METRO RTA

Board Of Trustees

PRESIDENT: MR. MARK DERRIG
VICE PRESIDENT: MS. DANA LAGARDE

JULY 28, 2026
9:00AM

METRO RTA
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING AGENDA
ROBERT K. PFAFF TRANSIT CENTER BOARD ROOM
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026
9:00 AM

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

ITEM 2: AUDIENCE PARTICPATION

The METRO RTA Board meets monthly, on the last Tuesday of the month, as stated within Resolution 2016-28, unless otherwise noted. Any individual or representative of a group may take three (3) minutes to address the Board on any given topic on the Board agenda. Individuals are required to appear in person and sign in at least five (5) minutes before the Board meeting begins.

METRO RTA welcomes, values and appreciates the varied opinions and comments from members of the public. To ensure that the meetings are respectful, peaceful and orderly, speakers are reminded to keep their comments respectful and appropriate for METRO RTA business. No personal attacks will be permitted.
The President has the authority to rule remarks out of order and remove individuals from the meeting.

ITEM 3: RECOGNITION | DeHavilland McCall

- Sonja Kyser, 20 Years of Safe Driving
- David Faith, 20 Years of Safe Driving

ITEM 4: BOARD MINUTES

*Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from the June meeting (Pages 5-9).

ITEM 5: COMMITTEE REPORTS & RESOLUTIONS

Customer Experience & Service Performance Committee
(Maintenance / Operations / Mobility Solutions)
Chair: John Valle
Vice Chair: Christine Marshall

*Resolution 2026-19: A resolution authorizing the award of a contract for Procurement and Installation of four (4) CNG Dispensers for METRO's fueling station. (Page 10)

*Resolution 2026-20: A resolution authorizing the award of a contract for the purchase of Twenty (20), 40 ft. CNG buses from Gillig, LLC. (Page 11)

Internal & External Engagement Committee
(Employee Engagement Center / Customer Care / PR & Marketing)
Chair: Chuck Rector
Vice Chair: Dana LaGarde

Culture & Planning Committee
(Planning & Community Impact)
Chair: Robert DeJournett
Vice Chair Dave Prentice

*Resolution 2026-21: A resolution authorizing the award of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) services contract. (Page 12)

*Resolution 2026-22: A resolution authorizing the award of a contract to provide bus shelters and solar lighting systems. (Page 13)

Finance & Technology Committee
(Finance & Technology)
Vice Chair Nicole Squire reporting on behalf of Chair Bob Konstand

*Resolution 2026-18: A resolution authorizing the final payment of $6,725,000 to fully satisfy the $12,725,000 debt owed to the Federal Transit Administration for the Akron Secondary, Freedom Secondary and Sandyville rail corridors. (Page 14)

Development & Protection Committee
(Safety & Training)
Vice Chair Dana LaGarde reporting on behalf of Chair Renee Greene

Governance Committee
(Policy & Procedures)
Chair: Donald Christian
Vice Chair: Gary Spring

ITEM 6: OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 7: OFFICER'S REPORTS

- Board President
- Chief Executive Officer

ITEM 8: <u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>

- Pursuant to Ohio Revised Coded Section 121.22(G)(1) Public meeting Exceptions allow for an Executive Session to consider the employment and compensation of public employee(s) or official(s).

ITEM 9: <u>CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT</u>

*Denotes items requiring Board approval

Next Scheduled Meeting – August 25th, 2026

METRO RTA
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ROBERT K. PFAFF TRANSIT CENTER BOARD ROOM
TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2026
9:00 AM

DRAFT

Trustees' Present: Mark Derrig, Dana LaGarde, Renee Greene, Christine Marshall, Donald Christian, Gary Spring, Dave Prentice, Robert DeJournett, Nicole Squire and Bob Konstand

Trustees Excused: John Valle & Chuck Rector

Trustees Absent:

Roetzel & Andress: Lauren Zidones

METRO Team Members Present: Dawn Distler, Angie Neeley, Tatia Harris, Gert Wilms, Jay Hunter, Jarrod Hampshire, Eric Scott, Shawn Metcalf, Quentin Wyatt, Jamie Saylor, DeHavilland McCall, Zach Smith, Molly Becker, Laura Adkins, Melissa Barna, Grace Doyle, Alja Austin, Lane Evans, Brynn Overly-Nguyen and Leslie Rashid

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mark Derrig called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

RECOGNITION:

Amanda Bell: Paratransit Dispatcher

MAY BOARD MINUTES:

Mr. Robert DeJournett made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 26th meeting.

Ms. Dana LaGarde 2nd the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

JUNE SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES:

Ms. Reene Greene made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 8th meeting.

Ms. Christine Marshall 2nd the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & RESOLUTIONS

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & SERVICE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
Vice Chair Christine Marshall reporting on behalf of Chair John Valle

The Committee met on June 18th and KPIs were reviewed.

There were two resolutions.

RESOLUTION 2026-16:

A resolution authorizing the disposal or transfer of certain assets owned by METRO Regional Transit Authority.

The resolution was discussed.

Ms. Christine Marshall made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Dave Prentice 2nd the motion.
All present voted "aye". The resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION 2026-17:

A resolution authorizing a contract between the Downtown Akron Partnership (DAP) and METRO for the cleaning, provision of safety patrols, and other services along Main Street and the Robert K. Pfaff (RKP) Transit Center.

The resolution was discussed.

Ms. Christine Marshall made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Gary Spring 2nd the motion.
All present voted "aye". The resolution was approved.

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
Vice Chair Dana LaGarde reporting on behalf of Chair Chuck Rector

The Committee met on June 18th and KPIs were reviewed.

There were no resolutions.

CULTURE & PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT
Chair: Robert DeJournett
Vice Chair: Dave Prentice

The Committee met on June 18th and KPI's were reviewed.

There were no resolutions.

FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT
Chair: Bob Konstand
Vice Chair: Nicole Squire

The Committee met on June 18th and the dashboard was reviewed.

There were no resolutions.

PROTECTION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
Vice Chair Dana LaGarde reporting on behalf of Chair Renee Greene

The Committee met on June 18th and KPIs were reviewed.

There were no resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Board President:

There was no report at this time.

Chief Executive Officer:

Ms. Dawn Distler welcomed and thanked Dominic Caruso of the Downtown Akron Partnership for attending the meeting and acknowledged the successful partnership between METRO and Downtown Akron Partnership.

Ms. Distler recognized Ms. Lauren Zidones for her service to the Board, thanked her for her contributions, and wished her well in her new position with FirstEnergy. Ms. Karen Adinolfi of Roetzel and Andress was introduced as Ms. Zidones replacement, and Ms. Distler expressed appreciation for her support.

Ms. Distler provided an update on labor negotiations, stating that discussions continue to be guided by the Board's acceptance of the Fact Finder's recommendations. METRO remains committed to good-faith bargaining, has continued to request negotiation dates, and a bargaining session has been scheduled following the union's recent availability. She noted that METRO remains focused on factual information, established procedures, and transparent communication with the Board, while working toward a fair and timely resolution. She also acknowledged that the union's strike authorization vote was taking place June 30, until 7:00 pm and expressed hope for a resolution.

Mr. Gary Spring inquired about the opportunity for operators to take restroom breaks. Ms. Distler explained that operators have opportunities to take restroom breaks throughout their shifts. On average, every eight-hour shift includes more than 90 minutes of scheduled recovery (layover) time, with approximately 55 minutes occurring at the Robert K. Pfaff Transit Center, where employee restroom facilities are available.

Mr. Bob Konstand asked for clarification of the recovery time. Ms. Distler provided additional explanation of operator recovery time, noting that recovery time (formerly referred to as layover time) is built into each operator's schedule and provides time away from driving while remaining on the clock. She also explained that operators working along routes have access to a contractually maintained list of approved restroom locations at local businesses.

Mr. Robert Dejournett asked for more clarity as to why METRO doesn't celebrate Juneteenth as a holiday. Ms. Distler explained that holiday benefits for represented employees are established through collective bargaining agreements, while administrative employees do not have designated holidays and instead receive PTO that may be used at their discretion. She noted that Juneteenth was discussed during prior labor negotiations and was included in a proposal that was not accepted. She emphasized that the organization is not opposed to recognizing Juneteenth as is committed to equitable treatment of employees and the community while providing transit service 365 days a year.

Mr. DeJournett also discussed METRO's participation in community events. Ms. Molly Becker explained that buses may be provided for parades, outreach activities, voter registration events, and other community programs based on operational availability and the specific request of the event organizer. Regarding the Juneteenth event hosted by the Urban League/NAACP, she stated that a wrapped bus was provided as a static display and voter-registration backdrop, but no extra operators were available to remain on site; therefore, the bus was not opened to the public. Staff indicated that follow-up communication had occurred with the event organizer and that procedures for future static-display events would be reviewed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Coded Section 121.22(G)(1) Public meeting exceptions allow for an Executive Session to consider the employment and compensation of public employee(s) or official(s).

A roll call was conducted to enter Executive Session.

Ms. Dana LaGarde made a motion to come out of the Executive Session. Mr. Robert DeJournett 2nd the motion.

A roll call was conducted to exit Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Donald Christian made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 am.

The next Board Meeting scheduled is July 28th, 2026.

DRAFT

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: July 28, 2026

____
MARK DERRIG,
PRESIDENT

____
DAWN DISTLER,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
SECRETARY-TREASURER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:
CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-19

A resolution authorizing the award of a contract for Procurement and Installation of four (4) CNG Dispensers for METRO's fueling station.

WHEREAS, advertisements for proposals were twice duly advertised on May 14th and May 21st in the Akron Beacon Journal, as well as the procurement page on yourmetrobus.org, and opengov.com; and

WHEREAS, proposals were received June 25th, 2026, and evaluated by a committee of METRO team members; and

WHEREAS, the following firm provided a proposal:

Trillium Transportation Fuels, LLC – $527,430.16; and

WHEREAS, METRO will fund $440,000 of the value of this contract utilizing the Ohio Transit Preservation Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, METRO recommends Trillium Transportation Fuels, LLC as having the best overall proposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of METRO Regional Transit Authority that:

1. The Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer is authorized to execute a contract with Trillium Transportation Fuels, LLC for Procurement and Installation of four (4) CNG Dispensers in an amount not to exceed $527,430.16.

2. The Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer is authorized up to a 5% contingency should change orders be necessary.

3. All formal actions of this Board of Trustees related to this Resolution and all deliberations of the Board of Trustees and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

DATE ADOPTED: July 28th, 2026

MARK DERRIG, **PRESIDENT**	**DAWN DISTLER,** **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/** **SECRETARY-TREASURER**

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:
CUSTOMER SERVICE AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-20

A resolution authorizing the award of a contract for the purchase of Twenty (20), 40ft. CNG buses from Gillig, LLC.

WHEREAS, based on the manufacturers' current lead time for vehicle delivery, our 2027 bus order is now due; and

WHEREAS the Transit Improvement Program as well as METRO's Transit Asset Management Plan calls for Twenty (20) existing Compressed Natural Gas-powered buses that have reached the end of their useful lives to be replaced in 2027; and

WHEREAS, NEORIDE maintains a Purchasing Program that METRO can participate in; and

WHEREAS, through NEORIDE 2025-RFP-01, METRO can purchase buses from Gillig LLC out of Livermore, CA; and

WHEREAS, METRO has funding allocated from the Federal Transit Agency for the purchase of these buses, covering up to 80% of the purchase price.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of METRO Regional Transit Authority that:

1. The Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer is hereby authorized to execute said contract.

2. The Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer is hereby authorized to purchase up to Twenty (20) Compressed Natural Gas buses not to exceed $19,029,800.00.

3. The Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer is authorized to have up to a 3% contingency should changes to the order be necessary.

4. All formal actions of this Board of Trustees related to this Resolution and all deliberations of the Board of Trustees and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

DATE ADOPTED: July 28th, 2026

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

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:
CULTURE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-21

A resolution authorizing the award of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) services contract.

WHEREAS, METRO RTA will be undertaking a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) study to evaluate potential Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors across Summit County. This study will be a critical next step in advancing METRO's long-term vision of building a more connected and efficient transit network; and

WHEREAS, the LPA will identify where BRT investments will have the greatest impact in improving travel times, reliability, and access to opportunities for riders; and

WHEREAS, legal notices were advertised February 26,2026, and March 5, 2026, in the Akron Beacon Journal; and

WHEREAS, proposals were due on April 9, 2026, with the formal following proposals received:

- AECOM
- Kimley-Horn; and

WHEREAS, the Evaluation Committee reviewed the proposals, conducted interviews and is recommending that AECOM be awarded the contract for the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) services contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of METRO Regional Transit Authority that:

1. The Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer is hereby authorized to execute the contract with AECOM in the amount not to exceed $978,615.00.

2. All formal actions of this Board of Trustees related to this Resolution and all deliberations of the Board of Trustees and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

DATE ADOPTED: July 28, 2026

MARK DERRIG,
PRESIDENT

DAWN DISTLER,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
SECRETARY-TREASURER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:
CULTURE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-22

A resolution authorizing the award of a contract to provide bus shelters and solar lighting systems.

WHEREAS, METRO is seeking to provide bus shelters and related amenities such as anti-vagrancy benches and solar powered lighting systems to enhance rider safety, comfort and sustainability across the transit network; and

WHEREAS, Legal notices were advertised April 30, 2026, and May 7, 2026, in the Akron Beacon Journal; and

WHEREAS, proposals were due June 11, 2026, with the following proposals received:

- SELS USA, LLC
- Tolar Manufacturing
- Brasco International
- LNI Custom Manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, the Evaluation Committee reviewed the proposals and is recommending that Brasco International be awarded the contract for bus shelters and solar lighting systems; and

WHEREAS, METRO was awarded a grant in the amount of $66,400.00 towards bus shelters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of METRO Regional Transit Authority that:

1. The Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer is hereby authorized to execute the contract with Brasco in the amount not to exceed $110,000.00.

2. All formal actions of this Board of Trustees related to this Resolution and all deliberations of the Board of Trustees and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

DATE ADOPTED: July 28, 2026

MARK DERRIG, **PRESIDENT**	**DAWN DISTLER,** **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/** **SECRETARY-TREASURER**

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:
FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-18

A resolution authorizing the final payment of $6,725,000 to fully satisfy the $12,725,000 debt owed to the Federal Transit Administration for the Akron Secondary, Freedom Secondary and Sandyville rail corridors.

WHEREAS, METRO RTA received a 100% federally funded grant for the purchase of the Akron Secondary, Freedom Secondary and Sandyville rail corridors in the mid 1990's from the Federal Transit Administration; and

WHEREAS, METRO RTA has no current or future transit plans for the Akron Secondary, Freedom Secondary and Sandyville rail corridors; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration, on August 26, 2025, and June 9, 2026, demanded debt repayment for the Akron Secondary, Freedom Secondary and Sandyville rail corridors; and

WHEREAS, METRO RTA will continue to work with interested parties on transferring ownership of the Akron Secondary, Freedom Secondary and Sandyville rail corridors.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the METRO Regional Transit Authority that:

1. The final debt payment of $6,725,000 shall be made to the Federal Transit Administration on or before August 31, 2026. This payment combined with the December 2025 payment of $6,000,000 will satisfy the full debt of $12,725,000 owed to the Federal Transit Administration.

2. METRO RTA shall prepare to transfer ownership of the Akron Secondary, Freedom Secondary and Sandyville rail corridors.

3. All formal actions of this Board of Trustees related to this Resolution and all deliberations of the Board of Trustees and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

DATE ADOPTED: July 28, 2026

MARK DERRIG, **PRESIDENT**	**DAWN DISTLER,** **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/** **SECRETARY-TREASURER**