COTA

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Immediately following the 9:00 AM Annual Meeting of the COTA Board of Trustees

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Sean Mentel called the May 27, 2026 regular meeting of the COTA Board of Trustees to order at 9:08 am.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present
Sean Mentel, Chair
Trudy Bartley, Trustee
Erika Clark Jones, Trustee
Jeff Hunley, Trustee
Doug McCollough, Trustee
Marc Pastorek, Trustee
Stephen Sayre, Trustee
Matt Starr, Trustee
Amy Taylor, Trustee
Heather Ulrey, Trustee

Board Members Excused
Pete Bucher, Trustee
Mallory Donaldson, Trustee

3. Approval of Board of Trustee Minutes

A. March 25, 2026 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Trustee Amy Taylor moved to approve the March 25, 2026 Board of Trustees regular meeting minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Trudy Bartley. Motion carried.

B. April 21, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting and Retreat Minutes

Trustee Erika Clark Jones moved to approve the April 21, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting and Retreat minutes, seconded by Trustee Taylor Motion carried.

4. Comments or Statements from the Audience

Walter Hardy cautioned the board about the Dublin Park and Ride sale; he said the new Chief Operating Officer is doing a great job; he noted operational challenges with line ups: With the Spring Street Terminal being closed, he said it is difficult for people to transfer. Mr. Hardy challenged the Board of Trustees to experience transferring buses in the downtown area.

5. President's Report

COTA President Monica Tèllez-Fowler highlighted significant progress on the LinkUS initiative, including expanded transit service hours on 13 lines, increased frequency on eight lines, hiring 81 operators, and advancement of Bus Rapid Transit projects and transit-supportive infrastructure, including a June 15 groundbreaking for a Grove City project that will provide access over Interstate 71. She also outlined upcoming service enhancements, celebrated community partnerships and summer programs such as the Summer Student Pass, recognized operator Willie Davis for placing third nationally in the APTA International Bus Roadeo, welcomed new Trustee Brent Pastorek, and thanked outgoing Trustee Jay Deis for his service.

6. Governance Committee Report - Sean Mentel, Chair

Governance Committee Chair Sean Mentel reported that the committee met May 14, 2026 and heard committee reports, which included four resolutions that are on today's regular agenda, and an additional seven resolutions, which are on today's consent agenda. Proposed changes to the Governance Guidelines and its corresponding resolution were presented, which were approved by the board at today's annual meeting.

7. Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Report - Trudy Bartley, Chair

Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Chair Trudy Bartley reported that the committee met May 5, 2026, which included presentations on the Q1 report of the COTA 360 Scorecard, a LinkUS update, and LinkUS public engagement efforts. Two resolutions were presented, which were recommended for the regular agenda.

COTA LinkUS Quality Management Director Zach Sunderland presented Resolution 2026-35:

A. Resolution 2026-35 Approving Ratings Request Submittal and Reasonable Financial Plan for the Northwest Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project

Trustee Amy Taylor moved to approve Resolution 2026-35, seconded by Trustee Jeff Hunley. Motion carried, with Vice Chair Bartley abstaining.

COTA Chief Financial Officer Earl Jackson presented Resolution 2026-36:

B. Resolution 2026-36 Authorizing the Sale of Dublin Park and Ride

Trustee Doug McCollough moved to approve Resolution 2026-36, seconded by Trustee Taylor. Motion carried, with Trustee Matt Starr abstaining.

8. External Stakeholder Relations Committee Report - Erika Clark Jones, Chair

External Stakeholder Relations Committee Chair Erika Clark Jones reported that the committee met May 5, 2026, which included an overview of COTA's customer strategy plan and a LinkUS public engagement update.

9. Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee Report - Amy Taylor, Chair

Performance Audit/Monitoring Committee Chair Amy Taylor reported the committee met May 7, which included a financial report and operational performance update. The committee heard nine resolutions, two were recommended for the regular agenda and seven for the consent agenda.

COTA Chief Operating Officer Alicia Walker presented Resolution 2026-37:

A. Resolution 2026-37 Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Gillig LLC for the Purchase of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Powered Heavy-Duty Transit Buses, Spare Parts, and Training2026

Vice Chair Bartley moved to approve Resolution 2026-37, seconded by Trustee Heather Ulrey. Motion carried.

COTA Chief Operating Officer Alicia Walker presented Resolution 2026-38:

B. Resolution 2026-38 Authorizing a Contract with New Flyer of America Inc. for the Purchase of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Powered Sixty-Foot (60') Heavy Duty Transit Coaches, Spare Parts, and Training

Trustee Hunley moved to approve Resolution 2026-38, seconded by Trustee Heather Ulrey. Motion carried.

10. Consent Agenda

A. Resolution 2026-39 Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Enterprise Fleet Management for Maintenance and Repair Services for Non-Revenue Vehicles

B. Resolution 2026-40 Authorizing a Contract with WEX Bank for the Purchase of Regular Self-Service Unleaded Gasoline Utilizing Its Fleet Payment Solution and Related Services

C. Resolution 2026-41 Authorizing a Contract with Message Point Media of Alabama for On Screen Digital Displays and Licensing

D. Resolution 2026-42 Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Hive + Co (Formerly Level Di) for Temporary Innovation and Information Technology Personnel Services

E. Resolution 2026-43 Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Insight Global, LLC for Temporary Innovation and Information Technology Personnel Services

F. Resolution 2026-44 Authorizing a Contract with CDW Government Inc. for the Purchase of Two Hundred Ten (210) Employee Computers

G. Resolution 2026-45 Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Medical Mutual, Inc. for the Purchase of Life, Accidental Death and Dismemberment, Short-Term Disability, and Long-Term Disability Insurance

Trustee Clark Jones moved to approve Resolutions 2026-39 through 2026-45, seconded by Trustee Matt Starr. Motion carried with Trustee Doug McCollough abstaining on resolution 2026-42 and Vice Chair Bartley abstaining on resolution 2026-45.

11. Other Business

A. Commendation of Jay Deis

Chair Mentel said he appreciated Jay Deis' service and Vice Chair Bartley noted Mr. Deis raised questions and pushed in Strategic and Operational Planning Committee meetings and said she appreciated his voice.

Resolution 2026-46 Commending Jay Deis

Vice Chair Bartley moved to approve Resolution 2026-46, seconded by Trustee McCollough. Motion carried.

B. Executive Session for the following purpose: ORC 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee

Trustee Hunley moved to enter Executive Session for the purposes described above, seconded by Trustee McCollough. Through roll call, the committee members unanimously voted to enter Executive Session at 10:08 am.

Executive Session ended at 10:18 am.

Resolution 2026-47 Authorizing an Amendment to Extend the Employment Agreement for the President/CEO of the Central Ohio Transit Authority

Trustee Clark Jones moved to approve Resolution 2026-47, seconded by Trustee Ulrey. Motion carried.

12. Meeting Schedule

- Strategic and Operational Planning Committee, 9:30 am, Tuesday, July 7, 2026
- External Stakeholder Relations Committee, 3:30 pm, Tuesday, July 7, 2026
- Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee, 2 pm, Thursday, July 9, 2026
- Governance Committee, 4 pm, Thursday, July 16, 2026
- Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 9 am, Wednesday, July 22, 2026

13. Adjournment

Vice Chair Bartley moved to adjourn the May 27, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting, seconded by Trustee McCollough. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

Adopted: July 22, 2026

Signed: Signed by: 4E0CFE51E8D444D...
Chair, Board of Trustees

Attest: Signed by: Monica Selby-Fowler C680309626B34D2...
President/CEO