPROVED:	July 28, 2026		



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION ITEM

DATE: July 28, 2026
FROM: Jason Roe, Director of Procurement
Vickie Hickman, Sr. Manager of Benefits & Compensation
PROJECT NO.: 177-2023 Biometric Health Screenings
STRATEGIC: Highly Effective Organization
REQUEST: Contract Modification

BACKGROUND

Metro has an existing agreement with HealthCheck 360 to provide annual health-related biometric screenings to Metro employees and their dependents as part of the group health plan. Biometric screenings serve as a valuable tool for both individuals and organizations to monitor health and promote wellness. They provide essential data that can lead to healthier lifestyle choices and proactive healthcare management. By participating in these screenings, Metro employees can gain insight into their health and take steps to improve their well-being.

BUSINESS PURPOSE

The purpose of this contract modification is to increase the contract value and the term of services to support the Human Resources Department in sustaining an enhanced employee wellness program through 2027.

PROJECT FINANCING

The budget for this modification is \$209,000 and will be financed using local funding and is approved in the FY2026 budget and will be included in the FY2027 budget.

The final cost of the modification is flat to budget.

PROJECT PROCUREMENT

As this is a sole source contract modification, vendor outreach and competitive processes were not required.

The cost of services has been determined to be fair and reasonable based on the rates established through contract negotiations.

SMALL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

This is a contract modification. No market competition is available for this award.

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 a modification to Contract No. 177-2023, on behalf of Metro with Butler Healthcorp, Inc dba HealthCheck 360., Increasing the total not to exceed value from \$376,711 to \$585,711, an increase of \$209,000.

Progress & Priorities

Spotlight on the top five

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



July 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. **MetroNow! Zone 5 Launching Soon:** MetroNow! our on-demand service, has grown significantly since the first zone launched in 2023, providing more than 330,000 trips to date. This innovative service helps customers access essential community resources – including grocery stores and health care – while providing stronger connectivity to Metro's fixed-route network.

We are pleased to announce that MetroNow!'s fifth zone will launch in Bond Hill on Aug. 30. Please join us for a launch celebration on Aug. 26 at 10:30 a.m. at the Community Action Agency.

2. **Bus Rapid Transit Learning Tours:** As we work to build the best possible Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service for Greater Cincinnati, project leaders are visiting established BRT systems across the country to learn from their experiences and identify best practices. The team is visiting St. Petersburg, Omaha, Madison, Milwaukee, Seattle and Portland. These tours provide valuable opportunities to experience BRT firsthand and engage with the operations, maintenance, planning, and marketing professionals at each agency. The lessons and insights gathered will help us establish effective protocols, avoid potential challenges and support a smooth rollout of MetroRapid in 2028.
3. **Preparing for Back-to-School:** As summer winds down, the Metro team is in full gear preparing for a successful school year for our student riders. As in previous years, Metro team members will be in attendance at CPS' back-to-school event at Washington Park and student orientation sessions, and staff will be stationed at transit centers during the first week of school to assist students as they become more comfortable with their routes. Parents are also welcome to ride along with their student at no charge during the first week of school to help students familiarize themselves with their route. The 311 team will continue to have a presence at the transit centers all year long to support riders. Additional information and how-to-ride videos will be available soon on the student transportation page of Metro's website.
4. **New Routes & Service Improvements:** Metro's service expansion and improvement efforts continue with enhancements to route alignments, schedule adjustments, and three new routes launching on Aug. 16:
 - Route 47 will better connect Avondale and Oakley
 - Route 53 will better connect St. Bernard and Oakley

Progress & Priorities

Spotlight on the top five

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



- Route 70 will provide direct service between the University of Cincinnati's Uptown campus with its Blue Ash Campus.

These improvements will expand access to employment, education and other important destinations throughout the region.

5. **Downtown Planning & Coordination:** Members of Metro's leadership team recently met with City leaders to coordinate efforts related to the upcoming update of the Downtown Cincy Plan – the first comprehensive update since 1986. As we advance our Government Square study, it is important that our findings and recommendations inform and align with the broader downtown planning process. We will continue working closely with City partners and will share additional updates as these efforts progress.

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

All the best,

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

Andy Aiello