



1 Park Center Drive #300 □ Wadsworth, OH 44281
(330) 334-6877 □ www.neoride.org

NEORide Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 29, 2026

Location: NEORide Offices, One Park Center Drive, Suite 300,
Wadsworth, OH or via Teams

Time: 1:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

In Person Attendees: Clayton Popik, SARTA; Dean Harris, WRTA, Katherine Conrad, Naomi Wells, Michelle Robinson, Kayla Kinkead, NEORide; Elaine Kilker, OTRP

Online Attendees: Dina Reed, Ann Arbor; Matthew Dutkevicz, BCRTA; Shari Chick, CARTS; Patrick Harris, COTA; Bryan Smith, City Bus; Joshua Miranda, Cleveland RTA; Sally Brown Dayton RTA; Terri Clay, Indygo; Justus Welker, Johnson County; Jacob Pitman, KRT; Jeremiah Cox MACOG; Johnathan Siebeking, METS; Jarrod Hampshire, METRO RTA; Ben Capelle, Laketran; Aaron Kennedy, Fairfield County; Matthew Allison, Licking County; Brian Trautman, Claudia Amhein, PARTA; Ralph Lee, SARTA; Cynthia Schilke, SEAT (CT); Tim Turner, Steel Valley; Khaled Shammout, SORTA; Gina Douthat, TANK; James Karasek, TARTA Barbara Rhodes; OTRP; Ryan Spitzer, Isaac Wiles

AGENDA

1:00 pm Call to Order (Ben Capele)

PURPOSE STATEMENT OF NEORIDE:

The purpose of NEORide is to plan, promote, further and enhance transportation options within the jurisdictions of the Members by encouraging cooperative agreements and coordinating action among the members, and between the members and other governmental agencies, private persons, corporations, or agencies.

ACTION: Motion to have all votes be by unanimous consent at today's meeting, unless otherwise required by Ohio law or NEORide bylaws. If any member objects to any motion, votes no on any motion, or abstains any motion, a roll call vote will be taken specific to the motion at issue.

- a. First: Mr. Miranda
- b. Second: Mr. Dutkevicz
- c. Outcome: All in favor, none opposed
- d. Discussion: None

Consent Docket - Approve, Accept and Affirm all items

- A. Board Meeting Agenda of 1-29-26.
- B. 11/07/2025 NEORide Executive Committee Minutes
- C. Approve NEORide membership of Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) pending approval of MTA.
 - a. First: Mr. Allison
 - b. Second: Mr. Miranda
 - e. Outcome: All in favor, none opposed
 - c. Discussion: None

Action Items

- B. ACTION: Motion to appoint Matthew Dutkevicz to be the Committee Chair of the EZfare Committee as recommended by the EZfare Committee on January 22,2026. (Mr. Dutkevicz abstained)**
 - a. First: Mr. Miranda
 - b. Second: Mr. Bailey
 - c. Outcome: All in favor, none opposed
 - d. Discussion: None

- C. ACTION: Motion to approve the amendment to the Transit App Contract as recommended by the EZfare Committee on January 22, 2026, subject to final legal review. Page 2 of 3**

Ms. Conrad reviewed the proposed changes in the amendment to the contract as explained to the EZfare Committee.

- a. First: Mr. Shammout
- b. Second: Mr. Miranda
- c. Outcome: All in favor, none opposed
- d. Discussion: None

D. ACTION: Motion to approve the Extension for the SMART Grant Forward Momentum Contract increasing by \$36,516.00 (pending final legal review and FTA approval).

Ms. Conrad explained that this change is necessary due to the no-cost extension of the grant.

- a. First: Mr. Miranda
- b. Second: Mr. Shammout
- c. Outcome: All in favor, none opposed
- d. Discussion: Mr. Miranda asked a clarifying question asking if a restructuring is needed to pay a sub. Ms. Conrad stated that is correct. No further questions or discussion.

E. ACTION: Motion to Approve an MOU between NEORide and the Butler County Regional Transit Authority (BCRTA) for technical assistance in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 subject to final legal review. (Mr. Dutkevicz abstained)

Ms. Conrad explained that this MOU is part of the technical assistance NEORide is now providing. Staffing rates are charged based on an hourly rate approved by Ohio DOT.

- a. First: Mr. Hampshire
- b. Second: Mr. Miranda
- c. Outcome: All in favor, none opposed
- d. Discussion: None

F. ACTION: Approve change order for Arcadis increasing to \$71,600 for EMI TDS Middleware project in an amount not to exceed \$321,800 subject to final legal review.

Ms. Conrad explained that this change is necessary due to the no-cost extension of the grant.

- a. First: Mr. Shammout
- b. Second: Mr. Miranda
- c. Outcome: Majority in favor, 1 opposition being SARTA due to them moving out of the grant
- d. Discussion: None

G. DISCUSSION: NEORide Trademark and update from Attorney Meluch (see attached)

- a. Ms. Conrad provided an update that another company in Pennsylvania is operating under the name "NEORide." She noted that NEORide has been working with legal counsel to address the matter and does not believe it presents an issue at this time. Several questions were raised by Mr. Shammout, Mr. Hampshire, Ms. Ramsey, Mr. Dutkevicz, Ms. Reed, and Mr. Harris, who expressed concerns and requested that Ms.

Conrad research the potential costs associated with changing NEORide's name, as well as any additional possible conflicts.

Ms. Conrad agree to provide an update with pros and cons of a name change and a draft budget at the next meeting.

Reports

1. REPORT - Fiscal Agent (Elaine Kilker)

Financial Report 12/31/25 Unaudited (Elaine Kilker)

- A. Balance Sheet
 - B. Profit & Loss
 - C. Budget to Actual
 - D. A/R Report
 - E. 2025 Credit Card Transactions (required reporting per cc policy)
 - F. Treasurers Report (Dean Harris)
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- ### **2. REPORT - EZfare Committee (Matthew Dutkevicz)**
- A. Discussion: Maryland Transit Administration (Ms. Conrad)
 - B. Budget to Actual Ezfare
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- ### **3. REPORT - EZConnect Committee (Ms. Conrad)**
- ### **4. REPORT - Low-No Workforce Development**
- A. New Flyer Innovation Center: March 17-March 18 in Anniston, Alabama
- ### **5. REPORT - Governance Committee (Ben Capele)**
- a. Announcement to Governance Committee that it is almost time to begin discussing dues.
- ### **6. REPORT - Grants (Dean Harris)**
- A. SMART Grant Phase 2 (waiting release)
- ### **7. Report on Active Procurements (Katherine Conrad)**
- A. Enterprise Database Management Software Solution (evaluation)
 - B. Cash Fareboxes (evaluation)
 - C. Transit Signal Prioritization (being developed)
- ### **8. REPORT - Workforce Development (Katherine Conrad)**
- ### **9. REPORT - Executive Director (Katherine Conrad)**
- A. Vendor Showcase
 - 1. February 12 2-3 p.m. Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/47h9catp>
 - B. Technical Assistance
 - C. Upcoming Conferences/Events NEORide will be attending:
 - 1. Ohio Loves Transit Legislative Day
 - 2. Transit Retreat (Mobile, AL)
 - 3. SOS Conference (Salt Fork State Park Lodge, OH)

4. SWATA (Albuquerque, NM)
5. APTA Legislative (Washington, DC)
6. 5310 Conference (Hocking Hills, Ohio)
7. APTA Mobility Conference (Salt Lake, UT)

10. REPORT - Chairman's Report (Ben Capelle)

N/A

Guest Communications - (Limit 5 Minutes)

N/A

New Business (Josh Miranda)

It was noted that over the past two years, contracting with technology partners has become increasingly difficult, as many vendors are unwilling to modify their standard terms and agreements. Legal counsel requested that a redlined document be shared with the group to explore potential state-level changes to provide transit agencies with contract term protections similar to those available to state and county governments.

Next Meeting & Adjournment

- A. Executive Committee Meeting: April 23, 2026 @ 1 p.m. EST
- B. 2026 Meeting Schedule
- C. Save the Date: NEORide Annual Meeting and Summit, September 8 9 at Hyatt Regency in Cincinnati

Adjournment

- a. First: Mr. Shammout
- b. Second: Mr. Hampshire
- c. Outcome: All in favor, none opposed

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 PM EST

Approved by the NEORide Executive Committee on 4-23-26