

Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2006

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

Board Members Present:

Anne S. Franklin

Alice Gordon

W. Lewis Hannah, Jr.

Thomas Hilliard

Bob Hinshaw

Ellen Reckhow

Bill Strom

Nina Szlosberg

M. Carter Worthy

Board Members Absent:

Bill Bell

William G. Smith

Kenneth Spaulding

Staff Present:

Janet Carter

Tellis Chandler

John Claffin

Michelle Dawson

Saundra Freeman

Sylvester Goodwin

Damien Graham

Wib Gulley

Todd Horsley

Joe Huegy

Patrick McDonough

Bill Murchison

Greg Northcutt

Terry Rekeweg

Brad Schulz

Juanita Shearer-Swink

Garold Smith

John Tallmadge

Paul Vespermann

Melinda Welch

Julie Woosley

Guests Present:

Mirta Mihövilövic

Graham Olive, Jr.

Chris Shigas

Bruce Siceloff

Chair M. Carter Worthy called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. She stated that Thomas Hilliard had submitted his resignation to the TTA Board of Trustees and thanked him for his years of service to TTA and the Raleigh Transit Authority.

I. Adoption of Agenda

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

- Remove April 26 minutes (regular and closed sessions);
- Add under the Planning & Legislative Committee Report, a Resolution Supporting the Joint MPO Transportation Funding Initiatives Task Force Legislative Agenda; and
- Add a second Public Hearing - Section 5307 Program of Projects and Schedule.

Action: On motion by Franklin and second by Gordon the agenda was amended by moving the draft FY 2006 Section 5307 (Urbanized Area Formula Grant Program) Program of Projects and schedule from the consent agenda to the general business agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

II. Recognition

A. Introduction of New Hires

None.

B. Announcement of Promotions

None.

III. Public Hearings

A. FY 2007 Budget

Chair Worthy opened the public hearing on the FY 2007 budget at 1:18 p.m. There being no comments, the hearing was closed at 1:18 p.m.

B. FY 2006 Section 5307 (Urbanized Area Formula Grant Program) Program of Projects

Chair Worthy opened the public hearing on the FY 2006 Section 5307 Program of Projects at 1:19 p.m. There being no comments, the hearing was closed at 1:19 p.m.

IV. Public Comment

Mirta Mihovilovic of Chapel Hill spoke to the Board regarding a petition for the expansion of Triangle area public transportation, including the construction of the commuter train system and expansion of existing bus routes; a copy of her comments is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes, in addition to the 212 signatures on the petition. Worthy suggested that Mihovilovic present her petition to the other cities and counties in the Triangle. Szlosberg recommended that the TTA Board forward the petition and signatures to the jurisdictions making appointments to this Board.

Graham Olive, Jr. said that he, too, had collected some signatures for Ms. Mihovilovic's petition and presented those for the record. He encouraged the Board to expand current services including adding Sunday service.

V. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- April 21, 2006 – Special Budget Session Minutes;
- Recommendation for Contract Award for Audit Services TTA Solicitation NO. 06-003; and
- Medical, Dental, and Vision Insurance Renewal.

VI. Presentations

None.

VII. Reports & Recommendations

A. Communications Committee Report

Nina Szlosberg reported that the Committee is looking at some concepts for a new Web rail site. She said the Committee meeting was recessed until after the Board meeting and the concepts will be present to the Board at a later date.

B. Personnel Committee Report

No report.

C. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

1. Amendment to Agreement for State and Federal Legislative Consulting Services

2. Renewal of Contract for Legal Services with Parker, Poe, Adams and Bernstein

Committee Chair Hannah presented resolutions for extending two contracts for legislative consulting services and outside legal services, respectively. Hinshaw recommended adding the word, "annually," at the end of the last sentence, "not to exceed \$162,000" in Resolution 2006 0005. Worthy noted that the title of Resolution 2006 0006 should be a "third" one-year extension.

Action: On motion by Hannah and second by Franklin the Board adopted *Resolutions 2006 0005 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees Authorizing the General Manager to Amend an Agreement with Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC, for State and Federal Legislative Consulting Services and Resolution 2006 0006 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees Authorizing the General Manager to Execute a Third One-Year Extension of the Contract for Outside Legal Services with the Law Firm of Parker, Poe, Adams and Bernstein, LLP, as changed.* The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Public Private Partnership Pilot Program

John Claflin explained that TTA is submitting comments and a letter of interest about this FTA program.

Gordon asked why it is to TTA's advantage to participate in the program. Claflin responded that the projects selected will not be in the FFGA process and are considered fiscally constrained. He added that the program is not yet defined but will be based on the comments received. Franklin asked how this program would affect the federal commitment to TTA's project. Claflin said that also is unclear; the program has no funding.

Strom supporting submitting the letter of interest, but cautioned the Board to pay close attention to the public's interest as the master developer deal is conceived and negotiated. He said that there should be opportunities to receive public comment on the structure.

Szlosberg stated her support for the program and said that TTA has an opportunity to help define the federal program, which could be of benefit to others.

Hannah said the concept of the public private partnership would appeal to opponents.

Reckhow pointed out that the tax revenues expected to be generated for the jurisdictions showed greater numbers for the cities than the counties. She asked staff to verify the numbers.

4. Resolution Supporting Joint MPO Transportation Task Force Legislative Priority Items

General Manager Claflin presented a resolution supporting the joint MPO's transportation task force's legislative agenda.

Szlosberg expressed her disappointment that the agenda did not specifically articulate the need to fully fund the regional rail project. She suggested that TTA convey that message to the MPOs.

Reckhow responded as a member of the task force that the group tried to develop an agenda that would be supported state-wide. She said a local option or modernization of the equity formula would create additional resources for a variety of transportation needs.

Szlosberg added that it is important at every opportunity to express how important it is to get funding for the rail system.

Franklin suggested a letter accompanying the resolution that would convey the TTA Board's desire to add as a first priority, to ensure that the rail system is fully funded.

Action: On motion by Strom and second by Hannah the Board adopted *Resolution 2006 0007 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees Supporting the Joint MPO Transportation Funding Initiatives* and agreed to send a letter to the MPOs about TTA's first priority of ensuring the rail system is fully funded. The motion was carried unanimously.

D. Operations & Finance Committee Report

1. Recommendations for August 2006 Service Changes

Committee Chair Strom reviewed the recommended service changes:

Saturday Service Changes

- Route 101 - add five minutes to each pulse at RTP after 12:30 p.m.
- Route 747 – add Brier Creek loop

Weekday Service Changes

- Route 102 - add five minutes to each round trip between Raleigh and Garner
- Route 301 - move the downtown Raleigh stop from Moore Square to the corner of Wilmington and Martin streets
- Route 305 - eliminate service between Galaxy Foods and Lake Pine Plaza and add a fourth round trip in the morning and afternoon
- Route 310 - adjust times to allow four round trips in the morning and afternoon
- Route 311 - add three trip segments from Lake Pine Plaza to Galaxy Foods
- Route 650 (Express) - add service to Duke Hospital, removing two stops at NCCU and Durham Tech

Worthy asked the financial impact of these actions. Strom replied that service remains within the budget 92,000 service hours. McDonough added that with no changes, service hours would be 91,368; and with the change, at 91,776. He said the cost is approximately \$36,000 for the year. He pointed out that the JARC program service and the TTA/OPT service from Chapel Hill to Hillsborough also is not included in the service hours total. McDonough also said that the seamless service planning groups are working on a concept for mid-day service to Cary.

Action: On motion by Strom and second by Franklin the Board approved the August 2006 Service Changes listed above as recommended by the Operations & Finance Committee. The motion was carried unanimously.

2. FY 2007 Memorandum of Understanding with Orange Public Transportation

Action: On motion by Strom and second by Franklin the Board authorized the General Manager to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Orange County for service between Chapel Hill and Hillsborough. The motion was carried unanimously.

Gordon noted that this route has been very well received, with ridership of 80 passengers per day where the previous route served an average of 30 per day.

3. Proposed FY 2007 Budget

Saundra Freeman presented information on the proposed fiscal year 2007 budget, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Clafin noted that under the legal agreement with NCCR, TTA is obligated to a \$15 million payment in January 2007. He said he recommends that TTA request a payment extension or change in payment terms. He added that FTA has asked TTA to look into delaying this payment. Clafin stressed that if NCCR is not willing to extend the payment until TTA receives an FFGA or revenue operations begins, the payment should be made to maintain the alignment. He said he is proposing paying off a bank loan for real estate also.

Hannah stated his concern in sending a letter requesting delay of payment to NCRR. Claflin said it is prudent to request a delay until an FFGA is signed because the payment may have to be completely locally funded. He added that it will not hurt to ask NCRR to consider a delay, but TTA would still make the payment in January if NCRR does not agree.

Gordon asked about the bus TTA is selling OPT. McDonough explained that OPT's maintenance staff's lack of experience with diesel buses may have caused some inadvertent damage to the TTA bus. He said TTA is training OPT staff to maintain and repair the vehicle.

Strom noted that the second reading of the budget, and vote, will be on June 28. Franklin asked about the five-year capital project plan. Freeman said staff is working on it, but there are no elements that would impact the FY07 budget that have not been included already.

E. General Manager's Report

General Manager John Claflin reported:

- Bike to work week was a success and TTA received only one complaint about not having enough bike racks on the buses. He said the bike riders program would continue to be developed. Reckhow suggested that the bike group would be a good target as friends of transit.
- We provided an update on the FTA process to the Herald Sun editorial board and discussed economic development surrounding the rail project as well as the success of TTA's services and ridership increases. He said the group felt the need to continue to work at improving seamless transit for our constituents to support rail in the future.
- Two staff members are making presentations at SEACT Conference in Asheville this week on the online ridesharing program and the SmartCommute Challenge.
- TTA's General Counsel will be meeting with FTA's General Counsel about the Public Private Partnership Pilot Program and TTA's interest.
- The Victoria Transport Policy Institute has prepared an evaluation of New Starts transit program performance comparing rail and bus.
- Todd Horsley has accepted a job with GRTA in Georgia.

F. General Counsel's Report

General Counsel Wib Gulley noted that work continues on the Master Developer Agreement as well as two upcoming condemnation trials and discussions with Fairway Advertising about a billboard on one property.

G. Chair's Report

None.

H. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO TAC Representative

Anne Franklin reported that the CAMPO TAC did not meet in May.

2. DCHC TAC Representative

Strom stated that he did not attend the meeting, but that there were no significant TTA issues discussed. Reckhow noted that the agenda included an item regarding non-voting membership on the TAC for the NC Turnpike Authority. There was uncertainty if this item was acted upon or if it was carried over to the next meeting. Strom said that he would report next month.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

No additional report (see manger's report).

VIII. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

Action: On motion by Reckhow and second by Strom the Board adopted *Resolution 2006 0004 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees Approving Final Section 5307 Program of Projects for FY 2006* and *Resolution 2006 0005 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees Authoring Grant Execution and Commitment of Local Matching Funds*. The motion was carried unanimously.

B. Attendance Policy

Chair Worthy stated that recently meetings did not have a quorum or the call to order was delayed while waiting for a quorum to arrive. She suggested referring this item to the Operations & Finance Committee for recommendation regarding a policy. Reckhow stated that thresholds should be established for attendance at regular Board and assigned committee meetings and a policy relating to unexcused absences. Strom agreed to accept this item by the Operations & Finance Committee for a recommendation to the Board.

C. Update on Master Developer Agreement

Gulley reported that there have been no additional developments.

D. New Business

Szlosberg noted that TTA had received information from the Turnpike Authority that there is a 78 foot strip dedicated for transit or other managed transportation system in the I-540 project. She said that she is hopeful the Board would stay on top of this issue to make sure it happens.

Franklin reported that she and Dilcy Burton met with the NC chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar. She said that the officers are interested in holding a symposium to talk about how transit is working in the community and to bring in national experts to evaluate and make observations about proposals.

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 Hannah and second by Hinshaw the Board adjourned into closed session at 3:05 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

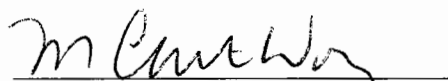
A. Employment Contract

B. Discussion of Employee Performance

Hilliard and Strom left during the closed session.

X. Adjournment

Action: On motion by Franklin and second by Reckhow the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.


M. Carter Worthy, Chair

Attest:


Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the TTA Board