

Rules Regarding Public Comment at Cincinnati Southern Railway Board Meetings

Members of the public are encouraged to share comments on relevant issues during meetings of the Cincinnati Southern Railway Board of Trustees (“CSR”).

Each CSR meeting will be called to order by the Chair or Presiding Officer who will provide a brief summary of the meeting’s rules related to courtesy and decorum and speaking before the CSR. During CSR meetings, persons may be granted the privilege of the floor as follows:

- a) The CSR Board shall welcome persons to provide public comment on relevant issues as the first item of business after a CSR meeting is called to order by the Chair or Presiding Officer.
- b) Persons recognized for this purpose by the Chair or Presiding Officer may be granted the privilege of the floor for a period of time not to exceed three minutes to provide comment, unless in the discretion of the Chair or Presiding Officer, circumstances dictate a longer or shorter period for all speakers on a particular item. The length of speaking periods for public comment must be uniform for a particular item.
- c) At the discretion of the Chair or Presiding Officer, public comments may be limited to three persons in support and three persons in opposition of any issue that may or may be under consideration of CSR at the meeting at which public comment is being accepted.
- d) All persons who wish to speak before the CSR must complete a speaker card (or equivalent documentation) and file it with the CSR Clerk (“Clerk”). Speaker cards must be completed with the speaker's name, organization (if applicable) and subject, and submitted along with any material or information to be distributed. On the face of each completed speaker card, the Clerk shall indicate the time of receipt and the order in which speaker cards are received.
- e) The Chair or Presiding Officer will recognize and introduce speakers in the order in which their speaker cards were received by the Clerk and only the recognized speaker is permitted to speak.
- f) The Chair or Presiding Officer shall provide a warning to a speaker whose comments are not directly relevant to a matter before the CSR. Following a warning, the Chair or Presiding Officer may require a speaker who continues to make irrelevant comments to relinquish the remainder of his or her three minutes. Failure to comply will constitute Disturbing a Lawful Meeting (as defined in Section 2917.12 of the Ohio Revised Code, “Disturbing a Lawful Meeting”).
- g) The use of obscene or profane language, personal attacks, slander, libel, defamation, physical violence or the threat thereof, which the Chair or Presiding Officer determines is intended as a disruption of the meeting, shall constitute Disturbing a Lawful Meeting.
- h) The Chair or Presiding Officer may order the removal of any person Disturbing a Lawful Meeting or failing to comply with any lawful decision or order by the Chair or Presiding Officer for the duration of the public comment period or such lesser period as the Chair or Presiding Officer may determine. The Chair or Presiding Officer may order the removal of persons who continue to Disturb a Lawful Meeting from the meeting

location for the duration of the meeting or such lesser period as the Chair or Presiding Officer may determine. In cases of excessive Disturbing a Lawful Meeting, the Chair or Presiding Officer has the discretion to ban individuals from the next regularly scheduled CSR meeting, in addition to any other penalties provided by law. The CSR Clerk shall be responsible for notifying suspended individuals of the duration of their suspension.