COTA

Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee Minutes

Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 2:00 PM

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Amy Taylor called the May 7, 2026 meeting of the Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee to order at 2:02 pm.

2. Roll Call

3. Board Members Present

Amy Taylor, Chair
Jeff Hunley, Trustee
Doug McCollough, Trustee

Board Members Excused

Matt Starr, Trustee

4. Approval of Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee Minutes

A. March 5, 2026 Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee Minutes

Trustee Doug McCollough moved to approve the March 5, 2026 Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Jeff Hunley. Motion carried.

5. Unaudited Financials and Operational Performance

Chief Financial Officer Earl Jackson presented the unaudited financials for the period ending March 31, 2026, reporting that through March 2026, COTA generated $51.4 million in operating revenues (about $2.7 million above budget) while controlling operating expenses to $61.8 million (about $4.9 million below budget), resulting in a net operating position that performed $7.6 million better than budget. Sales tax performance exceeded expectations, totaling $101.2 million year-to-date—five percent favorable to budget and 114.1 percent higher than the same period in 2025. Mr. Jackson highlighted key cost drivers, including higher overtime labor and vehicle maintenance costs tied to an aging fleet, which were partially offset by lower contract and other discretionary spending. COTA remains in a strong financial position with a cash reserve balance of $428.9 million and well-performing investment portfolios. Mr. Jackson noted near-term risks to monitor, which includes the federal funding environment, fuel price impacts on sales tax, and potential tariff effects on materials and vehicle parts.

COTA Deputy CEO Garth Weithman provided the operational performance update through March 2026, which showed a 3.6 percent decrease in Fixed Route ridership while providing 6.1 percent more service hours year-to-date compared to 2025, with contributing factors including winter weather, immigration enforcement activity, construction, and bus availability. On-time performance improved slightly, while the team has been focused on addressing increased incidents and vehicle reliability. Mr. Weithman highlighted the growing adoption of digital fares due to the new tap-to-pay option and campaign, which now makes up 53 percent of fare payments. Mainstream services showed ridership growth, improved drop-off on-time performance following the launch of the Spare platform, and generally strong service reliability despite constrained third-party driver availability. COTA//Plus also experienced ridership growth, particularly concentrated in the South Side zone.

6. New Business

No new business was brought before the committee.

7. Resolutions for Review and Discussion

COTA Chief Operating Officer Alicia Walker presented the following Operations division resolutions, with the Enterprise Fleet Management resolution recommended for the consent agenda, and the Gillig and New Flyer resolutions recommended for the regular agenda:

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

B. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Gillig LLC for the Purchase of Compressed Natural Gas Powered Heavy-Duty Transit Buses, Spare Parts, and Training

C. Resolution 2026-XX 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

COTA Procurement Director Josh Traenkle presented the following Operations division resolution for placement on the consent agenda:

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

COTA Chief Innovation Technology Officer Sophia Mohr presented the following Innovation and Technology division resolutions for placement on the consent agenda:

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

F. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Hive+ Co (Formerly Level Di) for Temporary Innovation and Information

Technology Personnel Services

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

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

COTA Chief Human Resources Officer Nikki Brandon presented the following Human Resources division resolution for placement on the consent agenda:

I. Resolution 2026-XX 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

8. Other Business

No other business was brought before the committee.

9. Adjournment

Trustee Hunley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee McCollough. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.

Adopted: July 9, 2026

Signed:

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Chair, Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee

Attest:

Signed by:

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President/CEO