



Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 immediately following the Board of Trustees Annual Meeting

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Sean Mentel called the May 21, 2025 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
Pete Bucher, Trustee
Erika Clark Jones, Trustee
Jay Deis, Trustee
Mallory Donaldson, Trustee
Jeff Hunley, Trustee
Marc Reitter, Trustee
Stephen Sayre, Trustee
Matt Starr, Trustee

Board Members Excused

Amy Taylor, Trustee
Heather Ulrey, Trustee

3. Approval of Board of Trustee Minutes

A. March 19, 2025 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Trustee Stephen Sayre moved to approve the March 19, 2025 Board of Trustees regular meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Erika Clark Jones. Motion carried.

B. April 14, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting and Retreat Minutes

Trustee Jeff Hunley moved to approve the April 14, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting and Retreat minutes, seconded by Trustee Clark Jones. Motion carried.

4. Comments or Statements from the Audience

Walter Hardy shared concern about the volume of resolutions approved through consent agenda and that a Trustee had a conflict of interest and should have abstained from voting on a resolution at the March 19, 2025 meeting.

5. New Business

A. Commendation of Marlon Moore

Resolution 2025-53 Commending Marlon Moore

Chair Mentel presented the resolution commending Marlon Moore for his seven years of service on the COTA Board of Trustees. Trustee Hunley motioned to approve the resolution commending former Chair Moore, seconded by Trustee Clark Jones. Motion carried.

6. President's Report

COTA President/CEO Monica Téllez-Fowler thanked Marlon Moore for his service and congratulated Chair Mentel and Vice Chair Bartley, thanking them for their guidance and commitment to COTA. She welcomed incoming Trustees Jay Deis, Mallory Donaldson, Stephen Sayre, and Matt Starr. President Téllez-Fowler reported on her trip to Washington D.C., where she, with COTA's Government Affairs team, shared progress made on the LinkUS initiative. A physical copy of the May 2025 LinkUS progress report was provided to each Trustee and noted key accomplishments. She noted that the Board will be asked to approve financial policies changes, which will allow COTA to streamline its processes and provide needed flexibility and improve best practices. President Téllez-Fowler then focused on COTA's efforts to connect with the community by supporting popular events around Columbus, and the continuation of the Summer Student Pass Program.

7. Governance Committee Report - Sean Mentel, Chair

Governance Committee Chair Mentel reported that this committee did not meet this month.

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

Strategic Planning Committee Chair Trudy Bartley reported that this committee met on May 6, 2025 and heard three presentations: COTA Interim Chief Financial Officer Michael DeWees presented LinkUS' impact on COTA's policies in the areas of sales tax allocation, operating and capital reserves, and debt management, as well as challenges with the Federal 5307 Formula Funds and shared a proposed strategy; COTA Chief Engineer Andy Biesterveld presented a LinkUS program update on the corridors and their schedule, third party agreements and downtown convergence work; COTA Chief of Transit Operations Amy Hockman presented a proposed resolution to purchase additional compressed natural gas coaches, spare parts and training.

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

External Stakeholder Relations Committee Chair Erika Clark Jones reported that the committee met on May 8, 2025, and heard three presentations: COTA Local Government Affairs Director Kelsey Ellingsen provided an update on local government engagement activities; COTA Marketing and Engagement Director Sarah McQuaide presented COTA's ridership marketing plan, which has the goal to increase ridership by 10 percent through helping new customers ride with confidence, community engagement, and promoting service enhancement; COTA Public and Media Relations Director Jeff Pullin presented the LinkUS Communications and Engagement Update, reporting on LinkUS milestones.

10. Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee Report - Marc Reitter, Chair

Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee (PMAC) Chair Marc Reitter reported that the committee met on May 8, 2025, where COTA Interim Chief Financial Officer Michael DeWees provided the financial update through March 31, 2025 that included COTA's operating revenue and operating expenses, cash balance, operating fund balance, capital fund balance, and ridership. Seventeen resolutions were presented to the committee for discussion, with three recommended for the regular agenda and 14 resolutions recommended for the consent agenda. Also, at PMAC, Mr. DeWees presented LinkUS' impact on COTA's financial policies and Federal 5307 Formula Funding, which he also presented at the May 21, 2025 Board Meeting.

A. Policy Updates - Michael DeWees, Interim Chief Financial Officer

Mr. DeWees shared with the Trustees that COTA's policies, in the areas of sales tax allocation, operating and capital reserves, and debt management need to be more flexible and transparent, and best practices need to be refined. Mr. DeWees presented resolutions 2025-54, 2025-55, and 2025-56, which address those issues.

1. Resolution 2025-54 Authorizing an Amendment to COTA's General Operating Fund Balance and Liquidity Policy

Trustee Clark Jones moved to approve Resolution 2025-54, seconded by Trustee Marc Reitter. Motion carried.

2. Resolution 2025-55 Authorizing an Amendment to COTA's Capital Planning Document

Trustee Jay Deis moved to approve Resolution 2025-55, seconded by Vice Chair Trudy Bartley. Motion carried.

3. Resolution 2025-56 Authorizing an Amendment to COTA's Debt Management Policy

Trustee Hunley moved to approve Resolution 2025-56, seconded by Trustee Reitter. Motion carried.

11. Other Business

No other business was brought before the Board.

12. Consent Agenda

A. Resolution 2025-57 Authorizing a Discount Fare Structure with the City Year Columbus Program

B. Resolution 2025-58 Authorizing a Contract with AECOM Technical Services,

Inc. for Transit-Oriented Development Planning Advisory Services

- C. Resolution 2025-59 Authorizing a Contract with Newcomer Concrete Services, Inc. for the Pavement Reconstruction Services at the McKinley Avenue Facility
- D. Resolution 2025-60 Authorizing a Contract with Johnson Controls, Inc. for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Detection Monitoring Services
- E. Resolution 2025-61 Authorizing a Contract with Cushman and Wakefield U.S., Inc. for Real Estate, Transit-Oriented Development, and FTA Joint Development Advisory Services
- F. Resolution 2025-62 Authorizing a Contract with CNG Services, LLC for a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fueling System Services Contractor for COTA Facilities
- G. Resolution 2025-63 Authorizing a Contract with Gillig LLC for the Purchase of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Powered Heavy Duty Transit Coaches, Spare Parts, And Training
- H. Resolution 2025-64 Authorizing a Contract Renewal with 9280-0366 Quebec, Inc. (dba Transit App) for the Purchase of Transit Royale and Features in Support of COTA's Fare Management System
- I. Resolution 2025-65 Authorizing a Contract with Charter Communications Operating, LLC (Spectrum Enterprise) for Internet and Network Services
- J. Resolution 2025-66 Authorizing a Contract with NEORIDE for an Integrated Mobility Platform for the COTA//Plus On-Demand Service Provided by Via Transportation, Inc.
- K. Resolution 2025-67 Authorizing a Contract with T-Mobile USA, Inc. for Cellular and Customer Wi-Fi Services
- L. Resolution 2025-68 Authorizing a Contract with Genfare for the Renewal of SaaS Services for Genfare Link Modules for 2025-2026
- M. Resolution 2025-69 Authorizing a Contract with Nelson Nygaard Consulting Associates Inc. for a Short-Range Transit Plan
- N. Resolution 2025-70 Authorizing a Contract with Hexagon's Asset Lifecycle Intelligence, a Division of Intergraph Corporation, for SaaS Services for EAM Enterprise Edition Modules for 2025-2026

Vice Chair Trudy Bartley moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by

Trustee Reitter. Motion carried, with Trustee Deis abstaining on Resolution 2025-63.

13. 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 Clark Jones moved to enter Executive Session for the purposes described above, seconded by Trustee Hunley. Through roll call, the board unanimously voted to enter Executive Session at 9:41 am.

Executive Session ended at 10:03 am.

14. Meeting Schedule

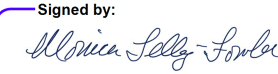
- Strategic and Operational Planning Committee - 10 am, Tuesday, July 8, 2025
- External Stakeholder Relations Committee - 3 pm, Tuesday, July 8, 2025
- Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee - 2 pm, Thursday, July 10, 2025
- Governance Committee - 4 pm, Thursday, July 17, 2025
- Board of Trustees Regular Meeting - 9 am, Wednesday, July 23, 2025

15. Adjournment

Trustee Hunley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Mallory Donaldson. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.

Adopted: _____ July 23, 2025

Signed:  _____
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Chair, Board of Trustees

Attest:  _____
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President/CEO