

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tianay Amat, Jay Bedi, Tony Brice, Chelsea Clark, Dan Driehaus, Trent Emeneker, Blake Ethridge, Neil Kelly, Pete Metz, Briana Moss, Sara Sheets, KZ Smith, Rickell Smith and Sonja Taylor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kala Gibson and Greg Simpson

STAFF MEMBERS: Andy Aiello, Briona Akins, Norman Bouwie, Adriene Hairston, Christina Harvey, Brandy Jones, Bret Isaacs, Natalie Krusling, Sharyn LaCombe, Brad Mason, Jeff Mundstock, Sean O'Leary, John Ravasio, Jason Roe, Tony Russo, Khaled Shammout, Bill Spraul, Tim Walker and Mike Woulms

LEGAL COUNSEL: Kim Schaefer (Vory's)

GUEST/PUBLIC PRESENT: Nany Jerardi, Jon Matey, Joe Jerardi, Merrill Akins and Renee Akins

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. Nancy Jerardi and Ms. Ann Matey addressed the Board regarding Metro Routes 2 and 61. They shared photographs and supporting information depicting conditions along Maple Avenue in Madeira, Ohio (45243), and requested service change consideration to the current routes. Materials presented were distributed to Board members for review.

CEO STAR AWARD

CEO Andy Aiello recognized Briona Akins for extraordinary actions in rendering aid to a child suffering a gunshot wound while operating her route. Ms. Akins secured her coach, contacted 911 and performed CPR until first responders arrived.

CHAIR UPDATE

Mr. Ethridge is honored to serve as Chair of the Metro Board and takes great pride in supporting the organization's mission and impact on the community. The recent Kings Island event was a wonderful opportunity for Board Members and employees to connect, celebrate, and enjoy a day of camaraderie together.

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Metz made a motion that the minutes of the July 23rd, 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 JULY 31ST, 2026

Mr. Walker presented the July financial results. Total revenues were \$14.9 million, which was favorable to budget by \$436K. Total expenses were \$14.7 million, which is unfavorable to budget by \$472k. Operating Capital Contribution was \$0.2 million, which was unfavorable to budget by \$37k. Ridership was 1,126k, which was favorable to budget by 27k. Mr. Walker then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 039-2026 BOND HILL GARAGE EXPANSION

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Ms. Amat seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 039-2026 on behalf of Metro and Richard L. Bowen and Associates Inc., with a total not to exceed value of \$1,250,441.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO: 087-2026 BUS REPLACEMENT PARTS

Mr. Driehaus moved for adoption and Ms. Amat seconded the motion. The contract will approve contract no. 087-226 on behalf of Metro and Muncie Transit Supply, with a total not to exceed value of \$391,800.

By roll call, the Board approved the resolution.

Good News!

The Executive Team presented the Good News report. Ms. Hairston shared the June Silver Award recipients and Metro Family Day, Mr. Spraul presented Bret Isaac Named New Director of Security and Back to School on Metro, Ms. Jones presented MetroNow! and Summer Events promotions slides.

The Board accepted the report as presented.

Ridership and Service Quality Report

Mr. Shammout and Mr. Spraul presented the July 2026 ridership and service quality report. Total ridership for the month of July was 1,094,943 or 3.1% favorable to budget. Access Total ridership for the month of July was 15,409 or 2.6% unfavorable to budget. MetroNow Total ridership for the month of July was 15,151 or 26% unfavorable to budget. Productivity, On-Time Performance, Customer Service Reports and Fixed-Route Miles Between Mechanical Service Interruptions were shared.

The Board accepted the report as presented.

MetroRapid Update

Mr. Shammout and Ms. Lacombe presented the MetroRapid Update. The reviewed the public and stakeholder outreach, Reading design status 60%, environmental and right of way, transit oriented development update and agency peer reviews.

The Board accepted the report as presented.

PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES

Mr. Aiello presented the progress and priorities report and reviewed FTA Railroad Right-of-Way Repayment Plan Finalized, Strategic Plan Six-Month Refresh Underway, Collective Bargaining Agreement, Adopt-a-Spot Partnership Success, MetroNow! Zone 5 and State of Metro.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

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