

**METRO RTA
ANNUAL & MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ROBERT K. PFAFF TRANSIT CENTER BOARD ROOM
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025; 9:00 AM**

Trustees Present: Mark Derrig, Dana LaGarde, Robert DeJournett, Donald Christian
Bob Konstand, John Valle, Chuck Rector
Nicole Squire, Renee Greene and Christine Marshall

Trustees Excused: Dave Prentice and Gary Spring

Trustees Absent:

Present: Lauren Zidones

METRO Team

Members Present: Dawn Distler, Gert Wilms, Angela Neeley, Tatia Harris,
Jay Hunter, Shawn Metcalf, Jarrod Hampshire,
Nathan Leppo, Quentin Wyatt, DeHavilland McCall, Jamie Saylor,
Eric Scott, Laura Adkins, Wayne Cole, April Adams, Nykia
Walker, Tom O’Leary, Brynn Overly-Nguyen, Jason Carl and
Leslie Rashid

CALL TO ORDER

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Pamela Pinkney-Butts
Mr. Jim Balogh
Mr. Rob Brubaker

RECOGNITION:

Nykia Walker - 10 years of service Accessibility Manager
Tom O’Leary – 20 years of service Employment Engagement Specialist
Ricky McDaniel – 48 years of service Operator & Yard Coordinator (not present)

BOARD MINUTES:

Mr. Robert DeJournett made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 20th meeting with an amendment Robert DeJournett was not present but excused from the February meeting. Mr. John Valle 2nd the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & RESOLUTIONS

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & SERVICE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: John Valle

The Committee met on March 20th and KPIs were reviewed. There was one resolution recommended by the committee.

RESOLUTION 2025-06:

A resolution authorizing the award of a contract for Maintenance Uniform and Facility Services to CINTAS, Inc.

The resolution was discussed.

Mr. John Valle on behalf of the committee made a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Renee Greene 2nd the motion. All present voted “aye”. The resolution was approved.

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Chuck Rector

The Committee met on March 20th and KPIs were reviewed. There were no resolutions.

SAFETY, EQUITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Robert DeJournett

The Committee met on March 20th and KPIs were reviewed. There were no resolutions.

FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Bob Konstand

The Committee met on March 20th and the dashboard was reviewed. There were no resolutions.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Donald Christian

Bylaws update was discussed.

Mr. Donald Christian on behalf of the committee made a motion to adopt the updated bylaws. Mr. Bob Konstand 2nd the motion. All present voted “aye”. The updated bylaws were adopted.

Public Comment Policy was discussed.

Mr. John Valle made a motion to adopt the Public Comment Policy. Ms. Dana LaGarde 2nd the motion. All presented voted “aye”. The new Public Comment Policy was adopted.

The Civility Statement was discussed.

OTHER BUSINESS

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Board President:

Mr. Mark Derrig acknowledged that METRO is making significant progress and recognized the Organization for taking the right steps. He expressed appreciation for the hard work of everyone at METRO, stating that it is gratifying to see positive reports.

Chief Executive Officer:

Ms. Dawn Distler expressed appreciation for METRO's continued success in serving the community. The annual meeting provided an overview of the 2024 committee and departmental progress, with gratitude extended to all attendees. A key highlight was nearing the budgeted number of operators, enabling incremental service expansions previously approved in the budget. Unlike many transit systems facing cuts, METRO benefits from a dedicated sales tax, ensuring fiscal responsibility and continued growth.

Ms. Dawn Distler provided insights from a recent industry meeting, noting that FY25 federal transit appropriations remain stable despite widespread government reductions. While competitive grants are not guaranteed, obligated funds are expected to remain secure. METRO remains proactive in financial planning to safeguard operations and prevent service reductions or layoffs.

Strategic priorities include advancing bus rapid transit, transit-oriented development, and securing discretionary funding for capital projects. Ms. Dawn Distler emphasized the importance of staying engaged with legislators, noting Ohio's representation in discussions on public transportation advocacy. Looking ahead, METRO will continue strengthening the community services, advocating for transit funding, and expanding ridership opportunities.

Mr. Robert DeJournett acknowledged the passing of Operator Maurice Mundy, recognizing his significant impact on the community. A moment of silence was observed in his honor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Coded Section 121.22 (G)(2) Public meeting exceptions allow for an executive session to consider the disposition of property.

A roll call was conducted to enter Executive Session at 9:49 am

Mr. John Valle made a motion to come out of the Executive Session. Ms. Christine Marshall 2nd the motion.

A roll call was conducted to exit Executive Session at 10:25 am

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Donald Christian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Dana LaGarde 2nd the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

The next scheduled Board Meeting is April 29th.

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: April 29th, 2025



**MARK DERRIG,
PRESIDENT**



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