



Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Minutes

Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 9:30 AM

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Trudy Bartley called the July 8, 2025 Strategic and Operational Planning Committee meeting to order at 9:31 am.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Trudy Bartley, Chair

Jay Deis, Trustee

Mallory Donaldson, Trustee

Stephen Sayre, Trustee (9:34 am)

3. Approval of Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Minutes

- A. May 6, 2025 Strategic and Operational Planning Committee Minutes

Trustee Jay Deis moved to approve the May 6, 2025 Strategic and Operational Planning Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Mallory Donaldson. Motion carried.

4. New Business

- A. Transit Supportive Infrastructure 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program Update - Maria Schaper, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Transportation Study Director

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Transportation Study Director Maria Schaper presented the update to the Transit Supportive Infrastructure program, which will provide 140,000 more people access to a 10–15-minute walk or ride to a bus stop. Initially, 40 projects were set to start construction in 2026, however three of the 40 projects will not be ready to start then. The 37 projects receiving grant awards in 2026 were presented by geographic quadrants. Next steps include contract execution, with projects beginning in January 2026; working groups will be reconvened to set projects for 2031 and drafting the 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Program.

Resolution 2025-XX Authorizing the Adoption of the 2026-2030 Transit Supportive Infrastructure Grant Awards Program's Five-Year Capital Improvements Program

COTA Interim Chief Financial Officer Michael DeWees presented the resolution to adopt the 2026-2030 Transit Supportive Infrastructure Grant Awards Program, recommending that it be placed on the regular agenda.

B. LinkUS Program Update – Andy Biesterveld, COTA Chief Engineer

COTA Chief of External Relations Patrick Harris presented an update on LinkUS' governance structure. The structure has been named LinkUS Delivery Alliance, which will champion the program through strategic leadership and stakeholder engagement. Mr. Harris went through the timeline of meetings and organizational structure.

COTA Chief Engineer Andy Biesterveld presented a progress report on LinkUS work, including West Broad, East Main, and Northwest corridors. The work focuses on traffic (volume), stormwater detention, NEPA/Schedule, and cost estimates. Mr. Biesterveld shared an update on the schedules for the different projects. At this time, there are no overall changes to the completion dates.

C. Budget Update - Michael DeWees, COTA Interim Chief Financial Officer

COTA Interim Chief Financial Officer Michael DeWees provided an update on COTA's budget, sharing operating performance, financial statement through May 2025, sales tax, cash reserves, and investment summary. Mr. DeWees noted that there was a timing issue with Year-To-Date revenue due to changes with the Federal Transportation Administration staff; incoming grant revenue will be resolved over the coming months. He also noted a positive year-over-year trend in sales tax revenue. COTA's financial focus includes the increase of sales tax trend; monitoring the funding environment its potential impact on current and future projects; watching for any tariff changes and effect on inventory and bus repairs impact, and refining reporting for transparency and effective communication purposes.

D. Strategic Plan Update - Jill Barnett, TransPro Senior Project Leader

TransPro Senior Project Leader Jill Barnett presented an update on COTA's Strategic Plan work. She shared updated mission and vision statements, and that COTA's core values of Safety, Empowerment, Accountability, Teamwork and Service (SEATS) were confirmed. Ms. Barnett presented a draft of what success looks like in the areas of customer experience, employee engagement, community value, and fiscal responsibility. In addition to COTA staff, input from stakeholders representing employment, healthcare, education and housing was gathered. Next steps for the strategic plan work include TransPro working with COTA divisions to develop

departmental objectives, workplans, and scorecards. The goal is to have the board adopt the strategic plan at its December meeting.

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 10:15 am.

Adopted: September 11, 2025

Signed:

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Trudy Bartley
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Chair, Strategic and Operational Planning
Committee

Attest:

Signed by:
Monica Sally Fowler
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President/CEO