

**Stark Area Regional Transit Authority
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 13, 2009 @ 6:00PM
Gateway Board Room**

Mr. DeGraff called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Attendance
Board**

Chuck DeGraff (President), Nancy Johnson (Vice President), Jerry Bixler, Amanda Fletcher, James Reinhard, Chet Warren

Excused

John Beckem, Phyllis Beyers, Ron Macala

Staff

Kirt Conrad (Executive Director/CEO), Carole Kuczynski (Director, Finance & Administration), Mark Finnicum (Director, Maintenance), Jack Thompson (Travel Training Coordinator), Tom Williams (Transportation Manager), Darryal Williams (Coach Operator), Shannon Rine (Proline & Customer Service Supervisor), Kristy Rowe (HR & Safety Assistant), James Warner (Planning & Community Outreach Manager), Tammy Marie Brown (Executive Assistant)

Other

Robert Wang (Canton Repository), Judy Williams and son

Employee of the Year

The Board presented Mr. Darryal Williams with a plaque honoring him as the 2009 Employee of the Year. Mr. Williams expressed that he accepts the award with great pleasure.

Communication from the Executive Director/CEO...

Mr. Conrad commended his staff for their efforts on the Fishers Foods Event. He added there was a 30% increase in ridership on this specific route which is attributed to this promotion. Mr. Conrad also mentioned that he was on the Ron Ponder radio show the morning of the event to promote the endeavor.

Diesel Fuel

SARTA locked in on diesel fuel prices for the 2010 calendar year at \$2.30 per gallon.

Resolutions

A Resolution To Join The Coalition Of Save The Transit Now, Move Ohio Forward!

Ms. Fletcher moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Warren seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

A Resolution to Join the Alliance for Transit Operating Assistance

Mr. Warren moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Bixler seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

Proposed Resolutions

The following resolutions are being introduced to familiarize the Board and allow them to give input. The Executive Director has requested that these resolutions be voted on at the next meeting.

A Resolution Authorizing The Executive Director/CEO To Revise The Courtesy Rules For Passengers And Patrons Of SARTA

A press release was sent out to encourage the general public to submit their feedback. These rules will allow SARTA to impose criminal sanctions for individuals who do not comply. If this resolution is adopted, these rules will be posted at transit centers, on buses, and on route schedules.

A Resolution Authorizing The Executive Director/CEO To Adopt The Transit Facility Use Policy

This policy is proposed to outline the process of requesting and utilizing transit facility space.

The Board provided input and made amendments to the proposed resolution.

Travel Training

Jack Thompson passed out a draft manual for the Travel Training program. The purpose of the program is to teach individuals how to use our fixed route service; this includes choice riders and eligible Paratransit riders. Travel Training is intended to decrease Paratransit costs and increase fixed route ridership. A part-time trainer will be hired once the program grows.

Proline

The amount of “no shows” riders has gone down significantly. In September there were 354 no shows; in December they were approximately 150.

After further examination, staff will provide the Board with functional procedures and assessments for Proline.

Mahoning Road Project

Mr. Conrad introduced Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to the Board. BRT is based on light-rail transit principles. It combines the most attractive features of light rail transit with the lower costs of bus technology. If SARTA implements BRT, the initial focus area will be the Mahoning Road Corridor. This project is estimated to cost approximately \$11 million. SARTA will apply for a grant through FTA to assist with the costs. Partnerships with JR Coleman and Canton City Council members are already formed.

Board Retreat

The Board decided to attend a retreat once Parsons Brinkerhoff plans are three-quarters of the way complete. This will allow the Board to actively participate with the planning process.

The Board will also be provided with Board manuals from APTA.

*****Executive Session*****

Personnel

6:55 – 8:15pm

Mr. Warren moved to enter Executive Session.

Mr. Bixler seconded the motion. All answered
“yes.”