

**Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 22, 2006**

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

**Board Members Present:**

Bill Bell (arr. 1:29 p.m., left 2:43 p.m.)  
Anne S. Franklin  
Alice Gordon  
W. Lewis Hannah, Jr.  
Bob Hinshaw

Ellen Reckhow  
William G. Smith (arr. 2:44 p.m.)  
Bill Strom  
Nina Szlosberg (left 1:21 p.m.)  
M. Carter Worthy

**Board Members Absent:**

Thomas Hilliard

Kenneth Spaulding

**Staff Present:**

Laurie Barrett  
Don Carnell  
John Clafin  
Michelle Dawson  
Audra Foree  
Saundra Freeman  
Sylvester Goodwin  
Wib Gulley

Joe Huegy  
Thomas Janssen  
Brad Schulz  
Garold Smith  
John Tallmadge  
Barb Weigel  
Julie Woosley

**Others Present:**

John Hodges-Copple, *TJCOG*  
Graham Olive, Jr.

Bruce Siceloff, *News & Observer*

Chair M. Carter Worthy called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m.

**I. Adoption of Agenda**

Chair Worthy asked that the Board consider moving the Communications Committee report to the top of the agenda.

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

**Communications Committee Report**

Committee Chair Szlosberg reported that French West Vaughan presented an overview of strategic recommendations and objectives for the rail project communications, including an umbrella message. She said tactics discussed included:

- public opinion research,
- the establishment of an advisory committee,

- better communication with and education of the media,
- advertising, and
- the development of a rapid response team to respond to misinformation.

Szlosberg left.

## II. Recognition

### A. Introduction of New Hires

None.

### B. Announcement of Promotions

None.

General Manager Claflin announced that Thomas Janssen has accepted a position with STV, Inc., managing a project for the Southeast Pennsylvania Transit Authority in Philadelphia.

Claflin also announced that TTA held a bus roadeo on Saturday to qualify for the NCPTA roadeo in April. He reported these winners:

#### *40 Foot Coach*

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Larry Villines
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Jackie Rodriguez
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – John McNair

#### *Shuttle Bus*

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Demetrius Hyman
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Samuel Santana

## III. Public Hearings

None.

## IV. Public Comment

Chair Worthy recognized Graham Olive Jr. He shared disappointment that US Senators Dole and Burr had not supported TTA's progress for a rail system like they should. He said that rail is desperately need to deal with increased traffic and growth and cannot be accommodated by just building new roads. Olive also suggested that TTA needs to look toward operating 24 hours, seven days a week and look into serving neighboring counties.

## V. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- February 22, 2006 – Regular Session Minutes;
- February 22, 2006 – Closed Session A Minutes;
- February 22, 2006 – Closed Session B Minutes; and
- FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program.

Bell arrived.

## **VI. Presentations**

### **A. Monthly Modeling Update**

Don Carnell said a new New Starts report was submitted in two packages to FTA on February 17 and 22. Worthy asked if anything was outstanding. Carnell replied no. Worthy then asked when staff would meet with FTA to discuss the submission. Carnell said it should be in a couple of weeks.

Carnell noted that Ed Johnson of CAMPO had suggested a process of modeling 2030 growth with the 2020 network, which would produce quick answers. He then introduced John Hodges-Copple of TJCOG to discuss a more complex adjustment process to the long range transportation plans LRTPs). Hodges-Copple explained that the purpose of the proposal is to determine if the 2030 LRTPs are realistic or penalizing transit in the regional model. He said past LRTPs and TIPs would be reviewed in regards to the accuracy of cost estimates and schedules.

Worthy asked how the MPOs might respond if it were determined that the 2030 LRTPs are not really accurate. Hodges-Copple replied that he suspected they would be hesitant to pull projects. Bell agreed from the MPO perspective that they would be very reluctant to take anything out of what is developed already. He did offer that TTA could point out its reservations to the MPO and should how such changes would impact the model, which might be endorsed by the MPOs. Worthy asked how FTA would respond knowing that they only consider adopted MPO plans. Carnell responded that it is worth having a conversation.

Gulley pointed out that both MPOs are providing letters that note the financial shortfalls in the region of \$2.5 billion plus the \$300-\$350 million to be reallocated by NCDOT, supporting the fact that it may be more appropriate to use the 2020 network with the 2030 demand. He also noted that the current model underpredicted 2020 traffic by about 10-20%. Finally Gulley said that Ron Tober of Charlotte indicated their model benefited by including planned development along the corridor.

## **VII. Reports & Recommendations**

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

Report given earlier in the meeting.

### **B. Personnel Committee Report**

Committee Chair Alice Gordon noted the minutes in the agenda package and announced that there would be a closed session item for action.

**Action:** On motion by Gordon and second by Hannah the Personnel Committee report was approved. The motion was carried unanimously.

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

Committee Chair Hannah announced the next meeting would be April 4.

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

### **1. 2006 GoBulls! Xpress Service Pricing**

Committee Chair Strom said that the Committee recommends that the Board approve a fare free service from two locations: the downtown Cary train station and Raleigh's Shelley Lake Park. He added that TTA would be soliciting sponsorship(s) of the service.

John Tallmadge explained that there would be one or two sponsors for the season, not for each game. Reckhow asked if there would be service if no sponsor is confirmed. Claflin said that service would run initially but come back to the Board in that case. Worthy said that the Committee sees this service as a customer building/marketing effort which will grow and hopefully be paid for completely with sponsorships over the next few years.

**Action:** On motion by Franklin and second by Hinshaw the Board approved fare free operation of the GoBulls! Xpress Service with sponsorships for the 2006 season from the downtown Cary train station and Raleigh's Shelley Lake Park. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **2. Agreement with City of Durham for Pass-Through of TDM Funds**

**Action:** On motion by Franklin and second by Hannah the Board authorized the General Manager to enter into an agreement with the City of Durham for pass-through funds for the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **3. 2006 SmartCommute Challenge Contractual Agreement**

**Action:** On motion by Franklin and second by Hinshaw the Board approved an agreement for the 2006 SmartCommute Challenge with Research Triangle Foundation and Triangle Tomorrow. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **4. Proposed U-PASS Agreement with UNC - Chapel Hill**

Strom said that the proposed agreement with UNC – Chapel Hill would provide 5,000 unlimited ride passes for a fee of \$119,500.

**Action:** On motion by Bell and second by Franklin the Board authorized the General Manager to execute the U-PASS Agreement with the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill for a fee of \$119,500 in exchange for 5,000 unlimited ride passes. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **5. Analysis of 15/501 Corridor Alternative in SW Durham**

Franklin asked if this letter responds to Chapel Hill's request and whether more detailed analysis was expected. She said the Committee did not want to commit to a lot more resources to answer these questions at this point. Strom replied that a lot of information is provided in the letter but that Chapel Hill could ask for additional points of clarification.

Reckhow stated concern that a worse case scenario is presented without consideration of a reduction in land acquisition costs. Carnell responded that at a conceptual level such as this there is great difficulty to get detail and cost estimates could include 30-40% contingency. Reckhow also pointed out that moving the station closer to Highway 54 could lead to an increase in ridership and potentially make the project more viable. She suggested that language noting these facts be added to the letter.

Worthy asked that the first sentence note that the letter is in response to a request from Chapel Hill.

**Action:** On motion by Gordon and second by Strom the Board approved the response to Chapel Hill as clarified. The motion was carried unanimously.

Franklin noted that the Committee had received a strong report card for the first half of FY 2006 regional bus service. The report card is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. She said vehicle miles travel were reduced by an estimated 8.3 million miles, which is the equivalent of 145,000 roundtrips between Durham and Raleigh. Gordon also pointed out that the new Hillsborough to Chapel Hill route has extremely good ridership.

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

General Manager John Clafin reported:

- He and the General Counsel would be meeting with the NC Secretary of Transportation tomorrow to bring him up to date on TTA's modeling efforts and work with FTA.
- TTA held a stakeholders meeting last Friday and discussed various value engineering scenarios to reduce the budget to get their feedback before continuing. Worthy suggested a different name for this group because many who feel that they are TTA's "stakeholders" are confused by not being asked to attend these meetings.
- Last week county commission chairs and managers met regarding the study to consolidate rural and county transportation services. He said that two of the three alternatives include TTA. He said a decision about implementation would happen soon and the consultant would make a presentation to the Board on the matter.
- TTA received another earmark for the bus maintenance facility and can now issue the Request for Proposals (RFP).
- TTA and DATA are developing a proposal for a U-PASS program to present to Duke University.
- The annual employee awards banquet is Saturday.

**F. General Counsel's Report**

General Counsel Wib Gulley stated that he is working with NCDOT staff to amend the State FFGA regarding the project description of 12 stations and 28 miles. He added that counsel in Washington, DC is communicating regularly with Congressional offices to keep them up-to-date. Gulley also noted a meeting with Bob Ingram, former CEO of GlaxoSmithKline.

**G. Chair's Report**

Chair Worthy noted the rescheduled budget work session to Friday, April 21, 9:30 a.m. She thanked Board members for their efforts earlier in the month with the Raleigh city council.

**H. Board Member Reports**

**1. CAMPO TAC Representative**

Anne Franklin reported from the CAMPO TAC meeting:

- CAMPO is conducting a self-certification review and has approved the planning process, which includes improved communications and public involvement.
- Received an update on the US-1 corridor study.
- Learned that right-of-way reserved for an interchange at US-1 and New Falls of Neuse Boulevard had been released from obligation of reservation by NCDOT. Members discussed how to respond to the loss of right-of-way and lack of notification.
- Received an update on the US 64 west corridor study (phase 2 from US 1 in Cary to Chatham County).
- Two meetings will be held in April to receive comment on the transit component of the Long Range Transportation Plan. Franklin asked that TTA staff share their presentations for these meetings with TTA's committees in April.

Bell left.

Smith arrived.

**2. DCHC TAC Representative**

Strom noted the written report in agenda.

Worthy asked if TTA should provide an overview at DCHC. Strom said there is a lot of discussion of different planning activities in the region and MPO staff has been asked to bring back information at this point.

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

Carter Worthy noted that RTA continues to be in dialogue with TTA and is supportive of and would like to be involved with a public dialogue.

**VIII. General Business Agenda**

**A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

**B. New Business**

**Action:** On motion by Franklin and second by Strom the Board requested a report to the Board on the transit components of projects being considered by the toll authority, including a proposal about how to strengthen the transit component in the projects. The motion was carried unanimously.

**IX. Closed Session(s)**

**A. General Counsel Performance Evaluation**

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.

**B. 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 Hannah and second by Gordon the Board adjourned into closed session at 2:53 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.


**Action:** The Board returned to open session at 3:40 p.m.

**Action:** On motion by Gordon and second by Reckhow the Board voted to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation for a 3% salary increase for the General Counsel, effective March 22, 2006. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Action:** On motion by Gordon and second by Smith the Board approved the General Counsel's work plan as amended in closed session. The motion was carried unanimously.

**X. Adjournment**

**Action:** On motion by Strom the meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

  
M. Carter Worthy, Chair

Attest:

  
Michelle C. Dawson, CMC  
Clerk to the TTA Board