

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, March 24th 2026, 9:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony Brice, Dan Driehaus, Blake Ethridge, Briana Moss, Sara Sheets, Rickell Smith and KZ Smith

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Tianay Amat, Jay Bedi, Chelsea Clark, Trent Emeneker, Kala Gibson, Neil Kelly, Pete Metz, Greg Simpson and Sonja Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS: Andy Aiello, Dave Etienne, Adriene Hairston, Brandy Jones, Natalie Krusling, Sharyn Lacombe, Brad Mason, Jeff Mundstock, John Ravasio, Jason Roe, Khaled Shammout, Bill Spraul, Tim Walker and Mike Weil

LEGAL COUNSEL: Kim Schaefer (Vory's)

GUEST/PUBLIC PRESENT: Rowan Grisez, Mackenzie Mason and Kat Ruegger (CTSD)

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

Mackenzie Mason (CTSD) Requested that we consider option 1 for BRT which is located in Clifton/Ludlow Avenue.

Rowan Grisez, CTSD Requested that we consider option 1 for BRT which is located in Clifton/Ludlow Avenue.

CHAIR UPDATE

Mr. Ethridge discussed while we did not hold committee meetings due to a light agenda, we are bringing many of the items to the full board today.

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Driehaus made a motion that the minutes of the February 24th, 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 FEBRUARY 28TH, 2026

Mr. Walker presented the February financial results. Total revenues were \$12.9 million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$293K. Total expenses were \$13.3 million, which is favorable to budget by \$86k. Operating Capital Contribution was \$0.5 million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$207k. Ridership was 1,038k, which was unfavorable to budget by 59k. Mr. Walker then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 71: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR 128-2025 BUS LIFTS

Ms. Moss moved for adoption and Mr. Brice seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 128-2025 on behalf of Metro and Ott Equipment Services, Inc., with a not to exceed value of \$1,926,539.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 72: APPROVAL OF 015-2026 ACCESS PARATRANSIT VANS

Ms. Moss moved for adoption and Mr. Brice seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 015-2026 on behalf of Metro and Transportation Equipment Sales Corp., with a total not to exceed value of \$1,140,980.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

GOOD NEWS

Ms. Hairston reviewed the January Silver Wheel Awards and Golden Bus Winners slides, Mr. Ravasio reviewed the Business Courier's "Bosses to Watch" slide, Mr. Walker reviewed the Financial Excellence Award slide, Mr. Shammout reviewed the "Theory of Public Transit: Charting the Future of Mobility slide, and Ms. Jones reviewed the Metro's Marketing and Communications Leaders Present at APTA, Rounding Third and Heading for Metro, Cincy Reads Challenge and Cincinnati Red Bike Now Live in Transit App slides.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

RIDERSHIP AND SERVICE QUALITY REPORT

Mr. Shammout and Mr. Spraul presented the February 2026 ridership and service quality report. Total ridership for the month of February was 1,067,274 or 5.3% unfavorable to budget.

Access Total ridership for the month of February was 14,143 or 0.3% unfavorable to budget.

MetroNow Total ridership for the month of February was 15,500 or 13.1% 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.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

METRORAPID UPDATE

Mr. Lacombe presented the MetroRapid update. She shared project timelines, stakeholder and public engagement, advancing station design – Reading, engineering – Reading, traffic analysis process & city coordination, traffic – Reading and design and construction team slides.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

GOVERNMENT SQUARE UPDATE

Mr. Aiello presented the government square update.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

RIDERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Mr. Ravasio presented the ridership development initiative presentation and reviewed the strategic plan priority and solution.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

QUARTER 1 MARKETING UPDATE

Mr. Etienne presented the Quarter 1 Marketing Update. He reviewed background, objectives, messaging and creative messaging.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES

Mr. Aiello presented the progress and priorities report and reviewed the coordination with FTA, transit employee appreciation week, employee townhall meetings, all signs point to the bus stop and Go Red, Go Metro.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

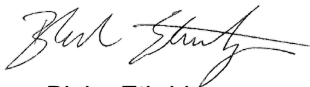
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees has been scheduled for
April 28th, 2026, at 6:00 P.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