

SCATS POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES
July 27, 2026

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS/ALTERNATES

John Highman, City of Canton
Keith Bennett, SCEO
Chris Tyson, SARTA
Sarah Buell, Stark Parks
Mark Cozy, City of Canal Fulton
Dan Moeglin, Stark Parks
Vincent Mueser, City of Alliance
Chris Barnes, City of Canton
Nick Loukas, City of Canton
Alex Pitts, City of Massillon
Chad Root, ODOT
Richard Regula, Stark County Commissioners
Brant Luther, Stark County Commissioners
Gerrie Cotter, Perry Twp
Brian Cole, SCEO
Darrell Stineman, City of Louisville

STAFF

Dan Slicker
Spencer Gibbs
Malia Burgasser
Jonelle Melnichenko
David Spielman
Lauren Durr
Bob Nau
Chloe Garner
Corine Valentine
Jennifer Bayer

OTHER

Clayton Popik, SARTA
Tony Urankar, ms consultants

1. Opening Remarks

John Highman, Chairman, opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

2. Consideration of Minutes of June 29, 2026 meeting

Bennett moved, Moeglin seconded, and the motion carried to approve the minutes from June 29, 2026 meeting.

3. TIP Financial Status

Slicker gave an update to the TIP financial status. He stated the TA number is down by about \$2,000. All the numbers should be updated by next month. There is carryover from FY26 and they are looking to fill out a lot of projects in 29, 30, and 31.

Loukas asked about CR funding. Slicker stated that the proposed STBG would be increased and that would cover more than what we're getting in CR. If that funding source goes away, the committee could choose to fund those CR projects with STBG money.

4. Resolution 2027-01 – TIP Amendments

Slicker explained that the proposed amendment corrects wording in a March resolution regarding the assignment of toll revenue credits to six projects. The original resolution stated that toll revenue credits would be "added" to the projects, which led to confusion by ODOT District 4 during preparation of the LPA agreements, as it appeared additional STBG funding was being provided. Staff clarified that the intent was only to apply TRC funds, not to add funding. The LPA agreements were prepared to reflect the intended funding approach, and the amendment formally updates the record to match that intent.

Bennett moved, Cozy seconded, and the motion carried to approve the Resolution 2027-01 TIP Amendment.

5. Other Business & Announcements

- a. Accepting STBG, TA and CRP applications until August 28.

- b. 2025 Draft Crash Data

Slicker presented the first draft of the annual high-crash intersection spreadsheet and asked members to review the data for accuracy. He highlighted several notable trends, including Dressler Road and Everhard Road moving to the top of the list, likely due to 2025 construction activity, and the Fulton Road/Blackburn Road/Hills and Dales Road intersection experiencing a significant increase in crashes over the past two years. Slicker also noted that US 62 at California Avenue and US 62 at Broadway Avenue may warrant future safety studies. Positive trends included a continued decline in crashes at the US 30/Trump Avenue/Lincoln Way intersection. Members were asked to review the draft and report any discrepancies before it is finalized.

c. 5310 Program (Specialized Transportation)

Gibbs presented the recommended funding allocations for the Section 5310 Program. Eight applications were received from four agencies, with each agency submitting a capital request and an operating request. The total amount requested was approximately \$655,564, exceeding the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) allocation of \$485,225. Through the evaluation process, staff recommended not funding the ABCD capital vehicle request and reducing The Workshops, Inc.'s request from two vehicles to one in order to remain within available funding. The recommended program would fund four vehicles and mostly fund all operating requests, which staff noted has not been possible in recent years. Gibbs also explained that FTA regulations require at least 55% of funds to be used for capital projects and noted that SARTA waived the allowable 10% administrative allocation, enabling additional funding to be directed toward operating assistance. A resolution to approve the recommended funding allocations will be presented at the next monthly meeting.

d. Community Planning Studies Update

Slicker stated the applications for the Lake transportation study were posted approximately four weeks ago. They are due on July 29. The Brewster Stormwater Study is finishing up. The draft report has been received and is currently being reviewed.

e. Other Business

Nau announced that the RPC will relocate to the third floor of the County Office Building within the next few weeks. The next SCATS meeting is expected to be held at the new location. Members were advised to continue parking in the parking deck across the street for the time being while alternative parking arrangements are being explored. Nau expressed appreciation to the County Commissioners for their support in providing the new office space.

Regula provided an update on the Route 30 project. The project was not selected for two recent grant opportunities. However, the project did receive \$2.5 million in direct spending funding through Senator Moreno's office, which is anticipated to become available in January or February 2027. He noted that interest from private investors continues and emphasized that efforts to advance the project will continue.

Moeglin announced that Stark Parks was awarded a \$2 million systemic safety grant through ODOT's safety grant program. The funding will support a trail extension project connecting the recently completed bridge project with Minerva to the railroad, with a total project cost estimated at approximately \$3 million. He thanked ODOT for its assistance with the grant process and noted that the project represents a significant improvement for that area of the county. Discussion followed regarding the trail extension, including the length of the existing trail network and the anticipated additional mileage to be added through the project.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next scheduled meeting, Monday, August 31, 2026.