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

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.

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