



Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 9:00 AM

COTA - WG Porter Boardroom, 33 N High St, Columbus OH

1. Call to Order

Chair Sean Mentel called the March 25, 2026 regular meeting of the COTA Board of Trustees to order at 9 am.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Sean Mentel, Chair
Trudy Bartley, Vice Chair
Pete Bucher, Trustee
Mallory Donaldson, Trustee
Jeff Hunley, Trustee
Doug McCollough, Trustee
Marc Reitter, Trustee
Stephen Sayre, Trustee
Matt Starr, Trustee
Amy Taylor, Trustee
Heather Ulrey, Trustee

Board Member Excused

Erika Clark Jones, Trustee
Jay Deis, Trustee

Approval of Board of Trustee Minutes

A. January 28, 2026 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Trustee Marc Reitter moved to approve the January 28, 2026 Board of Trustees regular meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Pete Bucher. Motion carried.

3. Comments or Statements from the Audience

Walter Hardy noted expanding roles at COTA and cautioned the board to make sound financial decisions as the economy changes. He said people are taking Ubers instead of taking the bus due to reliability issues. He suggested COTA set up multi-year contracts versus one year, citing a contract with Cisco. He raised the issue of paying for three ticket vending machines and questioned whether COTA should be purchasing more given the expense—would it cost more to collect fares than the fares generated from their usage.

4. President's Report

COTA President/CEO Monica Téllez-Fowler highlighted the launch of the first phase of a new digital booking and payment system for Mainstream service, offering customers enhanced convenience through online scheduling, real-time ride tracking, and improved operational data capabilities, with additional features such as a mobile app planned for later in the year. President Téllez-Fowler recognized frontline employees during National Transit Employee Appreciation Day, emphasizing their essential role in maintaining service and supporting the community. She noted COTA's recent national recognition, including two first-place AdWheel Awards for marketing efforts and a finalist honor for internal communications. With his board term coming to an end, Ms. Téllez-Fowler recognized Trustee Marc Reitter for his significant contributions, including to major projects like LinkUS, and overall organizational growth, expressing appreciation for his service.

5. Governance Committee Report - Sean Mentel, Chair

Governance Committee Chair Sean Mentel reported the committee did not meet in March.

6. Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Report - Trudy Bartley, Chair

Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Chair Trudy Bartley reported that the committee met on March 3, 2026, which included presentations on the COTA Short Range Transit Plan work and a LinkUS update.

7. External Stakeholder Relations Committee Report - Erika Clark Jones, Chair

External Stakeholder Relations Committee Chief Staff Liaison Patrick Harris reported that the committee met March 3, 2026, which included a report on COTA's 2025 marketing work, and a presentation of COTA's West Broad BRT Construction engagement strategy.

8. Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee Report - Marc Reitter, Chair

Performance Audit/Monitoring Committee Chair Marc Reitter reported the committee met on March 5, which included a financial report and operational performance update. The committee heard 13 resolutions, which were recommended for the consent agenda.

9. Consent Agenda

Resolution 2026-21 was moved to the regular agenda at the request of Trustee Reitter.

- A. Resolution 2026-19 Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with American Mechanical Group, Inc. for Mechanical Contractor Services for COTA Facilities
- B. Resolution 2026-20 Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Hill International, Inc. for On-Call Project Management/Construction Management Services
- C. Resolution 2026-21 Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with CK Construction Group, Inc. for Construction Manager At Risk Services for the West Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit Corridor
- D. Resolution 2026-22 Authorizing a Contract with CDW Government Inc. for NetApp Storage
- E. Resolution 2026-23 Authorizing a Contract with CDW Government Inc. for Network Equipment
- F. Resolution 2026-24 Authorizing a Contract with CDW Government Inc. for Cisco SMARTnet Support
- G. Resolution 2026-25 Authorizing a Contract with GovConnections Inc. for the Purchase of Trend Micro Vision One Cybersecurity SaaS Subscription
- H. Resolution 2026-26 Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Steyer Associates, Inc., DBA Steyer Content, for Business Process Documentation and Process Improvement Services
- I. Resolution 2026-27 Authorizing an Agreement with the City of Grove City for the Continuation of the COTA//Plus Operating Zone
- J. Resolution 2026-28 Authorizing a Contract with Parkeon, Inc., DBA Flowbird, to Purchase Ticket Vending Machine Hardware
- K. Resolution 2026-29 Authorizing a Contract with Vontas to Upgrade Automatic Passenger Counter Hardware
- L. Resolution 2026-30 Authorizing Additional Funds for the Contract with Trapeze for the ITS Back-Office Software System Maintenance Agreement
- M. Resolution 2026-31 Authorizing the Filing of Applications for Federal Assistance with the Federal Transit Administration as Authorized By 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53, Title 23, United States Code, or Other Federal Statutes Administered by the Federal Transit Administration

Vice Chair Bartley moved to approve Resolutions 2026-19, 2026-20 and Resolutions 2026-22 through 2026-31, seconded by Trustee Mallory Donaldson. Motion carried.

Chief LinkUS Program Officer Dorinda presented Resolution 2026-21 Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with CK Construction Group, Inc. for Construction Manager At Risk Services for the West Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit Corridor.

Trustee Doug McCollough moved to approve Resolution 2026-21, seconded by Trustee Stephen Sayre. Motion carried with Chair Sean Mentel abstaining.

10. Other Business

A. Resolution 2026-32 Commending Marc Reitter

President/CEO Téllez-Fowler noted Trustee Marc Reitter’s leadership of the Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee and working with staff to ensure transparency and accountability. Trustee Reitter said he is proud of the work.

Trustee Jeff Hunley moved to approve Resolution 2026-32 seconded by Trustee Amy Taylor. Motion carried.

B. 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 Hunley moved to enter Executive Session for the purposes described above, seconded by Trustee Taylor. Through roll call, the committee members unanimously voted to enter Executive Session at 9:38 am.

Executive Session ended at 10:38 am.

11. Meeting Schedule

- Strategic and Operational Planning Committee – 9:30 am, Tuesday, May 5, 2026
- External Stakeholder Relations Committee – 3:30 pm, Tuesday, May 5, 2026
- Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee – 2 pm, Thursday, May 7, 2026
- Governance Committee – 4 pm, Thursday, May 14, 2026
- Board of Trustees Regular Meeting - Wednesday, May 27, 2026

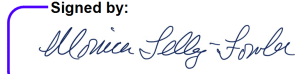
12. Adjournment

Trustee Hunley moved to adjourn the March 25, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting, seconded by Trustee Taylor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Adopted: _____ May 27, 2026 _____

Signed: _____
 Signed by: 

 4E0CFE51E8D444D...
Chair, Board of Trustees

Attest: _____
 Signed by: 

 C680309626B94D2...
President/CEO