

METRO RTA

Board Of Trustees

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



AUGUST 26, 2025
9:00AM

**METRO RTA
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING AGENDA
ROBERT K. PFAFF TRANSIT CENTER BOARD ROOM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025
9:00AM**

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

ITEM 2: AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

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.

ITEM 3: RECOGNITION

- Ricco Varner: 20 Years of Safe Driving – DeHavilland McCall

ITEM 4: BOARD MINUTES

*Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from the July 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 2025-21: A resolution authorizing the Chief Executive Officer/Security-Treasurer the award of a contract to purchase 104 ArowGuard driver protective security barriers and associated installation costs from NewFlyer Industries Parts (NFI Parts). (Page 10)

*Resolution 2025-22: A resolution authorizing the Chief Executive Officer/Security-Treasurer from Steril-Koni four (4) sets of heavy-duty portable vehicle lifts associated with the Maintenance and Operations Facility, currently under construction. (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 reporting on behalf of Robert DeJournett

Finance & Technology Committee

(Finance & Technology)

Chair: Robert Konstand

Vice Chair: Nicole Squire

Development & Protection

(Safety & Training)

Chair: Renee Greene

Vice Chair: Dana LaGarde

ITEM 6: OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 7: OFFICER'S REPORTS

- Board President
- Chief Executive Officer

ITEM 8: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Section 121.22 | Public meetings - exceptions.

G) Except as provided in divisions (G)(8) and (J) of this section, the members of a public body may hold an executive session only after a majority of a quorum of the public body determines, by a roll call vote, to hold an executive session and only at a regular or special meeting for the sole purpose of the consideration of any of the following matters

(2) To consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section [505.10](#) of the Revised Code, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest. No member of a public body shall use division (G)(2) of this section as a subterfuge for providing covert information to prospective buyers or sellers. A purchase or sale of public property is void if the seller or buyer of the public property has received covert information from a member of a public body that has not been disclosed to

the general public in sufficient time for other prospective buyers and sellers to prepare and submit offers.

ITEM 9: CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT

*Denotes items requiring Board approval

Next Scheduled Meeting – September 30, 2025

**METRO RTA
ANNUAL & MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ROBERT K. PFAFF TRANSIT CENTER BOARD ROOM
TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2025; 9:00 AM**

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

Trustees Excused: Donald Christian and Renee Greene

Trustees Absent:

Roetzel & Address: Lauren Zidones

METRO Team

Members Present: Dawn Distler, Angie Neeley, Tatia Harris, Gert Wilms, Jay Hunter, Jarrod Hampshire, Eric Scott, Timothy Kensinger, Quentin Wyatt, DeHavilland McCall, Jamie Saylor, Molly Becker, Alja Austin, Grace Doyle, Kyle Moeglin, Laura Adkins, Jeff Haddad, Jake Haddad, and Leslie Rashid

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mark Derrig called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Mayor Yeargin

RECOGNITION:

Jeff Haddad – Maintenance Foreman Retiring
Jarrod Hampshire – Leadership Akron

BOARD MINUTES:

Mr. John Valle made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24th meeting.
Mr. Robert DeJournett 2nd the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & RESOLUTIONS

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & SERVICE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: John Valle

The Committee met on July 17th and KPIs were reviewed. There were two resolutions recommended by the committee.

RESOLUTION 2025-19:

A resolution authorizing a one-year extension of the maintenance and support agreement for the demand response scheduling software through Ecolane USA.

The resolution was discussed.

Mr. Chuck Rector made a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Dana LaGarde 2nd the motion. All present voted “aye”. The resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION 2025-20:

A resolution authorizing the Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer a contract with Environments for Business, (Copley, OH) to purchase furniture associated with the Maintenance and Operations Facility, currently under construction.

The resolution was discussed.

Mr. Chuck Rector 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

Chair: Chuck Rector

The Committee met on July 17th and KPIs were reviewed. There were no resolutions.

CULTURE & PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Robert DeJournett

The Committee met on July 17th and KPIs were reviewed. There were six resolutions.

RESOLUTION 2025-13:

A resolution recognizing the Title VI Service Monitoring Requirement and Major Service Change Policy and resolving to fulfill its provisions as required by the Federal Transit Administration.

The resolution was discussed.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-14:

A resolution recognizing the METRO RTA Service and Fare Equity Analysis Policy and authorizing submittal to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

The resolution was discussed.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-15:

A resolution recognizing the METRO RTA Public Engagement Policy and authorizing submittal to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

The resolution was discussed.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-16:

A resolution recognizing the METRO RTA Public Engagement Policy and authorizing submittal to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

The resolution was discussed.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-17:

A resolution approving the Service Equity Analysis for major service changes resulting from increased service frequency on Route 29, from 60-minute to 30-minute headways, and on Route 8, from 30-minute to 15-minute headways.

The resolution was discussed.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-18:

A resolution authorizing a contract with Akron Barberton Cluster Railway to furnish and replace 500 track spikes and ties, install ballast and surface four miles of rail on the Sandyville Line (MP 38.4 Hazel Street and MP 34.7 Exeter Road).

The resolution was discussed.

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

FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Bob Konstand

The Committee met on July 17th the dashboard was reviewed. There were no resolutions.

PROTECTION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Dana LaGarde presented on behalf of Chair: Renee Greene

The Committee met on July 17th and KPIs were reviewed. There were no resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Board President:

Mr. Mark Derrig acknowledged the level of detail and expressed his appreciation for all the work done by all the committees. He also expressed the importance of attending committee to see the depth firsthand.

Chief Executive Officer:

Ms. Dawn Distler expressed appreciation for the work done on behalf of our committees and thanked the Board for their ongoing commitment, especially as volunteers. Their dedication—often more than twice a month—is key to keeping business moving. She believes this may only be the second time we’ve held a July meeting during her time in her current position, but it was necessary due to the volume of items requiring action.

We continue to move forward internally and externally to provide the quality service our community deserves. Winning the national Transit System of the Year award is a point of pride for all of us, especially as many systems are facing challenges. Our focus remains on safety, service, and supporting both riders and staff.

Ms. Dana LaGarde mentioned that she attended the Board Seminar in Kansas City. Hearing what other transit systems are going through really puts things into perspective. Congratulations to METRO—it’s clear that the challenges many agencies face aren’t happening here. We truly appreciate all the work being done.

Mr. Robert DeJournett thanked METRO for the opportunity to attend the conference. As Ms. LaGarde mentioned, hearing other board members talk about their challenges made us feel proud of what METRO is accomplishing.

It was great connecting with others from Cleveland and hearing a national perspective, including concerns about the IJA potentially expiring next year. What stood out is how METRO continues to focus on what we can control, setting our own narrative and shaping our culture. It was the most engaging conference Mr. DeJournett has attended. Very informative and inspiring.

Ms. Nicole Squire thanked the team for getting out all the detailed Title VI documentation and reports. She knows it was a challenge, but it was important for the Board to fully understand this month's resolutions. The effort was very much appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Robert DeJournett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 am.

The next scheduled Board Meeting is August 26th.

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 29th, 2025

**MARK DERRIG,
PRESIDENT**

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

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:
CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

RESOLUTION 2025-21

A resolution authorizing the Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer the award of a contract to purchase 104 ArowGuard driver protective security barriers and associated installation costs from NewFlyer Industries Parts (NFI Parts).

WHEREAS, Legal Notices were twice advertised in the Akron Beacon Journal on May 29th and June 5th, 2025, and on the METRO RTA website; and

WHEREAS, bids were opened on Friday, July 11th, 2025, with the following responsive bids received:

Midwest Bus Corporation - \$865,200.00

NewFlyer Industries Parts (NFI Parts) - \$780,992.16

WHEREAS, METRO is recommending that NewFlyer Industries Parts (NFI Parts) be awarded the contract for purchase of 104 driver protective security barriers and associated installation costs, as they were the lowest, responsive bidder,

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

1. The Chief Executive Officer is authorized to purchase 104 driver protective security barriers and associated installation costs form NewFlyer Industries Parts (NFI Parts) in an amount not to exceed \$780,992.16.
2. The Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer may authorize change orders for up to 3% of these task orders.
3. The Chief Executive Officer is authorized to execute all documents with NewFlyer Industries Parts (NFI Parts).
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: August 26th, 2025

**MARK DERRIG,
PRESIDENT**

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

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:
CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

RESOLUTION 2025-22

A resolution authorizing the Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer to purchase from Stertil-Koni four (4) sets of heavy-duty portable vehicle lifts associated with the Maintenance and Operations Facility, currently under construction.

WHEREAS, METRO has been awarded grant funding through the Ohio Transit Preservation Program (OTP2) through the Ohio Department of Transportation towards the purchase of lifts for the Maintenance of Operations Facility; and

WHEREAS, Grant funding in the amount of \$248,311.68 was awarded towards the total purchase of \$359,111.84; and

WHEREAS, Sourcewell maintains a Nationwide Purchasing Agreement that METRO is permitted to use; and

WHEREAS, through the Sourcewell Contract 121223-SKI, METRO plans to purchase four (4) sets of six (6) Stertil-Koni wireless lifts:

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

1. The Chief Executive Officer is authorized to purchase 4 sets of 6 Stertil Koni wireless lifts in an amount not to exceed \$359,111.84.
2. The Chief Executive Officer is authorized to execute all documents with Stertil Koni.
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: August 26th, 2025

**MARK DERRIG,
PRESIDENT**

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