



Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Minutes

Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 11:30 AM

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Trudy Bartley called the September 11, 2025 Strategic and Operational Planning Committee meeting to order at 11:35 am.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Trudy Bartley, Chair

Jay Deis, Trustee

Mallory Donaldson, Trustee

Stephen Sayre, Trustee

3. Approval of Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Minutes

A. July 8, 2025 Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Minutes

Trustee Stephen Sayre moved to approve the July 8, 2025 Strategic and Operational Planning Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Jay Deis. Motion carried.

4. New Business

A. IT/Innovation Annual Update - Sophia Mohr, COTA Chief Innovation and Technology Officer

Chief Innovation and Technology Officer Sophia Mohr provided the annual Information Technology/Innovation update, noting that the technology on vehicles have been changing and COTA will continue to add more technology. She said currently there are 13 different technology points on a bus, and her division supports more than 150 applications across COTA. Ms. Mohr shared their plans for the coming three years and provided key updates, including fare management, where they are testing tap payment.

B. LinkUS Update – Dorinda McCombs, COTA Chief LinkUS Program Officer

Chief LinkUS Program Officer Dorinda McCombs gave the LinkUS Update, noting progress on traffic, stormwater retention, NEPA, schedule, cost estimate, and public engagement work for the West Broad, East Main, and Northwest corridors. Ms. McCombs shared reviews of risks and mitigation strategies, and noted public engagement work along the corridors so that businesses and the public have updates.

- C. COTA//Plus Service Provider Plan - Devayani Puranik, COTA Mobility Development Program Director and Kelsey Ellingsen, COTA Local Government Affairs Director

COTA Mobility Development Program Director Devayani Puranik provided the history of COTA//Plus, which currently covers three zones: Westerville, South Columbus, and Grove City. Ms. Puranik noted that the service’s purpose is to fill in service gaps and extend service, and said seniors, students and workforce are the main users of COTA//Plus. She said expansion plans of up to eight new zones were built into the LinkUS initiative, and shared the proposed investment model: COTA covers 90 percent (through grants, sales tax, and farebox revenue); community share is 10 percent.

COTA Local Government Affairs Director Kelsey Ellingsen shared details of the expansion program promotion, noting key partners are involved with outreach about this opportunity, as well as outreach effort made through email, meetings, and inclusion in the September LinkUS progress report. Interested communities are asked to submit a letter of interest by October 10.

- D. Resolution 2025-XX Authorizing the Sale of Trillium Park Development Lot-3 to Morse Road Development LLC

COTA Senior Director, Capital Delivery Andy Biesterveld presented the proposed resolution to sell Trillium Park Development Lot-3, recommending it be placed on the consent agenda.

5. Other Business

No other business was brought before the Committee.

6. Adjournment

Trustee Deis moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Stephen Sayre. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 pm.

Adopted:

November 5, 2025

Signed:

DocuSigned by:

Trudy Bartley

8F4E9C64CF0E470...

Chair, Strategic and Operational Planning Committee

Attest:

Signed by:

Monica Sally Fowler

C680309626B34B2...

President/CEO