

**METRO RTA
BOARD MINUTES
ROBERT K. PFAFF TRANSIT CENTER BOARD ROOM
TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2021
9:00 A.M.**

Trustees Present: Robert DeJournett, Gary Spring, Chuck Rector, David Prentice, Renee Greene, Mark Derrig, Vincent Rubino, Donald Christian, David Prentice, Heather Heslop Licata, Bob Konstand

Trustees Absent: Nick Fernandez, Rupa Gurung

METRO Team

Members Present: Dawn Distler, Angela Neeley, Valerie Shea, Jarrod Hampshire, DeHavilland McCall, Jay Hunter, Shawn Metcalf, Bambi Miller, Claire Merrick

Guests Present: Helen Carroll, Cynthia Detro (via teleconference)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. DeJournett called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

RECOGNITION

Ms. McCall recognized the following operators via PowerPoint presentation for their safe driving achievements:

- Tony Barbitta, 20 years safe driving
- James Bowman, 20 years safe driving
- Dana Emerick, 25 years safe driving
- Sandra Guess, 20 years safe driving
- Harvey Haines, 20 years safe driving
- Sue LaPointe, 25 years safe driving
- Michael Lawrence, 25 years safe driving
- Bill Leonardi, 30 years safe driving
- Stephen Schrauf, 25 years safe driving
- Judith Witherspoon, 20 years safe driving
- Thomas Shelton, 30 years safe driving

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. DeJournett asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2021 meeting. Mr. Rector made a motion for approval, second by Ms. Greene. The minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & RESOLUTIONS

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & SERVICE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Mark Derrig

Mr. Derrig reported the Committee met on Wednesday, June 16. The Committee reviewed all KPIs and no issues were reported.

ASSET PROTECTION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Chuck Rector

Mr. Rector reviewed the Committee's KPIs. The three officers who responded to the shooting incident at RKP will be recognized before the Board at the July meeting. Mr. Rector welcomed Reuben Woodruff to the Transit Police force. Ms. Distler swore in Reuben Woodruff.

PLANNING / MARKETING / RAIL COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Donald Christian

Mr. Christian asked Ms. Shea and Ms. Merrick to provide their respective reports to the full Board. Ms. Shea gave the Planning report and shared that METRO was awarded a federal grant to purchase two additional electric buses. Ms. Merrick provided the Marketing update to the full Board. For Rail, Ms. Shea said METRO continues to work with [Summit] County and other municipalities to come up with a recommendation regarding the Akron Secondary Line to bring to the full Board.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Nicholas Fernandez

Ms. Licata gave the Committee report on behalf of Mr. Fernandez. The Committee reviewed the KPIs and were provided with an audit update. There were no action items or resolutions. Ms. Neeley said she will provide the Board with an update by the end of the week.

Ms. Licata commended Ms. Neeley on the audit.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Gary Spring

Mr. Spring reported the Committee met last week (June 23) and have items to discuss in Executive Session. Mr. Spring questioned if someone should be brought in to swear in Board Members, as they are required to take an oath of office at the beginning of their term; the Board concurred.

CHAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Mark Derrig

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

OFFICERS' REPORT

President: Mr. DeJournett reported all Board and Board Committee meetings will be held in-person moving forward. The virtual option will remain available for viewing only; however, Board members who are not present in-person cannot take action or make any remarks.

Mr. DeJournett welcomed Mr. Konstand to the Board. Mr. Konstand said he has served on the Akron-Canton Airport Board since 2008, now as president, and has been practicing law for 44 years. Mr. Konstand said he is looking forward to serving on the Board and helping the organization.

Chief Executive Officer: Ms. Distler welcomed the Board “back” in-person. Facial coverings are still required under TSA guidelines, which state masks must be worn in transit facilities, such as buses and buildings. The virtual option will continue to be offered; however, Board Members who are not in-person are not permitted to comment, vote, or take any official action. METRO plans to continue offering a virtual option in order to remain transparent to the community we serve. Ms. Distler said she received a call from Senator Sherrod Brown to congratulate [METRO] for receiving the FTA’s Low and No Emission Vehicle Grant for over \$600,000 to purchase two additional electric buses. METRO was the only transit system in Ohio to receive the grant. METRO has procured the first two Gillig electric vehicles and these are schedule to arrive in December. The additional two vehicles procured with this new funding will arrive sometime next year, depending on the procurement process. Ms. Distler excitedly reported that METRO is providing regular Sunday bus service on July 4 and regular Monday bus service on July 5. Ms. Distler reported passengers are pleased to have holiday service. METRO continues to look at different ways to grow bus service and better serve the community.

Mr. Christian asked if team members who are scheduled to work on the holiday will receive extra compensation. Ms. Distler said, per the union contracts, team members meeting the requirements in the CBA will receive holiday pay for the day and time and a half for their time worked on Monday, July 5, the state-observed holiday.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. DeJournett asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending or imminent legal action. Motion made by Mr. Spring. Roll wall was conducted, and Mr. DeJournett invited METRO CEO (Ms. Distler) and attorney Helen Carroll to join the session.

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:28 a.m.

Mr. DeJournett asked for a motion to exit Executive Session. Motion by Mr. Derrig. Roll call was conducted. The Board exited Executive Session at 11:25 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Christian made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Derrig. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to Section III, Article 3.2 of the Rules & Regulations of the METRO Regional Transit Authority, METRO has complied with the Notice and Notification to the public and news media.

DATE APPROVED: June 29, 2021

**ROBERT E. DEJOURNETT,
PRESIDENT**

**DAWN S. DISTLER,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
SECRETARY-TREASURER**