

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

**Trustees' Present:** Mark Derrig, Dana LaGarde, John Valle, Christine Marshall  
Donald Christian, Gary Spring, Dave Prentice, Chuck Rector,  
Robert DeJournett, and Bob Konstand

**Trustees Excused:** Nicole Squire and Renee Greene

**Trustees Absent:**

**Roetzel & Address:** Lauren Zidones

**METRO Team**

**Members Present:** Dawn Distler, Tatia Harris, Gert Wilms, Jarrod Hampshire,  
Jay Hunter, Eric Scott, Shawn Metcalf, Quentin Wyatt,  
Jamie Saylor, DeHavilland McCall, Jessie Dent, Molly Becker,  
Laura Adkins, Shannon Moore, Grace Doyle, Kyle Moeglin,  
Jessie Dent, Bryn Overly-Nguyen, Lane Evans, and  
Leslie Rashid

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

**RECOGNITION:**

Kayto Floyd, 25 years of safe driving  
Leslie Rashid, graduate of Leadership Akron, Diversity of Board

**BOARD MINUTES:**

Mr. Donald Christian made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.  
Ms. Dana LaGarde 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 April 16<sup>th</sup> and KPIs were reviewed.

There was one resolution.

**RESOLUTION 2026-12:**

A resolution authorizing the award of a contract for the purchase of Computer Aided Dispatch Software and Equipment to Swiftly Incorporated.

The resolution was discussed.

Ms. Christine Marshall made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Robert DeJournett 2nd the motion. All present voted “aye”. The resolution was approved.

**INTERNAL & EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair: Chuck Rector

Vice Chair: Dana LaGarde

The Committee met on April 16<sup>th</sup> and KPIs were reviewed.

There were two resolutions.

**RESOLUTION 2026-10:**

A resolution authorizing the amendment of the Drug and Alcohol Policy and Procedures.

The resolution was discussed.

Mr. John Valle made a motion to amend and approve the resolution. Mr. Donald Christian 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All present voted “aye”. The resolution was approved.

**RESOLUTION 2026-11:**

A resolution authorizing an update to the METRO Advertising Policy and Regulations regarding third parties leasing advertising space on METRO buses and properties.

The resolution was discussed.

Mr. Chuck Rector made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Donald Christian 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All present voted “aye”.

The resolution was approved.

**CULTURE & PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair: Robert DeJournett

Vice Chair: Dave Prentice

The Committee met on April 16<sup>th</sup> and KPI’s were reviewed.

There was one resolution.

## **RESOLUTION 2026-09:**

A resolution authorizing the filing of application with the Federal Transit Administration and the Ohio Department of Transportation for SFY2027 transportation assistance grants. These grants may include but are not limited to the Urban Transit Grant, the Ohio Transportation Partnership Program, Bus and Bus Facilities and Low or No Emissions Programs.

The resolution was discussed.

Mr. Robert DeJournett made a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Christine Marshall 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All present voted “aye”.

The resolution was approved.

## **FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair: Bob Konstand

Vice Chair: Nicole Squire

The Committee met on April 16<sup>th</sup> and the dashboard was reviewed.

There were no resolutions.

## **PROTECTION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair: Renee Greene

Vice Chair: Dana LaGarde

The Committee met on April 16<sup>th</sup> and KPIs were reviewed.

There were no resolutions.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Gert Wilms provided a rail update and a letter to the FTA requesting repayment and approval to deduct related expenses (legal, brokerage, etc.) but has not yet received a response. The FTA has classified the issue as a debt, giving some flexibility, though state law still applies.

METRO is working with local government partners to transfer rail corridors, especially the Freedom and Akron lines, while aiming to keep each corridor intact. The Sandyville line is more complicated due to active rail status and limited partner interest and may require a public bid.

METRO has already paid \$6 million and is trying to recover costs, at this impacts funding for other major projects. Any final sale or agreement will require board approval, and discussions are ongoing,

## OFFICERS' REPORTS

### Board President:

Mr. Mark Derrig reminded the board members to keep in mind, that if anything comes out of the factfinder, they will have limited time to respond. While there's no clear timeline, it appears we are getting closer, so it's important to be prepared.

### Chief Executive Officer:

Ms. Dawn Distler noted, no fact-finder report has been received to date; meetings with legal counsel are being scheduled, and no further action can be taken until the report is issued. She provided updates on national involvement with APTA, including the appointment of Mr. Robert DeJournett to the Executive Committee, Chief Metcalf as Secretary of the Safety and Security Committee and Mr. Jarrod Hampshire as Secretary of the Bus Operations Committee.

Ms. Distler also reported on recent legislative meetings in Washington, D.C., where they partnered with regional transit agencies and met with elected officials to discuss transit funding and policy challenges, including NEPA requirements, bus spare ratio limits, and restrictions impacting collaboration like NeoRide. Discussions with legislators were positive, with potential opportunities to support future legislation.

Ridership continues to increase, partly due to economic conditions, and future service models like bus rapid transit may require more flexibility in fleet management.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Robert DeJournett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 am. Mr. John Valle 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

The next scheduled Board Meeting is May 26<sup>th</sup>, 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:** May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

  
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**MARK DERRIG,  
PRESIDENT**

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