

Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2006

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

Board Members Present:

Bill Bell

Anne S. Franklin

Alice Gordon

W. Lewis Hannah, Jr.

Bob Hinshaw

Ellen Reckhow

William G. Smith

Nina Szlosberg

M. Carter Worthy

Board Members Absent:

Kenneth Spaulding

Bill Strom

Staff Present:

Tellis Chandler

John Clafin

Michelle Dawson

Saundra Freeman

Sylvester Goodwin

Damien Graham

Wib Gulley

Todd Horsley

Joe Huegy

Patrick McDonough

Bill Murchison

Greg Northcutt

Sheela Prabhu

Brad Schulz

Juanita Shearer-Swink

Garold Smith

John Tallmadge

Paul Vespermann

Barb Weigel

Stephen Wilson

Julie Woosley

Guests Present:

Chris Shigas, *French West Vaughan*

Bruce Siceloff, *News & Observer*

Chair M. Carter Worthy called the meeting to order at 1:21 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

Action: On motion by Franklin and second by Bell the agenda was approved as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

II. Recognition

A. Introduction of New Hires

General Manager John Clafin welcomed three new operators: Arlene Davis, Larry Jones and Emma Lawrence. He also advised that TTA had four new college interns: Christopher Clark sponsored by NCDOT (Bus Operations – UNC-CH), Thanh Nguyen (Finance - NCSU), Yves Gnamien (IT - NCCU and University of Phoenix) and Genevieve Parker (Commuter Resources – Meredith College).

B. Announcement of Promotions

None.

III. Public Hearings

None.

IV. Public Comment

None.

V. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- April 26, 2006 – Regular Session Minutes;
- April 26, 2006 – Closed Session A Minutes;
- April 26, 2006 – Closed Session B Minutes;
- April 26, 2006 – Closed Session C Minutes;
- May 24, 2006 – Regular Session Minutes;
- May 24, 2006 – Closed Session A Minutes;
- May 24, 2006 – Closed Session B Minutes; and
- Resolution authorizing the General Manager to execute the “Public Service/Development Work Order” for the Triangle Regional Model Service Bureau at ITRE (*Resolution 2006 0010*).

VI. Presentations

A. Accessible Services Advisory Committee Annual Report

James Benton, Chair of the Accessible Services Advisory Committee, presented the committee’s annual report to the Board. He said that paratransit service at TTA has grown and ridership is stable. He reported that all members of the committee rode TTA service in July and reported at the last meeting that their experiences were positive.

Benton also noted the positive impact on persons with disabilities that the regional rail system would have and encouraged the Board to begin construction now and the negative impact that not having the system would do to the disabled community and to others that are transit dependent. Board members suggested that this support and message be shared with state elected officials, city council members, county commissioners and the media.

B. Marketing Activities Update

Julie Woosley reported that TTA has sponsored several recent promotions, the first being free transit days in early May as a response to rising gas prices. She said that TTA also participated in the national “Bike to Work Week” May 15-19, to encourage people to ride their bikes to the bus. TTA registered bike mentors to encourage new cyclists and help them with routes, some of which have agreed to be year-round

mentors. She said on Friday of that week there were bikers breakfasts in downtown Raleigh and Durham.

Woosley added that TTA participated in the national “Dump the Pump” day on June 8 and gave out buttons with the slogan along with chilled bottled water and candy at the RTP bus transfer center. She said this event was intended to thank and retain current riders by making their commute fun. She reported that the event received positive feedback.

Woosley advised that TTA is featuring “kick gas commuters” that use environmentally friendly modes of transportation on the goTriangle Website and in media releases. She then gave buttons to Board members for Energy Independence Month. She said riders that wear their buttons have an opportunity to win prizes while riding the bus, noting that riding transit is the fastest way to reduce energy dependence. Woosley added by reminding Board members that the SmartCommute Challenge begins on August 15 and runs through September 30. Worthy suggested that our elected officials be invited to participate and given buttons.

VII. Reports & Recommendations

A. Communications Committee Report

Communications Committee Chair Szlosberg said that the Committee saw a preview of the re-designed GoTriangle.org Website, which will go live at the end of July. She said the Committee also saw drafts of new bus brochures and received an update on the new rail Website.

B. Personnel Committee Report

1. Reduction in Force (RIF) Policy
2. Compensation Policy
3. Safety & Health Policy

Personnel Committee Chair Gordon stated that the Committee recommends adoption of the three policies presented. Franklin stated for clarification that the policies would be implemented by the General Manager, but do not require additional Board action for implementation.

Action: On motion by Franklin and second by Smith the Board adopted the *Reduction in Force (RIF), Compensation and Safety & Health Policies* as recommended by the Personnel Committee. The motion was carried unanimously.

C. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

Planning & Legislative Committee Chair Hannah reported that Sanford Cross gave an update on seamless public transportation and pointed out that the unified call center is the biggest project of the effort to date. He said the hope is to have the center operational this FY, but a financial commitment from all the partners is pending.

Hannah also said that staff reported on the regional transit infrastructure plan and the Committee asked staff to bring an in-house map back to the Committee in July that would highlight future opportunities for transit in the future. He added that the

regional rail consultant work has been suspended pending a federal funding commitment. He said that the design is completed and TTA is ready to start construction when the funding is secured. Hannah then presented an item for action, saying this contract is assisting with the master developer agreement as part of the regional rail project.

1. Amendment to Financial Consulting Services Contract #05-040 – RBG Associates LLC

Action: On motion by Hannah and second by Reckhow the Board adopted *Resolution 2006 0011 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees Authorizing Financial Consulting Services Contract for RBG Associates LLC*. The motion was carried unanimously.

D. Operations & Finance Committee Report

1. FY 2007 Budget Ordinances

Worthy recognized Sandra Freeman, who presented four budget ordinances for adoption. She noted that the drawdown of the general fund balance is down from the prior year, \$620,344 from approximately \$700,000, and within the guidelines approved last year.

Action: On motion by Franklin and second by Smith the Board unanimously adopted the following budget ordinances:

- 2006 0001 - Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Ordinance
- 2006 0002 – Regional Bus Capital Project Ordinance
- 2006 0003 – Technology Capital Project Ordinance
- 2006 0004 – Regional Rail Capital Project Ordinance

Action: On motion by Franklin and second by Gordon the Board requested a review of the budget in October. The motion was carried unanimously.

E. General Manager's Report

General Manager John Claflin highlighted:

- The lease on the current Bus Transfer Center at 6 Park Drive expires in FY 2008 and the new transfer center is tied in with the Triangle Metro Center. The Planning & Legislative Committee will receive an update at the next committee meeting and discuss the use of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds.
- The majority of the consultant contracts are being closed out on Friday.
- Staff met with FTA's Project Management Oversight Consultant (PMOC) this week.
- The cities of Durham and Raleigh have committed to financially support the regional call center for a March 2007 start date.
- TTA's annual report has been distributed. Service and ridership continue to grow.

- The Durham Commute Trip Reduction awards ceremony was held, with David Price giving the keynote speech. Durham County businesses were recognized for their efforts in the program.

Gordon asked if TTA had received a response from NCRR regarding the \$15 million payment due in January. Claflin said a request for financial information had been received from NCRR, but there has been no response to TTA's letter.

F. General Counsel's Report

General Counsel Wib Gulley updated the Board on the following items:

- Real property mediation was held for the Morrison property without success. The trial is set for mid-August. An adjacent property owned by Southern Leasing trial is set for mid- September. He said these would be the first two cases to go to trial and not be settled.
- TTA has provided information to its Congressional offices about its interest in the Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program and the possibility of receiving letters of support from them for this program.
- A presentation was made to the Wake County regarding the Public-Private Partnership opportunity and an update on TTA.
- Progress is being made on the Master Developer Agreement with Cherokee Partners. He added that a more in-depth focus on the financial model would be given at the Board's July 11 work session.

Reckhow asked if there are significant changes to the State government UPass program. Gulley responded no. Reckhow then asked if there is data that indicates an increase ridership since the UPass. Tallmadge responded that April/May data indicated about a 40% increase in daily boardings compared with ridership estimates for the year prior. Reckhow suggested reaching out tot other major employers about similar programs, especially Blue Cross Blue Shield. Tallmadge said that there has been a recent conversation with their transportation.

G. Chair's Report

None.

H. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO TAC Representative

Anne Franklin reported that the CAMPO TAC:

- Received a proposal from a developer in eastern Wake County (Wendell) to build 4,000 homes. Highway 64 would have to be moved and access provided as well as making a change to the 2030 plan.
- Discussed, and have devoted the August meeting to, the tolling system. Reckhow noted a discussion to make the section of I-540 under construction now a toll road. Gordon indicated that she had read that legislation is pending to allow this.

Szlosberg pointed out that the Turnpike Authority had responded to TTA's letter that there is a 78-foot corridor in the plans for the Western Wake Freeway to accommodate future transit or managed lanes.

2. DCHC TAC Representative

Chair Worthy referenced the written report in the agenda. Gordon stated that DCHC also is concerned about the potential diverting or use of funds by the Turnpike Authority that would ordinarily go to the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

Worthy noted that minutes are available for the recent Tri-MAP meeting as well as a report from the Turnpike Authority.

VIII. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Bus Operations & Maintenance Facility Expansion Update

Greg Northcutt advised the Board that the four bids received for the Bus Operations & Maintenance Facility expansion were rejected and the project would be re-bid in three months. He said that the internal committee determined that the bids were rejected for a variety of reasons, including questionable prior performance, an unreasonable bid price, an unlicensed surety company, two contractors not secured for parts of the project, questionable ability to handle the workload, low DBE participation and unacceptable good faith efforts regarding DBE participation, non-compliance with the Buy America requirement and an unaffordable contractor.

Northcutt said staff would look again at the scope of the project to determine if it can be reduced in case bids are higher. He added that there would be expanded DBE outreach by staff during the next month. He stated that the biggest concern with delaying the project is the lease agreement with the Airport Boulevard Outlet Mall for bus parking during the first three to four months of the project. He said the later start date could have a negative impact on the agreement.

C. New Business

Franklin reported that she and John Claflin had met with the WTS and NCSU School of Management about a symposium to occur this fall that will focus on transit as opportunities for developing community and moving mobility forward. She said she would keep the Board apprised.

IX. Closed Session(s)

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 Reckhow and second by Gordon the Board adjourned into closed session at 2:39 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

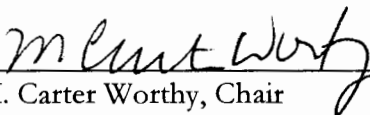
- A. General Manager Performance Evaluation**
- B. Discussion of Employee Performance**

Closed Session B was not held.

Action: On motion by Reckhow and Second by Smith the Board voted to give the General Manager a 2% merit increase, effective July 1. The motion was carried unanimously.

X. Adjournment

Action: On motion by Smith the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.



M. Carter Worthy, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the TTA Board