

**Appendix G**  
**Updated: February 1, 2019**

**Description of Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA)**  
**Interactions**



## Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA)

The Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) is a tax-supported, independent political subdivision of the State of Ohio operating transit service in the Cincinnati, Ohio area. SORTA operates Metro fixed-route bus service and Access paratransit service for people whose disabilities prevent their riding Metro buses.

SORTA is governed by a 13-member volunteer citizens' board of trustees. Seven trustees are appointed by the City of Cincinnati and six are appointed by Hamilton County. Hamilton County appoints three of its own trustees plus one each representing Butler, Clermont and Warren counties. The funding relationship between SORTA and the City of Cincinnati is established by the City/SORTA Agreement of 1973. Table G-1 provides a summary of SORTA's 2017 operating facts.

**Table G-1. Summary Operating Facts for 2017**

Description	2017 Level
Operating Budget	\$99.9 million
Employees	850
Ridership	15.1 million passenger trips
Service Area	274 square miles
Bus Service	357 buses 50 routes 11 million revenue miles
Rail Service	Streetcar since September 2016

### **Cincinnati Streetcar**

The City and SORTA have executed an Intergovernmental Agreement under which SORTA, as a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grantee, serves as the recipient of federal grant funds awarded to the streetcar operation and the City of Cincinnati serves as a sub-recipient. SORTA is responsible for grant management activities related to the federal grants. The City and SORTA have executed a Streetcar Operating and Maintenance Agreement, whereby SORTA serves as the operator and manager of the streetcar system, through a combination of direct operations and outsourcing of functions. The largest contractor for SORTA is Transdev, who provides certain streetcar operations and maintenance functions to SORTA.

SORTA is directly responsible for all operations, maintenance, and servicing of revenue vehicles including: preventive maintenance, corrective maintenance, inspection, cleaning and servicing, and major campaigns. The City of Cincinnati provides oversight, and some administrative functions, including planning, design and construction of future extensions as well as funding for capital and operating costs of the streetcar system.

## General Scope of SORTA Streetcar Services

The Cincinnati Streetcar is a modern streetcar system designed to link the Banks area, major employment centers in Downtown, and connecting through Cincinnati's historic Over the Rhine neighborhood. The Cincinnati Streetcar started revenue service on September 9, 2016. SORTA has contracted with Transdev as the operations and maintenance contractor for Streetcar services, including management of operations, maintenance, safety, and security of the rail system. SORTA remains responsible for the contractor, safety and security for the ODOT SSO program.

The Streetcar system includes 3.6 miles of one directional single track along a figure-eight route from Second Street (on the south) to Henry Street (on the north) and has 18 stops (shown in Table G-2). A future extension was originally planned to run from the north of Race Street along Vine Street and throughout the Uptown Area, which would include the neighborhoods of Avondale, Clifton, Clifton Height/University Heights, Corryville, and Mt. Auburn.

The Streetcar travels in one direction as follows:

- North along Main Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to 12<sup>th</sup> Street
- West on 12<sup>th</sup> Street to Elm Street
- North on Elm Street to Henry Street
- East on Henry Street to Race Street
- South on Race Street to Central Parkway
- East on Central Park way to Walnut Street
- South on Walnut Street to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street
- East on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to Main Street

**Table G-2. Streetcar Stations**

Northbound	Southbound
Main Street @ 4th Street	Race Street @ Elder Street (Findlay Market)
Main Street @ 6th Street	Race Street @ Liberty Street
Main Street @ 8th Street	Race Street @ 12th Street (Washington Park)
Main Street @ Court Street	Central Parkway @ Vine Street
Main Street @ 12th Street	Walnut Street @ 9th Street
12th Street @ Vine Street (Westbound)	Walnut Street @ 7th Street
Elm Street @ 14th Street (Washington Park)	Walnut Street @ 5th Street
Elm Street @ Liberty Street	2nd Street (Eastbound)
Elm Street @ Elder Street (Findlay Market)	
Elm Street @ Henry Street	

The Maintenance and Operation Facility (MOF) is located on the route at the corner of Race and Henry Streets, shown in Figure G-1. Figure G-2 shows the streetcar route in Cincinnati. Figure G-3 provides a high-level organization chart showing the interactions between SORTA operations, safety, security, and Cincinnati Streetcar/Transdev.

### **Operating Schedule**

The Cincinnati Streetcar operates Monday through Thursday from approximately 6:30 a.m. to midnight. On Friday, it operates from approximately 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. On Saturday, it operates from approximately 8:00 a.m.-1:00 a.m. On Sunday, it operates from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. On SORTA designated holidays, the streetcar schedule follows the Sunday schedule, which is 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. The designated holidays on which SORTA operates a holiday schedule include New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

On weekdays, the streetcar runs every 12 minutes between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The streetcar operates every 15 minutes all other times.



**Figure G-1. Cincinnati Streetcar Maintenance and Operating Facility (MOF)**

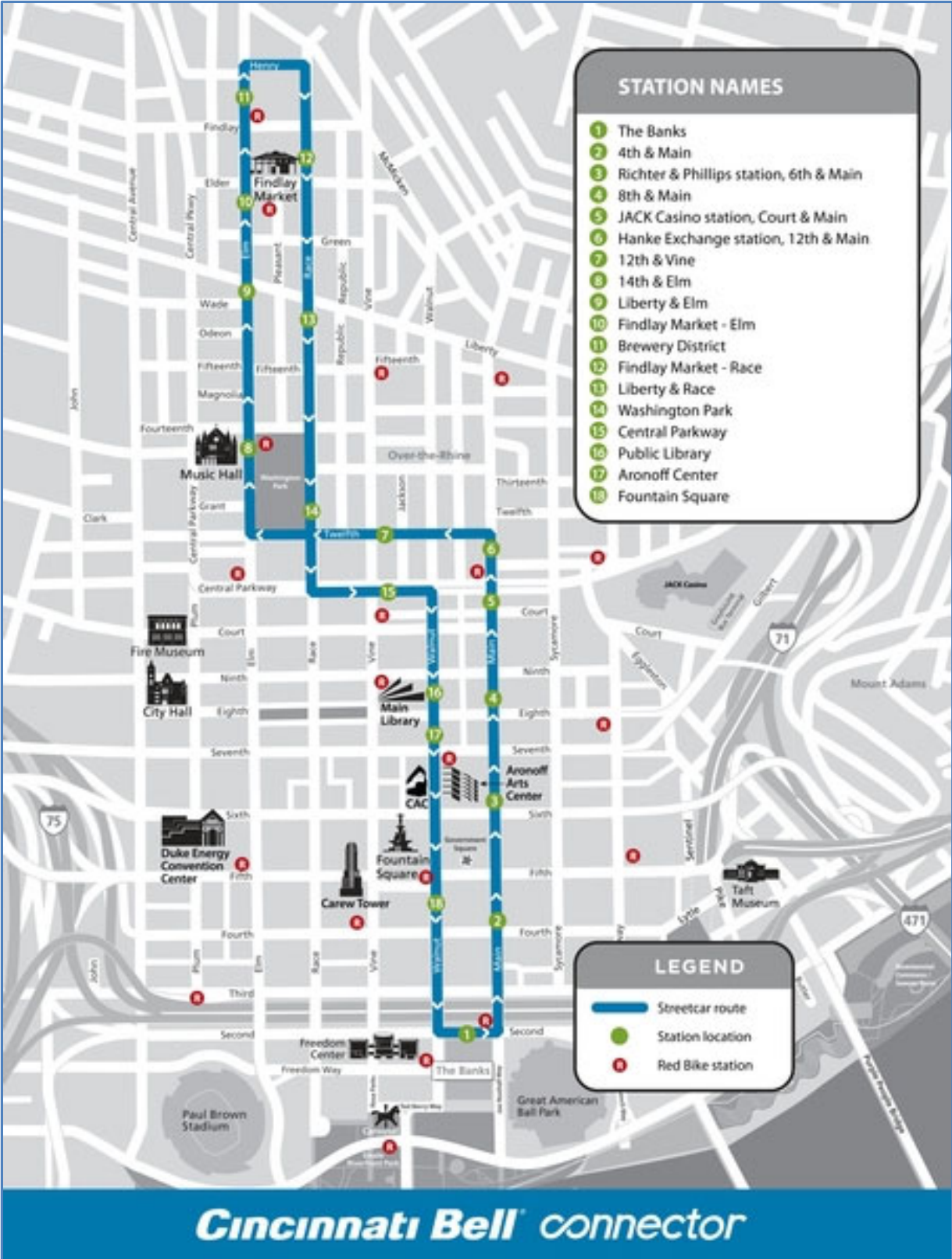
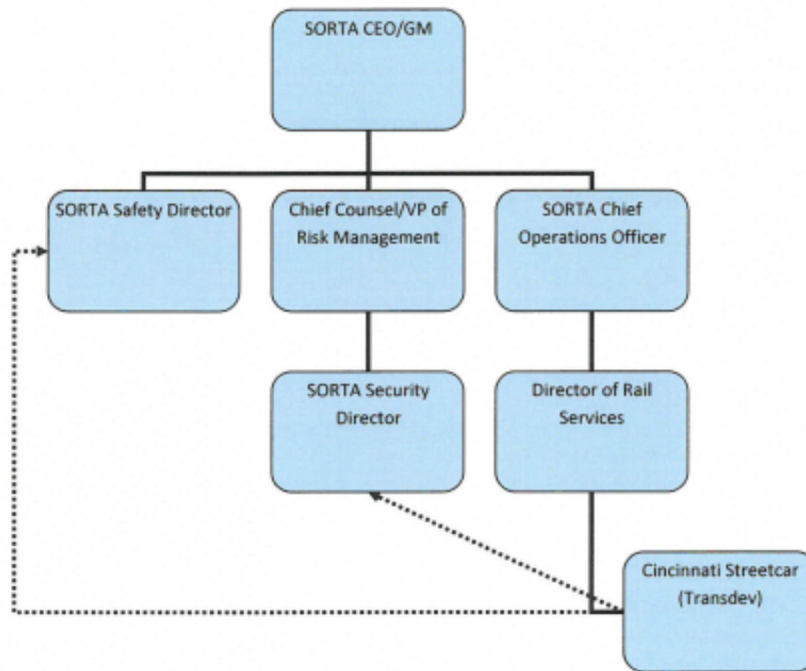


Figure G-2. Cincinnati Streetcar Route Map



**Figure G-3. SORTA and Cincinnati Streetcar Organization Chart**

## Cincinnati Streetcar Project Team Contacts

Table G-3 provides a list of the project team contacts.

**Table G-3. SORTA SSO Program Team Contact Information**

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) Maintenance and Operations Facility (MOF) 1927 Race Street Cincinnati, OH 45202				
Name	Title	Phone	Cell	Email
<b>City of Cincinnati</b>				
Brazina, John	Transit Manager	(513) 352-6249		<a href="mailto:John.brazina@cincinnati-oh.gov">John.brazina@cincinnati-oh.gov</a>
<b>SORTA</b>				
Haley, Darryl	Interim Chief Executive Officer	(513) 632-7690		<a href="mailto:dhaley@go-metro.com">dhaley@go-metro.com</a>
Grether, Paul	Director of Rail Services	(513) 632-7561	(513) 384-0907	<a href="mailto:pgrether@go-metro.com">pgrether@go-metro.com</a>
Thorn, TJ	Vice President, Safety and Security, CSO	(513) 632-7651	(502) 316-1283	<a href="mailto:tithorn@go-metro.com">tithorn@go-metro.com</a>
Weil, Michael	Director of Security	(513) 632-9290	(513) 316-9904	<a href="mailto:mweil@go-metro.com">mweil@go-metro.com</a>
<b>Transdev</b>				
Shaw, Les	General Manager	(513) 206-7821	(313) 495-5208	<a href="mailto:lshaw@go-metro.com">lshaw@go-metro.com</a>
Gasdorf, Hilary	Operations Manager	(513) 439-1189		<a href="mailto:hgasdorf@go-metro.com">hgasdorf@go-metro.com</a> <a href="mailto:Hilary.Gasdorf@transdev.com">Hilary.Gasdorf@transdev.com</a>
Bundy, Chris	Maintenance Manager	(513) 515-6101		<a href="mailto:cbundy@go-metro.com">cbundy@go-metro.com</a> <a href="mailto:Christopher.bundy@transdev.com">Christopher.bundy@transdev.com</a>