



Board of Trustees Meeting and Retreat Minutes

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 9:00 AM

COTA - 1600 McKinley Ave, Columbus OH

1. Call to Order

Chair Sean Mentel called the April 21, 2026 meeting and retreat of the COTA Board of Trustees to order at 9:08 am.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Sean Mentel, Chair

Trudy Bartley, Vice Chair (9:12 am)

Pete Bucher, Trustee

Mallory Donaldson, Trustee (12:12 pm)

Doug McCollough, Trustee

Stephen Sayre, Trustee

Matt Starr, Trustee

Amy Taylor, Trustee

Board Member Excused

Jeff Hunley, Trustee

Heather Ulrey, Trustee

3. Comments or Statements from the Audience

No comments or statements were given from the audience.

4. New Board Member Appointment - Oath of Office

A. Brent Pastorek

Chair Mentel provided the oath of office to Brent Pastorek.

5. Retreat Topics

A. Financial Overview

COTA Chief Financial Officer Earl Jackson provided the financial overview, which the board discussed.

B. LinkUS Discussion

HNTB staff provided the LinkUS program history, outlined the tenants for LinkUS and BRT assumptions, reviewed FTA Capital Improvement Grants (CIG) Program process, and provided details on the West Broad corridor, which the board discussed.

C. Short-Range Transit Plan

COTA staff and Short-Range Transit Plan consultants from Nelson\Nygaard provided an overview of the planning process/work and current findings/proposed changes, which the board discussed.

D. No Fare Feasibility Study

Consultants from Four Nines Technologies and Nelson\Nygaard reviewed key findings from the no-fare feasibility study, which the board discussed.

6. Other Business

A. Executive Session for the following purpose: ORC 121.22(G)(1) to Consider the Appointment, Employment, Dismissal, Discipline, Promotion, Demotion or Compensation of a Public Employee or Official

Trustee Amy Taylor moved to enter Executive Session for the purposes described above, seconded by Trustee Erika Clark Jones. Through roll call, the committee members unanimously voted to enter Executive Session at 1:20 pm.


Executive Session ended at 2:06 pm.

7. Adjournment

Trustee Taylor moved to adjourn the April 21, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting and Retreat, seconded by Trustee Pete Bucher. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.

Adopted: _____ May 27, 2026 _____

Signed: _____
Signed by: 
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Chair, Board of Trustees

Attest: _____
Signed by: 
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President/CEO