

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, June 16, 2009, 9:30 a.m.
The SORTA/Metro Board Room
602 Main Street, Suite 1100
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Gregg Hothem; Ed Humphrey; Stephan Louis; William L. Mallory, Sr.;
Christine Maticic; Melody Sawyer Richardson; Sean Rugless;
Doug Sizemore; James Tarbell; Lamont Taylor

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT: Minette Cooper; Margaret C. Gutsell

STAFF MEMBERS: Marilyn Shazor, Theodore Bergh, Sallie Hilvers, Mary Moning, Donna Adkins,
Perriann Allen, Matt Bennett, John Davis, Colin Groth, Lisa Partridge,
Carole Senior, Bill Spraul, Mike Weil

OTHERS: Mark Bennett, ATU-Local 627; Richard Moore, Vorys Sater Seymour &
Pease; Caroline Miller, League of Women Voters; Chris Moran, League of
Women Voters; Mike Setzer, Veolia Transportation; Wendy Zhang, City of
Cincinnati

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Richardson, Chair of the Board, noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order.

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

Mrs. Richardson asked if there were any citizens who would like to address the board. There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Mallory moved that the minutes of the May 12, 2009, regular meeting be approved as previously mailed and Ms. Maticic seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

MEET THE TEAM

Ms. Moning introduced Ron Long who was driving his route when a fight broke out among two passengers which culminated in a shooting. Mr. Long remained admirably calm under the circumstances and followed correct procedure by immediately pulling over his bus and opening both doors so passengers could exit. After the police arrived and resolved the dispute he resumed driving and finished his route. Ms. Moning also introduced James High, a Metro operator who was recently inducted into the National Safety Council's prestigious Two Million Mile Club for driving over two million miles during the last 30 years without a preventable accident. Mr. Mallory requested that a letter of commendation be placed in each of their personnel files. Ms. Shazor introduced Darius Pinkston, who told the board about his hobby of making replica paper Metro buses and brought a few of his designs to show the board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**JOINT OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Planning and Development Committee Chair James R. Tarbell presented the action items from the combined meeting of the Operations and Management and the Planning and Development committees. The following items from the combined committee were presented to the Board:

1. **Proposed Resolution No. 2009-21: Approval to File Application with the Ohio Dept. of Transportation for Assistance Under the Ohio Elderly and Disabled Fare Assistance Program Fiscal Year 2010**

Ms. Maticic moved for adoption and Mr. Humphrey seconded the motion. This resolution authorized the CEO or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute and file with the Ohio Department of Transportation an application for a grant for the maximum amount of funds available for transit fare assistance to the elderly and disabled under the Ohio Elderly and Disabled Transit Fare Assistance Program, to furnish such additional information as the Ohio Dept. of Transportation may require in connection with the application, and to execute on behalf of SORTA the standard contract with the Ohio Dept. of Transportation for the receipt of such funds.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2009-21.

2. **Proposed Resolution 2009-22: Approval to Purchase Replacement Paratransit Vehicles**

Mr. Mallory moved for adoption and Mr. Hothem seconded the motion. This resolution approves the purchase of fourteen lift-equipped paratransit vehicles for Access through the ODOT Cooperative Purchasing Program and authorizes and directs the CEO or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute a purchase order with Whitworth Bus Sales Inc. for fourteen vehicles at \$73,4789 each for a total cost not to exceed \$1,028,692.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2009-22.

3. **Proposed Motion: Appointment of Directors to Everybody Rides Metro Board**

Mr. Humphrey moved for adoption and Ms. Maticic seconded the motion. This motion appoints the following individuals to the Everybody Rides Metro board of directors: Linnea Lose (term expires June 30, 2010); Hirsh Cohen (term expires June 30, 2010); Elizabeth Carter (term expires June 30, 2011); Gyasi Chisley (term expires June 30, 2011); Steve Gibbs (term expires June 30, 2012); Paul Sittenfeld (term expires June 30, 2012).

By voice vote the Board unanimously approved the motion.

4. **Proposed Resolution 2009-23: Approval of SORTA's Policy Concerning Providing Amenities and Meals, Reimbursement of Expenses and Accepting Things of Value**

Mr. Mallory moved for adoption and Mrs. Richardson seconded the motion. This resolution approves the Policy Concerning Providing Amenities and Meals, Reimbursement of Expenses and Accepting Things of Value as revised and requires all to adhere to the revised policy.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2009-23.

5. Proposed Motion: Approval of Communication & Representation Policy

Ms. Maticic moved for adoption and Mr. Tarbell seconded the motion. This motion approves the revised Communication & Representation policy that was previously adopted by the board on November 2004.

By voice vote the board unanimously approved the motion.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Richardson reported that SORTA's auditors, Clifton Gunderson, gave Metro a clean report and she commended the staff for their efforts.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Hotem, committee chair, reported that he and Ms. Shazor met to discuss the formation of the new Strategic Planning Committee. The committee will be comprised of several SORTA board members, Metro's CEO, and members of the local business, academic, social services and health care communities. A 10-year strategic plan will be developed and delivered in the first half of 2010. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 16, 8 a.m.-noon, at the SORTA offices.

CEO'S REPORT

Ms. Shazor reported on the Triennial Review on May 27-29. The Triennial Review is the Federal Transit Administration's assessment of grantee compliance with the federal requirements determined by examining a sample of management and program implementation practices. Deficiencies were identified in four out of 23 areas. One area has been corrected and is now considered closed. Upon receipt of a satisfactory response to the remaining three corrective actions, SORTA will remain eligible for Federal assistance.

Ms. Shazor followed up on a question from a board member at the May board meeting regarding checking the cameras on the buses before the buses go on the street. Bus service must be the number one priority and cameras are extra. Cameras are checked every 2,000 miles and it is impossible to insure that all cameras are operational before the bus rolls out of the garage. Also, the camera may be operational but the camera's hard drive could be defective.

Ms. Shazor reported Metro's lobbyist is assisting with Federal funding in the authorization bill. Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Groth and Ms. Shazor pulled together a plan and are working on building relationships with congressional representatives and senators. Projects have been submitted through local politicians for consideration of federal funding, including transit hubs and green vehicles.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Taylor reported on APTA's Transit Board Member Seminar, which will be in Cincinnati July 18-21 and thanked the staff for their efforts in planning the event. There are two receptions in association with the conference – one at the Freedom Center on July 19 and the other at the Metropolitan Club on July 20. Board members are invited to attend both receptions and will receive invitations shortly. Early bird registration for the seminar ends on June 19 and board members who would like to attend were asked to contact Ms. Allen to register.

Mr. Louis reviewed the "Changes in Transit Ridership by Agency" and the "Cost of Transit Trips by City" report included in the board binders. He reported that while most transit agencies' ridership has increased, Metro's ridership has decreased. Mr. Louis believes the decline is due to demographics. It was suggested that this decline be a topic for the Strategic Planning Committee look into and Mr. Hothem invited all board members to provide input.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Richardson made a motion that the board go into executive session as provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1) for conferences concerning personnel and Mr. Louis seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Board approved the motion and went into executive session at 10:32 a.m.

Ms. Maticic made a motion that the Board return to regular session and Mr. Mallory seconded the motion. By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved the motion and the board reconvened the board meeting from executive session at 11:35 a.m.

Mrs. Richardson adjourned the board meeting at 11:36 a.m.

APPROVED:



Melody Sawyer Richardson
Chair