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TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
130 Knapp Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
10/22/2026 | 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Vice President Mary Morrison at 4:01pm.

Roll call- Trustees Kendra Smith, Mary Morrison, Gary Gonya, Dr. W. L. Perryman, Karen Poore, Zachary Schmidt, Lou Thomson, Dr. Heather Baker, Dr. Tiffany Whitman, Matt Killam, Dana Dunbar and Ben Malczewski.

Trustees Absent- Megan Casiere.

Officers Present: Laura Koprowski, CEO, James Karasek, CFO, Stephen Hartman, General Counsel, and Rick Bailey, Deputy CEO.

Approval of the minutes- Vice President Mary Morrison asked for a **motion** to approve the meeting minutes from September 17, 2026. Lou Thomson made a **motion** and Gary Gonya seconded it. It passed unanimously.

Public Comments- Andy Cole, Communication and Marketing Manager, presented the written public comment to the board. See submitted comments from John Soovagian, TARTA Move and Via passenger, attached to the minutes.

Presentations & Discussions-

Work Link; Sam Melden, Chief Communications & Customer Experience Officer and Kali Sawaya, Transit Planning Project Manager.
They gave an overview and update of the WorkLink study and provided materials for reference.

Safety Plan PTASP; Steve Wise, Senior Manager of Safety, Security, & Training.
Steve gave an overview of TARTA's annual Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and its approach towards safety. Trustee Matt Killam asked who determines if a safety situation is preventable.

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Capital Projects Update; Kattie Bond, Chief Capital Officer.
Kattie gave an update to the board on the status of TARTA's current capital projects underway. She highlighted two projects: Franklin Park Station and vehicle purchases.

Report from the Finance Committee- Dr. Perryman provided an overview of the Finance Committee minutes from the meeting on October 15, 2026.

Report from the Strategic & Operational Planning Committee-Zach Schmidt gave a recap of the Strategic & Operational Planning committee minutes from the meeting on October 15, 2026.

Resolutions-

Resolution No. 38-26, AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER WITH ORACLE NETSUITE FOR THE ADVANCED INVENTORY MODULE. A **motion** was made by Lou Thomson and seconded by Mary Morrison. It passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 39-26, ADOPTING THE TARTA 2026 PUBLIC TRANSIT SAFETY PLAN (PTASP) FOR THE TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY REQUIRED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION. A **motion** was made by Lou Thomson and seconded by Gary Gonya. It passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 40-26, AUTHORIZING FREE FARES ON ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026. A **motion** was made by Ben Malczewski and seconded by Dr. Heather Baker. It passed unanimously.

Secretary Treasurer- James Karasek, CFO presented an overview of the September Financial statements. Cash and Investments remain strong at $59.4 million. Capital Assets are being depreciated less than last year due to the large apron parking lot project last year. Accounts Payables are higher than last year due to timing of invoices. Passenger Fares were under budget due to slower organizational fares purchased in the Summer months. Material and Supplies were over budget due to costs associated with bus and building repairs being higher than expected which caused Maintenance and Facilities to be over budget. Services were over budget due to higher-than-expected VIA paratransit services costs and timing of architectural and engineering fees. This also caused Paratransit and Planning to be over budget. Utilities were over due to higher electricity costs associated with the EV fleet. August Sales Tax was $3.89 million dollars compared to August 2025 of $3.70 million dollars. September Sales Tax was $4.19 million dollars compared to September 2025 of $3.78 million dollars. TARTA had $123,796 in investment income.

CEO Report- Laura Koprowski, CEO, presented the CEO Report highlighting the key points below. TARTA continues to demonstrate leadership in regional collaboration through its role as a founding member of the Toledo Regional Alliance (TRA). This

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partnership brings together 13 public entities to advocate for regional priorities, infrastructure projects, funding, and public policy initiatives.
Laura announced that earlier that day, the TRA received the distinguished Partnership Award from the Ohio Area Office on Aging Association, one of only three awards presented at its statewide conference. Laura attended the awards ceremony.

Laura provided details around the TARTA team response to the recent chemical incident in our community on Oct. 20, 2026. Five operators voluntarily extended their shifts overnight to assist with transportation needs, demonstrating courage, professionalism, and a commitment to serving others.

Our maintenance team also worked through the night to clean, inspect, fuel, and prepare vehicles for the next morning's service. Their dedication ensured operational continuity during a challenging situation. We will formally recognize these employees for their extraordinary efforts. Their actions reinforce the essential role public transit plays in emergency response and demonstrate the very best of TARTA. We are also exploring opportunities to share this story with the Federal Transit Administration and other industry partners.

Preparations are underway for TARTA's 55th anniversary celebration on October 29th, with approximately 400 attendees expected at the Community Update event. The program will highlight TARTA's accomplishments, feature a panel discussion on our past, present, and future, and recognize the Ability Center and the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce for their critical support of Issue 12. The event will also include breakout sessions led by external partners, which have sold out.

Following the Board's approval of the locally preferred alternative for the Oregon and Monroe Street corridor, TARTA convened regional government partners on September 29 to advance the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. The meeting demonstrated strong enthusiasm and commitment from participating agencies. Key outcomes included beginning work on memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and pursuing formal resolutions from participating jurisdictions to establish lasting institutional support for the project. A detailed meeting summary will be shared with the Board. Our next steps are to maintain momentum, coordinate with our government partners, and secure the formal commitments needed to advance this important regional transportation investment.

Laura congratulated Vice President Mary Morrison on her selection as an officer on an American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Transit Board Members (TBM) Board. This appointment reflects her leadership and strengthens TARTA's representation within the public transportation industry. Her involvement will help expand professional partnerships and ensure our organization's perspective contributes to broader industry priorities. Laura shared that she was re-elected to the national board of The Bus Coalition and will continue serving as their Membership Committee Chair.

Vice President's Report- Mary Morrison, board vice president shared that TARTA received a resolution from Toledo City Council recognizing the agency's 55th Anniversary. Mary Morrison recognized Laura Koprowski, CEO, for being generous in her comments to Council regarding what a wonderful team she has, not only in the leadership team, but

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certainly all the staff at TARTA and most especially on the board. Mary Morrison encouraged the Board to attend the annual Community Update meeting next week. Mary Morrison commended the TARTA Team for their quick response to the chemical spill incident on Oct. 20.

President Report – Kendra Smith, Board President relayed to the board that TARTA received a resolution for the 55th anniversary from Toledo City Council. She also thanked all Trustees for attending the board retreat and that next steps will be shared with the Board.

Reports and communications from Board Trustees-

Any and All Other Business

Executive Session- Kendra Smith, Board President called for a **motion** to enter Executive Session. A **motion** was made by Dr. Perryman and seconded by Mary Morrison to enter executive session pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22(G)(1) to consider the employment and compensation of a public employee.

Roll Call- Trustees Kendra Smith (Yes), Mary Morrison (Yes), Gary Gonya (Yes), Dr. W. L. Perryman (Yes), Karen Poore (Yes), Zachary Schmidt (Yes), Lou Thomson (Yes), Dr. Heather Baker (Yes), Dr. Tiffany Whitman (Yes), Matt Killam (Yes), Dana Dunbar (Yes) and Ben Malczewski (Yes).

A roll call vote was conducted, the **motion** passed unanimously, and the Board entered Executive Session at 5:12 p.m. and returned to open session at 5:22 p.m.

A **motion** to approve the 2027 TARTA CEO Performance Framework was made by Ben Malczweski and seconded by Dana Dunbar. The resolution passed unanimously.

Adjournment- Ben Malczewski made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Dana Dunbar. It passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 PM.

Meeting Calendar- The next regularly scheduled TARTA Board of Trustees meeting will take place on Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the TARTA board room at 130 Knapp St. Toledo, OH 43604.

Submitted written public comment provided to the Board of Trustees:

To: TARTA Board of Trustees; Representatives of TARTA Move and Via teams
From: John Soovagian, TARTA Move and Via passenger

I've had a couple of bad experiences with a ride that I would like to convey, while I can't be there in person.

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On Wednesday, October 7, my ride to Paddy Jack's was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. At 5:10, I received a text that the ride was on its way. Then at 5:25 p.m., Ray from A-Ride calls me saying he got lost behind my house, and I tried helping as best I could, but he hung up on me three times and didn't call me back.

At 5:50 PM, when he finally made it to the house, he got out of the vehicle to smoke a cigarette. When he saw my mom, he put it out, waved, and got back in the vehicle without helping me to the vehicle. He left and called me a no-show.

Wednesday, September 30 was also supposed to be a ride to Paddy Jack's at 5:30 p.m. At 5:50, I called dispatch, and the woman who answered told me that Via canceled my ride and transferred it over to A-Ride without any communication on Via's part. I had to wait 10 to 15 minutes, then she said she couldn't get a hold of A-Ride.

Finally, at 6:30, A-Ride shows up at my house after the GPS took her the wrong way.

Is there any other way to address these issues? Because honestly most of the time I've had A-Ride, they've been very late, with a couple exceptions. If you could let me know about other ways of addressing this, I'd appreciate it.

Certificate of Compliance

I hereby certify that all members of the Board of Trustees were given notice of the foregoing in person, by telephone, mail, or email more than 48 hours before the meeting.

Adopted:

DocuSigned by:
James Karasek
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James Karasek

Secretary-Treasurer

For questions, additional information regarding the TARTA Board of Trustees or if you require special assistance, please contact Marina McCormick, Executive Assistant at mmccormick@tarta.com or 419.720.8877.