

**METRO RTA
CULTURE AND PLANNING
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
ROBERT K. PFAFF TRANSIT CENTER BOARD ROOM
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026**

Trustees Present: Dana LaGarde, Robert DeJournett, Christine Marshall, Bob Konstand, Nicole Squire, Chuck Rector, Gary Spring and John Valle

Trustees Excused: Mark Derrig and Renee Greene

Trustees Absent: Donald Christian and Dave Prentice

METRO Team

Members Present: Dawn Distler, Angie Neeley, Tatia Harris, Gert Wilms, Jarrod Hampshire, Jay Hunter, Eric Scott, Shawn Metcalf, Kyle Stewart, Jamie Saylor, Laura Adkins, Zach Smith, Quentin Wyatt, Grace Doyle, Alja Austin, Olivia Balazy, Brynn Overly-Nguyen, Lane Evans and Leslie Rashid

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Robert DeJournett called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY MEETING

Mr. John Valle made a motion to approve minutes from the May meeting.

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

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Report | Tatia Harris

KPIs were reviewed.

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

OTHER BUSINESS

Public Announcement | Tatia Harris

METRO will participate in a regional virtual public hearing on June 30th with SARTA, PARTA and Akron-Canton Airport to provide outreach to small businesses regarding upcoming contracting opportunities and transportation investments in the region.

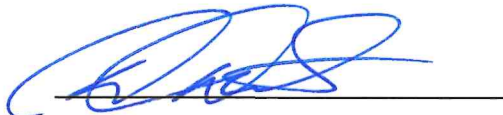
Rail Update | Gert Wilms

The appraisals were accepted by the FTA and reflected reduction of approximately \$100,000 from the previous valuation. Discussion continued regarding repayment of the remaining federal interest to provide greater flexibility in future asset disposition. Ms. Wilms noted ongoing discussion with Summit County regarding the potential transfer of the Freedom Secondary and Akron Secondary corridors. Conversations also continue with multiple stakeholders regarding the Sandyville corridor, which remains an active rail line and presents additional complexities.

If no government entity agrees to acquire the remaining rail corridors, the properties will be offered for public sale. The Board will be asked to consider a resolution authorizing repayment of the remaining federal obligation of approximately \$6.7 million, followed by resolutions regarding the sale and disposition of the properties. She noted that the federal repayment deadline is September 2027 and that federal officials declined requests for reductions or credits related to legal, transfer, or sale expenses.

CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 9:47 am



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

7 / 14 / 24
Date (MM/DD/YYYY)