



MEETING: COTA BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020
TIME: 8:30 AM
LOCATION: WG PORTER BOARDROOM, 33 N. HIGH STREET

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bartley called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present

Trudy Bartley, Chair
Craig Treneff, Vice Chair
Cathy DeRosa
Steven Gladman
Thomas Grote
Amy Landino
Marlon Moore
Gina Ormond
Michael Stevens
Kumi Walker

Board Members Absent

Jean Carter Ryan
Timothy Skinner

3. APPROVAL OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Gladman motioned to approve the January 22, 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes. Trustee Landino seconded the motion. Motion carries.

4. COMMENTS OR STATEMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Avery Mukherjee, a Columbus resident and long-time COTA customer, inquired about the status of the transit shelter located at the corner E. Broad and S. Third Street. The shelter was removed a few weeks ago and has not been replaced. Avery works for a nonprofit where many of her customers utilize this transit stop.

Andrew Biesterveld, Interim Chief Development Officer, stated that this shelter was not removed, rather it was demolished from a car accident. Due to the transit stop residing on the Statehouse property, the shelter must be custom designed and takes additional time to replace. Andrew stated that they will immediately look at replacing the shelter with a temporary shelter.



5. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Joanna M. Pinkerton, President/CEO, stated that COTA is committed to the economic and social prosperity of our region. Our vision statement of Moving Every Life Forward is a call to action for our team.

The 2019 Annual Report will be released electronically after the conclusion of the Board Meeting to Team COTA, as well as our community. Highlights include COTA having the highest ridership in 31 years, including a 5% increase the ridership of our ADA Mainstream service and AirConnect; the launch of mobile and smart card payment systems; new park and ride locations in suburban communities; the launch of COTA//Plus; and a 93% customer satisfaction rate.

Chair Bartley applauded the team for all of their work in making 2019 such a successful year.

6. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – TRUDY BARTLEY, CHAIR

RESOLUTION 2020-14 – AUTHORIZING NO FARES ON ELECTION DAY, MARCH 17, 2020

Chair Bartley stated that we want to provide our community the ability to get to the polls on Election Day and ensure that mobility is not a barrier to participate in the voting process.

Patrick Harris, AVP of Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, stated that this resolution reflects one of the key themes of COTA's strategic plan: equity. Mobility should not be a barrier to exercise one's right to vote, and this resolution reflects this commitment.

Trustee Landino asked how we plan to inform the public about this. Patrick responded and stated that we will have a social media campaign, traditional media – including a new release, and a communications plan that will begin one week before Election Day.

Trustee Landino motioned to approve Resolution 2020-14 – Authorizing No Fares on Election Day, March 17, 2020. Trustee Ormond seconded the motion. Motion carries.

7. STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT - CRAIG TRENEFF, CHAIR

Vice Chair Treneff stated that his committee met on February 5, 2020. The committee received four presentations: an update on COTA//Plus in Grove City and the COTA//Plus proposal in the City of Westerville. Thea Walsh, Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Development at MORPC, presented the MORPC 2020-2050 MTP: Regional Transportation Priorities. Sophia Mohr, Chief Innovation Officer, gave a presentation on the Waycare Pilot Program where artificial Intelligence is used to combine real-time traffic and camera data with COTA routes to identify critical incidents and reduce traffic delays. Kim Sharp, Senior Development Director, reported out on the Short/Long Range Transit Plans, as well as the Corridor planning and development.

COTA//Plus Westerville Proposal – Andrew Biesterveld & Elliott Doza

Elliott Doza, Service Planning Project Manager, gave a presentation on the COTA//Plus launch in Westerville. The proposed zone is 20 square miles. Through conversations with focus groups and employers in the community, the zone serves the entire City of Westerville. The agreement is a two-year agreement with the City of Westerville where COTA will be capped at \$250,000 each service year. We will be planning on applying for grants to help pay for COTA's contribution. It is planned to launch in June.

Trustee DeRosa asked if any corporate partners plan to contribute to the pilot project. Elliott stated that there are conversations taking place with businesses.

Trustee Moore asked if we know what this service will do to relieve traffic congestion in the area. Elliott responded that while we do not have any data to support that it will relieve congestion at the moment, the focus groups indicated that individuals would be more likely to leave their personal vehicle at home and utilize COTA//Plus.

RESOLUTION 2020-15 - AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR AN ON-DEMAND COTA PLUS PILOT PROJECT WITH THE CITY OF WESTERVILLE

Andrew Biesterveld, Interim Chief Development Officer, stated that staff recommends passage of Resolution 2020-15. This resolution would allow COTA to enter into a funding and service agreement with the City of Westerville for the COTA//Plus pilot.

Trustee Grote motioned to approve Resolution 2020-15 – Authorizing an Agreement for an On-Demand COTA Plus Pilot Project with the City of Westerville. Trustee DeRosa seconded the motion. Motion carries. Vice Chair Treneff abstained from voting on Resolution 2020-15.

8. EXTERNAL/STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT - MARLON MOORE, CHAIR

Trustee Moore stated that the External/Stakeholder Relations Committee met on February 10, 2020. Michael Loges, Senior Economic Development Project Manager, gave a presentation on the Corporate Engagement Strategy for COTA. The committee asked staff to report out on KPIs at the next committee meeting. The committee also heard an update on the Ohio Transit Partnership Program (OTP2) funding. Regionalization has been an important topic for the second round of funding. The committee also received an update on the Rickenbacker Area Mobility Center where COTA is looking at partners to provide wrap-around services for this project.

9. PERFORMANCE MONITORING/AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT - MICHAEL STEVENS, CHAIR

Trustee Stevens stated that the Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee met on February 19, 2020. The committee thoroughly reviewed all of the resolutions on the Consent Agenda. Some updates on our financial figures include. January fixed route ridership increased 6.8% over January 2019. Our 2019 revenue had 9.8% increase over 2018 primarily due to sales tax revenue.

RESOLUTION 2020-16 - AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH NEW FLYER OF AMERICA INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF HEAVY DUTY BATTERY ELECTRIC TRANSIT BUSES

Matt Allison, Chief of Transit Operations, asked for support of Resolution 2020-16. This resolution authorizes COTA to purchase two 40-foot electric buses, which includes charging stations, documentation, and training modules. These two buses would run for one-year as pilot buses to confirm they meet the service requirements, including the 140 mile range capacity on a single charge in all weather conditions. Upon acceptance of the two pilot buses, we will seek approval from the Board of Trustees to purchase an additional eight battery electric transit buses. By this summer, COTA will have 206 CNG buses in our fleet.

Trustee Grote stated that we are coming full circle as a community as we used to have the electric streetcar. Trustee DeRosa asked if customers will experience a difference. Matt stated that it will be a quieter experience.

Trustee Walker asked what are we hoping to learn from the pilot. Matt responded and stated that we are looking to test the range of the vehicle in our service area. We also want to learn more about how to properly train our employees about the technology.

Vice Chair Treneff motioned to approve Resolution 2020-16 – Authorizing a Contract with New Flyer of America Inc. for the Purchase of Heavy Duty Battery Electric Transit Buses. Trustee Gladman seconded the motion. Motion carries.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Gladman motions to approve the following resolutions on the Consent Agenda. Trustee Landino seconds the motion. Motion carries.

- **RESOLUTION 2020-17 - APPROVING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC) FOR COLUMBUS URBANIZED AREA (UZA) FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) FUNDING FROM THE ENHANCED MOBILITY FOR OLDER ADULTS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM**
- **RESOLUTION 2020-18 - AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH GILLIG LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF MISCELLANEOUS PARTS FOR TRANSIT COACHES**
- **RESOLUTION 2020-19 - AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE AFTERMARKET PARTS COMPANY LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF MISCELLANEOUS PARTS FOR TRANSIT COACHES**
- **RESOLUTION 2020-20 - AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH BRC GROUP FOR ACCIDENT DAMAGE REPAIR ON A FORTY-FOOT (40') HEAVY-DUTY TRANSIT BUS**
- **RESOLUTION 2020-21 - AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH CDW GOVERNMENT LLC FOR THE RENEWAL AND CO-TERMINATION OF SMARTNET LICENSES**

- RESOLUTION 2020-22 - AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH CDW GOVERNMENT LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF SERVERS AND LICENSING IN SUPPORT OF COTA'S 2020 CORE INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES
- RESOLUTION 2020-23 - AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH CDW GOVERNMENT LLC FOR IT EQUIPMENT IN SUPPORT OF CONFERENCE ROOM UPGRADES
- RESOLUTION 2020-24 - AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH CDW GOVERNMENT LLC FOR IT EQUIPMENT IN SUPPORT OF VEHICLE CONNECTIVITY UPGRADES
- RESOLUTION 2020-25 - AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH ROBERTSON CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC. FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE REYNOLDSBURG PARK AND RIDE AND THE SPRING STREET TERMINAL
- RESOLUTION 2020-26 - AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH BROOKSIDE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC. FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE FIELDS AVENUE FACILITY (LANDSCAPING PACKAGE)

11. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business before the Board of Trustees.

12. MEETING CALENDAR

- GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – MARCH 20, 2020, 2:00 PM
- BOARD OF TRUSTEES – MARCH 25, 2020, 8:30 AM
- STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE – APRIL 1, 2020, 9:00 AM
- GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – APRIL 10, 2020, 9:00 AM
- EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS COMMITTEE – APRIL 13, 2020, 9:00 AM
- PERFORMANCE MONITORING/AUDIT COMMITTEE – APRIL 15, 2020, 2:00 PM
- BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – APRIL 22, 2020, 8:30 AM

13. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Landino motioned to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Trustees. Vice Chair Treneff seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 AM.



Adopted: April 22, 2020

Signed: 
Trudy Barlow (May 15, 2020 10:45 EDT)
Chair, Board of Trustees

Attest: 
President/CEO

