

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, October 17, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
The SORTA/Metro Board Room
1014 Vine Street, Suite 2000
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Robert W. Buechner Daniel S. Peters
Stephan M. Louis Melody Sawyer Richardson
William L. Mallory, Sr. Lamont Taylor
Robert P. Mecklenborg

STAFF MEMBERS

PRESENT: Michael H. Setzer Diane Harris-Gentry
H. Theodore Bergh Talitha Lattimore
Marilyn G. Shazor Bonnie Orso
Sallie L. Hilvers Colin R. Groth
J. Darryl Haley Carole E. Senior
Richard L. Moore Patricia A. Drybala
(Legal Counsel)

OTHERS

PRESENT: Chris Moran, League of Women Voters
Judith A. Titchener, AMOS
Joe Link, Transportation Alliance
Ashley McFarland, BASES
Jake Mahle, VSSP
Mark Bennett, ATU Local 627

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Lamont Taylor, Chairman of the SORTA Board, noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order.

HEARINGS FROM
CITIZENS:

Ms. Titchener asked when Everybody Rides Metro would begin distributing subsidies for fares.

Mr. Buechner stated that the foundation is soliciting funds at this time.
Mr. Bergh stated that individuals will receive assistance through charitable agencies once the foundation model is established. A meeting concerning the pilot program is expected in the next few weeks. He confirmed that he has spoken with St. Vincent de Paul.

APPROVAL
OF MINUTES:

Mr. Louis made a motion that the minutes of the September 12, 2006 regular meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mrs. Richardson seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

MEET THE TEAM: Mr. Setzer introduced Darryl Haley, Customer Relations manager; Bonnie Orso, MetroCenter supervisor; Talitha Lattimore, Sales Office coordinator; and Diane Harris-Gentry, Customer Service supervisor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Taylor stated the Committee met jointly with the Planning and Development Committee.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Louis stated the Committees met and have the following items to be presented to the Board:

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-38, Support of Brent Spence Bridge Transit Lanes

Mr. Louis moved and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion for adoption. Mr. Louis stated that the general manager from the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK) gave a presentation to the combined Committees concerning the use of shoulder lanes for buses. TANK is requesting SORTA's support of bus shoulder lanes and transit lanes on the Brent Spence Bridge.

Mr. Setzer stated that SORTA supports buses using shoulder lanes, in regional planning, particularly for its service using I-471. Mr. Buechner suggested staff investigate bus use of shoulder lanes for I-71 North. Staff agreed to a presentation for the Operations and Management Committee meeting concerning bus use of shoulder lanes.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-38.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-39, Approval to Purchase Trapeze OPS-Web Enhancement

Mr. Buechner moved and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion for adoption. Mr. Louis stated that this is for Trapeze software that will give operators and supervisors ready access to payroll information. In response to a question, Mr. Bergh confirmed the original investment for the Trapeze software was \$1.2 million.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-39.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-40, Approval of Contract for Wheelchair Lift Refurbishment

Mr. Mallory moved and Mr. Louis seconded the motion for adoption. Mr. Louis stated that this is for continuation of the refurbishment of wheelchair lifts.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-40.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-41, Approval of Contract for Repair of the Concrete Cistern at Queensgate

Mr. Taylor moved and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion for adoption. Mr. Louis stated that this is for replacement of the slab over the concrete cistern. Ms. Shazor stated that the contractor is a disadvantaged business enterprise.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-41.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-42, Approval of Duck Creek Flood Control Phase IV Project Easements to the City of Cincinnati

Mr. Louis moved and Mr. Mecklenborg seconded the motion for adoption. Mr. Louis stated that these easements are needed for flood control of the Duck Creek.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-42.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-43, Procurement of Commercial Property Insurance

Mr. Taylor moved and Mr. Louis seconded the motion for adoption. Mr. Desmond stated that this insurance is to protect SORTA's real and personal property, replacing the current policy which expires November 1, 2006. The provider is proposing equal or better coverage at a lower rate.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-43.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-44, Restoration of State Transit Funding

Mr. Mecklenborg moved and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion for adoption. Mr. Setzer stated that the resolution supports restoration of state funding that declined from more than \$3 million in 1998 to approximately \$800,000 today. Restoration of these reduces SORTA's projected capital deficit. Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA) requested that members pass resolutions confirming the restoration of capital funds is in the best interest of the state.

Mr. Mecklenborg asked what support staff had for the "\$500 million surplus" statement contained in the proposed resolution. Mr. Setzer stated that this was strictly a paraphrase of the suggested resolution provided by OPTA, but that staff would confirm the validity of this information with OPTA. Mr. Buechner suggested removing the clause if staff was unable to confirm it.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-44, amended as discussed if unable to substantiate the clause in question.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Setzer informed the Board that he had nothing further to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Buechner requested that the Board receive copies of any communication sent by staff to City Council. He also stated that discussions concerning bus use of shoulder lanes is very timely and encouraged staff to study all aspects of it. Mr. Buechner also inquired about the status of staff meeting with Strive.

Mr. Setzer stated that he had met with Jeff Edmondson, the executive director, and a member of his staff, since the last board meeting. Mr. Edmondson is excited about the potential of a student pass at the University of Cincinnati and other institutions; it fits their mission. Mr. Setzer stated that staff's proposal is currently being considered by UC administration. An agreement is expected within the next thirty days with implementation anticipated in January.

Mr. Louis informed the Board that this was Mr. Peters' last meeting as a member of the SORTA Board of Trustees. Mr. Peters complimented the Board and the organization.

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday November 14, 2006, 10:00 a.m., SORTA/Metro Board Room, 1014 Vine Street, Suite 2000, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Taylor made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Louis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion and the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:

Lamont Taylor
Chairperson

H. Theodore Bergh
Secretary-Treasurer