



TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION NO. 26-21

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR A NEW ORGANIZATIONAL AND FUNDING STRUCTURE WHICH WOULD: (1) EXPAND TRANSIT SERVICES THROUGHOUT LUCAS COUNTY; (2) ELIMINATE THE CURRENT 2.5 MILL PROPERTY TAX LEVIES AND TRANSITION TO A SALES AND USE TAX FUNDING SYSTEM AND (3) ALLOCATE MONIES FROM THE SALES AND USE TAX COLLECTED TO TARTA TO DIRECTLY FUND ITS OPERATIONS AND ALLOCATE MONIES FROM THE SALES AND USE TAX COLLECTED TO OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES FOR TRANSIT RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) exists as a political subdivision under the laws of the state of Ohio and provides essential transit services in the following jurisdictions in Lucas and Wood County, Ohio (Member Communities): the City of Toledo; the City of Maumee; the City of Sylvania; the City of Rossford; the Village of Ottawa Hills; the City of Waterville and the Township of Sylvania; and

WHEREAS, TARTA derives funding from two ad valorem property taxes at a combined rate of 2.5 mills paid by the residential, commercial and industrial property owners within the area of TARTA; and

WHEREAS, TARTA is one of the last regional transit authorities in the State of Ohio which continues to rely upon dedicated property taxes as a source of funding, with most other regional transit authorities utilizing voter-approved sales tax levies which are paid by nonresidents as well as residents; and

WHEREAS, a sales and use tax funding system is viewed as more equitable for the region and its residents, but it necessitates the addition of Lucas County as one of TARTA's Member Communities pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Lucas County Commissioners established a Community Task Force comprised of a broad section of leaders across the region to assess the state of public transportation in and around Lucas County; and

WHEREAS, in August of 2019 the final report of the Community Task Force, entitled Community Task Force: Public Transportation In Northwest Ohio, was issued and it recommended that Lucas County should be invited to become a Member of TARTA and that a 0.5% sales tax levy should be proposed to replace the inefficient property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees desires to move to a new organizational and funding system which would: (1) expand transit services throughout Lucas County by adding Lucas County as a member; (2) eliminate the current 2.5 mill property tax levies and transition to a 0.5% sales and use tax and (3) allocate monies from the sales and use tax collected to TARTA to directly fund its operations and allocate monies from the sales and use tax collected to other local governmental entities for transit related infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY, OHIO:

SECTION 1: The Chief Executive Officer of TARTA is hereby authorized and directed to develop a plan for consideration by TARTA's Member Communities implementing a new organizational and funding system which would: (1) expand transit services throughout Lucas County by adding Lucas County as a member; (2) eliminate the current 2.5 mill property tax levies and transition to a 0.5% sales and use tax which will be paid by nonresidents as well as residents and (3) allocate monies from the sales and use tax collected to TARTA to directly fund its operations and allocate monies from the sales and use tax collected to other local governmental entities for transit related infrastructure.

The plan shall provide that if Lucas County is added as a member of TARTA, this Board will amend its composition to reflect its expanded geographical boundaries, as follows: four members, who shall have terms of three years, shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City of



Toledo, with the advice and consent of the Council of the City of Toledo; three members, who shall have terms of three years, shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners for Lucas County; one member, who shall have a term of three years, shall be appointed by the City of Maumee, with the advice and consent of the Council of the City of Maumee; one member, who shall have a term of three years, shall be appointed by the Mayor of the Village of Ottawa Hills, with the advice and consent of the Council of the Village; one member, who shall have a term of three years, shall be appointed by the Mayor the City of Rossford, with the advice and consent of the Council of the City of Rossford; one member, who shall have a term of three years, shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City of Sylvania, with the advice and consent of the Council of the City of Sylvania; one member, who shall have a term of three years, shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees of Sylvania Township; and one member, who shall have a term of three years, shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City of Waterville, with the advice and consent of the Council of the City of Waterville.

The plan shall also provide that if TARTA's property tax levies are replaced with 0.5% sales and use tax, the monies derived therefrom will be utilized in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 306.35, and after application of Section 306.322, certain of these sums collected are to be expended for public infrastructure projects to assist other local governmental entities in the TARTA service area in funding installation, maintenance and improvement of transit related infrastructure so that the roads, sidewalks, bridges, bus stops, bus shelters, signage and associated improvements are adequate to allow TARTA to operate its vehicles and serve its passengers in the Member Communities, with annual payments as follows: City of Toledo \$300,000; City of Maumee \$90,000; Village of Ottawa Hills \$90,000; City of Rossford \$90,000; City of Sylvania \$90,000; Sylvania Township \$90,000 and City of Waterville \$90,000.

SECTION 2: The Chief Executive Officer shall report to the Board of Trustees concerning these issues from time to time, and in any event, shall finalize the development of the alternative organizational and funding plan and present it to the Member Communities in sufficient time to permit the TARTA Board of Trustees to consider the plan and, if the plan is acceptable to the Member Communities and this Board of Trustees, submit the plan to the voters at the November 2, 2021 general election.

SECTION 3: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4: This resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED: June 16, 2021

  
President

ATTEST:

  
Secretary-Treasurer