



Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee Minutes

Thursday, July 9, 2026 at 2:00 PM

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Amy Taylor called the July 9, 2026 meeting of the Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee to order at 2 pm.

2. Roll Call

Amy Taylor, Chair
Jeff Hunley, Trustee
Doug McCollough, Trustee
Matt Starr, Trustee

3. Approval of Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee Minutes

A. May 7, 2026 Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee Minutes

Trustee Doug McCollough moved to approve the May 7, 2026 Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Jeff Hunley. Motion carried.

4. Unaudited Financials and Operational Performance

Chief Financial Officer Earl Jackson presented the unaudited financials for the period ending May 31, 2026, reporting that through May 2026, COTA generated \$82.1 million in operating revenues (about \$4.4 million above budget) while controlling operating expenses to \$98.3 million (about \$14.2 million below budget), resulting in a net operating position that performed \$18.5 million better than budget. Sales tax performance exceeded expectations, totaling \$158.9 million year-to-date—3.3 percent favorable to budget and 110.9 percent higher than the same period in 2025. Mr. Jackson highlighted key cost drivers, including lower operating expenses due largely to staffing changes and budgeted positions that remain vacant, delayed service activities at the beginning of the year, and lower than budgeted spend on other expenses. COTA remains in a strong financial position with a cash reserve balance of \$431.1 million and well-performing investment portfolios. Mr. Jackson noted near-term risks to monitor, which include the federal funding environment and potential impacts on current and future grant-funded projects, local sales tax performance amid inflationary pressures, and labor market conditions impacting operating costs.

COTA Deputy CEO Garth Weithman provided the operational performance update

through May 2026, which showed a 1.88 percent decrease in Fixed Route ridership, however, May ridership was higher than 2025 (thus trending in a positive direction) while providing five percent more service hours year-to-date compared to 2025. COTA continues to deliver roughly 97 percent of service miles using the older Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fleet due to range, reliability and recall issues with COTA's newer Battery Electric Bus (BEB) fleet. Utilizing the older fleet has resulted in both overall bus availability and a service reliability reduction of 10.48 percent compared to the same time period in 2025. Preventable accidents are up 30.65 percent from this time last year. Operations staff have identified hotspots, like COTA facilities, and working with the training team to improve operator performance. On-time performance remains steady at 81.78 percent, a .42 percent year-to-date increase. Mr. Weithman said Tap to Pay continues to grow, representing 55 percent of overall fare payments, with use of cash decreasing by three percent since March. Mainstream continues to perform well in ridership, on-time performance, vehicle reliability and safe operations. Pick up on-time performance for Mainstream has been constrained by driver availability. Since mid-April, our third-party provider and their partners have made meaningful progress in addressing these staffing challenges, and performance has begun to improve. COTA//Plus saw ridership growth of nearly four percent with the highest demand being in the South Side zone.

5. New Business

No new business was brought before the committee.

6. Resolutions for Review and Discussion

COTA Chief Financial Officer Earl Jackson presented the following Finance division resolutions, with the transfer of funds resolution recommended for the regular agenda and the tax budget resolution recommended for the consent agenda:

- A. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing the Transfer of Funds Between the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
- B. Resolution 2026-XX Authorization to Adopt a Tax Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2027, and to Submit the 2027 Tax Budget to the Franklin County Auditor

COTA Transportation Director Anthony Cross presented the following Operations division resolution for placement on the consent agenda:

- C. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Galls, LLC for the Purchase of COTA Uniforms

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

- D. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with a Customer’s Point of View, Inc. for Third Party Bus Operator Monitoring Services

COTA Engineering and Design Director Tom Komlanc presented the following Capital Delivery division resolution for placement on the regular agenda:

- E. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Kimley- Horn for East Main Street High-Capacity Transit Corridor Detailed Design and Construction Engineering Services

COTA Chief Human Resources Officer Nikki Brandon presented the following Human Resources division resolution for placement on the consent agenda:

- F. Resolution 2026-XX Authorizing Additional Expenditures for the Contract with Peanut Butter, Inc. for Assistance with Employee Student Loan Repayment Services

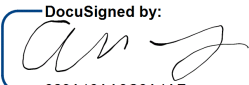
7. Other Business

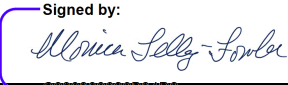
No other business was brought before the committee.

8. Adjournment

- 9. Trustee Hunley moved to adjourn the July 9, 2026 Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee meeting, seconded by Trustee McCollough. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned 2:47 pm.

Adopted: September 10, 2026

Signed: 
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Chair, Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee

Attest: 
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President/CEO