

Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2007

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

Board Members Present:

Bill Bell	Ellen Reckhow
Anne S. Franklin (arr. 1:06 p.m.)	William G. Smith
Alice Gordon	Bill Strom
Bob Hinshaw	Nina Szlosberg (left 2:45 p.m.)
Sig Hutchinson	M. Carter Worthy (arr. 1:07 p.m.)
Jeff Merritt	

Board Members Absent:

Kenneth Spaulding

Staff Present:

Laurie Barrett	David King
Michelle Dawson	Greg Northcutt
Saundra Freeman	Juanita Shearer-Swink
Damien Graham	Brad Schultz
Wib Gulley	John Tallmadge

Chair Alice Gordon called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

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

Gordon noted additional materials at Board members' places.

II. Recognition

A. Introduction of New Hires

General Manager David King noted the following new hires: Nate Boyd, Margie McGill, Takara Gaddy, Mary Prince, and James Dozier, bus operators; Misael Zambrana, Mechanic II; Emily Yasukochi and Erik Landfried, Transit Service Planners and Nicholas Burns, Graphic Design Intern.

Franklin and Worthy arrived.

B. Announcement of Promotions

King also announced that Frances Walker has been promoted from Bus Operator III to Dispatcher I.

C. Above & Beyond Award

General Manager David King presented Vanessa Battle with the *Above and Beyond Award*. He noted that she assisted a fellow employee during a medical emergency and at the hospital with the operator's family twice in a month.

III. Public Hearings

None.

IV. Public Comment

None.

V. Consent Agenda

Action: On motion by Strom and second by Hutchinson the consent agenda was adopted, after removing the regular session minutes of August 22, 2007. The motion was carried unanimously.

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- August 22, 2007 – Closed Session A Minutes.

Franklin commented that she found the minutes confusing regarding the Bus Operations & Maintenance Facility (BOMF) Budget Reallocation. The following amendment was proposed (strikethrough indicates text being removed and italics, added):

Strom reported the Bus Operations & Maintenance Facility (BOMF) expansion project is going well and recommended a budget amendment *to move unspent FY07 dollars into the FY08 budget. The Committee also recommended that the Board authorize the General Manager to obligate and expend up to an additional \$50,000 above the approved budget of \$3,436,400 for unforeseen costs. Strom noted that should the General Manager exercise this option, a separate budget amendment would be brought forward to Board approval.* ~~for an additional \$50,000 in unanticipated costs to keep the project on schedule. He said the project is proceeding on budget.~~

Action: On motion by Franklin and second by Bell the Board adopted the minutes of the August 22, 2007 – Regular Session meeting, as revised above. The motion was carried unanimously.

VI. Presentations

A. Regional Call Center Update

John Tallmadge provided an update on the regional call center, saying in its first six months of operations, 100,000 calls had been handled. He said this is a greater volume than expected, but staff is adjusting and positive feedback has been received from management in Durham and Raleigh as well as customers. Tallmadge also explained that the FY09 budget estimates are being prepared, which will include requests for additional staff due to current call volume and anticipated continued growth. He added that both Chapel Hill Transit and Cary Transit have expressed interest in participating in the call center and discussions will be held in the coming month.

Franklin asked how paratransit calls are handled. Tallmadge responded that each system handles its own; however, the regional call center does handle initial requests for information. He said the expectation is that the call center eventually will handle all these calls as well.

VII. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Nominating Committee Report

Chair Gordon noted the minutes of the Nominating Committee at Board members' places.

Szlosberg offered thanks to Gordon for her service. Worthy also thanked Szlosberg for serving one year as secretary for the Board and as Planning & Legislative Committee chair.

Action: On motion by Worthy and second by Smith the slate of officers for 2007-2008 was approved, effective October 15. The motion was carried unanimously. The following officers were elected:

Chair	Sig Hutchinson (Raleigh)
Vice Chair	Bill Strom (Chapel Hill)
Secretary	Ellen Reckhow (Durham County)
Treasurer	Jeff Merritt (Wake County)

C. Personnel Committee Report

Personnel Committee Chair Hutchinson announced that the Committee met earlier today to review the General Manager's evaluation, which will be presented at the October Board meeting.

D. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

Committee Chair Nina Szlosberg reported that the Committee talked about implementation of TTA's new logo. She said staff is preparing a timeline and it will be a topic at the upcoming work session. Szlosberg also said the Committee received a report about a plan to promote transit-oriented development. She added that the October Committee meeting has been canceled.

1. Special Transportation Session

Szlosberg stated that the Committee voted to recommend that the Board adopt a resolution calling for a special session of the General Assembly to address the shortfall in transportation funding. She said since that meeting, it has become clear that there is no interest for a special session. King agreed that there would not be a special session this fall, but recommended Board adoption the resolution.

Action: On motion by Reckhow and second by Strom the Board adopted *Resolution 2007 0019 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees in*

Support of Sufficient Funding to Meet North Carolina's Transportation Needs. The motion was carried unanimously.

Action: On motion by Franklin and second by Strom the Board accepted the Planning & Legislative Committee report. The motion was carried unanimously.

E. Operations & Finance Committee Report

None.

VIII. Other Business

A. General Manager's Report

David King offered the following report:

- The Human Resources Director and Training Director are looking at bus operator recruitment, training and retention and how to reduce turnover in that position.
- TTA and Hampton Roads (Virginia) Board members will participate in a tour of the Charlotte light rail system hosted by Ron Tober prior to the start of the APTA Annual Conference.
- John Tallmadge reported on the Interlocal Agreement to establish a regional bus fare structure. He stated that the mayors met and recommended that agreement not include the provision that each agency's fares be tied to the others. He said the regional fare committee still would make a recommendation each year, but each agency could adjust its fares differently than the recommendation. Tallmadge said the children's fare would move to age 12 and seniors would be fare free as originally proposed.
- Tallmadge then stated that TTA would offer service to the NC State Fair on the two Saturdays of the fair between 9 a.m. and 12 midnight from the Eubanks parking lot in Chapel Hill with a stop at the bus transfer center in RTP. The fare, he said, would be \$5 round trip.
- Tallmadge also announced that TTA received an award from the Association for Commuter Transport in the renovation category for bike to work week activities.
- King stated that staff continues to spend a great deal of time on the STAC work.

Strom asked if TTA is pursuing the next bus technology. King pointed out that an internal task force has been established to determine how the transit amenities budget might be spent. Strom suggested a pilot project that might allow TTA to integrate into Chapel Hill's system. He said the usage in Chapel Hill is the highest per capita in the country.

Reckhow then asked about wireless Internet for TTA buses. Laurie Barrett stated that two TTA buses have a demo to see how the ridership uses it. Hutchinson agreed that it is an incredible idea and suggested a press release about the demo.

B. General Counsel's Report

General Counsel Wib Gulley distributed his monthly report, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. Szlosberg suggested that Habitat for Humanity

be contacted about re-usable items in the properties that are scheduled for demolition. Gulley said he would explore the possibility.

C. Chair's Report

Chair Alice Gordon gave the following updates:

- TTA participated in a successful launch of the new goTriangle logo last Friday in Raleigh. She was one of the speakers and Board member Franklin was in attendance. She said that before the meeting she and Miriam Perry discussed with Patrick Hannah the P.R.I.D.E. Ambassadors program in Durham.
- A draft work session agenda for October 11 was distributed. She said Board members are encouraged to ride the bus to the work session. She asked for any comments on the proposed agenda.
- The TTA mid-year report has been published, and it is attached and hereby made a part of the minutes. She noted TTA's progress during the past year, and highlighted several items in the report. She congratulated Board members and staff on a good year with solid accomplishments.

Anne Franklin suggested a Joint Transit Boards' meeting to discuss each agency's accomplishments and challenges.

D. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO TAC Representative

Anne Franklin reported that the TAC approved almost unanimously a motion to support the turnpike gap being paid for by the State. Members were wary that if private funding is endorsed when that happens the State might decide it is off the hook for the gap. She added that a market analysis is supposed to be out in October.

Merritt asked the current cost of the turnpike. Szlosberg said she believed the last figure she heard was \$800 million for 12 miles.

2. DCHC TAC Representative

Bill Strom stated that there were no significant TTA items on the TAC agenda. He said the TAC adopted a resolution requesting that Governor Easley and legislature develop a comprehensive Multi modal plan to address local, regional and statewide transportation funding. He added that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was discussed in detail as well as the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Reckhow added that the TAC also discussed uncontrolled growth when there is not sufficient transportation infrastructure to support it or the money to build the infrastructure. Board members then discussed how to make this point to the public and to elected officials. Merritt suggested that the Board discuss messaging at the work session.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

Chair Alice Gordon noted the minutes and other handouts from the TriMAP meeting in the agenda package.

E. New Business

Hinshaw pointed out that the news articles in the agenda package this month were most informative and suggested that Board members read them prior to the work session for discussion.

Strom noted a meeting of the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives on October in Chapel Hill. He said the discussion would include transportation and transit.

Szlosberg also noted a transportation forum on October 10 at Exploris.

IX. Closed Session(s)

A. Bus Transfer 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.

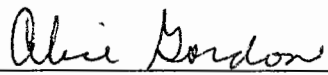
Action: On motion by Strom and second by Smith the Board adjourned into closed session for the purpose of and pursuant to the General Statute listed above at 2:30 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

Action: The Board returned to open session at 3:05 p.m.

Szlosberg left during the closed session.


X. Adjournment

Action: On motion by Strom the meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.



Alice Gordon, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the TTA Board