

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, December 12, 2006, 9:45 a.m.  
The SORTA/Metro Board Room  
1014 Vine Street, Suite 2000  
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Steven P. Goodin Daniel S. Peters  
Stephan M. Louis Melody Sawyer Richardson  
Robert P. Mecklenborg Lamont Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS

PRESENT: Michael H. Setzer Michael L. Brown  
H. Theodore Bergh Bill Spraul  
Marilyn G. Shazor Mike Weil  
Sallie L. Hilvers Colin Groth  
Timothy J. Reynolds Nancy Core  
William J. Desmond Carole E. Senior  
Richard L. Moore Donna M. Adkins  
(Legal Counsel)

OTHERS

PRESENT: Chris Moran, League of Women Voters  
Carolyn Miller, League of Women Voters  
Kevin Osborne, City Beat  
Reggie Victor, City of Cincinnati  
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.

OATH OF OFFICE:

The oath of office was administered to Mr. Stephen M. Louis by Mr. Moore. The Board congratulated Mr. Louis on his reappointment.

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS:

Mr. Taylor asked if there were any citizens who would like to address the Board; there were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Taylor made a motion that the minutes of the November 14, 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 Mike Brown, Director of Fleet and Facilities, Bill Spraul, Director of Transit Operations, and Mike Weil, Manager of Facilities. Mr. Weil provided a brief overview on the success of the Government Square project.

## **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 present to the Board:

Proposed Motion: Approval of Retainer Fee for Risk Management Law Firms

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Louis seconded the motion. Mr. Louis stated that this motion approves an increase to the retainer fee paid to law firms representing SORTA in liability lawsuits.

By voice vote the Board unanimously approved the motion.

Resolution No. 2006-50, Approval of Purchase of Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mr. Mecklenborg seconded the motion. This resolution approves the purchase of excess workers compensation insurance from Midwest Employers Casualty through Chaney Consulting at a total estimated premium of \$74,976 for 2007.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-50.

Proposed Motion: Approval of Contract for Auditors

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mrs. Richardson seconded the motion. The motion is to approve a three party contract with SORTA, the State Auditor's office and Clifton Gunderson. Clifton Gunderson will replace Deloitte & Touché as SORTA's outside auditing firm.

By voice vote the Board unanimously approved the motion.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-51, Approval to Purchase Diesel Fuel January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2008

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mr. Mecklenborg seconded the motion. Mr. Louis explained that this resolution authorizes management to purchase diesel fuel during the years 2007 and 2008.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-51.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-52, Approval of Contract with Cingular Wireless

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Louis seconded the motion. This contract provides wireless internet service on buses through using a transit advertising trade with Cingular Wireless.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-52.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-53, Support for Bus Use of Shoulder Lanes on I-71

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Louis seconded the motion. Mr. Setzer explained that ODOT is currently working with Columbus on a pilot project using shoulder lanes. ODOT and Metro have reviewed and agreed that I-71 is suitable. ODOT has asked for a resolution of support. Shoulder lanes can be included as part of federal formulas and offer a potential for increased funding.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-53.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-54, Approval of Amendment to Parking Space Lease with Paramount's Kings Island

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mrs. Richardson seconded the motion. This agreement is between SORTA and Paramount's Kings Island. The maximum cost per year is \$60,000 (parking space lease and maintenance requirements). Funding is available in approved grants.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-54.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-55, Approval of Contract with Duke Energy for the Route 85 Riverfront Parking Shuttle

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mr. Mecklenborg seconded the motion. This contract provides funding from Duke Energy for the Riverfront Parking Shuttle, Route 85. Based on this payment, Duke employees are exempt from fares. All others pay \$.50 (except Duke employees) to ride a shuttle bus from the riverfront parking facilities to downtown.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-55.

Proposed Motion: Approval of Toys R Us Temporary Layover Location

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. Mr. Louis stated that this motion approves the use of the Toys R Us site as a temporary layover.

By voice vote the Board approved the motion; Mr. Mecklenborg voted no.

Proposed Resolution No. 2006-56, Acceptance of Public Hearing Transcript for the November 30, 2006 Public Hearing and Final Approval of Fare Changes

Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mrs. Richardson seconded the motion. Mr. Setzer stated that the SORTA Board approved the 2007 funding request and authorized stated to hold a public hearing on the proposed fare changes needed to balance the budget. At the public meeting 19 people spoke and most agreed that the fare increase was reasonable and

necessary. The members of the Community Advisory Committee were provided information on the proposed increase in fares and they also are supportive. Staff recommends the Board accept the transcript of the November 30 public hearing and approve the proposed fare changes.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2006-56.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Setzer stated that he is planning an informal lunch meeting with new Trustees to provide background information and answer any questions they may have. The Trustees will be contacted to arrange a date. It was also decided that the times of January Committee and Board meetings would be changed to 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. respectively.

Mrs. Richardson asked that a 2007 schedule of meetings be e-mailed to the Trustees.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Taylor appointed Messrs. Buechner and Goodin to a Nominating Committee and asked that they have a recommendations for presentation at the January 9 SORTA Board meeting.

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday January 9, 2007, 9:00 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 10:35 a.m.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lamont Taylor  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
H. Theodore Bergh  
Secretary-Treasurer