



## Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee Minutes

Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 2:00 PM

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

### 1. Call to Order

Chair Marc Reitter called the March 5, 2026 meeting of the Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee to order at 2 pm.

### 2. Roll Call

#### Board Members Present

Marc Reitter, Chair

Jeff Hunley, Trustee

Doug McCollough, Trustee

Amy Taylor, Trustee

### 3. Approval of Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee Minutes

A. November 6, 2025 Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee Minutes

Trustee Doug McCollough moved to approve the November 6, 2025 Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Amy Taylore. Motion carried.

### 4. Unaudited Financials and Operational Performance

Chief Financial Officer Earl Jackson presented the unaudited financials for the period ending January 31, 2026. The report shows that COTA remains in a strong financial position, with total operating revenues of \$15.6 million coming in \$0.5 million (3.4 percent) above budget and operating expenses of \$20.5 million finishing \$2.9 million (12.7 percent) below budget, driven largely by favorable labor, contract, and fuel costs. While the net operating position for the month was a \$4.9 million loss, it was still \$3.5 million better than budget projections, with timing of contract invoices expected to normalize later in the year. Sales tax receipts continue to outperform expectations, totaling \$30.4 million year-to-date—1.2 percent above budget, more than double the same period in 2025, and 3.2 percent above normalized prior-year levels. COTA's liquidity remains very strong, with total cash reserves of \$398 million across operating, capital, self-insurance, and Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) funds, supported by solid investment returns across multiple institutions. Near-term

financial priorities include monitoring federal and state funding conditions, assessing potential tariff impacts on inventory and bus repairs, and further enhancing financial reporting clarity and transparency.

COTA Chief Operating Officer Alicia Walker provided the operational performance update, which shows mixed performance across COTA services. The fixed-route ridership was down 12 percent year-to-date; while Operations is looking into this, Ms. Walker said one known contributor were cold winter days, which inhibited ridership. COTA had 11 fare-free days (due to extreme weather) during this period. She noted productivity (boardings per service hour) was down 15.4 percent, though on-time performance improved to 84.28 percent, reflecting a 2.4 percent gain from the prior year. Ms. Walker said preventable accidents increased from this time last year, due in part to January 2025 having an unusually low month of accidents, and January 2026 was impacted by extensive bad weather. Paratransit (Mainstream) performance remained stable, with boardings up 0.4 percent, strong pickup and drop-off on-time performance (96.05 percent and 94.53 percent, respectively), and slight declines in productivity and reliability. COTA//Plus continued modest growth with a 2 percent year-over-year increase in boardings across active zones.

**5. New Business**

No new business was brought before the committee.

**6. Resolutions for Review and Discussion**

COTA Chief Operating Officer Alicia Walker presented the following Operations division resolution for placement on the consent agenda:

- A. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with American Mechanical Group, Inc. for Mechanical Contractor Services for COTA Facilities

COTA's LinkUS Program Controls Director Monroe Welborne presented the following Capital Delivery division resolutions for placement on the consent agenda:

- B. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Hill International, Inc. for On-Call Project Management/ Construction Management Services
- C. Resolution 2026-XX 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

COTA Chief Innovation Technology Officer Sophia Mohr presented the following Innovation and Technology division resolutions for placement on the consent agenda:

- D. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing a Contract with CDW Government Inc. for NetApp Storage
- E. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing a Contract with CDW Government Inc. for Network Equipment
- F. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing a Contract with CDW Government Inc. for Cisco SMARTnet Support
- G. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing a Contract with GovConnections Inc. for the Purchase of Trend Micro Vision One Cybersecurity SaaS Subscription
- H. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Steyer Associates, Inc., DBA Steyer Content, for Business Process Documentation and Process Improvement Services
- I. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing an Agreement with the City of Grove City for the Continuation of the COTA//Plus Operating Zone
- J. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing a Contract with Parkeon, Inc., DBA Flowbird, to Purchase Ticket Vending Machine Hardware
- K. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing a Contract with Vontas to Upgrade Automatic Passenger Counter Hardware
- L. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing Additional Funds for the Contract with Trapeze for the ITS Back-Office Software System Maintenance Agreement

COTA Chief Financial Officer Earl Jackson presented the following Finance and Business Services division resolution for placement on the consent agenda:

- M. Resolution 2026-XX 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

## **7. Other Business**

- A. Executive Session for the following purpose: ORC 121.22(G)(6) to Discuss Matter Related to Security Arrangements and Emergency Response Protocols

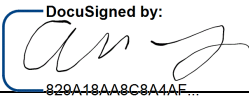
Trustee Jeff Hunley moved to enter Executive Session for the purposes described above, seconded by Trustee McCollough. Through roll call, the committee

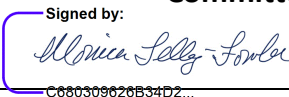
members unanimously voted to enter Executive Session at 2:52 pm.  
Executive Session ended at 3:39 pm.

**8. Adjournment**

Trustee Hunley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee McCollough.  
Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

**Adopted:** May 7, 2026

**Signed:**   
**Chair, Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee**

**Attest:**   
**President/CEO**