

Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2007

Board Room, 68 T.W. Alexander Drive

Research Triangle Park, NC

Board Members Present:

Bill Bell (left during closed session)
Anne S. Franklin
Alice Gordon
Bob Hinshaw
Sig Hutchinson

Jeff Merritt
Ellen Reckhow
William G. Smith
Bill Strom (left 3:02 p.m.)
M. Carter Worthy

Board Members Absent:

Kenneth Spaulding

Nina Szlosberg (excused)

Staff Present:

Laurie Barrett
Michelle Dawson
Saundra Freeman
Damien Graham
Sylvester Goodwin
Wib Gulley

David King
Greg Northcutt
Brad Schulz
Juanita Shearer-Swink
John Tallmadge

Chair Alice Gordon called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

Action: On motion by Franklin and second by Strom the agenda was adopted. The motion was carried unanimously.

II. Recognition

A. Introduction of New Hires

General Manager David King reported the following new hires: Rita Sass, Paratransit Operator; James Wright, Service Attendant; and Gladys Washington and James Johnson, Bus Operators. He announced that graphics design and finance interns would begin work in May and recruiting is on-going for IT and marketing interns as well as for an accounting and financial reporting supervisor and senior transportation planner. King also announced the hiring of Ruthann Gentry, executive assistant to the General Manager and General Counsel.

B. Announcement of Promotions

None.

III. Public Hearings

A. Proposed Fare Changes

Chair Gordon opened the public hearing on proposed fare changes at 1:23 p.m.

Eccle Blackwin stated her opposition to the elimination of the TTA-to-TTA transfer.

Garold Smith encouraged Board members to look at the big picture and to make transit an integral part of the community. He said it can be a difficult and painful process to make cuts and change fares, but it is a reflection of the marketplace.

B. Proposed Bus Service Changes

Chair Gordon opened the public hearing on proposed bus service changes at 1:28 p.m.

Joseph Huynh stated his opposed to the elimination of route 310.

Stephen Grant stated that when he moved to the area six years ago he chose a home based on the availability of bus service proximity to work. He said his family is a one car family by choice and the elimination of route 310 would give him no commute alternatives other than cycling. He emphasized that the route 310 elimination affects people in a very real way.

Eccle Blackwin commented that the elimination of route 310 removes the backup for route 311 at the end of the day. She suggested that TTA spend more on advertising to get more riders, saying for years she was unaware of the TTA service and that it served areas beyond Research Triangle Park.

Action: On motion by Strom and second by Reckhow the public hearings were closed at 1:33 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

Chair Gordon recognized Graham Olive, Jr., who asked about the feasibility of schedule information at the following stops: Wal-Mart in Hillsboro, White Oak shopping center in Garner and the Varsity Theater in Chapel Hill. Gordon referred this request to staff. Olive then stated his anticipation of service to Burlington, Mebane, Clayton and surrounding areas. He also said he hopes service will be expanded to Apex and asked if the State might provide funding for expanded service. Olive then asked the proposed cost of the 31-days pass for the elderly and disabled. Patrick McDonough responded \$36 per month.

Eccle Blackwin requested service to Holly Springs, saying about two-thirds of the riders of route 311 live in Holly Springs or Fuquay-Varina. She also expressed thanks for the bus stop near the Durham Bulls. She added that TTA's operators are very courteous.

V. Consent Agenda

Action: On motion by Franklin and second by Smith the consent agenda was adopted. The motion was carried unanimously.

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- March 22, 2007 – Work Session;
- March 28, 2007 – Regular Session Minutes;

- March 28, 2007 – Closed Session A;
- March 28, 2007 – Closed Session B;
- March 28, 2007 – Closed Session C;
- March 28, 2007 – Closed Session D; and
- Adopted resolution authorizing General Manager to place order for buses from state contract (2007 0006). The resolution is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

VI. Presentations

None.

VII. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Personnel Committee Report

Alice Gordon noted the Personnel Committee's closed session minutes.

C. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

Alice Gordon referred to the Committee minutes at Board members' places.

1. GoTriangle Regional Logo

Action: On motion by Franklin and second by Hutchinson the Board approved the goTriangle regional logo. The motion was carried unanimously.

D. Operations & Finance Committee Report

Bill Strom noted the Committee's minutes at Board members' places. He said the Committee spent most of its time on the FY08 budget. He said the Committee also received a presentation, which is included in the agenda package, on possible additional investments on and off the buses. Strom added that the FY08 budget currently has \$150,000 for such amenities. He noted the regional bus fare structure interlocal agreement and said that public comment was received today and action would be taken at a future meeting.

Action: On motion by Bell and second by Hutchinson the Operations & Finance Committee report was accepted. The motion was carried unanimously.

Franklin raised concern about the proposed elimination of transfers. She noted that this policy particularly impacts those using TTA to go to the airport.

E. TTA-ITRE Contact for Services for the Special Transit Advisory Commission

Greg Northcutt requested approval for a contract between TTA and ITRE for support services for the Special Transit Advisory Commission (STAC). He said that tasks will include administrative and logistical services, facilitation, transit experts and documentation. He said the budget is proposed at \$100,000 and would be shared by the MPOs and NCDOT.

Wib Gulley added that TTA is acting as funding agent for the other parties because it was felt that TTA could execute a contract with ITRF much sooner than any of the others, allowing the STAC to begin its work sooner. He said agreements would be signed with the other parties for their shares.

Action: On motion by Reckhow and second by Smith the Board adopted *Resolution 2007 0007 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees Authorizing the General Manager to Execute a Contract with the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) for Support Services.* The motion was carried unanimously.

VIII. Other Business

A. General Manager's Report

David King reported:

- Staff has spent a lot of time working with the STAC partners to get that process started. He mentioned the groups first meeting on May 2.
- Staff also has spent much time on the bus transfer facility and administrative office space, which will be discussed in closed session.
- He also mentioned a resolution from NCGo! to be discussed by the Planning & Legislative Committee.

B. General Counsel's Report

Wib Gulley noted his report in the agenda.

C. Chair's Report

Gordon said she has participated in two meetings with the STAC co-chairs and co-vice-chairs and said she is optimistic and looking forward to the group's first meeting. She also noted the pocket fact card provided by staff.

D. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO TAC Representative

Anne Franklin reported that the CAMPO TAC discussed the TIP approval process and that members had questions about how congestion management is included in toll pricing and assumptions. She said answers may not be received in time to allow the members to share the information with their jurisdictions or to adopt the TIP in May. She added that the area is in jeopardy for air quality conformity. Franklin then requested that TTA request that CAMPO provide information to its members about TTA's position regarding the proposed turnpike and the legislation referencing a provision for transit in turnpike considerations. It was the consensus of the Board that staff provide this information to CAMPO and DCHC MPO and the local governments.

2. DCHC TAC Representative

Bill Strom reported that the DCHC TAC approved a collector street plan for an area along the Durham County-Orange County line near 15-501 and I-40, part of the Chapel Hill extension of the regional rail project. He said the TAC asked staff to look at combining two bridges into one, which could have a real benefit of

lowering costs in this future alignment. Strom said the TAC also discussed gap funding for the turnpike authority and expressed concern about the source of those funds and the impact on local financing TIFIs.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

David King reported that gap funding was the main topic of the meeting with some discussion about the STAC. He noted a meeting summary in the agenda.

4. Inter-City Visit Report

Carter Worthy provided a report from the TTA delegation, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. She said that Albuquerque opened a commuter rail project seven months ago which was constructed without federal funds in two years. She said that Gubernatorial leadership was a key in the project's success. Worthy added that the decision to forego the New Starts process was based on the fact that the project would have taken seven to 10 years to build and would have cost twice as much, making the local share the same with federal participation.

Jeff Merritt added that Albuquerque's vehicle looks similar to the one proposed for TTA and their system operates in an underused rail corridor. He said he was amazed at how quickly the project was done. Merritt also noted the road runner mascot, model trains, simple station symbols and art at the stops.

Sig Hutchinson also noted the governor's leadership for the project and that they discouraged federal funding for projects. He noted friendly employees and clean, comfortable cars. Hutchinson mentioned that the rides were free when the system opened and ridership quickly exceeded the 1,500 riders per day projections. He said the area has little density compared to the Triangle. He also reported that because the project moved so quickly there is some skepticism within the community.

Merritt added that one company reportedly only considered Albuquerque because of the rail service and intentionally located near a stop to provide its employees with alternatives.

Franklin and Strom asked about the funding source. Worthy responded that the State had a \$1 billion surplus due to natural gas and wanted to make transformational investments.

Merritt then pointed out that the city's head of transit was a republican state house member and transit critic until realizing the advantages of a system that meets future needs, not necessary built for today.

Worthy pointed out that the trip was beneficial for nurturing relationships with a broad spectrum of regional policy leaders.

E. New Business

Franklin asked that the Board discuss at a future meeting how to participate as a Board in the APTA Annual Conference being held in the fall in Charlotte. Gordon asked that staff bring a recommendation to the Board.

IX. Closed Session(s)

Action: On motion by Worthy and second by Hutchinson the Board adjourned into closed sessions for the purposes of and pursuant to the General Statutes listed below at 2:32 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously

A. Bus Transfer Facility and Administrative Office Space

Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

B. General Manager Contract

Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

Bell left during closed session.


Strom left.

The Board returned to regular session at 3:02 p.m. and announced that a contract amendment with David King had been approved, extending the term until 2009.

Worthy requested that staff prepare a press release.

X. Adjournment

Action: On motion by Hutchinson the meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.



Alice Gordon, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the TTA Board