

**Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 23, 2006**

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

**Board Members Present:**

Anne S. Franklin	Ellen Reckhow
Alice Gordon	William G. Smith
W. Lewis Hannah, Jr. (left 1:30 p.m.)	Kenneth Spaulding (left 2:15 p.m.)
Bob Hinshaw	Bill Strom
Sig Hutchinson	Nina Szlosberg
Jeff Merritt	M. Carter Worthy

**Board Members Absent:**

Bill Bell

**Staff Present:**

John Clafin	Brad Schulz
Michelle Dawson	Juanita Shearer-Swink
Tonya Dupree	Garold Smith
Saundra Freeman	John Tallmadge
Sylvester Goodwin	Julie Woosley
Wib Gulley	

**Guests Present:**

Mark Ahrendsen, <i>DCHC MPO</i>	Ed Johnson, <i>CAMPO</i>
Ellen B., <i>DCHC MPO</i>	Graham Olive, Jr.
John Hodges-Copple, <i>TJCOG</i>	Chris Shigas, <i>French West Vaughan</i>

Chair M. Carter Worthy called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

**I. Adoption of Agenda**

**Action:** On motion by Franklin and second by Reckhow the agenda was approved unanimously with the following changes:

- II. Recognition - add Board member recognition;
- VII. Reports & Recommendations, I. Board Member Reports – add DCHC TAC report;
- VII. Reports & Recommendations, I. Board Member Reports – remove COMTO Annual Conference; and
- IX Closed Session(s) – add two items, Rail Corridor Property Acquisition and Active Condemnation Cases.

## II. Recognition

### A. Oath of Office – Sig Hutchinson & Jeff Merritt

Chair Carter Worthy introduced Sig Hutchinson and Jeff Merritt, new Board members from the City of Raleigh and Wake County, respectively. Durham County Board of Commissioners Chair Ellen Reckhow administered their oaths of office.

### B. Board Recognition

Chair Carter Worthy recognized W. Lewis Hannah, Jr. for his service to the TTA Board since 2001 with a framed print of a Raleigh trolley in front of Stephenson's and Alfred Williams.

Hannah left.

### C. Introduction of New Hires

General Manager John Claflin stated that three new bus operators have been hired: John Alicea, Miriam Martinez and Douel Brown.

Claflin also announced that six of TTA's nominations for APTA Adwheel Awards have won first prize.

### D. Announcement of Promotions

None.

## III. Public Hearings

None.

## IV. Public Comment

Chair Worthy recognized Graham Olive, who suggested that the Board petition the General Assembly to add a 1-2% sales tax for the purpose of financing the rail project. He also asked the feasibility of urging Craig Davis Properties to add restaurants in the vacant units near the transfer center at RTP. Claflin explained that the properties near the transfer center are being renovated. Reckhow added that there should be retail stores and restaurants once the renovation is complete.

Olive then commented that a recent letter to the editor of the *Durham Herald Sun* suggesting limited rail service (3-4 hours per day) would be liability to growth in the Triangle.

Worthy responded that the Board would take Mr. Oliver's comments under advisement and discuss further in committee.

Nina Szlosberg then shared copies of "The Little Engine That Could" with all Board members, encouraging them to remember the message that it takes a little chugging to get up the hill but eventually if you tell yourself you can, and you work hard enough, you get it done.

## V. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- June 28, 2006 – Closed Session Minutes; and
- July 26, 2006 – Regular Session Minutes.

## VI. Presentations

### A. Regional Transportation Issues

John Claflin recognized Ed Johnson, Director of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), and Mark Ahrendsen of the Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro (DCHC) MPO.

Ed Johnson shared a presentation, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes, developed for the Blue Ribbon Committee for the Future of Wake County.

Worthy asked when the growth data would be re-evaluated. Johnson responded that CAMPO is working collaboratively with the Wake County Public School System now and the transportation planning for the update to the long range transportation plan (LRTP) will begin next year. He said that the process is evolving into a continuous process using real time building permit data.

Reckhow asked if the Blue Ribbon Committee discussed whether the projected growth is sustainable, saying that it will lead to a diminishment of our quality of life unless a substantial infusion of funds can be found to build the needed infrastructure. Johnson responded that one solution to the projected congestion is to reduce the demand or discourage growth. He said another option is to encourage growth where it should occur.

Spaulding left.

Strom asked how \$3 per gallon and higher priced gasoline impacts the model. Johnson said that the model currently is being calibrated on 2005 conditions and a travel behavior survey has been conducted. He said this current data should reveal whether there is any difference with increased fuel costs. Johnson speculated that more people are trading for more efficient vehicles, but making the same trips, as well as more people using transit.

Mark Ahrendsen said that the DCHC growth projections are slightly less than those for Wake County. He said congestion is expected to double, even with the implementation of the LRTP. He said there is a funding gap if 9% and without additional revenue or a decrease in the growth projections, congestion will be even worse than now projected.

Strom asked if there is a risk that funding shortfalls could have a negative impact on federal air quality conformity and jeopardize future federal money. Ahrendsen responded yes.

Dee Freeman, Executive Director of the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG), said that his organization played a prominent role in the region's conclusion that regional rail should be a part of the region's future. He said the need still exists and as public servants representing the area—beyond just the three county region—who have committed to the project, we should see the plan through.

## **VII. Reports & Recommendations**

### **A. Communications Committee Report**

None.

### **B. Nominating Committee Report**

Worthy stated that the Committee met and is finalizing its recommendations.

### **C. Personnel Committee Report**

None.

### **D. Planning & Legislative Committee Report**

Worthy stated that the Committee will meet on September 5. She asked that Nina Szlosberg chair that meeting and appointed new Board members Hutchinson and Merritt to the Planning & Legislative Committee.

### **E. Operations & Finance Committee Report**

Strom stated that the Committee's meeting had been changed to Tuesday, August 29 at 9:00 a.m. He said the Committee would meet jointly with the Board to discuss the Master Developer Agreement.

### **F. General Manager's Report**

General Manager John Clafin highlighted:

- A recommendation for contract award on the Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility Staff will be made at the September 11 special Board meeting. He cautioned members that the cost estimate increased \$500,000 since the original advertisement. He said additional grants would be sought to cover the increase.
- There have been 3,355 pledges to date for the SmartCommute Challenge, with a goal of 15,000.
- The Association for Commuter Transportation will present its awards next Tuesday.
- A History of Triangle Regional Model has been provided by ITRE for Board members that are interested.
- Sylvester Goodwin has been asked to participate on the NCDOT certification appeals panel to review appeals from those who have been denied DBE certification

- A letter was sent to FTA last week stating that he would recommend to the TTA Board that a New Starts application not be submitted for federal FY 2008. He said that TTA continues to struggle with FTA's project criteria. He said TTA would have to wait at least one year before re-submitting a project for the program.

Szlosberg said she would support the recommendation of the General Manager, but that this does not necessarily mean the end of a relationship with the federal government on this project, only that TTA would not seek federal funds through this specific program in this cycle. She said doing nothing is not an option and it is far from over.

**Action:** On motion by Smith and second by Franklin the Board voted to accept the General Manager's recommendation to not submit a New Starts report for the coming year. The motion was carried unanimously.

Reckhow said she would like to see a public outreach and community discussion about moving forward which would actively involve the MPOs as the leader or co-leader. She said the regional rail project is imbedded in both the MPOs' LRTPs.

Szlosberg supported the idea and said it is important to act fairly quickly.

Franklin reminded the Board of the WTS seminar on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Strom agreed that TTA should work closely with the MPOs, which are the charged with planning and financing regional transportation infrastructure.

Gordon agreed that both MPOs are beginning to update their LRTPs and this would naturally fit in that process. She suggested the joint MPO meeting as the venue to start this dialogue.

Merritt said it is important to raise awareness of what the future looks like regarding congestion.

The Board discussed at what point other stakeholders groups should be included in the process.

**Action:** On motion by Reckhow and second by Strom the Board directed staff to meet with the two MPOs' staffs to begin the process of developing an approach towards public outreach regarding the future of transit in the region, to reach out to other key stakeholder groups, and to bring a report, which defines the process, back as soon as possible to the TTA Board of Trustees and the two MPOs. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **G. General Counsel's Report**

General Counsel Wib Gulley stated that the draft Master Developer Agreement will be distributed in the next couple of days.

Reckhow asked staff to look at all condemnations in process and evaluate on a case-by-case to determine whether they should be continued actively or not. Gulley responded that he is prepared to give a case-by-case assessment of all active condemnations in closed session.

## **H. Chair's Report**

None.

## **I. Board Member Reports**

### **1. CAMPO TAC Representative**

Anne Franklin reported that CAMPO held a public hearing about a revision to the transportation plan which was triggered by a new community of 4,000 homes. She said a request was received from the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA) to support the next phase of feasibility. The Wake County Mayors' Committee asked CAMPO to work toward a MOU with the NCTA establishing that revenue from this toll road would remain in the county. Franklin added that there still is a huge funding gap of \$215,000. She suggested that if additional funding sources are sought, that planning should include transit and new facilities should be used as efficiently as possible and should accommodate transit. She said CAMPO agreed to go ahead with the feasibility study and she suggested that the TTA Board ask for transit also to be considered in the study. She stated her feeling that regional facilities should be designed, from the beginning, to accommodate transit.

Reckhow agreed that this region should think pro-actively about how to encourage behavior that will increase longevity of roads by encouraging people to travel together.

Ed Johnson encouraged the Board to be very clear about what is being requested. He said TTA could ask the NCTA to look at building the road differently to accommodate transit or to establish a policy that buses would use the road at no cost.

Strom stated his opinion that a public project should look at how and if other public infrastructure needs can be addressed simultaneously.

Gordon suggested that it appears transit is not included in the purpose of building turnpikes and if TTA wishes the goal to include transit, it should be pursued now. She agreed with Strom's comment about public investments. She said the leverage is greater now.

Reckhow suggested the following questions for consideration in the financial feasibility study:

- Will buses be allowed to travel free on toll roads?
- Will cars with multiple occupants be allowed to travel free?

Worthy suggested that this discussion be referred to the Planning & Legislative Committee and also that David Joyner be invited to make a presentation to the TTA Board.

Franklin asked that staff draft a letter to CAMPO and the NCTA about TTA's questions and issues.

Worthy recognized Graham Olive, noting that generally citizens are recognized only during the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Olive suggested that TTA approach the NCTA about having portion of the proposed tolls go for public transit.

**2. DCHC TAC Representative**

Bill Strom noted a written report in the agenda.

**3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative**

Chair Worthy stated that TriMAP would meet on Friday.

**4. COMTO**

Item removed from agenda.

**VIII. General Business Agenda**

**A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

None.

**B. New Business**

None.

**IX. Closed Session(s)**

**Action:** On motion by Gordon and second by Strom the Board adjourned into closed session at 3:45 p.m. for the purposes of and pursuant to the General Statutes listed below. The motion was carried unanimously.

**A. Rail Corridor Property Acquisition**

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. Active Condemnation Cases**

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.

**C. Discussion of Employee Performance**

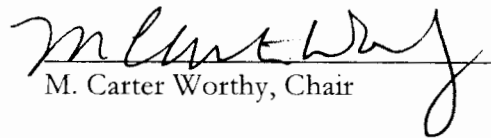
Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial

employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

**Action:** On motion by Franklin and second by Gordon the Board voted at 5:13 p.m. to recess the meeting to Tuesday, August 29 at 10:00 a.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

**X. Adjournment**

**Action:** On motion by Franklin the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

  
M. Carter Worthy, Chair

Attest:

  
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Michelle C. Dawson, CMC  
Clerk to the TTA Board