

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Friday, September 18, 2009, 2:15 p.m.  
The SORTA/Metro Board Room  
602 Main Street, Suite 1100  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Minette Cooper; Margaret Gutsell; Ed Humphrey; Stephan Louis;  
Melody Sawyer Richardson; Sean Rugless; Doug Sizemore

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**ABSENT:** Gregg Hothem; William L. Mallory, Sr.; Christine Maticic; James Tarbell;  
Lamont Taylor

**STAFF MEMBERS:** Marilyn Shazor, Bill Desmond, Sallie Hilvers, Mary Moning, Donna Adkins,  
Perriann Allen, Lisa Aulick, Dave Etienne, Barry Frank, Butch Gaut,  
Colin Groth, Tim Harrington, Darryl Haley, Ted Meyer, Mike Restle,  
Tim Reynolds, Jerry Roetting, Joe Routt, Carole Senior, Bill Spraul

**OTHERS:** Mark Bennett, ATU-627; Barry Horstman, Cincinnati Enquirer; Richard Moore, Vorys  
Sater Seymour & Pease; Tom Hock, Veolia Transportation; Will Scott, Veolia  
Transportation

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Louis moved that the minutes of the August 18, 2009, regular meeting be approved as previously mailed and Ms. Cooper seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Mr. Rugless 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. 2009-32: Amendment of Bylaws**

Mrs. Richardson moved for adoption and Mr. Humphrey seconded the motion. This resolution amends the SORTA bylaws to reflect various changes due to the resolution reorganizing SORTA's Board of Trustees adopted by Hamilton County effective January 30, 2009.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2009-32.

**2. Proposed Resolution 2009-33: Approval to Purchase Bus Washers**

Mr. Humphrey moved for adoption and Dr. Gutsell seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes the purchase of new bus washers for the Queensgate facility at a total cost not to exceed \$454,348.76, including a \$25,000 contingency for unforeseen construction needs.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2009-33.

**3. Proposed Resolution 2009-34: Approval of Columbia Parkway Sewer Separation Easements**

Mr. Louis moved for adoption and Ms. Cooper seconded the motion. This resolution grants the City of Cincinnati nineteen easements (five permanent and fourteen temporary work area easements) near 1852 Columbia Parkway in exchange for compensation of \$4,247 plus legal and engineering expenses.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2009-34.

**4. Proposed Resolution 2009-35: Extension of Clermont County Service Agreement**

This resolution could not be approved as a quorum was not available for the voice vote. The resolution will be voted on again at the Board meeting in October.

**5. Proposed Resolution 2009-36: Appointment of Stephan Louis as a Royal Coachman**

Mr. Rugless moved for adoption and Dr. Gutsell seconded the motion. This resolution appoints SORTA board member Stephan Louis as a Royal Coachman in recognition of his service to the people of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Mr. Louis' term expires on October 1, 2009. The resolution was passed unanimously and with alacrity.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2009-36.

**6. Proposed Motion: Appointment of Secretary-Treasurer to the SORTA Board**

Mr. Humphrey moved for adoption and Mrs. Richardson seconded the motion. This motion appoints Barry E. Frank as Secretary-Treasurer of the SORTA board effective September 18, 2009.

By voice vote the Board unanimously approved the motion.

**7. Proposed Resolution 2009-37: Approval of Preliminary 2010 Operating Plan, Service Reductions, Fare Increases, Release of Legal Notice and Authorization to Hold Public Meeting**

Mr. Humphrey moved for adoption and Mr. Rugless seconded the motion. Based on current information a 20% service reduction would balance the 2010 budget but SORTA could consider a combination of options based on public input and Cincinnati City Council approval of any proposed fare increase. Options include cutting costs, deferring capital projects, reducing service, increasing base and zone fares, transfer charges, monthly passes/fare deal stickers, eliminating the \$5 Zone 1 pass discount, providing Access service equal to the level required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and increasing the Access fare up to the ADA-allowable fare effective by the end of 2009. This resolution approves the preliminary 2010 operating and capital plan of \$99,361,996 (\$80,750,452 operating and \$18,611,544 capital) which includes funding from the City of Cincinnati of \$40,391,660 (\$36,872,488 operating and \$3,519,172 capital). The required public meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup> is authorized.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2009-37.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

In the absence of Committee chair Gregg Hothem, Mr. Rugless reported on the meeting that had taken place earlier that morning. The purpose of the committee is to take both a long- and a short-term look at SORTA to prepare the organization for the future. The committee is currently looking at a series of questions to determine what the strategic plan should be and will gather input from stakeholders. The next meeting is on Friday, October 16, 8-10 a.m. here at the SORTA offices.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

In the absence of Committee chair William L. Mallory, Mrs. Richardson reported on the Budget Committee meetings that took place in September. A Budget Committee was formed to ensure the board has the most recent and accurate budget information available going into the 2010 budget cycle. The City of Cincinnati has been downgrading its 2010 projections all summer and currently projects a \$6.6 million reduction in our 2010 revenue. Ridership and fare revenue are down significantly due to the recession. Funding from the State of Ohio is also down. Metro staff worked long hours to determine how to meet the 2010 budget deficit, currently estimated at over \$16 million. Various options and combinations of options are being considered including fare increases, service reductions, and union and non-union employee layoffs. To gather input from Metro customers, a public hearing will be held on Friday, October 2, at the Duke Energy Center from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**CEO'S REPORT**

Ms. Shazor thanked Mr. Frank, Mr. Restle, Mr. Thomas and the entire finance team for the many hours and much effort expended preparing the budget for the board meeting. She also reported that four Ohio transit agencies (Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Dayton) are drafting a letter to Ohio Dept. of Transportation Director Jolene Molitoris requesting that the model to distribute Elderly & Disabled funds be revised for 2011. Currently, any reduction in total funding for the E&D program is absorbed by the four large authorities in the state and any increase in allocation to other properties is also absorbed for the four large authorities. Between 2009 and 2010 there was a 68.72% decrease in funds given to the four agencies whereas all other properties' allocations were increased 37.17%.

**NEW BUSINESS**

As several board members were unable to attend the meeting, the discussion regarding moving the joint Planning & Development and Operations & Management committee meeting to a different date and time than that of the SORTA board meeting was tabled until the October board meeting.

Mrs. Richardson adjourned the Board meeting at 2:47 p.m.

APPROVED:



Melody Sawyer Richardson  
Chair



Barry E. Frank  
Secretary-Treasurer