



## **External Stakeholder Relations Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 3:00 PM

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

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Shannon Tolliver called the March 4, 2025 meeting of the External Stakeholder Committee to order at 3 pm.

### **2. Roll Call**

#### **Committee Members Present**

Shannon Tolliver, Chair

Trudy Bartley, Trustee

Heather Ulrey, Trustee

### **3. Approval of External Stakeholder Relations Committee Minutes**

- A. January 14, 2025 External Stakeholder Relations Committee Minutes

Trustee Trudy Bartley moved to approve the January 14, 2025 External Stakeholder Relations Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Heather Ulrey. Motion carried.

### **4. New Business**

- A. Active and Anticipate Grants - Casey Blazer, COTA External Relations Manager

COTA Local Government Affairs Director Kelsey Ellingsen presented Active and Anticipated grants. She selected grants to highlight, including grants supporting the West Broad Street and East corridors, and a grant from Ohio Department of Transportation's Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership, which is addressing how people get to jobs through public transportation. Ms. Ellingsen reviewed anticipated grants and said the COTA team is working to understand the new Administration's priorities.

B. State Transportation Budget Update - Casey Blazer, COTA External Relations Manager

COTA Local Government Affairs Director Kelsey Ellingsen presented the current state of the transportation budget bill. The deadline to pass the budget is March 31.

C. Community Impact Report - Aslyne Rodriguez, COTA Senior Director, Regional Strategic Partnerships and Kimberly Cole, COTA Community Relations Manager

COTA Community Relations Manager Kimberly Cole began the Community Impact Report presentation highlighting that COTA had a 35 percent growth in new sponsorships in 2024 and in 2025 will continue to expand sponsorship to unrepresented communities. Ms. Cole said at the more than 40 events held in 2024, there was a combined attendance of more than 150,000 people. She also shared a list of nonprofit partnerships. COTA Regional Strategic Partnerships Senior Director Aslyne Rodriguez presented the number of trips in 2024 for the Short North C-Pass (150,350), Downtown C-Pass (433,933), and area high school and college students (totaling more than one million trips), and noted that students are key to growing ridership.

5. Other Business

No other business was brought before the Committee.

6. Adjournment

Trustee Ulrey moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Bartley. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Next Meeting: 3:30 pm, Thursday, May 8, 2025

Adopted: May 8, 2025

Signed: 

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Erika Clark Jones  
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Chair, External Stakeholder Relations  
Committee

Attest: 

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Alpina Selby Fowler  
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President/CEO