OPTA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2024

OFFICERS

Howard Stewart, SEAT	President
Andy Volenik, Delaware Co Transit	Vice President
Bob Ruzinsky, Dayton RTA	Secretary Treasurer
Mary Habig, NCAT	Vice President Small Urban/Rural Systems
Melissa Leckrone, Perry Co.	Vice President Mobility Manager Members
Blair Taseff, TESCO	Vice President Associate Members
Kevin Hardesty, GILLIG	Vice President Associate Members

Emeritus Representatives

India Birdsong, Greater Cleveland RTA
Kirt Conrad, Stark Area RTA
Darryl Haley, Southwest Ohio RTA
Patrick Harris, Central Ohio TA
Laura Koprowski, Toledo Area RTA
Claudia Amrhein, PARTA
Dawn Distler, Akron METRO

OPTA Staff

Matt Carle, Executive Director
Elle Crader, Executive Administrator

Presenter Attendees

Andy Bowers, Bowers Hinman Capitol Affairs

Howard Stewart, SEAT

Mr. Howard Stewart called the meeting of the OPTA Executive Committee to order at 1:31PM on October 15, 2024. He motioned to have the minutes from the August 2024 Executive Committee meeting accepted. Mary Habig made the motion, which was seconded by Andy Volenik. All attendees then voted in favor by saying "aye." He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Matt Carle.

Matt Carle, OPTA

Mr. Matt Carle began by stating he would give an Executive Director update and then a Government Relations update.

Mr. Carle started his remarks by stating OPTA has begun preparing its biennium budget request and recently met with both ODOT senior staff and the Governor's Office. Additionally, Mr. Andy Bowers is reaching out to new ODOT Dir. Pam Vest Boratyn to discuss the upcoming transportation budget. For those who are not aware, the OPTA budget request is an increase from $70 to $85M, operator assault language and the inclusion of the Workforce Mobility Partnership Program again, with some minor changes. Mr. Carle then transitioned to an update on the Ohio Needs Transit Conference & OPTA Expo 2024.

Mr. Carle gave some planned highlights of the upcoming conference and encouraged everyone to support their staff in attending the conference as it is a great learning and networking opportunity. Some of the highlights included changes to the Expo which will have a live band, 70's theme party

and award for best costume. Mr. Carle also stated that OPTA met a few weeks ago to review all of the nominations for OPTA's Excellence Awards and winners were selected, which will be announced live at the conference.

Mr. Carle then asked Mr. Bowers if he had any other additional updates, to which he did not.

Howard Stewart, SEAT
Mr. Stewart thanked Mr. Carle and Mr. Bowers and turned it over to Mr. Ruzinsky for the finance update.

Bob Ruzinsky, Dayton RTA
Mr. Ruzinsky stated OPTA has been doing a good job of collecting their unpaid 2024 dues and encouraged leaders to help their staff process any outstanding invoices they have. Additionally, Mr. Ruzinsky stated invoices are starting to pick up for the Ohio Needs Transit Conference and OPTA Expo 2024 but that the financials are only through August 2024, so we anticipate more changes in the finances in the coming months.

Howard Stewart, SEAT
Mr. Stewart thanked Mr. Ruzinsky and then turned it over anyone with a leadership report.

Lisa Leckrone, Perry County JFS
Ms. Lisa Leckrone mentioned she had been working with OPTA to encourage the rural mobility managers who are not members of OPTA to join.

Blair Tassef, TESCO
Mr. Tassef mentioned he has also been working with OPTA to plan the Expo portion of the conference and expects more vehicles at the show than in prior years.

Howard Stewart, SEAT
Mr. Stewart thanked everyone for their reports and stated that OPTA Nomination Committee has been put together to craft the 2025 slate to be voted on at the November Board meeting. The slate includes all members currently serving with the addition of Dane Patterson from BSI as a third VP of Associate Members.

Finally, he thanked everyone for their time and stated he was looking forward to seeing everyone in person at the November OPTA conference. The meeting ended at 1:53PM.