

Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2007

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

Board Members Present:

Bill Bell (arr. 1:59 p.m.)

Anne S. Franklin

Alice Gordon (arr. 1:07 p.m.)

Bob Hinshaw

Sig Hutchinson

Jeff Merritt

Ellen Reckhow (arr. 1:10 p.m.)

William G. Smith

Bill Strom (left 2:29 p.m.)

Nina Szlosberg (arr. 1:13 p.m.)

M. Carter Worthy (arr. 1:07 p.m.)

Board Members Absent:

Kenneth Spaulding

Staff Present:

Laurie Barrett

Janet Carter

Michelle Dawson

Saundra Freeman

Sylvester Goodwin

Wib Gulley

Randy Killgore

David King

Greg Northcutt

Brad Schultz

John Tallmadge

Christy Whittington

Chair Sig Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

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

II. Recognition

A. Introduction of New Hires

General Manager David King announced the following new bus operators: Mary Acevedo, Donn DeBoer, Anthony Gabay and David Moore. He also introduced Randy Killgore, maintenance manager.

B. Announcement of Promotions

None.

III. Public Hearings

None.

IV. Public Comment

None.

V. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- September 26, 2007 – Regular Session Minutes;
- September 26, 2007 – Closed Session A Minutes;
- September 18, 2007 – Nominating Committee Minutes; and
- Adopted 2008 meeting calendar.

The 2008 meeting calendar is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

VI. Presentations

None.

Gordon and Worthy arrived.

VII. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Personnel Committee Report

No report.

C. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

No report.

D. Operations & Finance Committee Report

Bill Strom presented the following recommendations from the Operations & Finance Committee. He said staff is available to answer questions.

1. TTA-ITRE Contract for Services for the Special Transit Advisory Commission

Strom reported that the Committee discussed and recommends that the Board authorize an increase in the amount and length of the contract with ITRE to support the STAC work, which has been extended until the first of the year. He added that TTA's share is \$37,500 for this contract.

Action: On motion by Worthy and second by Merritt the Board adopted *Resolution 2007 0020 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees Authorizing the General Manager to Execute a Contract Change with the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) for Support Services Associated with the Special Transit Advisory Commission (STAC)*. The motion was carried unanimously.

2. **Triangle Regional Model (TRE) Public Service/Development Work Order**
Strom presented a resolution allowing the General Manager to execute a one-year work order with NCSU/ITRE not to exceed \$145,000 for continued work on the regional model. He said TTA's other partners in this contract are: DCHC, CAMPO and NCDOT. Strom added that he has heard from several planners that the model is getting dramatically better.

Reckhow arrived.

Action: On motion by Franklin and second by Hinshaw the Board adopted *Resolution 2007 0021 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees Authorizing the General Manager to Execute the "Public Service/Development Work Order for Triangle Regional Model (TRM) Services for FY08.* The motion was carried unanimously with Smith abstaining due to a conflict of interest relating to NCSU as a member of The University of North Carolina Board of Governors.

3. **Cherry Bekaert & Holland, LLP Contract for Auditing Consultant Contracts**
Strom also presented from the Committee a recommendation to adopt a resolution authorizing the General Manager to increase the contract with Cherry Bekaert & Holland for FY08 from \$30,000 to \$75,000. He said the increase is precipitated by much larger audit requirements than anticipated which is associated with the closing out of the phase I fixed guideway program.

Action: On motion by Worthy and second by Smith the Board adopted *Resolution 2007 0022 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees Authorizing the General Manager to Modify the Contract with Cherry Bekaert & Holland for Ongoing Financial Review Services.* The motion was carried unanimously.

4. **Amendment of Professional Services Agreements: Regional Transit Infrastructure Blueprint Consultants for TTA**

Strom then recommended on behalf of the Committee adoption of a resolution authorizing the General Manager to amend the professional services agreement with Martin/Alexiou/Bryson by extending the performance period until March 15, 2008, and the value to \$98,000. He said this consultant is assisting with the STAC and the regional transit infrastructure blueprint.

Greg Northcutt added that initially staff thought the STAC would narrow down the candidate corridors and focus on cost estimating for a smaller number of corridors; however, cost estimates are being generated for an entire system (18 corridors or more). He noted that the contract with Phoenix & Assoc. is less than \$50,000 and does not require Board action.

Szlosberg arrived.

Northcutt then supplied budget information as requested by the Committee, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. Strom noted there is no change in the overall budget.

Action: On motion by Worthy and second by Franklin the Board adopted *Resolution 2007 0023 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees Authorizing the General Manager to Amend the Contract with Martin/Alexiou/Bryson, PLLC, for Professional Services Related to the Development of a Transit Capital Investment Program for the Regional Transit Infrastructure Blueprint.* The motion was carried unanimously.

Jeff Merritt, new Operations & Finance Committee Chair, announced that there will not be a meeting in November.

VIII. Other Business

A. General Manager's Report

David King noted the presence of Joe Huegy from ITRE at today's meeting. E said that the model is improving every day.

King then highlighted the following:

- Met with Rick Weddle and John Brantley, who both are thinking long term regarding the connection of their properties with transit.
- WTS sponsored a high speed rail summit Tuesday in Raleigh. Representatives from CSX and Norfolk Southern were in attendance. Franklin added that the railroads would like to increase their capacity. She said North Carolina's rail division is working on the high speed rail project. Szlosberg noted that the Republican and Democratic chairs of the transportation committee in Congress provided taped interviews for the summit and they understand the need for the new authorization bill to include more money for multi-modal and that integrated transportation is essential not just for mobility, but for economic development and national security. She said the investments other countries are making in high speed rail was reported and it is shocking how far behind the United States is. Hutchinson noted that Szlosberg gave the keynote address at the banquet and was introduced by Anne Franklin. He added that Pat Simmons of NCDOT's rail division has asked her to present to Congress. Reckhow requested a copy of her remarks.
- The STAC work continues and they will present to the joint MPOs on the 31st. Recommendations are expected in January.
- TTA had great success providing service to the NC State Fair, carrying 1400 trips (700 round trips) on the two Saturdays. Reckhow asked if information about TTA's general services is provided on the buses during these special services. King said there are schedule racks, but more could be done, which is being considered as a part of re-branding. Worthy asked the distinction between special and charter service. King responded that charter service is for a discrete group with an origin and destination and a special service is available to anyone, not just members of a special group, from a specific origin and destination. Worthy said she would like TTA to consider additional opportunities for special services, saying it is a great opportunity to be visible to the public and a segment of the population that may not ride as commuters every day. King suggested having Steve Spade the General Manager of Chapel Hill Transit (CHT) talk about the special service CHT

provides for UNC and Smith Center events. Strom suggested referring this item to the Operations & Finance Committee. Board members agreed.

- TTA expects to receive the first Gillig bus in 23 weeks.
- The Board viewed two pro-transit television advertisements from Charlotte and also received a news article which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. Reckhow noted a referendum on Seattle's ballot for a package of revenue items including a sales tax increase and a substantial increase in the motor vehicle tax that would generate \$17 billion to fund long range a light rail transit system for the Seattle region. Merritt said the Raleigh Chamber took a trip there in 1999 and heard from their elected leadership that federal money was available in the 1970s for a transit system but at that time Seattle was sick of growth and thought they could successfully stop growth. He said the \$1.1 billion went to Atlanta to build MARTA. He said in 1999 the cost per mile in Seattle for light rail was well over \$1 billion per mile.

B. General Counsel's Report

General Counsel Wib Gulley said a master list of all TTA contracts has been pulled together and demolition is in process for two western Wake County properties. He also shared a memorandum, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes, as requested by the Board on outside legal counsel expenditures from FY05 to the present.

C. Chair's Report

Chair Sig Hutchinson gave the following updates:

- Offered recognition and appreciation to Alice Gordon as TTA's Chair this past year.
- Board members Reckhow and Hinshaw have been reappointed to four-year terms on the Board of Trustees by their respective jurisdictions.
- He would be contacting all Board members to talk about their thoughts about TTA's direction and how he might facilitate their thoughts and comments. He said TTA has a great opportunity to make an impact in region and is excited to serve as Chair.
- Hutchinson noted Board member Committee assignments at Board members' places.
- Has attended the STAC meetings and positive things are happening. He noted the significant work by staff to prepare for these meetings and thanked them. He said the STAC members seem to understand the importance of transit.
- He noted the Board will meet on November 28th.

D. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO TAC Representative

Anne Franklin reported that the CAMPO TAC did not meet in October. Franklin also offered her appreciation to Joe Huegy and said she is glad to hear about the improvements to the regional model.

Bell arrived.

2. DCHC TAC Representative

Bill Strom said he was unable to attend the DCHC TAC meeting, but the group approved additional funds for the STAC process.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

Chair Hutchinson reported that there was no RTA meeting this month.

4. APTA Annual Conference

Board member conference reports were distributed and are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. Members who attended the conference or participated in the rail system tour shared their thoughts and experiences: Sig Hutchinson, Jeff Merritt, Alice Gordon, Nina Szlosberg, Anne Franklin and William Smith.

Hutchinson noted the close to \$2 billion of current and planned construction in Charlotte's rail corridor. Merritt pointed out that the arguments of cost overruns of the project are vastly overstated. Gordon said the system tour was a highlight of the trip. Smith said he spoke with Jim Simpson who had heard TTA's message and commented that "we were everywhere that day." Szlosberg noted that Charlotte General Manager Ron Tober admitted that in hindsight CATS should have paid more attention to communications throughout the process and never taken for granted that people were supportive of the project. Szlosberg also suggested looking into adapting some of the Ad Wheel award winning campaigns for use in the Triangle.

Strom left.

E. 2008 Benefits Renewal Recommendations

Saundra Freeman presented the recommendation for medical and dental insurance for 2008. She said staff recommends switching from United Health Care (UHC) to BlueCross BlueShield (BCBS). She said UHC has not resolved its issues with Wake Med, causing problems for TTA employees that use the Wake Med system. Additional, Freeman said BCBS is offering a 7½% increase over current year premiums and UHC, a 13% increase.

Action: On motion by Smith and second by the Hinshaw the Board approved the 2008 benefits renewal recommendations. The motion was carried unanimously.

F. Opportunities for Increasing DBE Participation

Sylvester Goodwin reminded Board members that the recommended and adopted goal of 5% caused concern for members, but that the goal is determined based on USDOT guidelines. He shared several opportunities for using DBEs in the coming months that could help TTA in achieving greater DBE participation.

Reckhow commented that she would like to see DBE participation increase, but also would like to see TTA do business with firms in the Triangle area. Gordon agreed.

G. New Business

None.

IX. Closed Session(s)

Action: On motion by Worthy and second by Franklin the Board adjourned into closed session for the purpose of and pursuant to the General Statutes listed below at 2:50 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

A. Property Lease: Bus Transit Facility Negotiations

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.

B. General Manager Evaluation

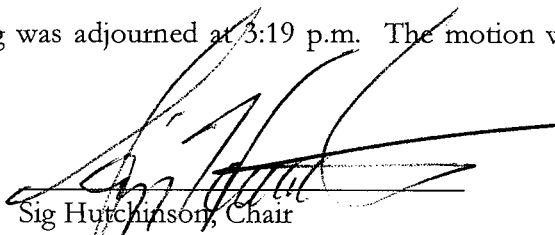
Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

Action: The Board returned to open session at 3:17 p.m.

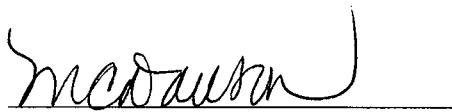
Action: On motion by Hinshaw and second by Merritt the Board awarded a 4% salary increase to the General Manager. The motion was carried unanimously.

X. Adjournment

Action: On motion by the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.


Sig Hutchinson, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the TTA Board