

Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2007

Board Room, 68 T.W. Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC

Board Members Present:

Bill Bell (arr. 1:28 p.m.)
Anne S. Franklin
Alice Gordon
Bob Hinshaw

Sig Hutchinson
William G. Smith
Bill Strom
Nina Szlosberg

Board Members Absent:

Jeff Merritt (excused)
Ellen Reckhow (excused)

Kenneth Spaulding
M. Carter Worthy (excused)

Staff Present:

Laurie Barrett
Michelle Dawson
Tonya Dupree
Damien Graham
Wib Gulley

David King
Greg Northcutt
Juanita Shearer-Swink
John Tallmadge
Deirdre Walker

Chair Alice Gordon called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m. She announced that Jeff Merritt and Carter Worthy are attending the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce planning meeting.

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 King announced the following new hires: Paula McNeal (customer service representative); and Gwen Sanders, Nikki Black, Tony Alston, Sandra Walker, Ben Piver, Richard Smith, Zeb Evans and Arthur Jackson (bus operators). King also noted that graphic design intern Allison Evans has been hired as marketing associate.

B. Announcement of Promotions

None.

C. Above & Beyond Award

Postponed until September.

III. Public Hearings

None.

IV. Public Comment

Chair Gordon recognized Graham Olive, Jr. Olive said he hoped TTA would keep its proposal for a rail system active and persuade Governor Easley to call a special session of the General Assembly to address transportation issues. He said TTA needs appropriate funding to increase its service to the people of the Triangle.

V. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- June 27, 2007 – Regular Session Minutes;
- June 27, 2007 – Closed Session A Minutes;
- Authorized NCDOT Advanced Technology Grant Program—Grant No. 08-AT-009 (2007 0015);
- Authorized NCDOT Advanced Technology Grant Program—Grant No. 07-AT-002 (2007 0016); and
- Committed local matching funds to Federal and State grant awards for replacement of 20 heavy-duty transit buses (2007 0017).

VI. Presentations

None.

VII. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Personnel Committee Report

None.

C. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

1. Rebranding and Exterior Bus Designs

Committee Chair Nina Szlosberg said the primary business of the Committee was the rebranding project, specifically logos and exterior bus design. She explained that the colors are based on stock bus company colors.

Bill Bell arrived.

Amy Armbruster then discussed the “story” behind the triple triangles logo which is being recommended by the Committee. Szlosberg noted that the logo is flexible enough to be used with different layouts and background colors.

Action: Hutchinson made a motion, which was seconded by Strom, to approve the logo as presented.

Franklin asked how the new logo would be incorporated into Web based communications. Armbruster responded that the logo would be incorporated into everything, which would include the Website, letterhead, business cards, presentations, driver uniforms, and vanpool and paratransit vehicles. Szlosberg suggested that the Planning & Legislative Committee look at implementation strategies at its next meeting. Smith asked about preliminary costs of implementation. Armbruster said a budget has not been determined.

Action: Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Szlosberg then moved the discussion to the exterior bus design.

Action: On motion by Hutchinson and second by Strom the Board approved the design for the sides of bus. The motion was carried unanimously.

Smith commented that he preferred both the triple triangles and the words “triangle transit” on the front and back of the bus.

Action: On motion by Strom and second by Smith the Board voted to have staff incorporate the triple triangles on the design for the back of the bus. The motion was carried unanimously.

Szlosberg then reported that the Committee also discussed transit oriented design and how to push the land use-transit connection. She said that staff would be coming back to the Committee with some recommendations about a plan for communicating that.

Action: On motion by Franklin and second by Smith the Board accepted the Planning & Legislative Committee report. The motion was carried unanimously.

D. Operations & Finance Committee Report

1. Preliminary FFY 2008 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Goal

Committee Chair Bill Strom presented a recommendation to approve an interim DBE program goal of 5%. He noted that staff prepared some additional information, which is in the agenda package, as requested by the Committee. He said there was concern by the Committee that 5% was low.

Action: A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Strom to adopt *Resolution 2007 0018 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees Approving Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal for Federal FY 2008* of 5%.

Action: Franklin offered a substitute motion, which was seconded by Bell, for approved of a 10% goal.

Gulley asked for an opportunity to research whether TTA could be liable if the goal is not met.

Freeman commented that the staff recommended 5% goal is based on methodology provided by FTA and a higher goal should be documented and supported by a methodology.

Strom then suggested that the motions be withdrawn and have staff take another look at it. King noted that submission of the goal is late. Strom then suggested an interim goal of 5%, while staff prepared additional information.

Freeman then said that TTA could strive for a higher number, but a plan is needed not just a goal. She said either an increase in activity or a push for participation by a greater number of DBEs is the only way to increase the percentage.

Action: Franklin withdrew her substitute motion.

Action: Smith revised his motion adding language that staff would take another look at the goal and bring back additional information in October. Upon vote, the revised motion was carried unanimously.

2. Regional Bus Fare Structure Interlocal Agreement & Preliminary Staff Report on Fare Free Operations

Strom then presented an Interlocal Agreement with Durham, Raleigh and Cary to establish fare structure as a part of the Triangle Seamless Public Transportation Service. He said the action has no budgetary implications for TTA at the present, but does limit TTA's ability to adjust its fares.

Action: Strom made a motion, which was seconded by Franklin, to authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute an Interlocal agreement to establish a regional bus fare structure with Durham, Raleigh and Cary.

Franklin asked how this fits with TTA's fare policy. Tallmadge responded according to the agreement a regional fare committee will review the financial and ridership impacts of a fare increase every two years, the first in 2007. He said TTA's policy would have called for a review this fall.

Action: Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

3. Bus Operations & Maintenance Facility (BOMF) Budget Reallocation

Strom reported the Bus Operations & Maintenance Facility (BOMF) expansion project is going well and recommended a budget amendment to move unspent FY07 dollars into the FY08 budget. The Committee also recommended that the Board authorize the General Manager to obligate and expend up to an additional \$50,000 above the approved budget of \$3,436,400 for unforeseen costs. Strom noted that should the General Manager exercise this option, a separate budget amendment would be brought forward for Board approval.

Action: On motion by Franklin and second by Strom the Board adopted *Budget Ordinance 2007 0007 FY 2008 Regional Bus Capital Project Ordinance Amendment*. The motion was carried unanimously.

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

VIII. Other Business

A. General Manager's Report

David King offered the following report:

- Recognized Greg Northcutt and Rick Major for the success of the BOMF project as well as the dry weather. He suggested that a Board meeting be held in the training room upon completion of the project.
- Staff is working on a plan for TTA taking a leadership role in transit oriented development education. He shared some preliminary information, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.
- Fare free day will be September 21, in conjunction with other transit agencies in the region and car free day.
- A south corridor project tour will be set up for Board members attending the APTA Annual meeting in Charlotte.
- TTA and Cherokee Investment Partners held a meeting with Triangle planning directors to discuss the partnership of the two and the possibility of tax increment financing.
- King then recognized Damien Graham to report on a recent NC Go! Meeting. Graham said the group discussed the prospects of a special session of the legislature. He said the overall consensus is that it will not happen. He also reported that the NC Go! Annual Meeting has been delayed until January or February with the hopes of inviting gubernatorial candidates to talk about transportation issues. He said the goal of NC Go! is to make transportation funding and infrastructure a campaign issue.
- Spoke with David Price about the upcoming reauthorization of the federal transportation program. He indicated he would work to have private sector partnerships, like TTA and Cherokee, incorporated into a re-write of the New Starts program.

King then reported on behalf of Jeff Merritt on the first NCBOT/NCRR/TTA Board members working group. He said Bill Bell, Jeff Merritt, and Carter Worthy represented TTA and Nina Szlosberg attended on behalf of the NCBOT. He stated the agenda included a status report on the STAC; a report on a NCRR-funded study on the capacity of the Burlington to Goldsboro NCRR corridor for a hypothetical commuter rail operation with four morning and four afternoon trips and one mid-day trip, with the prescription that freight service operating in the corridor not be harmed; and a report on the planning work on-going with the State of Virginia on high speed rail and work to improve on-time performance, capacity, safety and speed in the

Raleigh to Charlotte NCDOT corridor. He added that the group would meet again on October 4.

B. General Counsel's Report

The General Counsel shared his written report, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. Also attached is a copy of a presentation entitled, "New Financing Opportunities for Rail Transit or Everything You Wanted to Know about MDA, TOD and TIF." The presentation was made by Cherokee Investment Partners and TTA to the MPOs, TJCOG and area planning directors.

C. Chair's Report

Chair Alice Gordon gave the following updates:

- All Board member travel requests have been approved, possibly requiring a future budget amendment. The Clerk to the Board will contact Board members as conference registrations approach.
- Jeff Merritt will chair the NCCR/NCBOT/TTA Board working group.
- The Personnel Committee meeting on September 4 has been postponed. You will be contacted about the new meeting date.
- Gordon attended the APTA Transit Board Member Seminar in July for the first time. The written report is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.
- From her experience at the conference, Gordon suggested for the Board work session on October 11 a session on security and that Board members ride the system and discuss their experiences.

D. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO TAC Representative

Anne Franklin reported that the State Auditor's findings on equity formula distributions is due in September and the I-40 repairs were not taken from the equity funds. She said CAMPO approved a change in TIP priorities moving a Fuquay-Varina loop road to number ten because through a bond issue they have agreed to support the project at 70-80%. There was a recommendation approved to ask for a special session of the General Assembly in support of transportation funding in general and specifically turnpike gap funding. She also noted a joint MPO meeting scheduled for October 31.

2. DCHC TAC Representative

Bill Strom stated that he did not attend the DCHC TAC meeting, but there were no TTA items on the agenda.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

David King reported that the RTA discussed the lack of transportation funding during the past General Assembly session.

4. Joint Board Committee (NCDOT/NCCR/TTA)

Covered as part of the General Manager's report.

5. COMTO Report

William Smith's conference report is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. He highlighted a receipt of a COMTO scholarship by Sandra Freeman's daughter.

6. APTA Transit Board Members Seminar Report

Covered as part of the Chair's report.

D. New Business

Anne Franklin advised that the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) is hosting a regional high speed rail conference in October that will include states along the east coast.

Nina Szlosberg noted recent media coverage about bus shelters. She suggested an agenda item to look at TTA's policies on bus shelters and how to encourage more benches and shelters. Hutchinson agreed.

Bill Strom said he would like the Operations & Finance Committee or perhaps at the Board work session to discuss emergency planning.

IX. Closed Session(s)

A. Bus Transfer Facility Negotiations

Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11 (a) (5) To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease.

Action: On motion by Bell and second by Strom the Board adjourned into closed session for the purpose of and pursuant to the General Statute listed above at 3:30 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.


Action: The Board returned to open session at 3:46 p.m.

Bill Bell and Nina Szlosberg left during the closed session.

The Chair reported that the Board gave direction to staff in closed session.

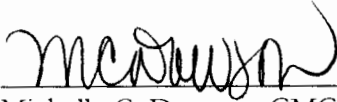
X. Adjournment

Action: On motion by Hutchison the meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.



Alice Gordon, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the TTA Board