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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
9/17/2026 | 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by President Kendra Smith at 4:00pm.

Roll call- Trustees Kendra Smith, Mary Morrison (virtual), Joel Beren, Gary Gonya, Dr. W. L. Perryman, Karen Poore, Zachary Schmidt, Lou Thomson, Dr. Heather Baker (virtual), Dr. Tiffany Whitman, Matt Killam, Megan Casiere, and Dana Dunbar.

Trustees Absent-

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

Approval of the minutes- President Kendra Smith asked for a **motion** to approve the meeting minutes from July 17, 2026. James Kararsek, CFO, commented that two edits were brought to the board for the spelling error of Lou Thomson's last name and Resolution No. 21-26 one trustee opposed, the **motion** passed. Matt Killam made a **motion** and Gary Gonya seconded. It passed unanimously.

Recognitions- Retirements- Virgil Wise, Mechanic was commended for 40 years of dedicated service to the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority.
Resolution No. 28-26 COMMENDING VIRGIL WISE FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY AND TO THE CUSTOMERS, STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF TARTA'S SERVICE AREA. A **motion** was made by Dr. Perryman and seconded by Gary Gonya It passed unanimously.

Stevie Law, Fixed Line Operator and Janet McMickens were recognized for retirement as well.

Recognitions- Board Members- Resolution No. 29-26, COMMENDING JOEL BEREN FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND LEADERSHIPTO THE TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY AND TO THE CUSTOMERS, STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF TARTA'S SERVICE AREA. A **motion** was made by Lou Thomson and seconded by Matt Killam. It passed unanimously.

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Dr. Perryman commended Joel Beren for his serve to TARTA and the community.

Resolution No. 30-26, COMMENDING BRITTANY FORD OR THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP TO THE TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY AND TO THE CUSTOMERS, STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF THE TARTA SERVICE AREA. A **motion** was made by Lou Thomson and seconded by Gary Gonya. It passed unanimously.

Presentations- Bus Rapid Transit Study and Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative; Rick Baily, Deputy CEO and Kali Sawaya, Transit Project Planning Manager, presented that the Monroe Street Corridor was selected as the LPA after a year-long study, analysis, and stakeholder and public outreach. Next steps of developing and funding BRT service for the Monroe Street Corridor was explained. They also recognized the Strategic Operations Chair and Committee for their hard work on this project.

2026 Performance Management Program Quarter 2 Update; Laura Koprowski, CEO, and Susan Gettum, Chief Planning & Program Officer presented an update of the Performance Management Program for Quarter 2. Laura previewed the process and ideas for developing the 2027 PMP goals and metrics. She is recommending alignment of the PMP goals with the Strategic Plan goals of Customer Experience, Operational Excellence, Stewardship and Growth.

Report from the Finance Committee- Dr. Perryman provided an overview of the Finance Committee minutes from the meeting September 10, 2026.

Report from the Strategic & Operational Planning Committee- Dr. Perryman, Finance Committee- Co Chair gave a recap of the Strategic & Operational Planning committee minutes from the meeting September 10, 2026.

Report from the Governance Committee – Gary Gonya provided an overview of Governance committee minutes from September 15, 2026.

Resolutions-

Resolution No. 31-26, AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH ANGLIN EQUIPMENT TO PURCHASE PORTABLE COLUMN VEHICLE LIFTS. A **motion** was made by Dr. Perryman and seconded by Lou Thomson. It passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 32-26, AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH MIDWEST CONTRACTING, INC. FOR THE CENTRAL AVENUE TRANSIT OPERATIONS AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PRO A **motion** made by Lou Thomson and seconded by Gary Gonya. It passed unanimously.

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Resolution No. 33-26, AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH LNi CUSTOM MANUFACTURING, INC, TO PURCHASE FORTY (40) BUS SHELTERS. A **motion** was made by Gary Gonya and was seconded by Lou Thomson. It passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 34-26, AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH MIDWEST CONTRACTING, INC. TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THE PARATRANSIT SITE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT. A **motion** was made by Lou Thomson and seconded by Dr. Perryman. It passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 35-26, AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH MIDWEST CONTRACTING INC. FOR THE GOVERNMENT STATION DEMOLITION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. A **motion** was made by Gary Gonya and seconded by Lou Thomson. It passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 36, ADOPTING A LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT ON THE MONROE STREET CORRIDOR. A **motion** was made by Gary Gonya and seconded by Lou Thomson. It passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 10-26, AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO AMEND RESOLUTION 10-26 CUSTOMER SERVICE SOFTWARE CONTRACT WITH INVERVE MARKETING INC. A **motion** was made by Lou Thomson and seconded by Gary Gonya. It passed unanimously.

Secretary Treasurer- James Karasek, CFO presented an overview of the July Financial statements**.** Cash and Investments remain strong at $59.9 million. Capital Assets not being Depreciated is less than last year due to large apron parking lot project last year. Accounts Payable is less than last year due to slowness of payments in 2025 caused by the NetSuite software conversion. Passenger Fares improved some in July, but we are still closely monitoring new operational procedures put in place to improve fare collection. Labor was over budget due to higher-than-expected overtime. Fringe Benefits overage was mostly caused by workers' compensation being higher than budget. Material and Supplies were over budget due to costs associated with bus and building repairs being higher than expected, which caused Maintenance and Facilities Maintenance to be over budget. Services were over budget due to higher-than-expected VIA services costs, and timing of the invoices related to the BRT study and TransPro Services. This also caused Paratransit, Planning and Administration to be over budget. Safety was over budget due to additional security needed to temporarily monitor employee parking lots. Microtransit was over budget due to driver wage increases and a reallocation of fringe benefits from transportation. July Sales Tax was $3.73 million dollars compared to July 2025 of $3.63 million dollars. August Sales Tax was $3.91 million dollars compared to August 2025 of $3.70 million dollars. TARTA had $63,655 in Investment Income.

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CEO Report- Laura Koprowski, CEO, presented the CEO Report, highlighting several key updates. Ridership experienced a dip in August, due in part to a record year of rainfall, ongoing road construction, and continued enforcement of TARTA's fare policy. Ridership is expected to increase in September and October, which is typical for the transit industry and consistent with TARTA's historical trends.
The TARTA Roadeo had a very successful turnout this year and, for the first time, included a paratransit driver competition. TARTA retirees also participated in the event, adding to its success. David Keriko was recognized as the reigning fixed-route champion for the second consecutive year. Work is underway with the Governance Committee to establish a Youth Advisory Committee focused on supporting and enhancing youth ridership. TARTA also launched its new youth travel training program, The Wheels Program, this month. The Youth Summer Blast program experienced increased participation in 2026. The annual Community Update Event will be held on October 29, and Board members are encouraged to attend and invite members of the community. At Spring Meadows, new blue bus shelters and sidewalks are being installed, reflecting the community's brand and its enthusiasm for being part of the project. Transit conference season is also underway, with multiple conferences taking place throughout September, October, and November. TARTA team members and Board members will be attending and presenting at several of these events.

President Report – Kendra Smith welcomed Dana Dunbar to the TARTA board. Dana introduced herself and shared her professional and community background which includes having served on the Ottawa Hills village council for 8 years and TMACOG board for 6 years. The TARTA Board Retreat is October 8th and details for the meeting were provided. Kendra Smith, Board President spoke on the behalf of Mary Morrison, Board Vice-President, Good job for the BRT presentation to Rick Bailey, Deputy CEO and Kali Sawaya, Transit Project Planning Manager and Shot out to Oscar Correra, Director of Transportation for the TARTA Bus Roadeo 2026!

Reports and communications from Board Trustees-

Any and All Other Business – Lou Thomson thanked Laura Koprowski, CEO for presenting the LITE funding check to the City of Maumee at the council meeting and his experience at the APTA Board Seminar in Detroit this past July.

Meeting Calendar- The next regularly scheduled TARTA Board of Trustees meeting will take place on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the TARTA board room at 130 Knapp St. Toledo, OH 43604.

Adjournment- Lou Thomson made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Gary Gonya. It passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:29 PM.

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.

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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.