

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, September 9 2008, 9:40 a.m.  
The SORTA/Metro Board Room  
602 Main Street, Suite 1100  
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202

**BOARD MEMBERS**

PRESENT: Robert W. Buechner; Minette Cooper; Margaret C. Gutsell; Stephan M. Louis;  
William L. Mallory, Sr.; Melody Sawyer Richardson; James Tarbell;  
Lamont Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn G. Shazor, H. Theodore Bergh, Bill Desmond, Michelle France,  
Sallie Hilvers, Mary Moning, Tim Reynolds, Steve Ackman, Donna Adkins,  
Perriann Allen, John Davis, Deb Drayton, Dave Etienne, Colin Groth,  
Mike Restle, Carole Senior, Jim Williams

OTHERS: Jim Benedict; Government Strategies; Margaret McGurck, Cincinnati  
Enquirer; Melissa McVay, City of Cincinnati; Carolina Mederos, Patton  
Boggs; Carolyn Miller, League of Women Voters; Troy Miller, ATU-Local 629;  
Rich Moore, Vorys Sater Seymour & Pease; Chris Moran, League of Women  
Voters Kevin O'Neill, Patton Boggs; Todd Portune; Hamilton Co.  
Commissioner; Will Scott, PTM Ltd., Mike Setzer, Veolia Transportation

**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. Mr. Miller, representing ATU-Local 629, expressed concern regarding issues with Metro's payroll system and incorrect payroll checks.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

New Board Member Minette Cooper was sworn in by Mr. Moore.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Mallory moved that the minutes of the July 9, 2008, regular meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Louis seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

**MEET THE TEAM**

Ms. Shazor introduced Michelle France, a Bond Hill operator, who suggested creating an outreach program that addresses safety measures for passengers and teaches people how to ride the bus.

**TODD PORTUNE**

Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune discussed his proposal for the Greater Cincinnati Regional Transit Authority.

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

Planning and Development Committee Chair Robert W. Buechner 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 2008-41: Approval of Contract to Purchase Portable Lifts**

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Mr. Mallory seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes the CEO or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute a purchase order with Phil Leak Company for two portable ALM lifts for a total cost not to exceed \$58,500.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-41.

**2. Proposed Resolution 2008-42: Approval of Sam's Club Park & Ride Contract Extension**

Mr. Buechner moved for adoption and Dr. Gutsell seconded the motion. This resolution approves the Eighth Amendment to License Agreement for one year (October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009) with Wal-Mart/Sam's for a park and ride facility at North Bend Road and I-74 at a total cost not to exceed \$32,640.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-42.

**3. Proposed Resolution No. 2008-43: Approval of Fiscal year 2008-2009 DBE Goal**

Mrs. Richardson moved for adoption and Mr. Mallory seconded the motion. This resolution adopts for the federal fiscal year 2009 (October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009) a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal of 1.7%. The Board directs the CEO or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to submit this goal to the FTA for approval.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-43.

**4. Proposed Motion: Appointment as Directors of Everybody Rides Metro**

Dr. Gutsell moved for adoption and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. This motion appoints Suzanne Hopkins, Paul Sittenfeld and Marsha Watts-Visher to one-year terms on the Everybody Rides Metro Foundation Board of Trustees.

By roll call vote the Board approved the Motion.

**5. Proposed Resolution 2008-44: Approval of RTC Security Upgrade**

Mrs. Richardson moved for adoption and Mr. Mallory seconded the motion. This resolution approves a contract to upgrade the security equipment at the Riverfront Transit Center to Executive Security at a total cost not to exceed \$28,560. The funds are available through a grant from the Department of Homeland Security.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-44.

**6. Proposed Resolution 2008-45: Approval of Contract for New Transmissions**

Mr. Tarbell moved for adoption and Dr. Gutsell seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes a contract for the purchase of two Voith transmissions from Gillig Corporation at a total cost not to exceed \$38,900 (\$19,450 each).

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-45.

**7. Proposed Resolution 2008-46: Approval of Contract for New Bus Driver Seat Replacements**

Mr. Tarbell moved for adoption and Mr. Mallory seconded the motion. This resolution awards a contract for 22 bus driver replacement seats to Neoparts at a total cost not to exceed \$31,187.20 (\$1,417.60 each).

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-46.

**8. Proposed Resolution 2008-47: Approval of Contract for Bus Line Inspection Services**

Mr. Mallory moved for adoption and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. This resolution awards the five year (2008-2013) contract for bus line inspection services to Vehicle Technical Consultants at a total cost not to exceed \$83,200.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-47.

**9. Proposed Resolution 2008-48: Approval of Contract for Wheelchair Lift Refurbishment**

Dr. Gutsell moved for adoption and Mr. Mallory seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes a five-year (2008-2013) contract with Gillig Corporation for the refurbishment of up to 185 wheelchair lifts at a total cost not to exceed \$2,070,878.90.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-48.

**10. Proposed Resolution 2008-49: Approval of Contract to Purchase Non-Revenue Vehicles**

Dr. Gutsell moved for adoption and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. This resolution approves the purchase of five non-revenue vehicles from 32 Ford at a total cost not to exceed \$65,735.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-49.

**11. Proposed Resolution 2008-50: Approval to File 2009 Grant Applications**

Mrs. Richardson moved for adoption and Dr. Gutsell seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes and directs the CEO or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to file grant applications for the maximum amounts available on behalf of SORTA to secure special funding as it becomes available for state and federal fiscal year 2009.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-50.

**12. Proposed Resolution 2008-51: Approval of Oaklawn Sewer Easement**

Mr. Buechner moved for adoption and Dr. Gutsell seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes the CEO or the CFO/Secretary Treasurer to enter into an agreement to grant Hamilton Co. a permanent easement for \$1,160, plus legal and engineering fees.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-51.

**13. Proposed Resolution 2008-52: Approval of Reciprocal Transfer Program with Clermont County**

Dr. Gutsell moved for adoption and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. This resolution approves a six-month test of the transfer program for individuals utilizing the SORTA and Clermont Transportation Connection fixed-route systems.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-52.

**14. Proposed Resolution 2008-53: Approval of Contract for Articulated Buses**

Dr. Gutsell moved for adoption and Mr. Mallory seconded the motion. The resolution authorizes a five-year contract (2008-2013) with New Flyer USA for up to 25 articulated buses at a price per bus of \$611,999 each for clean diesel and \$823,401 each for hybrid-powered buses with future price adjustments based on the PPI WPU 1413 Index. The initial order will be for five articulated buses at \$611,999, per bus for a total cost not to exceed \$3,059,995.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-53.

**15. Proposed Resolution 2008-54: Approval of Contract with Patton Boggs LLC**

Mrs. Richardson moved for adoption and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes a 12-month contract (September 10, 2008 through September 9, 2009) with Patton Boggs LLC at a monthly retainer rate of \$17,500 for a total cost not to exceed \$210,000.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-54.

**16. Proposed Resolution 2008-55: Authorization to Initiate a Request for Proposals for Underwriting Services**

Mr. Mallory moved for adoption and Mr. Louis seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes the CEO or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to initiate request for proposals to secure underwriting services to make certain capital improvements to SORTA's transportation system, including the acquisition of buses.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2008-55.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Shazor congratulated Ted Bergh, CFO, for being chosen as a member of Leadership Cincinnati class of XXXII and for being a finalist for the Cincinnati Business Courier's CFO of the Year award. She also congratulated John Davis for completing the first section of Toastmasters' international communication program.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Richardson suggested the board set a date for a strategic planning meeting. She proposed November 15, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The strategic planning meeting was tentatively scheduled for that date and Ms. Allen will email board members after the meeting to confirm that date works for everyone.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mrs. Richardson made a motion that the board go into executive session as provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(3) for conferences with an attorney concerning pending or imminent court action and Mr. Mallory seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Board approved the motion and went into executive session at 10:30 a.m.

Mrs. Richardson made a motion that the Board return to regular session and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved the motion and returned to the board room to reconvene the board meeting from executive session at 11:00 a.m.

Mrs. Richardson adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:

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William L. Mallory, Sr.  
Vice-Chair

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H. Theodore Bergh  
Secretary-Treasurer