



---

**MEETING: COTA BOARD STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024**

**TIME: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

**LOCATION: WILLIAM G. PORTER BOARDROOM**

---

**MEETING MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mentel called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Board Members Present**

Sean Mentel  
Erica Clark Jones  
Doug McCollough  
Kumi Walker

**Board Members Absent**

**3. APPROVAL OF STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Trustee Walker motioned to approve the January 9, 2024, Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Meeting minutes. Seconded by Trustee Clark Jones. Motion carried.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**PRESENTATION**

**AIRPORT UPDATE – KRISTEN EASTERDAY, DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT COLUMBUS AIRPORTS**

Kristen Easterday, Director, Communications and Public Affairs at Columbus Airports and Tom McCarthy provided an Airport Update. The CMH terminal today has multiple assets and systems that are nearing the end of useful life; operationally and environmentally inefficient; and limits air service growth. CMH is the primary airport for 33 Ohio counties.

Global architecture, design and planning firm Gensler, along with Columbus-based Moody Nolan are providing professional design services for a new terminal. Hensel Phelps Construction Co., a nationally recognized leader in aviation construction, partnered with local firm Elford is serving as Construction Manager at Risk (CMR).

Building to Benefit the Community



- CRAA has committed to:
  - Supporting underrepresented businesses including small, local, minority, women- and veteran-owned firms.
  - 25% Disadvantaged Business Enterprise/Disadvantaged Business Program (DBE/DBP) construction participation goal.
  - Pay wages and benefits equal to the base wage and fringe established in the prevailing wage schedule to all contractors performing onsite work on the new terminal project, which will be enforced by project contracts.
- Timeline:
  - 2018-2022 – Saving & Planning
  - 2022-2024 – Design
  - Early 2025 – Groundbreaking
  - 2025-2028 – Construction
  - Early 2029 – New terminal opens

What is guiding the new terminal design? The passenger. This will be the terminal of the future with a greater capacity - 13 million annual passengers and a 51% increase; space for future growth, if needed, using the lane to the east; and designed for efficiency. The Y design brings aircraft closer to the checkpoint and reduces walking distances for passengers. Prepared for our region's growth by adding 36 hyper-efficient gates, which is gained from today's 29 constrained gates; as well as customs facilities expanded. The new terminal will be efficient, safe, and sustainable. A pedestrian bridge that will allow ease of access to all ground transportation options; and LEED certification. The elevated experience includes a single checkpoint with more concession and retail offerings and greater lounge access; line of sight that includes a more relaxed experience when you can see your gate. For convenience, comfort and style, there will be right-sized hold rooms that are 40-60% larger than current hold room seating areas.

The total project is estimated to cost \$2 billion. CRAA does not levy taxes. Funding is as follows: \$1.5 billion from General Airport Revenue Bonds; \$240 million from CRAA savings; \$140 million from federal grants; and \$100 million from other sources of funding. Future information can be found at CMHNext.com.

#### LINKUS DOWNTOWN CONVERGENCE UPDATE – ANDY BIESTERVELD, CHIEF ENGINEERING & MECHANICAL OFFICER

Chief Engineering and Mechanical Officer Andy Biesterveld presented an update on the LinkUS Downtown Convergence. There is continuing to be ongoing coordination between the City of Columbus and COTA, working with ODOT. Early March, there will be a detailed schedule for both the East Main BRT Corridor (COTA holds contract with Kimley-Horn) and downtown multi-modal study (City of Columbus holds contract with WSP). WSP will provide a certified traffic report through March. In April, the certified traffic report will be sent to ODOT for review. Downtown Stakeholders will meet in April to review traffic results. A potential East Main BRT Corridor Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) revision presented to the COTA Board at May/July Board meetings.



#### Key milestones

- W Broad timeline
  - June: End of line
  - Summer: update reasonable financial plan based on grant awards
  - September: complete NEPA
  - December: complete 90% design
  - 2025: utilities relation; ROW acquisition
- E Main Timeline
  - April: Preferred alignment deadline to move forward without delay
  - May/July Board Meetings: COTA Board LPA amendment to the street, after the, what a runway to work on the Old Market Site potential
  - August: Ratings Request submission to the FTA with 'reasonable financial plan'
  - Summer: work on automobile traffic mitigation plans with traffic engineers

#### 5. OTHER BUSINESS

#### 6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mentel motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was moved by Trustee McCollough, seconded by Trustee Clark Jones that the meeting be adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

ADOPTED:

May 7, 2024

Date Adopted

SIGNED:

Chair, Strategic & Operational Planning  
Committee

DocuSigned by:

ATTEST:

*Monica Sally Fowler*

C680309626B34B2...  
President/CEO

#### Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Members

Andy Biesterveld, Chief Staff Liaison

Sean Mentel, Chair

Erika Clark Jones

Doug McCollough

Kumi Walker