

COTA *Updates*

MORPC Community Advisory Committee

July 29, 2024





Garth Weithman Named Deputy CEO

The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) Board of Trustees voted on July 24, 2024, to name Garth Weithman as Deputy CEO.

He has been integral to numerous organization wide priorities including negotiations with our workforce partner TWU Local 208, implementation of industry-leading paid family leave and domestic partnership policies, and advancement of the LinkUS initiative.



Tanya Salyers

Deputy Chief of Staff

The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) announced on July 1, 2024, that Tanya Salyers was added to team COTA.

In her role, she will provide strategic support for communications and public engagement efforts for LinkUS, manage day-to-day administrative operations and serve as a communication liaison for COTA's leadership team, division staff and the community.

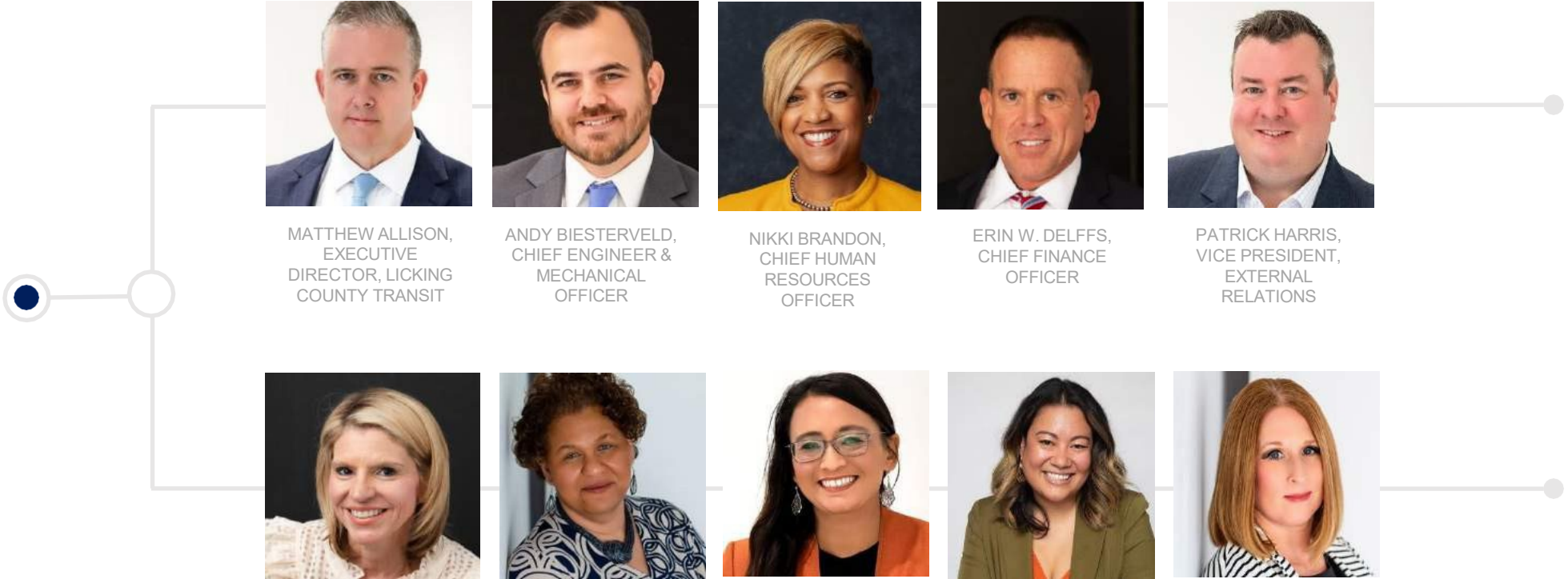
COTA *leadership team*



MONICA TELLEZ-FOWLER,
PRESIDENT/CEO



GARTH WEITHMAN,
DEPUTY CEO



MATTHEW ALLISON,
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, LICKING
COUNTY TRANSIT



ANDY BIESTERVELD,
CHIEF ENGINEER &
MECHANICAL
OFFICER



NIKKI BRANDON,
CHIEF HUMAN
RESOURCES
OFFICER



ERIN W. DELFFS,
CHIEF FINANCE
OFFICER



PATRICK HARRIS,
VICE PRESIDENT,
EXTERNAL
RELATIONS



AMY HOCKMAN,
CHIEF
OF TRANSIT



MONICA JONES,
CHIEF EQUITY
OFFICER



SOPHIA MOHR,
CHIEF INNOVATION &
TECHNOLOGY
OFFICER



TANYA SALYERS
DEPUTY CHIEF OF
STAFF



CHRISTINA WENDELL,
CHIEF LEGAL/
GENERAL COUNSEL



FTA Awards COTA \$22.8M Grant for Clean Hydrogen Fuel Cell Buses

On July 10, the Federal Transit Administration awarded COTA a \$22.8 million grant through the Buses and Bus Facilities Program. This grant will:

- Fund 10 new hydrogen fuel cell electric buses
- Support the construction of a new hydrogen fueling station at McKinley Operations Facility
- Fund 10 electric buses

All of which will help COTA achieve its goal to transition to a zero-emission bus fleet by 2035 and achieve net-zero carbon neutrality by 2045.

Town Hall Meetings

Open to the public

Attendees will:

- Learn about expanded COTA service, more sidewalks, bikeways, trails peruse our resource fair with transit partners
- Engage with leaders from COTA, MORPC, the City of Columbus, Columbus City Council members and community members
- Participate in a roundtable dialogue and ask questions



Town Hall Meetings

July 25: West High School | 6-7:30 p.m. | *179 S. Powell Ave*

August 8: Impact Community Action | 6-7:30 p.m. | *711 Southwood Ave*

August 17: Columbus Urban League | 10-11:30 a.m. | *788 Mt. Vernon Ave*

September 12: Carriage Place Community Center | 6-7:30 p.m. | *4900 Sawmill Rd*

September 23: CML Northern Lights Branch | 6-7:30 p.m. | *4093 Cleveland Ave*

October 5: CML Main Library | 10-11:30 a.m. | *96 S. Grant Ave*

October 9: Reynoldsburg High School | 6-7:30 p.m. | *6699 E. Livingston Ave*

September Service Change: Schedule Adjustments

The following changes are not dependent on workforce resources increasing.

LINE	CHANGES	RATIONALE
1 Kenny/Livingston, 2 E Main/ N High, 3 Northwest/Harrisburg, 4 Indianola/Lockbourne 5 W 5th Ave/Refugee, 8 Karl/S High/Parsons, 10 E Broad/ W Broad, 24 Hamilton, 35 Dublin-Granville 75 Arlington/ 1st Ave, CMAX 102 Polaris Pkwy/N High	Minor schedule adjustments on weekdays	Improve on-time performance
12 McKinley/Fields & 24 Hamilton	Minor schedule adjustments on weekends	Improve on-time performance

Key: rationale / public feedback

September Service Change: Final Changes

The following changes are **not** dependent on workforce resources increasing.

LINE	CURRENT SERVICE	CHANGES	RATIONALE
12 McKinley/Fields	Service between McKinley and Spring Street Terminal on weekends – no service to fields	Operate between both McKinley and Fields on weekends and no longer service Spring St Terminal	Continuous improvement.
102 Polaris / N High	Laying over at E Mound St & S 4th St in downtown Columbus	Layover at E Mound St & S 5th St instead of S 4th St	Will help reduce congestion at E Mound St & S 4th St

Key: rationale / public feedback

September Service Change: Final Service Increases

The following changes were **not** dependent on workforce resources increasing.

LINE	CURRENT SERVICE	CHANGES	RATIONALE
24 Hamilton	<p>Weekday: every 60 minutes along whole route</p> <p>Weekend: every 60 minutes with service ending at Eastland Mall</p>	<p>Weekday: frequency improvement to every 30 minutes along whole route</p> <p>Weekend: service extended to Rickenbacker 7 days a week. Service every 60 minutes on weekends</p>	<p>Growing ridership. Customer request. COTA's most productive hourly line.</p>
75 Arlington/1st Ave	<p>Weekday: one AM/one PM Trip</p>	<p>Additional AM trip</p>	<p>Customer request to align with the start time at Stevenson Elementary School</p>

Key: rationale / public feedback

Ridership

LAST 365 DAYS

7/25/2023 to 7/23/2024

Total Boardings
10,707,011

Prior 365 Days
10,242,171

Difference
464,840

% Change
4.54%

