

Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2007

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

Board Members Present:

Alice Gordon	Ellen Reckhow
Bob Hinshaw	Bill Strom
Sig Hutchinson	Nina Szlosberg
Jeff Merritt	M. Carter Worthy

Board Members Absent:

Bill Bell (excused)	William G. Smith (excused)
Anne S. Franklin (excused)	Kenneth Spaulding

Staff Present:

Laurie Barrett	David King
Michelle Dawson	Greg Northcutt
Tonya Dupree	Juanita Shearer-Swink
Damien Graham	John Tallmadge
Wib Gulley	Deirdre Walker

Chair Alice Gordon called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

Hutchinson asked to add a discussion about recent newspaper articles and Mayor Mecker's stand regarding banning buses from shopping centers.

Strom stated he would like to discuss authorizing the Operations & Finance Committee to begin to gather information on fare free service.

Chair Gordon noted that the agenda did not note this item is a public hearing item, but a public hearing was advertised regarding consent agenda item B, Section 5307 Program of Projects.

Action: On motion by Reckhow and second by Hutchinson the agenda was adopted as amended above. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chair Gordon then called for a moment of silence in memory of Board member Anne Franklin's sister, Barbara *Carlyle*. Gordon stated that a note would be sent to Franklin on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

II. Recognition

A. Introduction of New Hires

General Manager David King noted three new hires: Darcy Downs (Western Carolina University) Commuter Resources transit service planning intern; Mary Anne Batista, Executive Assistant for Capital Development; and Angela Smith, bus operator.

King then recognized John Tallmadge who announced that Amy Armbruster had been hired as marketing coordinator to replace Julie Woosley who took a job at NCDENR. He said TDM-related activities and general marketing activities would be combined in the position and a marketing assistant would be hired to support the position.

King stated that staff is actively recruiting bus operators, with TTA being understaffed by eight to ten operators. He announced the retirement of Ed Evans, maintenance manager, at the end of the month. He noted that Evans was with TTA in 1992 when transit service began.

King presented the *Above and Beyond Award* to Atwood Perry who while training new operators on May 11, 2007, noticed a group of Durham Middle School students who had been left by their bus. Perry loaded the students on his bus and got them to a transfer point.

B. Announcement of Promotions

None.

III. Public Hearings

Chair Gordon opened the public hearing at 1:21 p.m. There were no comments.

Action: On motion by Strom and second by Hutchinson the hearing was closed at 1:22 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

None.

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:

- May 23, 2007 – Regular Session Minutes;
- May 23, 2007 – Closed Session A Minutes;
- Final Section 5307 Program of Projects for FY 2007 (2007 0013);
- Agreement with NCDOT for Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program Grant and commitment of local matching funds (2007 0014); and
- FY 2007 Budget Ordinance Amendment (2007 0001 and 2007 0002).

VI. Presentations

Laurie Barrett introduced Saundra Graman from Digital Recorders. Graman demonstrated the Automatic Voice Announcement System (AVAS), or “talking bus,” which will be included on TTA’s new Gillig buses to be delivered in 2008. She said that additional components or modules are offered that could be added in the future such as automatic vehicle location, vehicle monitoring, wireless updates, and a passenger advisory system.

John Tallmadge advised the Board of a Federal Highway Administration grant for a regional real-time arrival system. He said awards would be made this summer.

VII. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Personnel Committee Report

None.

C. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

Committee Chair Nina Szlosberg reported that Julie Woosley presented information about the re-branding project. The Committee determined that additional logos should be considered. She also said Amy Armbruster reported on the seven-year TDM plan.

1. Updated Timeline for TTA Re-branding

Gordon noted the new timeline in the agenda. John Tallmadge confirmed that the primary logo colors would be blue and green and the logo would be based on the “T” identity statements. He said the Committee would review logos and see the representation on vehicle exteriors at its August meeting. He noted that Gillig had given a deadline of October 1 for final specifications for buses. He said that the Board should make a final decision in September in order to meet this deadline.

Worthy asked if existing buses would be re-painted. Tallmadge responded no. Worthy asked about a wrap. Szlosberg commented that using the old and the new logos sends a mixed message and encouraged staff to get estimates on wrapping the bus with the new logo.

D. Operations & Finance Committee Report

Committee Chair Bill Strom noted the minutes and presented two action items.

1. Interlocal Agreement for Cost-Sharing (ITRE Contract)

Action: On motion by Hinshaw and second by Merritt the Board authorized the General Manager to sign the interlocal agreement for cost-sharing for the ITRE Contract. The motion was carried unanimously.

2. FY 2008 Budget – Second Reading

Strom noted the General Fund criteria policy is exceeded with the proposed FY08 budget. He also pointed out that spending is down from FY07. He said that fewer

dollars have been allocated to the rail fund than in past years. Strom noted that the budget does not include costs associated with moving administrative offices nor the bus transfer center but does anticipate a \$15 million payment to NCRRT.

King stressed that spending is below FY07 and head count is down ten. He said there is some increase in bus hours and additional funds for transit amenities.

Action: On motion by Strom and second by Reckhow the Board unanimously approved the FY 2008 budget ordinances as follows:

- FY 2008 Budget Ordinance (2007 0003);
- FY 2008 Regional Bus Capital Project Ordinance (2007 0004);
- FY 2008 Technology Capital Project Ordinance (2007 0005); and
- FY 2008 Major Transit Investment Project Ordinance (2007 0006).

VIII. Other Business

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager David King reported:

- The first joint meeting of the Boards of NCDOT, NCRRT and TTA will be July 12. He said the first agenda will explain the STAC process, and a rail capacity study to be undertaken by NCRRT to identify rail capacity constraints and capital improvements necessary with a hypothetical commuter rail system in a couple of places along the NCRRT corridor. King said he hopes to start a constructive conversation about how the three groups can collaborate and partner. Gordon suggested that TTA offer to prepare and distribute meeting materials. Worthy stated that TTA needs to resolve the issue of the NCRRT corridor and suggested that TTA state that up front.
- Congratulated Durham County's Commute Trip Reduction Ordinance, noting the awards banquet held Tuesday. Hinshaw and Reckhow suggested that Wake County and other appointing jurisdictions receive the data included in the press release. Gordon requested that the General Manger draft a letter for her signature.
- Hutchinson asked for an update on the STAC. King said that the STAC received presentations from the two MPOs and Ron Tober, Charlotte Area Transit System.

B. Chair's Report

Chair Gordon noted the following items:

- Board members have received a FY 2008 conference calendar and noted that they should respond with their requests for travel by July 9.
- The APTA Annual Conference will be held in Charlotte October 7-10.
- Bill Bell is the fourth TTA appointment to the joint committee of NCDOT/NCRRT/TTA.
- Gordon requested a staff update on the work on the fall communication to the public.
- July committee meetings are canceled.
- Shared a response from David King in the *Durham Herald Sun* to a column "Where the buses don't run on time." She thanked King for being pro-active and noted he

also met with an Orange County Commissioner who had raised this issue at an Orange County meeting.

C. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO TAC Representative

No report.

2. DCHC TAC Representative

Strom noted there was no business involved TTA on the agenda.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

No report.

D. New Business

Sig Hutchinson said the *News & Observer* today reported Raleigh Mayor Meeker's response to what he referred to as shopping centers banning buses in the Triangle. Hutchinson said four centers have banned buses from their properties and the paper has run several articles, an editorial and numerous letters to the editor on this issue. He asked how the Board should respond.

Reckhow commented that a federal grant was received to offer service to Brier Creek and the buses don't even stop there. She then noted the Durham ordinance requiring shopping centers with more than 400 spaces to set aside 5% of their spaces (up to 100) for park and ride and a bus shelter at the request of the transit entity. She said more could be done, but noted current use regulations in some cases create barriers for people to take transit.

The Board discussed the possibility of sending a letter or adopting a resolution. It was agreed that a response should not wait and a letter could be prepared by the manager more quickly.

Board members discussed how regulations could be written to be more transit-friendly such as requiring bus shelters, not just stops, and putting them in close proximity to the destination (front door).

Action: On motion by Worthy and second by Hutchinson the Board directed the General Manager, in consultation with the Board Chair, to prepare a response to this incident. The motion was carried unanimously.

Action: It was agreed that the Planning & Legislative Committee continue the discussion on this issue at its August meeting--considering specific suggestions regarding land use regulations (or lack of), front door access, a transit-friendly development certification, and a workshop for planners and elected officials on transit-friendly development.

Action: Bill Strom said he was recently asked by colleagues in Chapel Hill why TTA is not fare free. He asked that this question be referred to the Operations & Finance

Committee and have staff report on the pros and cons of a fare free system. He Board agreed by consensus.

E. General Counsel's Report

Wib Gulley noted his report in the agenda and highlighted some of the work.

IX. Closed Session(s)


A. Bus Transfer Facility and Administrative Office Space

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 Hutchinson and second by Worthy the Board adjourned into closed session at 3:19 p.m. for the purpose of and pursuant to the General Statute listed above. The motion was carried unanimously.

X. Adjournment

Action: On motion by Strom and second by Hutchinson the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.



Alice Gordon, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the TTA Board