



Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 9:00 AM

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Sean Mentel called the November 12, 2025 regular meeting of the COTA Board of Trustees to order at 9 am.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present	Board Member Excused
Sean Mentel, Chair	Amy Taylor, Trustee
Trudy Bartley, Vice Chair (9:12 am)	Heather Ulrey, Trustee
Pete Bucher, Trustee	
Erika Clark Jones, Trustee (9:03 am)	
Jay Deis, Trustee	
Mallory Donaldson, Trustee	
Jeff Hunley, Trustee	
Doug McCollough, Trustee	
Marc Reitter, Trustee	
Stephen Sayre, Trustee	
Matt Starr, Trustee	

3. Approval of Board of Trustee Minutes

A. September 24, 2025 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Trustee Pete Bucher moved to approve the September 24, 2025 Board of Trustees regular meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Mallory Donaldson. Motion carried.

4. Comments or Statements from the Audience

There were no comments or statements from the audience.

5. President's Report

Deputy CEO Garth Weithman presented the President's Report in Monica Téllez-Fowler's absence, thanking the Board of Trustees for their guidance and leadership through COTA's annual budget process, noting approval from the Board will be sought in December. Mr. Weithman reported that the federal government shutdown has not impacted COTA's day-to-day operations--since transportation is deemed essential--

and that COTA has been working with the City of Columbus to help connect impacted people to resources. He shared that on December 1 COTA is set to launch a new option for riders to pay their fares using a credit or debit card, or using Apple, Google, or Samsung Pay, making riding more convenient for all customers, especially visitors or riders trying COTA's system for the first time.

6. Governance Committee Report - Sean Mentel, Chair

Governance Committee Chair Sean Mentel reported that this committee met on November 6, 2025, where they heard committee reports and the committee reviewed the resolutions that are on today's consent agenda.

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

In Chair Trudy Bartley's absence at the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee meeting, COTA Board of Trustees Chair Sean Mentel chaired the meeting and presented the report from the meeting held November 5, 2025, which included presentations on the 2026 budget recommendations; vehicle maintenance assessment by EFESO Management Consultants; a LinkUS update, and the draft 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.

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

External Stakeholder Relations Committee Chair Erika Clark Jones presented the report from the committee's meeting held on November 5, 2025, which included presentations on COTA's annual Customer Satisfaction Survey results; an update on LinkUS communications and engagement work, and the draft 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.

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

Performance Audit/Monitoring Committee Chair Marc Reitter presented the report from the Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee meeting held on November 6, 2025, which included presentations on an operational performance update; 2026 budget recommendations, and the draft 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. The committee heard six resolutions that were recommended for the consent agenda.

10. Consent Agenda

- A. Resolution 2025-135 Authorizing a Contract with Trihydro Corporation for Environmental Consulting Services
- B. Resolution 2025-136 Authorizing a Contract with Cushman & Wakefield U.S., Inc. or Property Management and Maintenance Services
- C. Resolution 2025-137 Authorizing the Filing of Applications with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for Columbus Urbanized Area

Federal Transit Administration Funding from the Enhanced Mobility for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities Program

- D. Resolution 2025-138 Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with EFESO Management Consultants, Inc. for a Vehicle Maintenance Operational Assessment and Implementation
- E. Resolution 2025-139 Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Inovium LLC to Implement Workforce Management and Support INFOR Cloudsuite
- F. Resolution 2025-140 Authorizing a Contract with IP Pathways, LLC for Innovation and Technology Temporary Personnel Services

Trustee Jeff Hunley moved to approve Resolutions 2025-135 through 2025-140, seconded by Trustee Erika Clark Jones. Motion carried.

11. Other Business

No other business was brought before the Board of Trustees.

12. Meeting Schedule

- External Stakeholder Relations Committee, 3:30 pm, Tuesday, December 2, 2025
- Strategic and Operational Planning Committee, 11 am, Wednesday, December 3, 2025
- Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee, 2 pm, Thursday, December 4, 2025
- Governance Committee, 3 pm, Thursday, December 4, 2025
- Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 9 am Wednesday, December 10, 2025

13. Adjournment

Trustee Hunley moved to adjourn the November 12, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting, seconded by Trustee Clark Jones. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:16 am.

Adopted: _____ December 10, 2025 _____

Signed: _____ 
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Chair, Board of Trustees

Attest: _____ 
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President/CEO