

**SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL
TRANSIT AUTHORITY**
Cincinnati, Ohio

**REPORTS ISSUED PURSUANT TO
THE OMB CIRCULAR A-133**
December 31, 2014



CliftonLarsonAllen



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Trustees
Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority
602 Main Street, Suite 1100
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditors' Report* of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority, Hamilton County, prepared by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, for the audit period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

September 9, 2015

This page intentionally left blank.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS.....	1
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS THAT COULD HAVE A DIRECT AND MATERIAL EFFECT ON EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM, ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE, AND ON THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OMB CIRCULAR A-133	3
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS.....	6
NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS.....	8
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS.....	9
SUMMARY OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS	10

This page intentionally left blank.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL
OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND
OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Board of Trustees
Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority
Cincinnati, Ohio

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority ("the Authority"), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 24, 2015.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Authority's internal control over financial reporting ("internal control") to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements in a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Authority's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which

could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "CliftonLarsonAllen LLP".

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Toledo, Ohio
June 24, 2015



**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
REQUIREMENTS THAT COULD HAVE A DIRECT AND MATERIAL EFFECT
ON EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM, ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
COMPLIANCE, AND ON THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF
FEDERAL AWARDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OMB CIRCULAR A-133**

Board of Trustees
Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority
Cincinnati, Ohio

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the Authority's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Authority's major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2014. The Authority's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to its federal programs.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for each of the Authority's major federal programs based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Authority's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Authority's compliance.

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

In our opinion, the Authority complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of the Authority is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered the Authority's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major federal program to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for each major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over compliance.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the result of that testing based on the requirements of OMB Circular A-133. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by OMB Circular A-133

We have audited the financial statements of the Authority as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements. We issued our report thereon dated June 24, 2015, which contained an unmodified opinion on those financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by OMB Circular A-133 and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other

Board of Trustees
Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditure of federal awards is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Toledo, Ohio
June 24, 2015

**SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
Year Ended December 31, 2014**

Federal Grantor Agency/ Pass-Through Grantor/ Program or Cluster Title	Federal CFDA Number	Grant Number	Amount Passed Through to Subrecipients	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. Department of Transportation:				
Federal Transit Administration (FTA):				
Federal Transit Cluster:				
Received directly from FTA:				
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-90-X265	\$ 268,278	\$ 898,259
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-90-X319	-	108,592
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-90-X343	-	1,215,283
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-90-X521	-	745
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-90-X584	-	24,040
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-90-X669	-	122,124
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-90-X678	-	20,759
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-90-X726	-	600,662
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-90-X795	-	9,051,964
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-90-X821	-	3,603,757
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-95-X044	-	81,249
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-95-X054	1,771,028	1,771,028
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-95-X094	-	3,199
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-95-X123	-	1,640,413
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-95-X166	-	162,171
Formula Grants	20.507	OH-95-X191	-	1,001,270
Subtotal CFDA 20.507			<u>2,039,306</u>	<u>20,305,515</u>
Federal Transit Administration -				
Capital Improvements Grant	20.500	OH-03-0295	-	138,729
Capital Improvements Grant	20.500	OH-03-0303	10,084,042	10,379,572
Capital Improvements Grant	20.500	OH-04-0091	-	397,709
Subtotal CFDA 20.500			<u>10,084,042</u>	<u>10,916,010</u>
Federal Transit Administration -				
State of Good Repair	20.525	OH-54-0003	-	11,063
State of Good Repair	20.525	OH-54-0005	-	10,884
Total CFDA 20.525			<u>-</u>	<u>21,947</u>
Total Federal Transit Cluster			<u>12,123,348</u>	<u>31,243,472</u>
U.S. Department of Transportation:				
Federal Transit Administration (FTA):				
Transit Services Program Cluster:				
Received directly from FTA:				
Job Access:				
Reverse Commute	20.516	OH-37-4097	139,789	146,973
Reverse Commute	20.516	OH-37-4102	112,029	188,195
Total Transit Services Program Cluster			<u>251,818</u>	<u>335,168</u>

SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS (continued)
Year Ended December 31, 2014

Federal Grantor Agency/ Pass-Through Grantor/ Program or Cluster Title	Federal CFDA Number	Grant Number	Amount Passed Through to Subrecipients	Total Federal Expenditures
Federal Transit Administration - Clean Fuels	20.519	OH-58-0008	-	24,458
Federal Transit Administration - Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction	20.523	OH-88-0001	-	164,886
Federal Transit Administration - Public Transportation Research	20.514	OH-26-7251	-	184,716
U.S. Department of Transportation: Office of the Secretary (OST) Administration Secretariate: National Infrastructure Investments	20.933	OH-79-0002	9,607,409	9,610,537
Total Office of the Secretary (OST) Cluster			9,607,409	9,610,537
U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Passed-through the Ohio Department of Public Safety: Emergency Management Agency	97.075	EMW-2011-RA-00049-501	-	160,576
Subtotal CFDA 97.075			-	160,576
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS			\$ 21,982,575	\$ 41,723,813

This schedule should be read only in connection with the accompanying notes to the schedule.

**SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
December 31, 2014**

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (“the Schedule”) presents the activity of federal award programs of the Authority under programs financed by the U.S. Government for the year ended December 31, 2014.

NOTE 2 - BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The Schedule is presented on the accrual basis of accounting. The information on this Schedule has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of OMB Circular A-133, “Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations”. Therefore, some amounts presented in this Schedule may differ from amounts presented in, or used in the preparation of, the basic financial statements.

For purposes of the Schedule, federal awards include the following:

- Direct federal awards.
- Pass-through funds received from non-federal organizations made under federally sponsored programs conducted by those organizations.

NOTE 3 - NONCASH ASSISTANCE

The Authority did not receive any federal awards in the form of noncash assistance for insurance in effect during the year, loans, or loan guarantees.

**SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
Year Ended December 31, 2014**

Section I - Summary of Auditors' Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued: Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified? yes no
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified that are not considered to be material weaknesses? yes none reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? yes no

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:

- Material weakness(es) identified? yes no
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified that are not considered to be material weakness(es)? yes none reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs: Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Section 510(a) of OMB Circular A-133? yes no

Identification of major programs:

<u>CFDA Number(s)</u>	<u>Name of Federal Program or Cluster</u>
<u>20.500, 20.507, 20.525</u>	<u>Federal Transit Cluster</u>
<u>20.933</u>	<u>National Infrastructure Investments</u>

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs: \$ 1,251,714

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? yes no

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

None.

Section III - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

None.

**SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SUMMARY OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
Year Ended December 31, 2014**

Reference 2013-001 - Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) Preparation

Federal Agency: U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Program: Federal Transit Cluster
CFDA Number: 20.507

Type of Finding:

- Significant Deficiency in Internal Control Over Compliance
- Compliance

During our 2013 testing of the SEFA, we identified approximately \$1 million in expenditures that were being improperly recorded under the incorrect grant number, therefore causing the status to be improperly reflected, requiring the SEFA to be resubmitted.

Status

We did not identify instances of such noncompliance related to improperly recorded awards during the current year SEFA preparation testing. The process in place to prepare and review the SEFA resulted in no errors.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority
Hamilton County, Ohio

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For Fiscal Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

Jason Dunn
Chair
Board of Trustees

Dwight Ferrell
CEO & General Manager

Prepared by:
Department of Accounting and Budget

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For Fiscal Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
Introductory Section	
Letter of Transmittal.....	1
Profile of Government.....	2
Financial Information.....	4
Year in Review.....	5
Economic Condition and Outlook.....	6
Future Projects.....	8
Other Information.....	8
Board of Trustees and Administration.....	9
Table of Organization.....	10
Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.....	11
Financial Section	
Independent Auditor's Report.....	13
Management's Discussion and Analysis.....	15
Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheets.....	22
Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position.....	24
Statements of Cash Flows.....	26
Notes to the Financial Statements.....	28
Supplemental Schedule of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position—Budget and Actual (GAAP Basis).....	44
Statistical Section	
Net Position and Changes in Net Position—Last Ten Years.....	46
Revenues by Source—Last Ten Years.....	48
Revenues by Source—Last Ten Years (Graph Presentation).....	49
Revenues and Operating Assistance—Comparison to Industry Trend Data—Last Ten Years.....	50
Expenses by Object Class—Last Ten Years.....	51
Operating Expenses per Vehicle Hour—Last Ten Years.....	52
Operating Expenses—Comparison to Industry Trend Data—Last Ten Years.....	53
City Income Tax—Transit Fund.....	54
Outstanding Debt—Last Ten Years.....	55
Demographic Statistics.....	56
Principal Employers in Service Area.....	57
Operating Statistics—Last Ten Years.....	58
Capital Asset Information.....	60
Passenger Fares vs. Operating Expenses—Last Ten Years.....	62
Passenger Fares Recovery Ratio—Last Ten Years.....	63
Revenue Rates—Last Ten Years.....	64
Full-Time Equivalent Employees as of Year-End—Last Ten Years.....	65

SORTA

Southwest Ohio Regional
Transit Authority

602 Main Street, Suite 1100
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2549
513/632-7610

Trustees

Jason Dunn
Chair

Ken Reed
Vice Chair

Frank H. Bowen
Maurice Brown
Brendon J. Cull
Gregg L. Hothem
Kreg W. Keesee
Ron Mosby
Jack Painter
Gwen L. Robinson
Karl B. Schultz
Daniel St. Charles
Bradley W. Thomas

Recipient of the
Ohio Auditor of State's
"Award with Distinction"



2015 Safety & Security Excellence
Gold Award Winner

SORTA's Mission

To connect people and places,
support economic development,
and improve quality of life
in the region.



go *METRO
ACCESS 

Metro and Access
are non-profit public services
of Southwest Ohio Regional
Transit Authority (SORTA).

June 24, 2015

Board of Trustees of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority
and residents of Hamilton County, Ohio:

We are pleased to present to you the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA or "The Authority") for fiscal years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013. This CAFR was prepared by the Accounting and Budget Department and represents SORTA's commitment to provide accurate, concise and high-quality financial information to its Board of Trustees, interested parties and residents in its service area.

This CAFR contains financial statements and statistical data which provide full disclosure of SORTA's material financial operations. The financial statements, supplemental schedules, statistical information, and all data contained herein are the representations of SORTA's management. SORTA's management assumes full responsibility for the accuracy, completeness and fairness of this CAFR presentation.

SORTA's independent auditor, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, has issued an unmodified ("clean") audit opinion on SORTA's financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014. CliftonLarsonAllen's Independent Auditor's Report can be found on page 13 of this CAFR.

SORTA also participates in the Federal single audit program, which consists of a single audit of all Federally-funded programs administered by SORTA. As a requirement for continued funding eligibility, participation in the single audit program is mandatory for most local governments, including SORTA. The single audit performed by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP met the requirements set forth by the State of Ohio and the Federal Single Audit Act of 1984 (as amended) and related OMB Circular A-133. The single audit report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, was issued with an unqualified ("clean") opinion.

We are very proud that the Governmental Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has again awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to SORTA for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, representing the 23rd consecutive year the Authority has received this award. The Certificate of Achievement is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance to the highest standards for preparation of state and local government financial reports. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily-readable and efficiently-organized comprehensive annual financial report, whose contents conform to stringent program standards. The CAFR must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements. A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the program requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

This CAFR is divided into the following three sections:

Introductory Section contains this letter of transmittal, a list of the members of the Board of Trustees and Administration, and a Table of Organization.

Financial Section includes the Independent Auditors' Report, Management's Discussion and Analysis, the financial statements (with related footnotes) for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the supplemental schedule of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position—budget and actual for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Statistical Section provides financial, economic, and demographic information which is useful for indicating trends for comparative fiscal periods.

PROFILE OF GOVERNMENT

General

SORTA was created under Chapter 306 of the Ohio Revised Code by a resolution of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners adopted on October 2, 1968. SORTA's service area is comprised of 218 square miles in Hamilton County, 7 square miles in Clermont County, 17 square miles in Warren County and 10 square miles in Butler County. This service area encompasses 12 townships, 13 villages and 22 cities, including the City of Cincinnati.

Commencement of Operations and Funding

Voters approved a City of Cincinnati income tax increase for transit in November 1972, which permitted the City's purchase of the privately-owned Cincinnati Transit Inc. bus system. On February 8, 1973, an agreement (the City/SORTA agreement) was executed providing terms for the operation of the transit system and delineating the obligations of SORTA and the City of Cincinnati. SORTA's operation of the service commenced August 15, 1973.

SORTA receives operating and capital assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964 (the Act), as amended. Among other requirements of the Act, state and local governments must provide a proportionate share of funds and/or support (as defined by the Federal Transit Administration guidelines) for operating and capital assistance. In this regard, under the terms of the City/SORTA agreement, the City provides operating and capital assistance to SORTA from revenues derived from the income tax designated for transit operations. Additional information about these funding sources can be found in Note 3 to the Financial Statements.

Services

SORTA provides public transportation services through two operating divisions, Metro and Access. Metro provides fixed route bus service throughout the service area. Currently, there are 47 fixed bus routes, including both local service and commuter express service on weekdays during rush hours. Operating hours generally run from about 4:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the next day, seven days a week, including holidays. Based on a review of 2000 U.S. Census data, it is estimated that approximately 80% of the population in SORTA's service area lives within three quarters of a mile of Metro fixed route service. In 2014, Metro operated a total of about 792,000 hours of service over 11.3 million miles, providing approximately 16.4 million rides.

Access provides demand-response, shared-ride service in Hamilton County for persons whose disabilities prevent them from riding Metro fixed route service. It is managed and operated by a private contractor which uses SORTA's fleet of 44 lift-equipped vehicles and 4 ambulatory vehicles. SORTA's Director of Accessible Services provides oversight for this service. In 2014, Access provided about 198,000 passenger trips over 1.6 million vehicle miles.

Management

SORTA is managed by a Board of Trustees (the "Board") which is vested by Ohio law with the powers necessary to manage SORTA. The Board of Trustees is comprised of four Charter Members representing the counties of Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont, and nine At-Large Members allotted by jurisdiction based upon the jurisdiction's funding contribution to the operation of SORTA. Currently, seven of the At-Large Members are appointed by the City of Cincinnati, and the remaining two At-Large Members are appointed by Hamilton County. The resolution that created SORTA, as amended in 2008, also authorizes SORTA to evolve into a multi-state regional transit commission in the future and possibly expand the number of Trustees to 17.

The administration of SORTA, subject to the policies and supervision of its Board of Trustees, is directed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO selects the senior staff who manage the day-to-day operations of the Authority. A Table of Organization which depicts the key functional responsibilities is shown on page 10 of this Introductory Section.

Facilities

SORTA maintains six facilities at the following locations:

602 Main Street, Suite 1100, a leased facility in downtown Cincinnati, houses Metro's administrative offices, along with the office of SORTA staff and Board of Trustees.

120 East Fourth Street, a leased facility in downtown Cincinnati, is operated jointly with the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK) and provides customer services, bus rider information, and sales services.

Bond Hill Operating Division, 4700 Paddock Road, provides indoor storage for up to 145 buses and light maintenance work areas.

Queensgate Operating Division and Maintenance Support Facility, 1401 Bank Street, provides indoor storage for up to 280 buses. Both heavy and light maintenance is performed at this location. The radio control room is also housed at this facility.

Silverton Assessment and Training Center, 7000 Montgomery Road. This facility is for assessment and training for people with disabilities.

Paratransit Operating Facility, 1801 Transpark Drive. This is the site from which our Access division operates.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Basis of Accounting

SORTA's accounting records are maintained on the accrual basis. The activities are accounted for in a single enterprise (proprietary-type) fund.

Budgetary Controls

The annual accrual-basis operating budget and capital budget are proposed by SORTA's management and adopted by the Board of Trustees in a public meeting. The annual budget is prepared using overall guidelines established after consideration of SORTA's long-range financial plan. All capital and operating items exceeding \$100,000 receive Board approval prior to purchase. The long-range plan, updated annually, projects revenue sources over the next five years and establishes service levels and growth commensurate with such revenue limits.

SORTA maintains budgetary control by not permitting total operating expenses and expenditures for capital projects to exceed their appropriations without approval by the Board of Trustees. Management ensures that expenses and capital expenditures stay within the total appropriation. On a monthly basis, the Board reviews budget variations. It is the responsibility of each department to administer its operations in such a manner as to ensure that the use of funds is consistent with the goals and programs authorized by the Board of Trustees.

Internal Control Structure

The management of SORTA is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that SORTA's assets are protected from loss, theft, or misuse. Its responsibility is also to ensure that accurate accounting data is compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In developing and evaluating SORTA's accounting systems, emphasis is placed on the adequacy of internal controls. Internal accounting controls are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance regarding the protection of assets against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and the reliability of financial records used to prepare financial statements. The concept of "reasonable assurance" recognizes that the cost of the control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived, and that the evaluation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

All internal control evaluations occur within the above framework. Management believes that SORTA's internal accounting controls adequately safeguard assets and provide reasonable assurance of proper recording of financial transactions. Management also believes that the data, as presented herein, is accurate in all material respects, that it presents fairly the financial position, results of operations and cash flows of SORTA, and that all disclosures necessary to enable the reader to obtain an understanding of SORTA's financial affairs have been included.

Financial Operating Results

Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) on pages 15-20 of this CAFR provides a narrative introduction, overview and analysis of the Authority's basic Financial Statements. The MD&A complements this letter of transmittal and should be read in conjunction with it.

YEAR IN REVIEW

The highlight of the year in 2014 was the July grand opening of the Uptown Transit District, a \$7 million project designed to significantly improve bus stops in the Uptown area with high levels of passenger activity. Funded mostly by Federal grants, this project includes beautiful, custom-designed bus shelters, improved sidewalks, lighting and landscaping, and real-time information signs – all to provide easier connections, increased visibility, identifiable branding and a safer, more attractive environment for passengers. Other exciting accomplishments during the year included the following:

- In May, SORTA received Gold Awards for Excellence in Safety and Security from the American Public Transportation Association – the first time any transit system has won this highest award in both categories in the same year. The APTA Bus Safety & Security Excellence Awards recognize public transportation organizations for their innovative and proactive programs dedicated to improving safety and security for their employees, passengers, and the public. The top honor is the GOLD Award, which is given to agencies with the best overall bus safety or bus security program selected by an independent panel of judges.
- We installed our first ticket vending machines downtown at the busy Government Square transit hub and in the Uptown Transit District to provide customers with convenient, 24/7 access to purchase fare media, including the new stored value cards introduced last year. These machines have quickly become a very popular alternative to paying fares on the bus.
- We continued our partnership with the City of Cincinnati on its \$148 million Cincinnati Streetcar project, for which SORTA is serving as the pass-through entity for \$44.9 million in Federal funding. The most significant development on this project was the completion of an Operations and Maintenance Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and SORTA which officially establishes SORTA as the operator of streetcar. The project remains on budget and on schedule to start revenue service in September 2016.
- In November, we expanded fare payment options for our customers yet again with the introduction of day passes, which are conveniently available for purchase on the bus through the farebox and are valid for unlimited rides the entire day.
- The University of Cincinnati's Economics Center released a report entitled, "A Peer City Public Transportation Review Update: Evaluating Metro's Operational Efficiency, Service Capacity and Fiscal Impact." This report updated the Center's 2013 analysis and again ranked SORTA #1 in both operational efficiency and level of service provided, while receiving the least amount of state and local public funds to support its operations. These results reaffirm SORTA's commitment to remain a conscientious steward of taxpayer resources in providing reliable public transportation services to the Cincinnati region.

Financially, fare revenue collected for the year was lower than expected, as ridership levels fell 2.5% under budget. Fortunately, this revenue loss was more than offset by additional revenue from SORTA's service contracts with surrounding counties and lower than expected expenses, the largest drivers of which were favorable fuel costs from lower prices and improved fuel efficiency of our fleet, lower health insurance costs from plan design changes and lower than expected premium rates, and favorable liability claims experience. Overall, we finished the year favorable to budget, providing a good foundation moving into 2015.

ECONOMIC CONDITION AND OUTLOOK

General

SORTA’s primary service area is in Hamilton County, which is situated in the southwest corner of Ohio. The county seat is the City of Cincinnati, which is located on the southern boundary of the state on the Ohio River. Population in SORTA’s principal service area since 1960 has been as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cincinnati</u>	<u>Hamilton County</u>
1960	502,550	864,121
1970	452,524	924,018
1980	385,497	873,224
1990	364,040	867,881
2000	331,285	845,303
2010	296,943	802,374

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

The Cincinnati Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consists of 15 counties: Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren in Ohio; Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton and Pendleton in Kentucky; and Dearborn, Ohio and Union in Indiana. The MSA population estimate in the 2010 U.S. Census was 2.1 million, which represents a 6.0% increase over the 2000 Census. However, much of this increase was in the surrounding counties outside of SORTA’s primary service area. Hamilton County’s population declined by 5.1% to 802,374, or about 38% of the MSA total, down from 42% in 2000. The City of Cincinnati, with an estimated population of 296,943, has lost more than 10% of its population over the past decade, falling below 300,000 people for the first time in more than a century. These population shifts help explain some of the challenges SORTA is facing in growing its ridership base.

On the other hand, according to the University of Cincinnati Economics Center’s December 2014 report, “Cincinnati Economic Forecast 2015-2020,” about three-quarters of the City’s income tax revenue is generated from people living outside the City limits. Thus, “City revenue will benefit from continued growth in regional population,” even though most of the growth is occurring outside the City. Additionally, the report noted that recent data since the 2010 Census appear to indicate a return of residents to the central core, as 2014 population estimates for the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County have increased slightly to 298,285 and 803,849, respectively, and the proportion of county residents living in the City has increased from 37.0% to 37.1%.

Total employment in Cincinnati increased by 1.0% in 2014, with most of the growth occurring in the Uptown area, which experienced 6.3% growth. Employment gains were highest in the health care and education sectors. This increase in employment has helped reduce the unemployment rate in Hamilton County to pre-recession levels and significantly below the national average. The table below presents the overall trends in unemployment rates, both locally and nationally, since before the recession.

Average Unemployment Rates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Hamilton County</u>	<u>Ohio</u>	<u>U.S.</u>
2008	5.6%	6.6%	5.8%
2009	8.8%	10.2%	9.3%
2010	9.5%	10.0%	9.6%
2011	8.6%	8.6%	8.9%
2012	7.0%	7.2%	8.1%
2013	7.1%	7.3%	7.4%
2014	5.3%	5.7%	6.2%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Although economic growth over the last several years has been slow, this data indicates generally that the City has weathered the recession fairly well. The report concludes that the overall economic outlook for the City is positive. “The City has made impressive efforts to encourage re-urbanization, attract new talent and draw existing talent from suburban areas....In general, increasing employment in the City and the region bode well for the future of City revenues. Increasing density of jobs in the Downtown and Uptown neighborhoods, combined with an increase in City population, provide some evidence in favor of urban-revitalization.. If such trends continue, the fiscal health of the City of Cincinnati will continue to improve.”

This optimism is reflected in the Center’s forecast of City Income Tax revenues through the next six years.

	Projected Income Tax Revenue	Growth Rate
2015	\$260.0	3.3%
2016	\$267.4	2.8%
2017	\$273.8	2.4%
2018	\$279.2	2.0%
2019	\$283.8	1.6%
2020	\$287.3	1.3%

(\$ in millions)

Source: University of Cincinnati Economics Center

Since about half of SORTA’s operating funding is from the City Income Tax Transit Fund, these projections are a good indicator of future stability and strength for SORTA’s most significant revenue stream.

FUTURE PROJECTS

There has been a lot of positive energy in Cincinnati in recent years. This energy is particularly evident downtown, with a number of significant development projects either recently completed or underway, such as the continued expansion of the riverfront residential and entertainment district known as “the Banks,” new office and hotel development in the Central Business District, increasing revitalization of the historic Over-the-Rhine neighborhood, construction of the new Cincinnati Streetcar and a renewed interest in transit projects in general.

As SORTA looks forward to 2015, a number of significant projects will highlight the year, most notably:

- Continuing to seek creative ways to obtain the funding needed to implement additional components of the go*Forward Metro Transit Plan.
- Implementation of a new interactive voice response (IVR) system, which will provide customers with real-time phone information 24 hours a day, including real-time bus arrival information for all bus stops in the service area. This same real-time information will also be available via smart-phone apps by the end of the year.
- Expansion of our regional stored value cards to include the Butler County Regional Transit Authority, which will join SORTA and the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky in aligning our technology to allow riders to transfer seamlessly between systems using the same fare media.
- By year end, we hope to introduce “smart” fare media that will allow customers to purchase one card and re-load it online with various fare payment options, such as 30-day passes or stored value credits, providing unprecedented flexibility and convenience.
- We are also very excited to take delivery and begin road testing in September of the first streetcars operating on Cincinnati streets in more than 60 years. When revenue service is opened to the public later in 2016, SORTA will have taken an important step forward in its evolution as a truly multi-modal transit agency.

OTHER INFORMATION

Acknowledgments

The publication of this report is a reflection of the excellence and professionalism of SORTA’s Accounting and Budget Department, and illustrates the extent of SORTA’s accountability to taxpayers.

This report would not be possible without the determination and high standards of the entire staff of the Accounting and Budget Department. Special thanks are also extended to the Communications Department staff for their assistance. SORTA wishes to thank all who contributed to this project.



Dwight P. Ferrell
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager



Michael P. Restle
Chief Financial Officer/
Interim Secretary-Treasurer

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Board of Trustees and Administration as of December 31, 2014

Members of the Board of Trustees

Jason Dunn, Chair
Kenneth Reed, Vice Chair
Frank H. Bowen, Jr.
Brenden Cull
Brennan Grayson
Gregg Hothem
Kreg Keesee
Jack Painter
Karl Schultz
Gwen L. Robinson
Daniel St. Charles
Lamont Taylor
Bradley W. Thomas

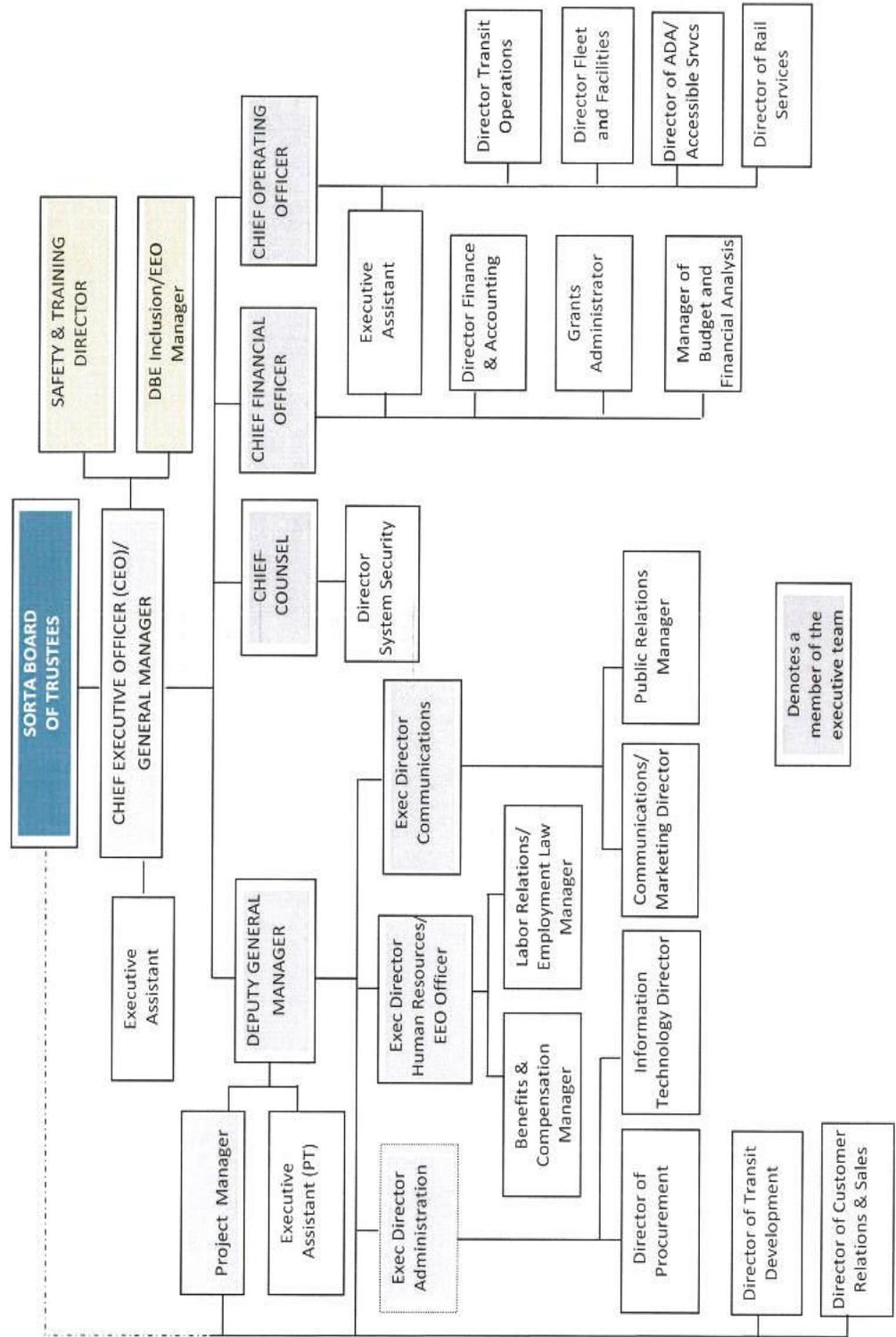
Administration

Darryl Haley, Interim Chief Executive Officer & General Manager
William J. Desmond, Chief General Counsel
Shawn Donaghy, Interim Chief Operating Officer & Director of Transit Operations
Michael P. Restle, Chief Financial Officer

Sallie L. Hilvers, Executive Director of Strategic Communications
Mary B. Moning, Executive Director of Administration
Frank Spataro, Executive Director of Human Resources/EEO Officer

Lisa M. Aulick, Director, ADA & Accessible Services
Phil Beiting, Director, Customer Relations and Sales
David A. Etienne, Director, Marketing and Communications
William E. Gaut, Director, Transit Development
Paul Grether, Director, Rail Services
Timothy D. Harrington, Director, Information Technology
Wright Parkes, Director, Procurement
Carlos Rowland, Director, Fleet & Facilities
Alan Solomon, Interim Director, Accounting
T.J. Thorn, Director Safety and Training
Michael L. Weil, Director, System Security

**Table of Organization
December 31, 2014**





Government Finance Officers Association

**Certificate of
Achievement
for Excellence
in Financial
Reporting**

Presented to

**Southwest Ohio
Regional Transit Authority**

For its Comprehensive Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended

December 31, 2013

Executive Director/CEO

[This page intentionally left blank.]



CliftonLarsonAllen

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
CLAAconnect.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Finance Committee
Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority
Cincinnati, Ohio

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority ("the Authority"), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the entity's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the financial statements of the Authority as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the respective changes in financial position and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



An independent member of Nexia International

Board of Trustees
Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 on pages 15 through 20 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

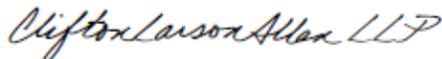
Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements. The Supplemental Schedule of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position – Budget and Actual (GAAP basis), introductory section and statistical tables listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The Supplemental Schedule of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position – Budget and Actual (GAAP basis) is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Supplemental Schedule of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position – Budget and Actual (GAAP basis) is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The introductory section and statistical tables have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 24, 2015, on our consideration of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Toledo, Ohio
June 24, 2015

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Management's Discussion and Analysis

The Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (the "Authority") is pleased to present readers of these financial statements with the following narrative overview and analysis of the Authority's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014. This discussion and analysis is designed to assist the reader in focusing on material financial issues and activities and to identify material changes in financial position. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the financial statements as a whole.

Financial Highlights

- The Authority's total net position at the end of 2014 was \$103.6 million, which represents a decrease of \$10.5 million, or 9.2%, compared to the balance at the end of 2013;
- Operating revenue for the year was \$24.3 million, which represents a decrease of about \$0.5 million, or 2.2%, from 2013;
- Operating expenses for the year (excluding depreciation and grant pass-throughs) were \$92.6 million, which represents an increase of \$2.6 million, or 2.9%, over 2013;
- Non-operating revenues, including federal, state and local subsidies (excluding grant pass-throughs), were \$68.2 million in 2014, which represents an increase of \$3.0 million, or 4.7%, compared to 2013.

Overview of Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Authority's financial statements, which includes the basic financial statements and the notes to the financial statements. This report contains supplementary information concerning the Authority's net position and changes in net position in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Required Financial Statements

The financial statements of the Authority are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Authority's finances in a manner similar to private-sector business.

The balance sheet presents financial information on all of the Authority's assets and liabilities, with the difference reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Authority is improving or deteriorating.

The statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position presents information about how the Authority's net position changed during the fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the event occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., earned but unused vacation leave).

The statement of cash flows reports cash receipts, cash payments, and net changes in cash resulting from operations, investing, and financing activities. It provides answers to such questions as where did cash come from, what was cash used for, and what was the change in the cash balance during the reporting period.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Management's Discussion and Analysis (continued)**Notes to the Financial Statements**

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the basic financial statements.

**Condensed Balance Sheets
(amounts in thousands)**

	As of December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Current assets	\$39,503	\$36,976	\$25,328
Non-current assets	7,894	5,062	7,927
Capital assets - net	103,449	114,077	107,659
Total assets	\$150,846	\$156,115	\$140,914
Current Liabilities	\$35,289	\$34,238	\$21,765
Non-current liabilities	11,916	7,697	11,174
Total liabilities	47,205	41,936	32,939
Net position			
Investment in capital assets	103,449	114,077	107,659
Restricted	7,098	6,053	2,238
Unrestricted	(6,906)	(5,951)	(1,921)
Total net position	103,641	114,179	107,975
Total liabilities and net position	\$150,846	\$156,115	\$140,914

Note: Totals shown above may not be mathematically accurate as displayed due to rounding.

As noted earlier, net position over time may serve as a useful indicator of the Authority's financial position. As of December 31, 2014, the Authority's total assets exceeded total liabilities by \$103.6 million, which is a decrease in net position of \$10.5 million, or 9.2%, from 2013. As of December 31, 2013, the Authority's total assets exceeded total liabilities by \$114.2 million, which is an increase in net position of \$6.2 million, or 5.7%, from 2012.

By far the largest portion of the Authority's net position is its investment in capital assets, less the outstanding balance of any debt used to acquire those assets. Capital assets include land and land improvements, revenue producing and service equipment, buildings and structures, shop equipment, office furnishings and computer equipment. The Authority uses these capital assets to provide public transportation service in Hamilton County and small portions of Warren, Clermont and Butler Counties. These assets are not available to liquidate liabilities or for other spending. The Authority's investment in capital assets as of December 31, 2014, amounts to \$103.4 million, net of accumulated depreciation, which is a decrease of \$10.6 million, or 9.3%, from 2013.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Management's Discussion and Analysis (continued)

Major capital asset expenditures during 2014 included the following:

- \$2.8 million to complete the Uptown Transit District, including construction, shelters, real time bus information signs and ticket vending machines;
- \$0.3 million for shelters and real time information signs at two locations along the "Metro Plus" route;
- \$0.2 million to complete the replacement of aging HVAC units at the Bond Hill garage.

Depreciation expense for the year of \$14.2 million exceeded these and other fixed asset additions, which accounts for the decrease in net assets from 2013 to 2014.

The Authority's investment in capital assets as of December 31, 2013, amounts to \$114.1 million, net of accumulated depreciation, which is an increase of \$6.4 million, or 6.0%, over 2012. Major capital asset expenditures during 2013 included primarily the purchase of 23 new 40-foot, low-floor, low-sulfur diesel buses at a cost of \$9.4 million, replacing 23 older diesel buses that had exceeded their 12-year useful life. Other significant additions included the following:

- \$4.4 million for 10 additional buses with the new "Metro Plus" design, as we introduced our new Metro Plus line in August 2013, to provide increased service frequencies and enhanced customer amenities along the heavily traveled Montgomery Road corridor;
- \$3.6 million in construction costs for the new Uptown Transit District currently in progress;
- \$1.9 million to purchase 23 new lift-equipped paratransit vehicles, replacing existing vehicles that were beyond their useful life;
- \$0.7 million to replace aging HVAC units at the Bond Hill garage.

These additions were partially offset by depreciation expense for the year of \$14.4 million. See Note 5 to the financial statements for more detailed information regarding capital assets.

Debt Administration

The Authority maintains no short- or long-term debt, other than certain capital leases on occasion. There were no outstanding capital leases as of December 31, 2014 or 2013.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Management's Discussion and Analysis (continued)**Condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
(amounts in thousands)**

	<u>For fiscal years ended December 31,</u>		
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Operating revenues	\$24,262	\$24,797	\$24,653
Operating expenses other than depreciation	92,624	89,999	89,275
Depreciation and amortization expense	14,191	14,449	13,804
Grant pass throughs	21,983	5,368	244
Total operating expenses	<u>128,797</u>	<u>109,815</u>	<u>103,322</u>
Operating loss	(104,535)	(85,018)	(78,669)
Non-operating revenues, net	68,179	65,147	64,411
Federal grant pass throughs	21,983	5,368	244
Net loss before capital grant activity	<u>(14,374)</u>	<u>(14,504)</u>	<u>(14,014)</u>
Capital grant revenue	3,836	20,708	21,788
Change in net position	<u>(10,538)</u>	<u>6,204</u>	<u>7,774</u>
Net position, beginning of year	<u>114,179</u>	<u>107,975</u>	<u>100,201</u>
Net position, end of year	<u>\$103,641</u>	<u>\$114,179</u>	<u>\$107,975</u>

Note: Totals shown above may not be mathematically accurate as displayed due to rounding.

Operating Revenues

The Authority's operating revenues were \$24.3 million in 2014, which represents a decrease of \$0.5 million, or 2.2%, compared to 2013. This decrease is due primarily to a \$0.6 million decrease in passenger fares on Metro fixed route service as a result of a 2.1% drop in ridership during the year, mostly in SORTA's Fare Deal program for elderly and disable riders. Partially offsetting this decrease in fixed route passenger fares was a \$0.1 million, or 12.3%, increase in special transit fares from our Access paratransit service, due to increased ridership from the migration of clients formerly receiving transportation services from the Hamilton County Department of Developmental Disabilities Services (HCDDS), a transition that began in mid-2013.

The Authority's operating revenues were \$24.8 million in 2013, which represents an increase of \$0.1 million, or 0.6%, compared to 2012. This increase is a result of increased passenger fares on Metro fixed route service, due primarily to the full-year effect of the 2012 changes to SORTA's contract with Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS), in which CPS pays more for student fare passes and less for the direct cost of extra service run by Metro during the school year. There was also a 16% increase in fares paid by the students directly as a result of an overall increase in student ridership during the year. Additionally, special transit fares from Access paratransit service increased 9.0% due to increased ridership from the migration of former HCDDS clients. These increases were partially offset by lower fare revenue from a 4.6% decrease in Metro's fixed route, non-school ridership compared to 2012.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Management's Discussion and Analysis (continued)

Operating Expenses

The Authority's operating expenses other than depreciation were \$92.6 million in 2014, which represents an increase of \$2.6 million, or 2.9%, compared to 2013. This increase was driven by several factors:

- \$1.5 million increase in wages & salaries due primarily to a 3% wage rate increase stipulated in the labor contract with the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), as well as merit-based increases for non-represented employees.
- \$0.4 million increase in fringe benefits driven by a \$0.3 million increase in sick leave paid to represented employees and a \$0.2 million increase in wage related fringe benefits. These were partially offset by lower health care costs due to changes in the plan design for represented employees.
- \$0.3 million increase in consulting, branding, and security services primarily associated with the Cincinnati Streetcar. These costs were reimbursed to SORTA by the City of Cincinnati and related federal grants.
- \$0.3 million increase in purchased transportation costs for Access paratransit service due to increased ridership.

The Authority's operating expenses other than depreciation were \$90.0 million in 2013, which represents an increase of \$0.7 million, or 0.8%, compared to 2012. This increase was driven by several factors:

- \$0.8 million increase in health insurance costs driven by 15% increase in premiums from 2012 that was partially offset by an increase in the amount that most employees pay towards their premium from 11% to 12%;
- 8.8% increase in total cost of diesel fuel, which increased from an average of \$2.69 per gallon in 2012 to \$2.94 per gallon in 2013. Gains from the Authority's hedging program totaled \$0.4 million for the year and helped mitigate the impact of this increase; however the net effect was still an increase of about \$0.7 million over 2012;
- \$0.7 million increase in wages & salaries due primarily to 2% wage rate increases stipulated in the labor contract with the ATU, as well as merit-based increases for non-represented employees.

These increases were partially offset by:

- \$0.8 million decrease in parts costs due to the completion of an intensive engine rebuild program in 2012;
- \$0.4 million decrease in claims expense due to favorable claims experience during the year and the release of amounts accrued for prior years' claims that were resolved for less than anticipated;

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Management's Discussion and Analysis (concluded)

- \$0.4 million reduction in purchased transportation costs for Access paratransit service due to negotiation of a new contract with the service provider, MV Transportation, partially offset by increased service costs related to the increase in ridership.

Non-Operating Revenues

Non-operating revenues were \$68.2 million in 2014, which is an increase of \$3.0 million, or 4.7%, over 2013. This increase is due to a \$1.4 million increase in operating assistance from the City of Cincinnati Income Tax-Transit Fund as a result of higher tax receipts, and a \$1.6 million increase in federal assistance drawn from expiring park-n-ride grants and reallocated to preventive maintenance.

In 2013, non-operating revenues were \$65.1 million, which is an increase of \$0.7 million, or 1.1%, over 2012, due to an increase in operating assistance from the City of Cincinnati Income Tax-Transit Fund as a result of higher tax receipts. This increase is partially offset by lower operating assistance from Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) due to a change in SORTA's contract with CPS in which CPS paid less for the direct cost of extra service run by Metro during the school year, and instead paid more for student passes (reported as passenger fares in operating revenue).

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Authority's finances for all those who are interested. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority, Chief Financial Officer, 602 Main Street, Suite 1100, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202.

[This page intentionally left blank.]

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Balance Sheets
as of December 31, 2014 and 2013**

ASSETS	2014	2013
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 4)	\$16,735,142	\$15,273,094
Investments (Note 4)	5,697,819	4,002,237
Receivables:		
Federal assistance	5,871,211	5,804,554
Other	892,859	4,161,797
Receivables for capital assistance-restricted	7,368,370	5,078,470
Inventory of materials and supplies	2,243,881	2,041,497
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	<u>693,608</u>	<u>614,533</u>
Total current assets	<u>39,502,890</u>	<u>36,976,182</u>
Non-current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents-restricted (Note 4)	7,894,422	5,061,646
Capital assets (Notes 5 and 7):		
Land and buildings	14,615,138	14,615,138
Improvements	33,827,866	28,255,289
Revenue vehicles	133,300,954	128,847,157
Other equipment	36,965,684	38,368,541
Construction in progress	<u>302,441</u>	<u>13,160,808</u>
Total capital assets	219,012,083	223,246,933
Less allowance for depreciation and amortization	<u>115,563,086</u>	<u>109,169,776</u>
Capital assets, net	<u>103,448,997</u>	<u>114,077,157</u>
Total non-current assets	<u>111,343,419</u>	<u>119,138,803</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$150,846,309</u></u>	<u><u>\$156,114,985</u></u>

(continued)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Balance Sheets
as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)

LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	2014	2013
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$2,444,500	\$2,434,709
Accounts payable - capital additions	6,939,735	5,950,834
Accrued payroll	1,443,629	1,228,856
Accrued payroll taxes and other benefits (Note 8)	4,931,497	4,933,985
Current portion of estimated claims payable (Note 9)	1,243,000	1,211,000
Other current liabilities	4,175,497	4,600,226
Advance from City of Cincinnati		
Income Tax-Transit Fund (Note 3):		
For operating purposes	4,842,603	6,884,617
For capital purposes	9,268,432	6,994,054
Total current liabilities	<u>35,288,893</u>	<u>34,238,281</u>
Non-current liabilities:		
Funds advanced for capital grants	8,164,904	4,086,996
Estimated claims payable, net of current portion (Note 9)	3,712,002	3,566,155
Other non-current liabilities	39,267	44,111
Total non-current liabilities	<u>11,916,173</u>	<u>7,697,262</u>
 Total liabilities	 <u>47,205,066</u>	 <u>41,935,543</u>
Net position:		
Investment in capital assets	103,448,997	114,077,157
Restricted for:		
Capital projects	689,843	4,365,933
Pass-through to sub-recipient	6,233,798	1,436,116
Other purposes	174,247	251,071
Unrestricted deficit	<u>(6,905,642)</u>	<u>(5,950,835)</u>
Total net position	<u>103,641,243</u>	<u>114,179,442</u>
 Total liabilities and net position	 <u><u>\$150,846,309</u></u>	 <u><u>\$156,114,985</u></u>

(concluded)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
For Fiscal Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013**

	2014	2013
Operating Revenues		
Passenger fares for transit service	\$22,904,289	\$23,495,434
Special transit fares	817,445	727,869
Auxiliary transportation revenue	539,991	573,952
Total	<u>24,261,725</u>	<u>24,797,255</u>
Operating expenses other than depreciation:		
Labor	42,660,103	41,134,962
Fringe benefits	21,985,688	21,551,764
Materials and supplies consumed	14,953,618	14,792,929
Services	3,799,136	3,486,076
Utilities	1,518,602	1,474,860
Casualty and liability	(18,971)	67,274
Taxes	865,121	846,322
Purchased transportation services	5,423,698	5,135,994
Leases and rentals	647,235	587,857
Miscellaneous	789,556	920,764
Total	<u>92,623,786</u>	<u>89,998,802</u>
Grant pass-through—City of Cincinnati Streetcar	21,730,755	5,095,555
Grant pass-through—Everybody Rides Metro Foundation	251,818	271,949
Depreciation and amortization (Note 5)	14,190,751	14,449,125
Total operating expenses	<u>128,797,110</u>	<u>109,815,431</u>
Operating loss	<u>(\$104,535,385)</u>	<u>(\$85,018,176)</u>

(continued)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
For Fiscal Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)**

	2014	2013
Non-operating revenues (expenses):		
Federal maintenance grants and reimbursements (Note 6)	17,192,731	\$15,520,513
Federal grant pass-through—City of Cincinnati Streetcar (Note 6)	21,730,755	5,095,555
Federal grant pass-through—Everybody Rides Metro Foundation (Note 6)	251,818	271,949
State maintenance grants, reimbursements and special fare assistance (Note 6)	783,772	804,380
Local operating grants and special fare assistance (Note 6)	6,617,440	6,413,406
Investment income, net (Note 4)	106,816	88,186
Increase (decrease) in fair value of investments	4,766	(14,805)
Non-transportation revenue	476,091	657,341
Other non-operating expenses	<u>(1,419,591)</u>	<u>(1,299,517)</u>
Total	<u>45,744,598</u>	<u>27,537,008</u>
Loss before operating assistance provided by City of Cincinnati		
Income Tax-Transit Fund and capital grant activity	(58,790,787)	(57,481,168)
Operating assistance from the City of Cincinnati		
Income Tax-Transit Fund (Note 3)	<u>44,416,958</u>	<u>42,977,589</u>
Net loss before capital grant activity	(14,373,829)	(14,503,579)
Capital grant revenue (Note 6)	<u>3,835,630</u>	<u>20,707,957</u>
Increase in net position during the year	(10,538,199)	6,204,378
Net position, beginning of year	<u>114,179,442</u>	<u>107,975,064</u>
Net position, end of year	<u>\$103,641,243</u>	<u>\$114,179,442</u>

(concluded)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Statements of Cash Flows
For Fiscal Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

	2014	2013
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Receipts from fares and special service	\$25,178,316	\$25,488,249
Payments for labor and employee benefits	(64,202,670)	(62,108,217)
Payments to suppliers	(25,663,790)	(25,554,851)
Grant pass-through to subrecipients	(17,184,891)	(3,970,430)
Payments for claims and insurance	<u>(1,158,172)</u>	<u>(1,294,297)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(83,031,207)</u>	<u>(67,439,546)</u>
Cash flows from noncapital financing activities:		
Transfer from City of Cincinnati Income Tax-Transit Fund	45,076,660	48,621,889
Federal maintenance grants and reimbursements	17,126,074	15,885,038
Federal grant pass-through to subrecipients	17,184,891	3,970,430
State maintenance grants, reimbursements and special fare assistance	783,772	804,380
Other local operating assistance received	6,244,444	6,527,301
Other non-operating expenses paid	<u>(1,419,591)</u>	<u>(1,299,517)</u>
Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities	<u>84,996,250</u>	<u>74,509,521</u>
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:		
Capital grants received:		
City of Cincinnati Income Tax-Transit Fund	4,723,340	3,478,111
Federal and other local	2,784,460	14,753,441
Additions to capital assets	<u>(3,584,191)</u>	<u>(20,889,016)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) capital and related financing activities	<u>3,923,609</u>	<u>(2,657,464)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Net cash payments from investment securities	(1,690,816)	(2,944,444)
Interest received	<u>96,988</u>	<u>54,343</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(1,593,828)</u>	<u>(2,890,101)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	4,294,824	1,522,410
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>20,334,740</u>	<u>18,812,330</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u><u>\$24,629,564</u></u>	<u><u>\$20,334,740</u></u>

(continued)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Statements of Cash Flows
For Fiscal Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)

	2014	2013
Reconciliation of operating loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Operating loss	(\$104,535,385)	(\$85,018,176)
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	14,190,751	14,449,125
Non-transportation revenue	476,091	657,341
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Other receivables	3,278,766	(1,630,545)
Restricted - receivables for capital assistance	2,507,782	(1,664,929)
Inventory of materials and supplies	(202,384)	(71,401)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(79,075)	102,532
Accounts payable	9,791	869,339
Capital expenditures payable	988,901	4,029,443
Accrued expenses	212,285	308,003
Other liabilities	(56,577)	482,206
Estimated claims payable	177,847	47,516
	<u>(\$83,031,207)</u>	<u>(\$67,439,546)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities		
Supplemental Disclosure of Noncash Activity		
Increase (decrease) in fair value of investments	<u>\$4,766</u>	<u>(\$14,805)</u>

(concluded)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

1. Organization and Reporting Entity

A. Organization

The Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (“SORTA” or the “Authority”) is responsible for the operation of the Greater Cincinnati public transit system. SORTA is organized under Sections 306.30 through 306.53 of the Ohio Revised Code and is not subject to income taxes. SORTA is the policy-making body for the transit system known as Metro and operates under an agreement with the City of Cincinnati (the “City”) (see Note 3).

B. Reporting Entity

The Authority has adopted the provisions of Statement No. 14 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”), “The Financial Reporting Entity,” as amended by GASB Statement No. 39, “Determining Whether Certain Organizations are Component Units (an amendment of GASB Statement No. 14).” Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements include only the accounts and transactions of the Authority. Under the criteria specified in Statements No. 14 and 39, the Authority has no material component units nor is it considered a component unit of the City of Cincinnati or Hamilton County, Ohio. The Everybody Rides Metro foundation (“ERM”) does meet the criteria as a component unit of SORTA; however its total assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses are immaterial to SORTA’s financial statements taken as a whole (see Note 12).

These conclusions regarding the financial reporting entity are based on the concept of financial accountability. The Authority is not financially accountable for any other organization (including ERM) nor is the City or Hamilton County accountable for SORTA. This is evidenced by the fact that the Authority is a legally and fiscally separate and distinct organization under the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, which require the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues and expenses are recognized in the period earned or incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. All transactions are accounted for in a single enterprise fund. The measurement focus is on the determination of revenues, expenses, financial position and cash flows, as the identification of these items is necessary for appropriate capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability and the calculation of amounts due under the City/SORTA agreement (see Note 3).

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)

B. Net Position Classifications

GASB Statement No. 34, "Basic Financial Statements—and Management's Discussion and Analysis—for State and Local Governments: Omnibus," as amended by GASB Statement No. 63, "Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position," requires the classification of net position into the following three components:

- Net investment in capital assets—consisting of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balance of borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- Restricted—consisting of net assets, the use of which is limited by external constraints imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, laws or regulations of other governments, constitutional provisions or enabling legislation, reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to those assets.
- Unrestricted—consisting of net assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in the determination of "net investment in capital assets" or "restricted."

C. Non-exchange Transactions

The Authority follows GASB Statement No. 33, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Non-exchange Transactions." In general, GASB Statement No. 33 establishes accounting and financial reporting standards about when to report the results of non-exchange transactions involving financial or capital resources. In a non-exchange transaction, an entity gives (or receives) value without directly receiving or giving equal value in return. The Authority's principal non-exchange transactions involve the receipt of monies from the City Income Tax-Transit Fund (see Note 3), along with federal, state and local grants for operating assistance and the acquisition of property, facilities and equipment. Substantially all of the Authority's non-exchange transactions represent reimbursement-type grants, which are recorded as revenue in the period the related expenditures are incurred, and are recorded as liabilities when the funds are received until the expenditures are incurred.

D. Passenger Fares

Passenger fares are recorded as revenue at the time services are performed and revenues pass through the farebox.

E. Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, the Authority considers all highly liquid investments (including restricted assets) with a maturity of three months or less when purchased, certificates of deposit, and commercial paper investments to be cash equivalents.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)**

F. Investments

The Authority’s investments (including cash equivalents) are recorded at fair value (based on quoted market prices) except that short-term, highly liquid debt investments, with a remaining maturity at the time of purchase of one year or less are reported at amortized cost.

The Authority has invested funds in STAROhio, an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer’s office that allows governments within the state to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAROhio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but does operate in a manner consistent with Rule 2a7 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Investments in STAROhio are valued at STAROhio’s share price, which is the price at which the investment could be sold.

G. Inventory of Materials and Supplies

Materials and supplies are stated at cost, which is determined using the average cost method.

H. Restricted Assets

Restricted assets consist of funds received or receivable under various federal, state and local capital grants, including the local matching share received from the City Income Tax-Transit Fund. These assets are restricted for capital and other project expenditures.

I. Capital Assets and Depreciation

Capital assets are stated at cost and include expenditures which substantially increase the utility or useful lives of existing assets. Maintenance parts are expensed when placed in service. Routine maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. Assets acquired with capital grants or under capital lease having a value of \$2,500 or more are also included in capital assets, and depreciation/amortization of the cost of those assets is included in the Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position. Depreciation/amortization is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the respective assets, as follows:

Description	Years
Buildings	40
Improvements	15
Revenue vehicles	4-12
Other equipment	3-10

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)**

J. Claims

As described in Note 9, SORTA is self-insured for public liability, personal injury, third-party property damage, and workers' compensation claims. SORTA recognizes a liability for such claims if information prior to the issuance of the financial statements indicates that it is probable that a liability has been incurred as of the date of the financial statements and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

The liability recorded includes the estimated incremental expenses to be incurred to settle the claims, including legal fees. Claims liabilities are based on evaluations of individual claims and a review of experience with respect to the probable number and nature of claims arising from losses that have been incurred but have not yet been reported. The claims liabilities represent the estimated ultimate cost of settling the claims, including the effects of inflation and other societal and economic factors. Estimated future recoveries on settled and unsettled claims, such as subrogations, if any, are evaluated in terms of their estimated realizable value and deducted from the liability for unpaid claims. Any adjustments resulting from the actual settlement of the claims are reflected in earnings at the time the adjustments are determined.

K. Compensated Absences

Vacation pay is accrued and charged to expense as earned. Because rights to sick pay do not vest, SORTA recognizes such costs when they are incurred.

L. Budgetary Accounting and Control

SORTA's annual budget is prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. The budget includes amounts for current year revenues and expenses as well as new capital projects. The Authority maintains budgetary control by not permitting total operating expenses (excluding depreciation and amortization) and expenditures for individual capital projects to exceed revenue sources without approval by the Board of Trustees. No budget amendments were passed for 2014 or 2013. All operating budget amounts lapse at year end.

M. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities as of the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

N. Operating and Non-operating Revenues and Expenses

The Authority considers passenger fares, special transit fares and bus advertising revenues as operating revenues. Non-operating revenues include investment and other miscellaneous income and subsidies received from federal, state and local sources. Expenses incurred for the daily operations of the transit system are considered operating expenses. Non-operating expenses include payments made to Butler County Regional Transit Authority (BCRTA), Clermont Transportation Connection (CTC) and Warren County Transit System (WCTS)

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)**

pursuant to agreements in which BCRTA, CTC and WCTS transferred Federal funds to SORTA in exchange for non-federal funds from SORTA in the same amount.

O. Reclassifications

Certain prior year balances have been reclassified to conform with current year presentation.

3. Federal Grants and Local Reimbursement

SORTA receives capital assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964 (the "Act"), as amended. Among other requirements of the Act, state and local governments must provide a proportionate share of funds and/or support (as defined by the Federal Transit Administration guidelines) for capital assistance. In addition to federal and state capital assistance, funding is also provided by a portion of the City income tax approved by the residents of the City and designated for transit operations. Operating assistance provided from the City Income Tax-Transit Fund is equal to SORTA's net loss before such assistance, excluding depreciation/amortization and losses on the disposal of assets purchased with capital grants. Any portion unremitted for the year is recorded as receivable. Any over-advanced amount for the year is recorded as an advance from the City Income Tax-Transit Fund or as funds advanced for capital grants representing the Authority's matching local share requirements under the Act.

An agreement between the City and SORTA requires the City to maintain a transit fund into which the proceeds of the income tax designated for transit operations are deposited. This fund provides all necessary local (other than operating revenues) operating and capital assistance to SORTA. The agreement also contains certain provisions regarding service standards and fares. This agreement is of indefinite duration but may be terminated by providing 180 days written notice to the other party. If terminated, the City will assume all outstanding commitments that SORTA incurred in carrying out the agreement.

4. Cash and Investments

The investment and deposit of Authority monies are governed by the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code and the Authority's established policies. Accordingly, only banks located in Ohio and domestic building and loan associations are eligible to hold public deposits. The Authority is also permitted to invest its monies in certificates of deposit, savings accounts, money market accounts, STAROhio, and obligations of the United States government and certain agencies thereof. The Authority may also enter into repurchase agreements for a period not exceeding thirty days with banks located within the State of Ohio with which the Authority has signed a Master Repurchase Agreement. At the time of making an investment, the Authority's Treasurer must reasonably expect that the investment can be held until maturity. To the extent possible, the Treasurer will attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. Unless matched to a specific cash flow requirement, the Treasurer will not directly invest in securities maturing more than five years from the settlement date of purchase.

Public depositories must give security for all public funds on deposit. These institutions may either specifically collateralize individual accounts in excess of amounts insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), may pledge a pool of government securities valued at least 105% of

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)**

the total value of public monies on deposit at the institution, or may deposit surety company bonds that when executed shall be for an amount in excess of collateral requirements. Repurchase agreements must be secured by the specific government securities upon which the repurchase agreements are based. These securities must be obligations of or guaranteed by the United States Government and must mature or be redeemable within five years of the date of the related repurchase agreement. The market value of the securities subject to a repurchase agreement must exceed the value of the principal by 2% and be marked to market daily. State law does not require security for public deposits and investments to be maintained in the Authority's name.

The Authority is prohibited from investing in any financial instrument, contract, or obligation whose value or return is based upon or linked to another asset or index, or both, separate from the financial instrument, contract, or obligation itself (commonly known as a "derivative"). The Authority is also prohibited from investing in reverse repurchase agreements.

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, the Authority maintained restricted cash and cash equivalents of \$7,894,422 and \$5,061,646, respectively, and unrestricted cash and investments of \$22,432,961 and \$19,275,331, respectively. The total cash and investments of \$30,327,383 and \$24,336,977, respectively, consisted of \$24,629,564 and \$20,334,740, respectively, in deposits and \$5,697,819 and \$4,002,237, respectively, in investments.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of an investment may decline based on changes in market interest rates. This risk can be reduced, but not eliminated, through the use of common portfolio strategies such as structure (maintaining laddered maturity dates) and diversification (by type of investment, by issuer or by maturity date). Generally, SORTA utilizes a strategy of laddering its investments while maintaining sufficient liquidity to cover anticipated operating expenses. Diversification is a secondary tool, as the Ohio Revised Code limits the investment options for all Ohio public entities, including SORTA.

Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Authority's deposits may not be returned to it. The Authority does have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, the carrying amount of the Authority's deposits was \$24,629,564 and \$20,334,740, respectively, and the bank balance was \$24,764,314 and \$20,606,001, respectively, all of which was covered by federal depository insurance, surety bonds provided by a commercial insurance company, or collateralized with securities held by the Federal Reserve in SORTA's name.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)**

Investments

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, the fair value of the Authority's investments were as follows:

	2014	2013
U.S. Agency bonds	\$5,697,717	\$4,002,135
Star Treasury Reserve of Ohio (STAROhio)	<u>102</u>	<u>102</u>
Total investments	<u><u>\$5,697,819</u></u>	<u><u>\$4,002,237</u></u>

Investments held by the Authority at December 31, 2014 are presented below, categorized by investment type and credit quality rating. Credit quality ratings provide information about the investments' credit risk, which is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. No deposits were subject to custodial credit risk.

Investment Type	Fair Value	Not Rated	AAA	AAA and BBB	Below BBB
U.S. Agency bonds	\$5,697,717	-	\$5,697,717	-	-
Star Treasury Reserve of Ohio (STAROhio)	102	-	102	-	-
Total Investments	\$5,697,819	-	\$5,697,819	-	-

The following table presents the Authority's bond investments as of December 31, 2014, by length of maturity.

Investment Type	Fair Value	Less Than 1 Year	1 to 5 Years	6 to 10 Years	More Than 10 Years
U.S. Agency bonds	\$5,697,717	-	\$5,697,717	-	-
Total Investments	\$5,697,717	-	\$5,697,717	-	-

Investments held by the Authority at December 31, 2013 are presented below, categorized by investment type and credit quality rating. Credit quality ratings provide information about the investments' credit risk, which is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. No deposits were subject to custodial credit risk.

Investment Type	Fair Value	Not Rated	AAA	AAA and BBB	Below BBB
U.S. Agency bonds	\$4,002,135	-	\$4,002,135	-	-
Star Treasury Reserve of Ohio (STAROhio)	102	-	102	-	-
Total Investments	\$4,002,237	-	\$4,002,237	-	-

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)

The following table presents the Authority's bond investments as of December 31, 2013, by length of maturity.

Investment Type	Fair Value	Less Than 1 Year	1 to 5 Years	6 to 10 Years	More Than 10 Years
U.S. Agency bonds	\$4,002,135	-	\$4,002,135	-	-
Total Investments	\$4,002,135	-	\$4,002,135	-	-

5. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2014 was as follows:

	Balance January 1, 2014	Additions	Deletions	Transfers	Balance December 31, 2014
Capital assets not being depreciated:					
Land	\$13,153,897	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$13,153,897
Construction in progress	13,160,808	259,566	-	(13,117,933)	302,441
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>26,314,705</u>	<u>259,566</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(13,117,933)</u>	<u>13,456,338</u>
Capital assets being depreciated:					
Buildings	1,461,241	-	-	-	1,461,241
Improvements	28,255,289	2,032,711	31,535	3,571,401	33,827,866
Revenue vehicles	128,847,157	165,593	5,098,273	9,386,477	133,300,954
Other equipment	38,368,541	1,366,199	2,929,111	160,055	36,965,684
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>196,932,228</u>	<u>3,564,503</u>	<u>8,058,919</u>	<u>13,117,933</u>	<u>205,555,745</u>
Less accumulated depreciation:					
Buildings	524,701	36,411	-	-	561,112
Improvements	17,453,641	1,764,828	19,955	-	19,198,514
Revenue vehicles	64,980,804	9,552,851	4,911,588	-	69,622,067
Other equipment	26,210,630	2,836,661	2,865,898	-	26,181,393
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>109,169,776</u>	<u>14,190,751</u>	<u>7,797,441</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>115,563,086</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>87,762,452</u>	<u>(10,626,248)</u>	<u>261,478</u>	<u>13,117,933</u>	<u>89,992,659</u>
Total capital assets, net	<u>\$114,077,157</u>	<u>(\$10,366,682)</u>	<u>\$261,478</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$103,448,997</u>

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2013 was as follows:

	Balance January 1, 2013	Additions	Deletions	Transfers	Balance December 31, 2013
Capital assets not being depreciated:					
Land	\$13,153,897	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$13,153,897
Construction in progress	<u>1,341,664</u>	<u>12,659,225</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(840,081)</u>	<u>13,160,808</u>
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>14,495,561</u>	<u>12,659,225</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(840,081)</u>	<u>26,314,705</u>
Capital assets being depreciated:					
Buildings	1,461,241	-	-	-	1,461,241
Improvements	27,134,958	832,958	-	287,373	28,255,289
Revenue vehicles	132,775,624	6,500,510	10,428,977	-	128,847,157
Other equipment	<u>37,082,388</u>	<u>955,432</u>	<u>221,987</u>	<u>552,708</u>	<u>38,368,541</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>198,454,211</u>	<u>8,288,900</u>	<u>10,650,964</u>	<u>840,081</u>	<u>196,932,228</u>
Less accumulated depreciation:					
Buildings	488,170	36,531	-	-	524,701
Improvements	15,902,182	1,551,459	-	-	17,453,641
Revenue vehicles	65,513,814	9,841,515	10,374,525	-	64,980,804
Other equipment	<u>23,386,739</u>	<u>3,019,620</u>	<u>195,729</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,210,630</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>105,290,905</u>	<u>14,449,125</u>	<u>10,570,254</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,169,776</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>93,163,306</u>	<u>(6,160,225)</u>	<u>80,710</u>	<u>840,081</u>	<u>87,762,452</u>
Total capital assets, net	<u>\$107,658,867</u>	<u>\$6,499,000</u>	<u>\$80,710</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$114,077,157</u>

Prior to 1986, under terms of the operating agreement with the City, SORTA agreed to operate transportation equipment and certain operating facilities which had been purchased by the City primarily under FTA and ODOT capital grants.

During 1986, the City transferred the title to existing transit system physical assets, except for real estate, construction projects and certain assets which had been conveyed to a bank under a sale and leaseback arrangement.

If the assets not conveyed by the City in 1986 (real estate, construction projects, and certain other assets having an estimated aggregate historical cost of approximately \$28.3 million at December 31, 2014) had been owned by SORTA, the provision for depreciation for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 would have increased approximately \$650,000 in each year. In case of termination of the City/SORTA operating agreement, all assets operated by SORTA for the City are to be returned to the City.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)

6. Grants, Reimbursements, and Special Fare Assistance

Grants, reimbursements, and special fare assistance included in the Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 consist of the following:

	2014	2013
Non-operating revenues:		
Federal:		
FTA-Maintenance and other assistance	<u>\$17,192,731</u>	<u>\$15,520,513</u>
FTA-grant pass-through--City of Cincinnati Streetcar	<u>\$21,730,755</u>	<u>\$5,095,555</u>
FTA-grant pass-through--Everybody Rides Metro Foundation	<u>\$251,818</u>	<u>\$271,949</u>
State:		
ODOT-Fuel tax reimbursement	<u>\$783,772</u>	<u>\$804,380</u>
Local:		
Cincinnati Board of Education contract	\$5,877,312	\$5,685,963
Other	<u>740,128</u>	<u>727,443</u>
Total	<u>\$6,617,440</u>	<u>\$6,413,406</u>
Capital grant revenue:		
Federal	\$2,547,763	\$14,349,357
Local	<u>1,287,867</u>	<u>6,358,600</u>
Total	<u>\$3,835,630</u>	<u>\$20,707,957</u>

7. Lease Commitments

SORTA leases its administrative offices and certain park-and-ride facilities under lease agreements which are accounted for as operating leases. Rent expense under these leases, which includes certain short-term leases, was approximately \$536,169 in 2014 and \$490,765 in 2013. At December 31, 2014, the minimum future payments under leases with terms extending beyond one year are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2015	\$268,351
2016	274,226
2017	286,750
2018	303,113
2019	275,900
2020-2024	788,633
2025-2029	424,118
2030-2034	<u>209,820</u>
Total	<u>\$2,830,910</u>

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)**

8. Retirement Benefits

A. Public Employees Retirement System of Ohio

Plan Description. All employees of the Authority are required to be members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (“OPERS”), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by State statute per Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. The financial report may be obtained by making a written request to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642; by calling (614) 222-5601 or 1-800-222 PERS (7377); or visiting their website at www.opers.org.

OPERS administers three separate pension plans as described below:

- The Traditional Pension Plan (“TP”)—a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan.
- The Member-Directed Plan (“MD”)—a defined contribution plan in which the member invests both member and employer contributions (employer contributions vest over five years at 20% per year). Under the MD Plan, members accumulate retirement assets equal to the value of member and (vested) employer contributions plus any investment earnings thereon.
- The Combined Plan (“CO”)—a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. Under the CO Plan, employer contributions are invested by OPERS to provide a formula retirement benefit similar in nature to the TP Plan benefit. Member contributions, the investment of which are self-directed by the members, accumulate retirement assets in a manner similar to the MD Plan.

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits and annual cost-of-living adjustments to members of the TP and CO Plans. Members of the MD Plan do not qualify for ancillary benefits.

Funding Policy. The Ohio Revised Code provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions. In 2014 and 2013, members other than law enforcement personnel were required to contribute 10.0% of their covered payroll to OPERS. The 2014 and 2013 employer contribution rates for local government employer units were 14.0% of covered payroll including 2.0% from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 and 1.0% from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 that is used to fund postretirement health care benefits. The Authority’s total contributions to OPERS for pension benefits (excluding the amount relating to postretirement health care benefits) for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 were \$5,558,000, \$5,800,000, and \$4,426,000, respectively, equal to 100% of the required contribution for each year.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)**

B. Other Postemployment Benefits

Benefits Provided Through OPERS. The Authority provides health care benefits as a postemployment benefit (as defined by GASB Statement No. 45) through its contributions to OPERS. In addition to the pension benefit described in Note 8A above, OPERS maintains a cost sharing multiple employer defined benefit post-employment healthcare plan, which includes a medical plan, prescription drug program and Medicare Part B premium reimbursement, to qualifying members of both the TP and the CO Plans. Members of the MD Plan do not qualify for ancillary benefits, including post-employment health care coverage. In order to qualify for post-employment health care coverage, age-and-service retirees under the TP and CO Plans must have 10 or more years of qualifying Ohio service credit. Health care coverage for disability benefit recipients and qualified survivor benefit recipients is available. The health care coverage provided by OPERS meets the definition of an Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) as described in GASB Statement No. 45.

A portion of each employer's contribution to OPERS is set aside for the funding of postretirement health care. For the Authority, the contribution rate used to fund health care was 2.0% of covered payroll for 2014 and 1.0% of covered payroll for 2013. The Ohio Revised Code provides the statutory authority requiring public employers to fund postretirement health care through their contributions to OPERS.

The Authority's contributions to OPERS for other post-employment benefits for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012 were \$926,000, \$446,000, \$1,771,000, respectively, equal to 100% of the required contributions for each year.

Other Benefits Provided. In addition to the other postemployment benefits provided by OPERS, SORTA also provides a \$2,000 life insurance benefit to each retired hourly employee. GASB Statement No. 45, "Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers For Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions," provides the authoritative guidance regarding how governmental entities should account for and report the costs and obligations associated with these benefits. The Authority's accounting and reporting for these benefits is not materially different from the guidance in GASB No. 45. Further explanation of the accounting treatment of these benefits is presented below.

The life insurance benefits are provided through group insurance arrangements which are funded by SORTA through payment of monthly insurance premiums. As of December 31, 2014, 489 individuals were eligible to receive life insurance benefits.

On its balance sheets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, SORTA has recorded an accrued liability for life insurance benefits of \$853,582 and \$985,162, respectively. These liabilities represent the present value of the estimated future life insurance premiums that are expected to be paid for retirees who were eligible for benefits as of each of the dates indicated. The liability for life insurance benefits includes a provision for estimated amounts which will be paid for existing employees.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)**

These liabilities were determined based on the following assumptions:

	2014		2013
Future annual increases in life insurance premiums	0.50%		1.00%
Remaining life expectancy* - Life	16.8 yrs		17.2 yrs
Interest factor	0.60%		0.50%

*Based on U.S. National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the U.S. 2010 (most recent available).

The total expense recognized by the Authority for postemployment benefits not provided under OPERS was approximately (\$96,000) expense reduction and (\$4,000) expense reduction for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

9. Risk Management

SORTA is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees; or acts of God. Blanket insurance coverage has been obtained to cover damage or destruction to the Authority's property and SORTA is self-insured for public liability, personal injury, and third-party property damage claims. In addition, the City of Cincinnati has appropriated \$3,000,000 of funds held in the City Income Tax-Transit Fund (see Note 3). These funds may be used to fund individual claims against SORTA to the extent that each claim is in excess of \$100,000 per incident. Claims expense and a liability are reported when it is probable that a loss has occurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. The City of Cincinnati has also appropriated another \$2,000,000 of funds held in the City Income Tax-Transit Fund as a working capital reserve.

On January 1, 1995, the Authority became self-insured for workers' compensation benefits. Prior to 1995, SORTA was insured through the State of Ohio for workers' compensation benefits. The State of Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation continues to be liable for all claims prior to January 1, 1995. As shown below, the estimated amount due for workers' compensation claims is included in the accrual for estimated claims payable. SORTA carries liability insurance to cover any workers' compensation claim in excess of \$250,000 through December 31, 2001, \$350,000 through December 31, 2002, \$400,000 through January 31, 2011, and \$500,000 thereafter. The workers' compensation liability includes an amount for claims that may have been incurred but not reported. The claims liability has been calculated on an actuarial basis considering the effects of inflation, recent claim settlement trends including frequency and amount of pay-outs, and other economic factors. The present value of the workers' compensation liability is calculated using an interest rate of 0.6%.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)**

The changes in the liabilities for self-insured risks for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 are as follows:

	<u>Workers' Compensation</u>	<u>Public Liability and Property Damage</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance, January 1, 2012	\$4,225,060	\$2,954,552	\$7,179,612
Claims, net of changes in estimates	791,699	571,989	1,363,688
Payments	<u>(931,500)</u>	<u>(2,882,161)</u>	<u>(3,813,661)</u>
Balance, December 31, 2012	4,085,259	644,380	4,729,639
Claims, net of changes in estimates	1,262,060	168,268	1,430,328
Payments	<u>(991,554)</u>	<u>(391,258)</u>	<u>(1,382,812)</u>
Balance, December 31, 2013	4,355,765	421,390	4,777,155
Claims, net of changes in estimates	1,243,203	92,816	1,336,019
Payments	<u>(1,035,826)</u>	<u>(122,346)</u>	<u>(1,158,172)</u>
Balance, December 31, 2014	<u>\$4,563,142</u>	<u>\$391,860</u>	<u>\$4,955,002</u>

The liabilities above represent the Authority's best estimates based upon available information. Settled claims have not exceeded the Authority's commercial insurance coverage for any of the past three years.

10. Contingencies and Commitments**A. Litigation and Claims**

It is the Authority's policy, within certain limits (see Note 9), to act as self-insurer for certain insurable risks consisting primarily of public liability, property damage, and workers' compensation. As of December 31, 2014, SORTA had been named in various public liability and property damage claims and suits, some of which seek significant damages. The ultimate outcome of those matters cannot be determined; however, it is the opinion of management that any resulting liability to the Authority in excess of the amount provided for in the accompanying balance sheets, and which is not covered by insurance, will not have a material adverse effect on the Authority's financial position.

B. Federal and State Grants

Under the terms of the Authority's various grants, periodic audits are required where certain costs could be questioned as not being eligible expenditures under the terms of the grants. At December 31, 2014, there were no questioned costs that had not been resolved with

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)

appropriate federal and state agencies. Questioned costs could still be identified during audits to be conducted in the future. In the opinion of SORTA's management, no material grant expenditures will be disallowed.

11. Energy Forward Pricing Mechanisms

Pursuant to Attorney General Opinion No.89-080 dated October 16, 1989, SORTA may enter into forward pricing mechanisms (e.g., commodity-type futures, options, contracts, etc.) as a budget risk reduction tool to manage price variability and cost/budget uncertainty associated with the purchase of Authority-consumed energy (e.g., diesel fuel). Since May 2006, SORTA has hedged its diesel consumption (approximately 3 million gallons per year) with Energy Forward Pricing Mechanisms (EFPM). This program's objective is to manage a large portion of Metro's exposure to fuel price swings. EFPMs may be comprised of any single or combined use of futures, options, options on futures, or fixed price delivery contracts. In 2014 and 2013, heating oil #2 futures contracts ("contracts") and fixed-price supply contracts were utilized. The SORTA Board approval limits contracts in-place to ninety percent of consumption expected in any one month. The initial value of each contract is zero. The price of diesel fuel purchased any day is the published Cincinnati rack price for the prior day plus or minus a differential agreed to through a competitive bidding process. The differential to the published Cincinnati rack price was \$0.02 per gallon and \$0.008 per gallon at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. When fuel is purchased, contracts are exercised, thereby effectively tying the fuel price to the price of #2 heating oil as of the date of the contract's creation. For the years ending December 31, 2014 and 2013, losses of \$117,562 (4.0 cents per gallon) and gains of \$372,338 (12.5 cents per gallon), respectively, were recognized as an increase and as a decrease, respectively, in diesel fuel expense. On December 31, 2014 and 2013, the remaining open contracts had \$4,018,623 of unrealized losses and \$579,562 of unrealized gains, respectively. There is no debt associated with these contracts and unrealized losses are fully funded.

As outlined in Governmental Accounting Standards Board Technical Bulletin 2003-1, there are certain risks attached to this program. Metro may face increased costs if: (1) fuel consumption falls below the contract levels, or (2) the closing value of the contract is below its nominal value.

12. Everybody Rides Metro

In 2006, the Authority formed "Everybody Rides Metro" ("ERM"), a charitable foundation authorized under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code and registered in Ohio and Kentucky. The foundation was formed to provide transportation fare subsidies to poor or disabled individuals by underwriting fares and to aid SORTA in acquiring advanced technology to improve the environment and/or reduce the cost of bus transportation. The revenues of ERM are derived from grants and donations. The foundation meets the criteria for a "discretely presented component unit" as defined in GASB Statement No. 14, "The Financial Reporting Entity." However, since ERM's total assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and revenue and expenses for the years then ended are immaterial to the Authority's basic financial statements, ERM financial information is not included as a discretely presented component unit in the Authority's basic financial statements. A copy of ERM's audited financial statements may be obtained by contacting ERM at 602 Main St., Suite 1315, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202, or by telephone at 513-632-7609.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (continued)**

13. New Accounting Pronouncements

In June, 2012, the GASB issued Statement No. 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 27." This statement makes significant changes to the manner in which governments, including SORTA, must account for and report the pensions provided to their employees. Among other requirements, Statement No. 68 will require SORTA to record a liability equal to its proportionate share of the total net pension liability of all participating employers in OPERS, and it will require SORTA to record expense equal to its proportionate share of total pension expense of all participating employers in OPERS. Currently, SORTA's pension expense is equal to its required contributions to OPERS, and a liability is recorded only when actual contributions are less than the required amount. Statement No. 68 will require additional footnote disclosures as well. This statement will not be effective for SORTA until the year ended December 31, 2015, and as such, the Authority has not yet determined the impact that this statement will have on its financial statements.

In November, 2013, the GASB issued Statement No. 71, "Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 68." This statement addresses an issue regarding application of the transition provisions of GASB Statement No. 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions." The issue relates to amounts associated with contributions, if any, made by a state or local government employer or nonemployer contributing entity to a defined benefit pension plan after the measurement date of the government's beginning net pension liability. This statement will not be effective for SORTA until the year ended December 31, 2015, and as such, the Authority has not yet determined the impact that this statement will have on its financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Supplemental Schedule of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position—
Budget and Actual (GAAP Basis)
for the year ended December 31, 2014**

	Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
Operating revenues	\$24,739,319	\$24,261,725	(\$477,594)
Operating expenses other than depreciation and amortization:			
Labor	42,537,188	42,660,103	(122,915)
Fringe benefits	22,465,190	21,985,688	479,502
Materials and supplies consumed	15,725,933	14,953,618	772,315
Services	4,082,243	3,799,136	283,107
Utilities	1,669,141	1,518,602	150,539
Casualty and liability	420,200	(18,971)	439,171
Taxes	875,733	865,121	10,612
Purchased transportation services	5,654,637	5,423,698	230,939
Leases and rentals	647,171	647,235	(64)
Miscellaneous	849,644	789,556	60,088
Sub-total	<u>94,927,080</u>	<u>92,623,786</u>	<u>2,303,294</u>
Grant pass-through City of Cincinnati Streetcar	21,730,755	21,730,755	-
Grant pass-through Everybody Rides			
Metro Foundation	251,818	251,818	-
Total	<u>116,909,653</u>	<u>114,606,359</u>	<u>2,303,294</u>
Depreciation and amortization	<u>14,190,751</u>	<u>14,190,751</u>	<u>-</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>131,100,404</u>	<u>128,797,110</u>	<u>2,303,294</u>
Operating loss	<u>(106,361,085)</u>	<u>(104,535,385)</u>	<u>1,825,700</u>
Non-operating revenues:			
Local operating grants and special fare assistance	55,492,608	51,034,398	(4,458,210)
Federal maintenance grants and reimbursements	12,181,414	17,192,731	5,011,317
Federal grant pass-through City of Cincinnati Streetcar	21,730,755	21,730,755	-
Federal grant pass-through Everybody Rides			
Metro Foundation	251,818	251,818	-
State maintenance grants, reimbursements and special fare assistance	831,641	783,772	(47,869)
Investment income-net	83,824	106,816	22,992
Decrease in fair value of investments	-	4,766	4,766
Non-transportation revenue	784,953	476,091	(308,862)
Other non-operating expenses	(1,419,591)	(1,419,591)	-
Total	<u>89,937,422</u>	<u>90,161,556</u>	<u>224,134</u>
Net loss before capital grant activity	<u>(16,423,663)</u>	<u>(14,373,829)</u>	<u>2,049,834</u>
Capital grant revenue	<u>12,584,713</u>	<u>3,835,630</u>	<u>(8,749,083)</u>
Decrease in net position during the year	<u>(3,838,951)</u>	<u>(10,538,199)</u>	<u>(6,699,248)</u>
Net position, beginning of year	<u>114,179,442</u>	<u>114,179,442</u>	<u>-</u>
Net position, end of year	<u>\$110,340,491</u>	<u>\$103,641,243</u>	<u>(\$6,699,248)</u>

STATISTICAL SECTION

This part of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report presents detailed information as a context for understanding what the information in the financial statements, note disclosures, and required supplementary information says about the Authority's overall financial health.

Contents	Page(s)
Financial Trends	46-53
These schedules contain trend information to help the reader understand how the Authority's financial performance and well-being have changed over time.	
Revenue Capacity	54
This schedule contains information to help the reader assess the Authority's most significant local revenue source, the City of Cincinnati Income Tax Transit Fund.	
Debt Capacity	55
These schedules present information to help the reader assess the affordability of the Authority's current levels of outstanding debt and the Authority's ability to issue additional debt in the future.	
Economic and Demographic Information	56-57
These schedules offer economic and demographic indicators to help the reader understand the environment within which the Authority's financial activities take place.	
Operating Information	58-65
These schedules contain service and infrastructure data to help the reader understand how the information in the Authority's financial report relates to the services the Authority provides and the activities it performs.	

Sources: Unless otherwise noted, the information in these schedules is derived from the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports for the relevant year.

Net Position and Changes in Net Position - Last Ten Years
(dollars in thousands)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Operating revenues										
Passenger fares for transit service	\$18,088	\$18,665	\$18,560	\$22,964	\$21,976	\$23,211	\$22,778	\$23,387	\$23,495	\$22,904
Special transit fares	563	700	550	474	439	689	717	668	728	817
Auxiliary transportation revenue	459	464	547	538	603	409	585	598	574	540
Total operating revenues	19,110	19,829	19,657	23,976	23,018	24,309	24,081	24,653	24,797	24,262
Non-operating revenues										
Federal maintenance grants and reimbursements	11,421	11,215	13,179	12,902	19,589	15,701	15,404	15,082	15,521	17,193
Federal grant pass-through	0	350	0	826	2,989	351	271	244	5,368	21,983
State maintenance grants and reimbursements and special fare assistance	1,340	2,297	2,172	2,050	1,701	1,248	862	807	804	784
State grant pass-through	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local operating grants and fare assistance	5,596	5,862	6,595	7,383	7,639	7,351	7,167	7,209	6,413	6,617
Investment income, net	1,111	1,580	1,611	1,153	496	611	236	147	88	107
Increase (decrease) in fair value of investments	(398)	(79)	412	309	(444)	(507)	(46)	2	(15)	5
Non-transportation revenue	668	706	667	627	629	690	673	392	657	476
Total non-operating revenues	19,738	21,931	24,636	25,250	32,599	25,445	24,567	23,882	28,837	47,164
Total Revenues	38,848	41,760	44,293	49,226	55,617	49,754	48,648	48,535	53,634	71,426
Operating expenses										
Labor	35,409	37,245	38,491	40,717	41,368	38,284	39,632	40,470	41,135	42,660
Fringe benefits	17,256	18,352	19,328	19,938	20,096	19,395	18,725	20,699	21,552	21,986
Materials and supplies consumed	10,597	12,863	14,261	15,618	16,779	12,663	12,713	15,148	14,793	14,954
Services	2,754	3,053	3,039	3,766	3,738	3,726	3,371	3,408	3,486	3,799
Utilities	1,561	1,637	1,872	1,916	1,807	1,868	1,602	1,402	1,475	1,519
Casualty and liability	288	459	500	486	954	1,769	804	515	67	(19)
Taxes	995	1,059	1,053	1,027	961	853	851	862	846	865
Purchased transportation services	5,898	6,106	6,182	5,977	6,058	5,475	5,465	5,522	5,136	5,424
Leases and rentals	506	491	484	534	457	503	547	568	588	647
Miscellaneous	520	636	387	526	388	627	561	681	921	790
Grant pass-through	0	350	0	826	2,989	351	271	244	5,368	21,983
Depreciation and amortization	10,606	11,489	12,051	11,281	11,109	11,485	10,608	13,804	14,449	14,191
Total operating expenses	86,390	93,740	97,648	102,612	106,704	96,999	95,150	103,322	109,815	128,797
Non-operating expenses	419	446	482	931	1,392	1,147	1,575	852	1,300	1,420
Total Expenses	86,809	94,186	98,130	103,543	108,096	98,146	96,725	104,174	111,115	130,217

(continued)

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Net Position and Changes in Net Position - Last Ten Years (continued)
(dollars in thousands)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Operating assistance from the City of Cincinnati										
Income Tax-Transit Fund	37,355	40,937	41,786	43,036	41,369	36,679	37,457	41,625	42,978	44,417
Capital grant revenue	6,773	17,741	3,008	10,212	31,186	9,641	22,023	21,788	20,708	3,836
Increase (decrease) in net position	(\$3,833)	\$6,252	(\$9,043)	(\$1,069)	\$20,076	(\$2,072)	\$11,403	\$7,774	\$6,204	(\$10,538)
Net position at year-end										
Net investment in capital assets	\$55,640	\$70,559	\$61,561	\$60,528	\$85,627	\$88,555	\$99,958	\$107,659	\$114,077	\$103,449
Restricted	3,118	1,300	497	4,394	3,662	746	4,350	2,238	6,053	7,098
Unrestricted	15,895	9,047	9,805	5,871	1,581	(503)	(4,107)	(1,921)	(5,951)	(6,906)
Total net position	\$74,654	\$80,906	\$71,863	\$70,794	\$90,870	\$88,797	\$100,201	\$107,975	\$114,179	\$103,641

Source: SORTA's audited financial statements for each year. Some balances may have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.

Note: Totals shown above may not be mathematically accurate as displayed due to rounding.

**Revenues by Source - Last Ten Years
(dollars in thousands)**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Operating Revenues										
Passenger fares for transit service (1)	\$ 23,989	\$ 24,969	\$ 25,848	\$ 30,763	\$ 29,837	\$ 30,669	\$ 30,001	\$ 30,596	\$ 29,909	\$ 29,522
Special transit fares	562	700	550	474	439	689	717	668	728	817
Auxiliary transportation revenue	459	464	547	538	603	409	585	598	574	540
Total operating revenues	25,010	26,133	26,945	31,775	30,879	31,767	31,303	31,862	31,211	30,879
Non-Operating Revenues										
Federal grants and reimbursements (1)	11,421	11,215	13,179	12,902	19,589	15,701	15,404	15,082	15,521	17,193
Federal grant pass-through: Anderson Township Park & Ride	0	350	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal grant pass-through: Cincinnati Zoo/Transit Hub	0	0	0	728	2,765	0	0	0	0	0
Federal grant pass-through: City of Cincinnati	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal grant pass-through: Everybody Rides Metro Foundation	0	0	0	98	224	351	271	244	272	252
State grants and reimbursements (1)	1,036	1,855	1,659	1,634	1,479	1,141	806	807	804	784
Investment income	713	1,501	2,023	1,462	52	104	190	149	73	112
Non-transportation revenues	668	706	667	627	630	690	673	392	657	476
Sub-total	13,838	15,627	17,528	17,451	24,739	17,987	17,344	16,674	22,424	40,547
Local operating assistance	37,355	40,937	41,786	43,036	41,369	36,679	37,457	41,625	42,978	44,417
Total non-operating revenues	51,193	56,564	59,314	60,487	66,108	54,666	54,801	58,299	65,401	84,964
Total Revenues	\$ 76,203	\$ 82,697	\$ 86,259	\$ 92,262	\$ 96,987	\$ 86,433	\$ 86,104	\$ 90,161	\$ 96,612	\$ 115,843

Amounts are presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

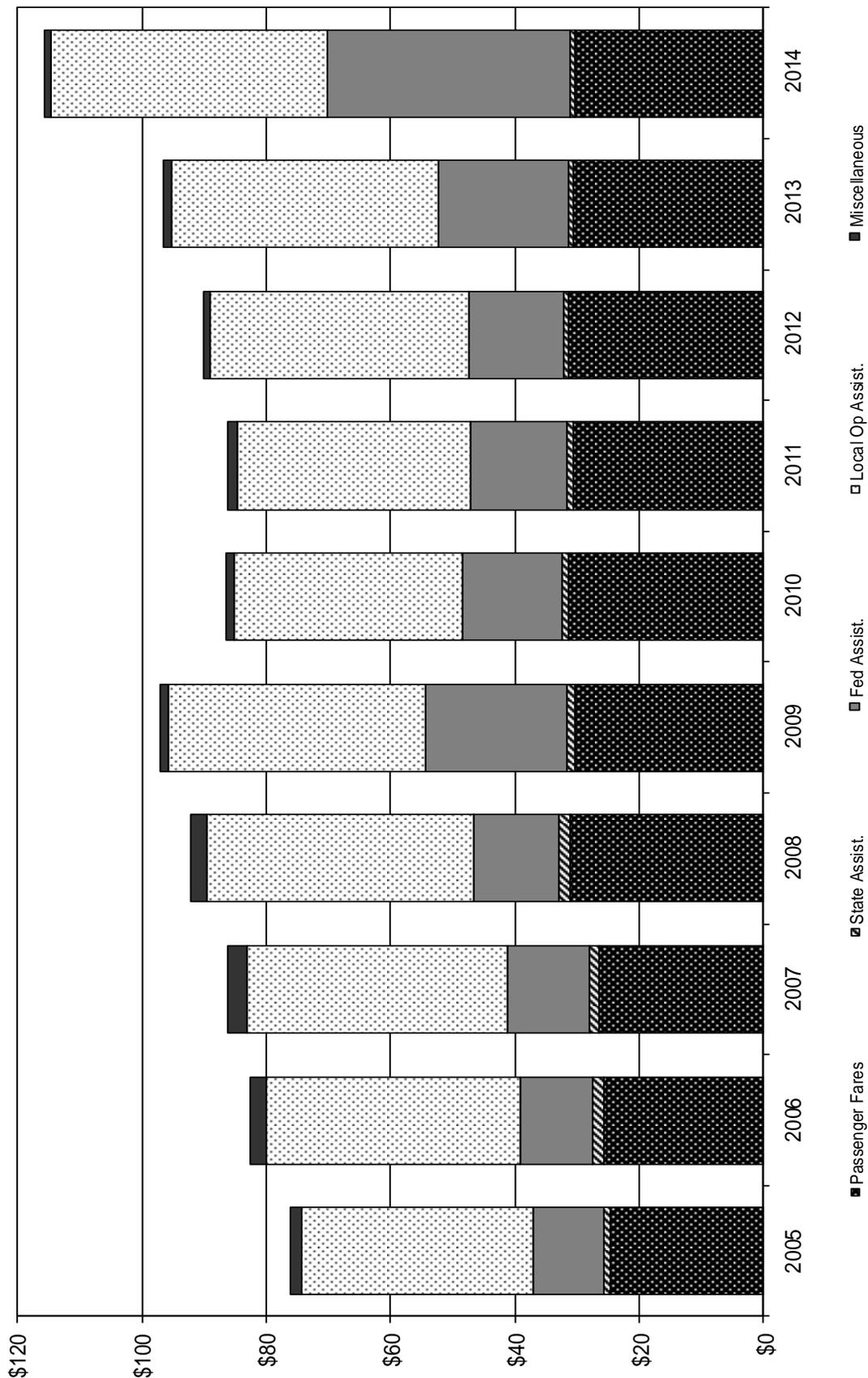
Totals may not be mathematically accurate as displayed due to rounding.

Source: Derived from SORTA's independently audited annual financial statements, except for passenger revenue, and State grants and reimbursements.

Note 1: For purposes of the table above, Passenger Fares include farebox revenues, along with subsidies received from FTA, ODOT, Cincinnati Public Schools, and certain government units to support farebox discounts offered at certain times during the year. Subsidies are classified as Non-Operating Revenues in the Authority's Basic Financial Statements.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Revenues by Source – Last Ten Years
(dollars in millions)



Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Revenues and Operating Assistance – Comparison to Industry Trend Data
Last Ten Years**

TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY (1):

YEAR	OPERATING AND OTHER REVENUE			OPERATING ASSISTANCE			TOTAL REVENUES
	PASSENGER	OTHER (2)	TOTAL	STATE & LOCAL (3)	FEDERAL	TOTAL	
2005	32.4%	15.7%	48.1%	44.6%	7.3%	51.9%	100.0%
2006	33.2%	7.0%	40.2%	52.1%	7.7%	59.8%	100.0%
2007	31.4%	6.5%	37.9%	54.6%	7.5%	62.1%	100.0%
2008	31.2%	6.4%	37.6%	55.3%	7.1%	62.4%	100.0%
2009	31.5%	5.9%	37.4%	54.4%	8.2%	62.6%	100.0%
2010	32.1%	5.4%	37.5%	53.1%	9.4%	62.5%	100.0%
2011	32.8%	4.9%	37.7%	52.5%	9.8%	62.3%	100.0%
2012	32.5%	4.6%	37.1%	54.0%	8.9%	62.9%	100.0%
2013	32.5%	3.8%	36.3%	54.8%	8.9%	63.7%	100.0%
2014	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY:

YEAR	OPERATING AND OTHER REVENUE			OPERATING ASSISTANCE			TOTAL REVENUES
	PASSENGER	OTHER (2)	TOTAL	STATE & LOCAL (3)	FEDERAL	TOTAL	
2005	32.2%	2.4%	34.6%	50.4%	15.0%	65.4%	100.0%
2006	31.0%	3.3%	34.3%	51.7%	14.0%	65.7%	100.0%
2007	30.6%	3.7%	34.3%	50.4%	15.3%	65.7%	100.0%
2008	33.9%	2.8%	36.7%	48.4%	14.9%	63.3%	100.0%
2009	31.2%	1.3%	32.5%	44.2%	23.3%	67.5%	100.0%
2010	36.3%	1.3%	37.6%	43.8%	18.6%	62.4%	100.0%
2011	35.7%	1.7%	37.4%	44.4%	18.2%	62.6%	100.0%
2012	34.7%	1.3%	36.0%	47.1%	17.0%	64.1%	100.0%
2013	31.7%	1.4%	33.1%	45.3%	21.6%	66.9%	100.0%
2014	26.2%	1.0%	27.2%	39.0%	33.8%	72.8%	100.0%

*Information is not available

(1) Source: The American Public Transit Association, "APTA 2015 Public Transportation Fact Book".

(2) Includes auxiliary transportation revenues, interest income, and other non-transportation revenues.

(3) Includes local income tax revenues, state operating grants, state fuel tax reimbursements.

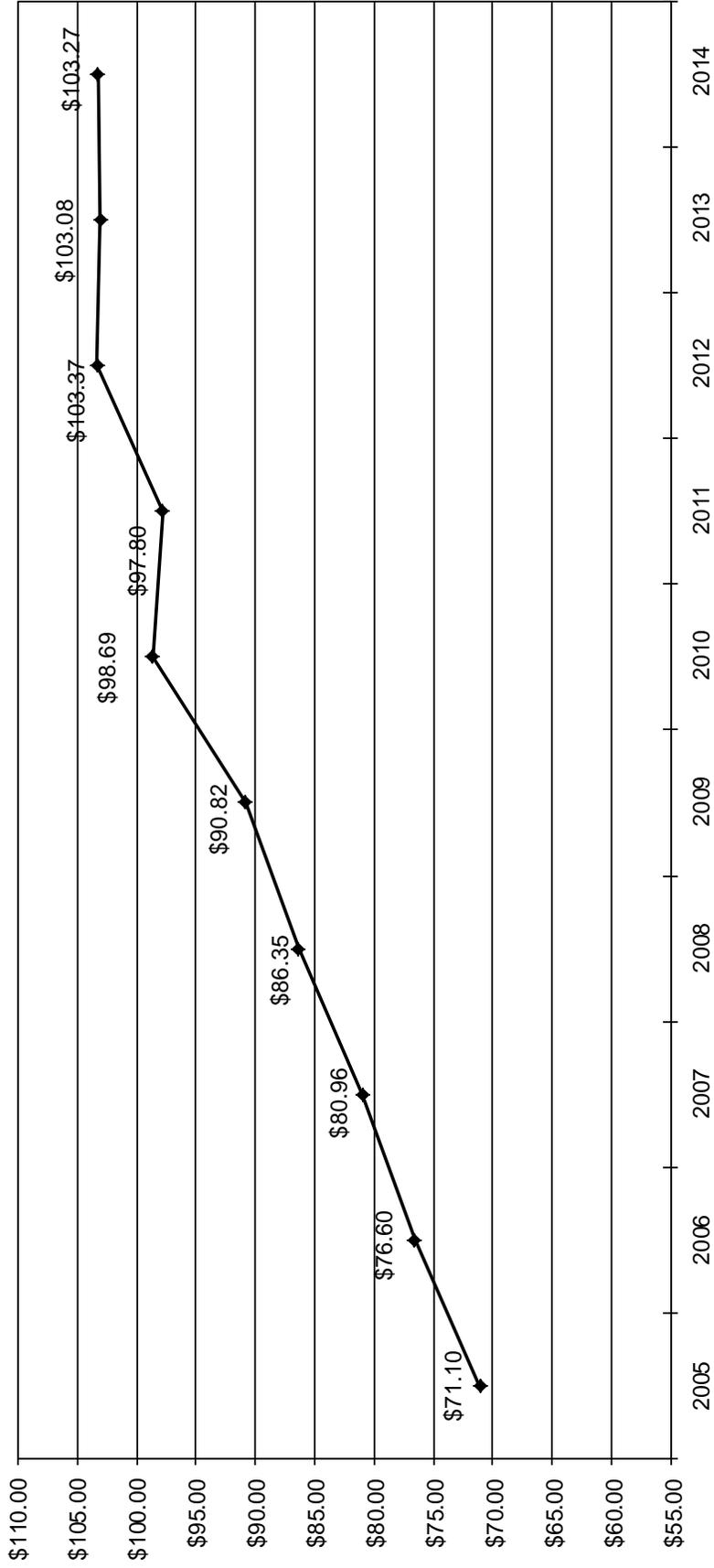
Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Expenses by Object Class—Last Ten Years
(dollars in thousands)**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Operating Expenses Other Than Depreciation and Amortization:										
Labor	\$ 35,409	\$ 37,245	\$ 38,491	\$ 40,717	\$ 41,368	\$ 38,284	\$ 39,632	\$ 40,470	\$ 41,135	\$ 42,660
Fringe Benefits	17,256	18,352	19,328	19,938	20,096	19,395	18,725	20,699	21,552	21,986
Materials and supplies consumed	10,597	12,863	14,262	15,618	16,779	12,663	12,713	15,148	14,793	14,954
Services	2,754	3,053	3,039	3,766	3,738	3,726	3,371	3,408	3,486	3,799
Utilities	1,561	1,638	1,872	1,916	1,807	1,868	1,602	1,402	1,475	1,519
Casualty and liability	288	459	500	486	954	1,769	804	515	67	(19)
Taxes	995	1,059	1,053	1,027	961	853	851	862	846	865
Purchased transportation services	5,899	6,106	6,182	5,977	6,058	5,475	5,465	5,522	5,136	5,424
Leases and rentals	506	491	484	534	457	503	547	568	588	647
Miscellaneous	519	635	387	526	388	627	561	681	921	790
Total	75,784	81,901	85,598	90,505	92,606	85,163	84,271	89,275	89,999	92,624
Federal grant pass-through: Anderson Township Park & Ride	0	350	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal grant pass-through: Cincinnati Zoo/Transit Hub	0	0	0	728	2,765	0	0	0	0	0
Federal grant pass-through: City of Cincinnati Streetcar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,096	21,731
Federal grant pass-through: Everybody Rides Metro Foundation	0	0	0	98	224	351	271	244	272	252
Depreciation and Amortization	10,606	11,489	12,051	11,281	11,109	11,485	10,608	13,804	14,449	14,191
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 86,390	\$ 93,740	\$ 97,649	\$102,612	\$106,704	\$ 96,999	\$ 95,150	\$103,322	\$ 109,816	\$ 128,798

Amounts are presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Totals may not be mathematically accurate as displayed due to rounding. Source: SORTA's independently audited annual financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority
Operating Expenses per Vehicle Hour – Last Ten Years



Source: SORTA's annual "National Transit Database" filed with the Federal Transit Administration. Some balances may have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation. Operating expenses exclude depreciation and amortization and grant pass-through.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Operating Expenses – Comparison to Industry Trend Data
Last Ten Years**

TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY (1):

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LABOR AND FRINGES</u>	<u>MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES</u>	<u>SERVICES</u>	<u>UTILITIES</u>	<u>CASUALTY AND LIABILITY</u>	<u>PURCHASED TRANSPOR- TATION</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES (2)</u>
2005	66.9%	10.1%	5.8%	3.2%	2.5%	13.8%	-2.3%	100.0%
2006	66.1%	11.3%	5.9%	3.2%	2.5%	13.4%	-2.4%	100.0%
2007	65.8%	11.6%	6.1%	3.4%	2.4%	13.0%	-2.3%	100.0%
2008	64.0%	12.8%	6.3%	3.4%	2.2%	13.7%	-2.4%	100.0%
2009	64.8%	11.3%	6.6%	3.5%	2.3%	14.0%	-2.5%	100.0%
2010	65.2%	10.7%	6.6%	3.4%	2.6%	13.8%	-2.3%	100.0%
2011	65.0%	11.4%	6.6%	3.3%	2.6%	13.3%	-2.2%	100.0%
2012	64.0%	11.7%	6.9%	3.2%	2.2%	13.8%	-1.8%	100.0%
2013	60.7%	11.2%	7.1%	3.1%	2.4%	13.7%	1.8%	100.0%
2014	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (3):

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LABOR AND FRINGES</u>	<u>MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES</u>	<u>SERVICES</u>	<u>UTILITIES</u>	<u>CASUALTY AND LIABILITY</u>	<u>PURCHASED TRANSPOR- TATION</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES (2)</u>
2005	69.5%	14.0%	3.6%	2.1%	0.4%	7.8%	2.6%	100.0%
2006	67.9%	15.7%	3.7%	2.0%	0.6%	7.5%	2.6%	100.0%
2007	67.5%	16.7%	3.6%	2.2%	0.6%	7.2%	2.2%	100.0%
2008	67.0%	17.3%	4.2%	2.1%	0.5%	6.6%	2.3%	100.0%
2009	66.4%	18.1%	4.0%	2.0%	1.0%	6.5%	2.0%	100.0%
2010	67.7%	14.9%	4.4%	2.2%	2.1%	6.4%	2.3%	100.0%
2011	69.2%	15.1%	4.0%	1.9%	1.0%	6.5%	2.3%	100.0%
2012	68.5%	17.0%	3.8%	1.6%	0.6%	6.2%	2.3%	100.0%
2013	69.7%	16.4%	3.9%	1.6%	0.1%	5.7%	2.6%	100.0%
2014	69.8%	16.1%	4.1%	1.6%	0.0%	5.9%	2.5%	100.0%

* Information is not available

(1) Source: The American Public Transit Association, "APTA 2015 Transit Fact Book".

(2) Operating expenses exclude depreciation and amortization and grant pass-through.

(3) Source: Derived from SORTA's independently audited annual financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

City Income Tax—Transit Fund (dollars in thousands)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	<u>.3% INCOME TAX COLLECT</u>	<u>OTHER RECEIPTS</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTIONS TO SORTA (3)</u>	<u>OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS</u>	<u>ENDING BALANCE (1) (2)</u>
2005	12,520	40,726	247	37,672	701	15,120
2006	15,120	42,631	487	41,950	658	15,630
2007	15,630	44,168	608	43,814	769	15,823
2008	15,823	45,362	331	45,385	727	15,404
2009	15,404	43,150	176	46,536	854	11,340
2010	11,340	43,187	207	40,392	672	13,670
2011	13,670	45,350	191	41,745	2,420	15,046
2012	15,046	46,075	94	45,046	714	15,455
2013	15,455	47,566	26	47,954	863	14,230
2014	14,230	49,078	38	53,947	515	8,884
		<u>\$447,293</u>	<u>\$2,405</u>	<u>\$444,441</u>	<u>\$8,893</u>	

Source: City of Cincinnati, "Combining Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance.

(1) Balance includes a \$3,000,000 self-insurance reserve.

(2) Balance includes an additional \$2,000,000 working-capital reserve.

(3) Includes operating and capital assistance.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Outstanding Debt - Last Ten Years
(in thousands, except per capita amounts)**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Outstanding debt by type:										
Capital lease obligation	\$18,636	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total outstanding debt	\$18,636	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Population - Hamilton County, Ohio (1)	828	823	842	851	855	802	800	802	805	807
Outstanding debt per capita	\$22.51	\$12.15	\$11.88	\$11.75	\$5.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Notes: SORTA has leased revenue vehicles under a master lease-purchase agreements with local financial institutions. Based on the terms of these agreements, they have been classified as capital leases. Investments with local financial institutions have been made to compensate the amount/term of the capital lease obligation.

Source:
(1) Hamilton County Data Center.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority
Demographic Statistics

<u>YEAR (1)</u>	<u>MEDIAN AGE</u>	<u>MEDIAN INCOME</u>
1960	30.3	\$5,483
1970	*	\$10,486
1980	30.0	\$10,673
1990	32.7	\$15,354
2000	35.5	\$24,053
2010	37.1	\$29,197

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>K-12 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (2)</u>	<u>UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (3)</u>	<u>POPULATION (4)</u>
2005	155,265	5.7%	828,487
2006	157,188	5.0%	822,596
2007	157,002	5.0%	842,369
2008	150,661	5.6%	851,494
2009	149,944	8.9%	855,062
2010	148,212	9.4%	802,374
2011	145,438	8.6%	800,362
2012	138,879	7.0%	802,038
2013	149,179	7.1%	804,520
2014	*	5.3%	806,631

Note: All information presented is for Hamilton County, Ohio.

* Information is not available.

Source:

(1) U.S. Bureau of the Census.

(2) MDR's School Directory - Ohio.

(3) OhioLMI.com.

(4) Quickfacts.census.gov.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

**Principal Employers in Primary Service Area
Calendar Years 2014 and 2005**

<u>2014</u>			
Employer	Nature of Business	Employees	Percentage of Total County Employment
Kroger Co.	National grocery retailer	20,948	5.5%
University of Cincinnati	Public university	15,378	4.0%
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center	Pediatric Medical Center	14,954	3.9%
Trihealth, Inc.	Health care system	11,400	3.0%
City of Cincinnati	Municipal government	11,156	2.9%
Procter & Gamble Co.	Consumer products company	11,000	2.9%
UC Health	Health care system	10,000	2.6%
GE Aviation	Jet engines/components	8,670	2.3%
Mercy Health	Health care system	8,210	2.1%
Fifth Third Bancorp	Banking and Financial Services	6,815	1.8%
	Total	118,531	31.0%
	Total County Employment:	382,500	

<u>2005</u>			
Employer	Nature of Business	Employees	Percentage of Total County Employment
University of Cincinnati	Public university	15,400	3.9%
Kroger Co.	National grocery retailer	14,000	3.5%
Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati	Health care system	13,141	3.3%
Procter & Gamble Co.	Consumer products company	12,000	3.0%
Fifth Third Bank	Banking and Financial Services	8,964	2.3%
Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America Inc.	Automotive manufacturer	8,490	2.1%
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center	Pediatric medical center	8,102	2.0%
TriHealth	Health Care System	7,648	1.9%
Cincinnati Public Schools	Public school system	7,589	1.9%
GE Aviation	Jet engines/components	6,800	1.7%
	Total	102,134	25.8%
	Total County Employment	396,300	

Source: 2015 Business Courier Book of Lists; 2006 Business Courier Book of Lists.

Operating Statistics – Last Ten Years

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
System Ridership (1)										
Motor bus	25,900,339	25,294,117	25,897,973	25,833,969	22,886,445	18,821,828	18,784,769	17,390,349	16,769,004	16,426,147
Demand responsive	258,013	261,449	249,528	238,352	234,507	185,804	172,963	162,771	177,004	198,202
Average Weekday System Ridership (1)										
Motor bus	87,320	85,990	87,605	87,066	77,389	64,711	63,706	59,544	57,247	55,423
Demand responsive	899	913	866	824	805	648	604	570	631	716
Vehicle Miles Operated										
Motor bus	12,931,616	12,844,463	12,516,090	12,638,029	12,355,966	10,947,052	11,075,394	11,175,537	11,081,761	11,254,346
Demand responsive	2,470,081	2,413,080	2,328,126	2,216,026	2,064,155	1,629,544	1,531,529	1,450,664	1,528,330	1,643,738
Average Weekday Vehicle Miles Operated (1)										
Motor bus	43,502	43,313	42,136	42,413	41,714	37,101	37,506	37,908	37,627	38,261
Demand responsive	8,603	8,428	8,082	7,656	7,087	5,687	5,350	5,079	5,447	5,936
Revenue Miles (1)										
Motor bus	11,018,173	11,016,477	10,771,594	10,774,532	10,445,144	8,923,481	9,178,389	9,351,070	9,464,791	9,669,391
Demand responsive	2,135,177	2,058,816	1,973,788	1,922,900	1,809,465	1,422,463	1,335,563	1,258,233	1,315,545	1,379,346
Passenger Miles (1)										
Motor bus	139,002,211	128,950,847	124,944,312	127,342,586	103,965,183	86,058,502	94,763,303	86,595,685	81,125,391	89,546,000
Demand responsive	2,483,351	2,736,332	2,567,530	2,558,818	2,521,893	1,931,873	2,056,530	1,816,524	1,964,744	1,978,056

(continued)

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Operating Statistics – Last Ten Years (continued)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Vehicle Hours Operated (1)										
Motor bus	907,290	911,536	909,219	913,117	892,296	760,187	767,333	774,170	778,325	791,988
Demand responsive	158,632	157,647	148,114	134,974	127,345	102,726	94,368	89,439	94,763	104,948
Vehicle Revenue Hours (1)										
Motor bus	830,384	831,841	815,878	821,178	802,130	687,273	695,282	713,214	717,809	736,720
Demand responsive	117,240	118,654	114,006	108,546	105,574	83,638	77,724	73,299	77,564	84,275
Diesel Fuel Consumption (In Gallons) (1)	3,334,875	3,453,455	3,427,677	3,597,598	3,361,994	2,965,930	2,977,079	2,992,001	2,957,637	2,944,422
Fleet Requirements (During Peak Hours) (1)										
Motor bus	325	325	325	324	324	280	287	289	297	297
Demand responsive	43	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48
Total Revenue Vehicles During Period (1)										
Motor bus	390	390	390	388	388	333	344	346	356	356
Demand responsive	53	53	53	51	52	53	48	48	48	48
Number of Full Time Employees (2)	786	785	801	814	744	722	704	719	808	791

Sources:
 (1) SORTA's annual "National Transit Database" (NTD) report filed with the Federal Transit Administration. Note that in 2012, SORTA began reporting annual system ridership using data provided by farebox transactions, which represents a change from the sampling methodology used in prior years.
 (2) Human Resources Department "Personnel Distribution - Department Breakdown" report.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Capital Asset Information as of December 31, 2014

ACCESS

1801 Transpark Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45229-1239

Building Total Square Footage	76,518
Which includes:	
Office space	9,685
Operations	21,480
Maintenance	11,793
Storage	33,560
Real Estate Acreage	5.65
Sq. Ft. parking lot	41,430

SILVERTON

7000 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236-3835

Building Total Square Footage	3,237
Which includes:	
Office space	1,260
Operations	1,927
Maintenance	0
Storage	50
Real Estate Acreage	2.25
Sq. Ft. parking lot	28,800
Park and Ride Spaces	120

FOREST PARK, PARK AND RIDE

1160 Kemper Meadow Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45240

Real Estate Acreage	2.34
Park and Ride Spaces	120

(continued)

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Capital Asset Information as of December 31, 2014 (continued)

PARATRANSIT VEHICLES

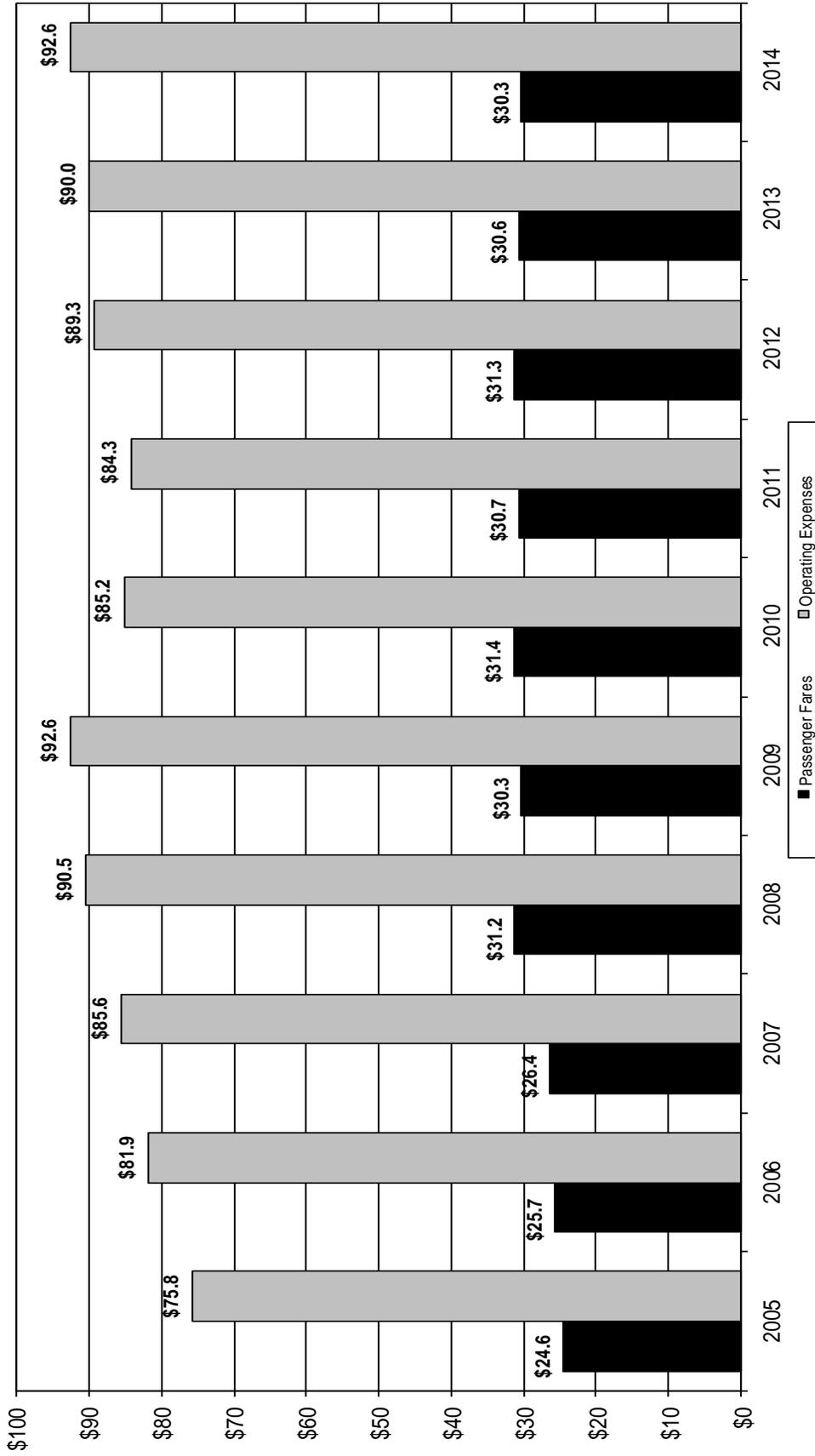
Quantity	Year	Manufacturer
1	2007	Eldorado
6	2008	Eldorado
13	2010	Ford
3	2011	Chevrolet
4	2012	Chevrolet
23	2013	Chevrolet
50	Total Paratransit Vehicles	

BUSES

Quantity	Year	Manufacturer
3	1998	Gillig
3	1999	Gillig
6	2000	Gillig
50	2001	Gillig
36	2002	Gillig
23	2004	Gillig
38	2006	Gillig
1	2008	Gillig
30	2008	New Flyer
67	2009	New Flyer
7	2010	New Flyer
1	2011	Gillig
14	2011	New Flyer
44	2012	Gillig
33	2013	Gillig
356	Total Buses	

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

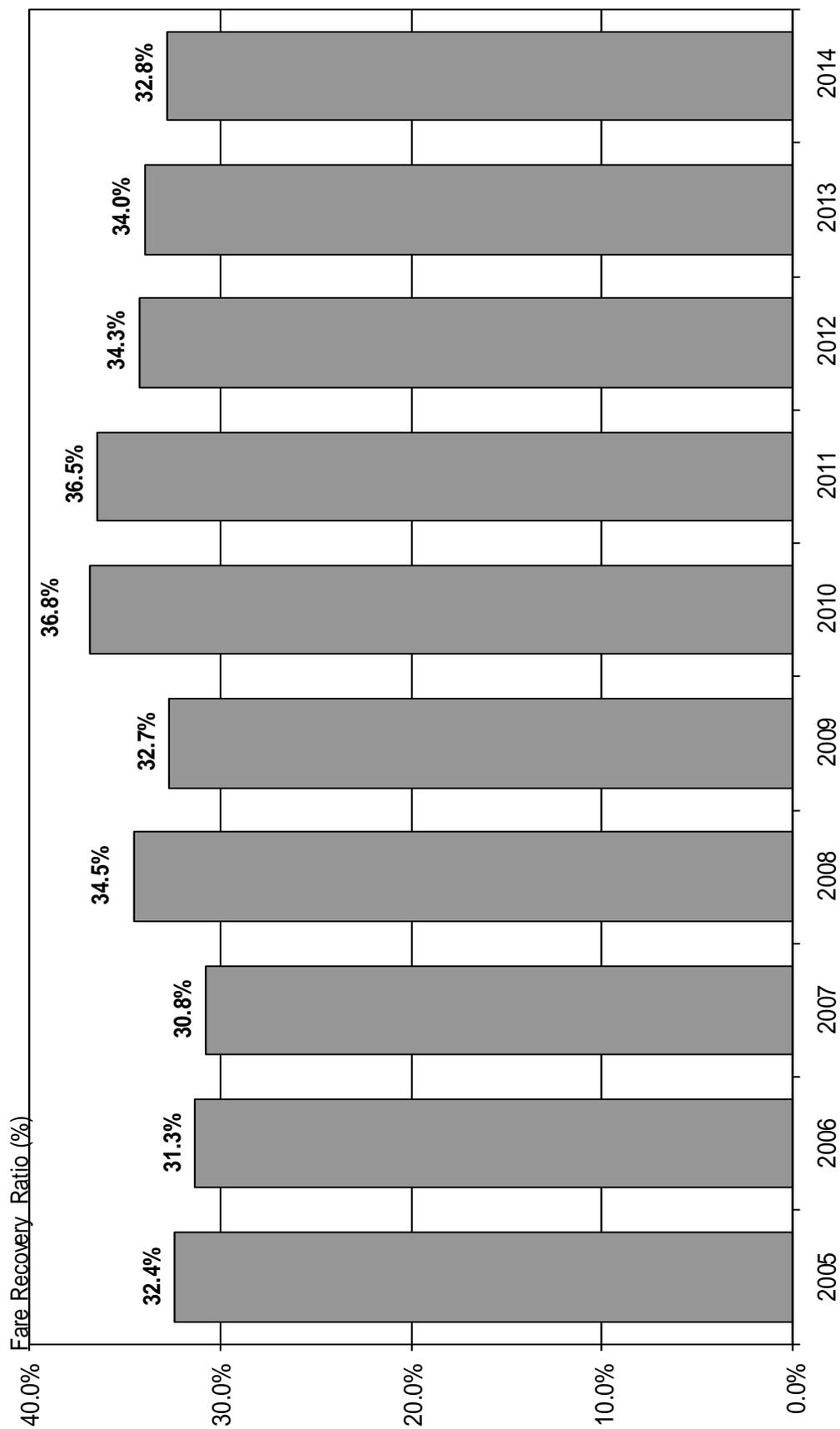
Passenger Fares vs. Operating Expenses – Last Ten Years



Source: Derived from SORTA's independently audited annual financial statements. Some balances may have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation. Passenger fares include passenger and special transit revenues, subsidies from FTA, ODOT, Cincinnati Public Schools and certain local governments to support farebox discounts offered at certain times during the year; operating expenses exclude depreciation and amortization and grant pass-through.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Passenger Fares Recovery Ratio - Last Ten Years



Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Revenue Rates – Last Ten Years

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Cash or Token Fares										
Zone 1 fare (3)	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$1.75
Zone 2 fare (3)	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$2.25	\$2.65	\$2.65	\$2.65	\$2.65	\$2.65
Zone 3 fare (3)	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$3.00	\$3.00				\$4.50
Day Pass Zone 1 fare (3)										\$6.30
Day Pass Zone 2 fare (3)										\$3.00
Express Service (Monday-Friday)(Harrison)							\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Express Service(Monday-Friday)(Clermont County)							\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75
Express Service (Monday-Friday) Zone 4 (3)	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50
Express Service (Monday-Friday) Zone 5 (3)			\$3.25	\$3.75	\$4.25	\$4.25	\$4.25	\$4.25	\$4.25	\$4.25
Parking Meeter shuttle (Monday-Friday)	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
Eastgate Express Service (Monday-Friday)	\$1.75									
Transfers	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
Access Zone 1 (1)	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50
Access Zone 2 (1)	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50
Monthly Passes										
MetroCard Zone 1 Pass (City of Cincinnati)	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00
MetroCard Zone 2 Pass (Hamilton County)	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$75.00	\$90.00	\$106.00	\$106.00	\$106.00	\$106.00	\$106.00
MetroCard Zone 3 Pass (Clermont and Harrison)	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$120.00	\$120.00				
MetroCard Harrison Zone Pass							\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
MetroCard Clermont Zone Pass							\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
MetroCard Zone 4 Pass (Butler County)			\$105.00	\$115.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00
MetroCard All Pass Zone 5 (Warren County and all zones)	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$125.00	\$145.00	\$170.00	\$170.00	\$170.00	\$170.00	\$170.00	\$170.00
Metro/Tank Pass (Zone 1) (3)	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$85.00	\$90.00	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$105.00
Fare Deal (2)	\$24.50	\$24.50	\$24.50	\$32.50	\$32.50	\$38.50	\$38.50	\$38.50	\$38.50	\$38.50
Discount Fares (Fare Deal (2) and Children under 45")										
Zone 1 fare	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$0.85	\$0.85	\$0.85	\$0.85	\$0.85
Zone 2 fare	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$1.10	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$1.30
Zone 3 fare	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50

(1) Demand-responsive, wheelchair lift-equipped paratransit vehicles.

(2) Photo identification card, good in all zones, for riders 65 and over, Medicare enrolled and people with disabilities.

(3) Five zones - 1) City of Cincinnati, 2) Hamilton County outside City, 3) Harrison/Clermont County, 4) Butler County, 5) Warren County

(4) The revenue base to which these rates are applied can be found in Operating Statistics - Last Ten Years - System Ridership (page 60).

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority

Full-time Equivalent Employees as of Year-End—Last Ten Years

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Vehicle Operations	595.0	595.0	579.0	585.0	513.0	505.0	509.0	514.0	511.0	496.5
Vehicle Maintenance	182.0	187.0	195.0	202.0	187.0	187.0	182.0	182.0	185.0	182.0
Non-Vehicle Maintenance	24.0	29.0	34.0	30.0	34.0	27.0	24.0	25.0	26.0	28.0
General Administration	85.0	86.5	90.0	93.5	89.0	80.0	85.5	88.0	91.0	86.5
Paratransit Service	9.0	10.5	15.0	9.5	7.5	7.5	5.5	5.5	5.0	6.0
Total Employees	895.0	908.0	913.0	920.0	830.5	769.0	806.0	814.5	818.0	799.0

Notes: Full-time-equivalent employees totals for Vehicle Operations, General Administration and Paratransit Service include one full-time-equivalent employee to two part-time employees

This page intentionally left blank.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

HAMILTON COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
SEPTEMBER 22, 2015**