



Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 9:30 AM

COTA - WG Porter Boardroom, 33 N High St, Columbus OH

1. Call to Order

Chair Trudy Bartley called the March 3, 2026 Strategic and Operational Planning Committee meeting to order at 9:31 am.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Trudy Bartley, Chair

Mallory Donaldson, Trustee

Stephen Sayre, Trustee

Board Member Excused

Jay Deis, Trustee

3. Approval of Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Minutes

A. January 13, 2026 Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Minutes

Trustee Stephen Sayre moved to approve the January 13, 2026 Strategic and Operational Planning Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Mallory Donaldson. Motion carried.

4. New Business

A. Short-Range Transit Plan Update - Sophia Mohr, COTA Chief Technology Officer and Devayani Puranik, COTA Mobility Development Program Director

COTA Mobility Development Program Director Devayani Puranik presented the Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) update, which outlines COTA's five-year strategy to deliver fiscally responsible service improvements aligned with the LinkUS vision and community input. Ms. Puranik said the plan evaluates the current transit system—including fixed routes and COTA//Plus zones—and will recommend new and realigned routes, enhanced service frequency and span, additional on-demand zones, and day-of-week adjustments. She said that her team is using a data-driven process to identify service gaps, assess equitable service distribution, and determine the appropriate modes, vehicle needs, and workforce requirements through 2031. Ms. Puranik noted that process includes market

analysis, standards review, service option development, and broad engagement with riders, communities, stakeholders, and the COTA Board. Final recommendations will incorporate capital and financial planning, with COTA targeting board adoption in July 2026.

B. LinkUS Update - Dorinda McCombs, COTA Chief LinkUS Program Officer

COTA Chief LinkUS Program Officer Dorinda McCombs provided an update on the LinkUS initiative, noting continued advancement of the West Broad, East Main, and Northwest BRT corridors, supported by an expanding Capital Delivery Team and the rollout of the Procore project management system, including 90 percent of the team completed certifications in company administration, project management, quality and safety, and financial management. Ms. McCombs said West Broad corridor is progressing through FTA risk assessments and critical interagency agreements, East Main corridor is nearing 60 percent design and advancing NEPA and engagement efforts, and noted that the East Main project was not recommended for this cycle of Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) funding. The Northwest corridor is completing 30 percent design while preparing for the next phase of procurement.

COTA Chief Financial Officer Earl Jackson reported that the Transit Supportive Infrastructure’s Technical Working Group is meeting to plan upcoming projects for 2027-2031. Devayani Puranik discussed aligning the Short-Range Transit Plan to ensure coordinated, phased implementation of future BRT services.

5. Other Business

No other business was brought before the Committee.

6. Adjournment

Trustee Sayre moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Donaldson. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 am.

Adopted:

May 5, 2026

Signed:

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Trudy Bartley

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Chair, Strategic and Operational Planning Committee

Attest:

Signed by:

Monica Selby-Fowler

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President/CEO