

**Triangle Transit Board of Trustees**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 27, 2008**  
Board Room, The Plaza, 4600 Emperor Blvd., Suite 100  
Durham, NC

**Board Members Present:**

Jean Davis  
Joe Freddoso  
Alice Gordon  
Bob Hinshaw

Sig Hutchinson  
Jeff Merritt  
William G. Smith  
Nina Szlosberg (arr. 1:48 p.m.)

**Board Members Absent:**

Bill Bell (excused)  
Ellen Reckhow (excused)

Kenneth Spaulding  
Bill Strom (excused)

**Staff Present**

Laurie Barrett  
Michelle Dawson  
Saundra Freeman  
Sylvester Goodwin  
Eric Landfried  
Wib Gulley

David King  
Greg Northcutt  
Brad Schulz  
John Tallmadge  
Emily Yasukochi

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

**I. Adoption of Agenda**

**Action:** On motion by Merritt second by Smith the agenda was adopted, adding the Nominating Committee report. The motion was carried unanimously.

Gordon recognized Jean Davis who recently received her Master's from The Fletcher School at Tufts University in Boston.

**II. Recognition**

**A. Introduction of New Hires**

General Manager David King announced the following new hires: marketing associate Jill Charbonneau; new bus operators Tamika Wilson, Randy McCarty and Michael Andrews and Jimmy Price, Maintenance Manager.

**B. Announcement of Promotions**

King then announced the promotion of Felisha Barksdale to full time Customer Service Representative I and Juan Alencastro to Customer Service Representative II.

**C. Introduction of New Outside Counsel Firm**

General Counsel Gulley stated that the representatives from Smith Moore were unable to attend today's meeting.

**III. Public Hearings**

**A. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program**

Chair Hutchinson opened the public hearing on at 1:06 p.m. There being no comments, the hearing was closed at 1:07 p.m.

**B. Potential Service Changes Related to Regional Transit Center Move**

Chair Hutchinson recognized Emily Yasukochi who stated that moving RTC development of service change proposals through process last fall in January knew postponing move and did not adopt so now re-opened for public comment. Change service to Perimeter Park route 301 through Perimeter Park timings would not work schedule wise off the board now for change. Collect feedback through 9/ 5 summary to Operations & Finance Committee in October.

Hutchinson opened the public hearing on at 1:09 p.m.

Hutchinson acknowledged Bob Moran, who spoke regarding Route 49 and 201. He asked for a later afternoon/evening pick up at Kit Creek and Davis on Route 49. He also suggested a route change in the Pleasant Valley area for Route 201. Finally, Moran asked for a way for Triangle Transit and Capital Area Transit buses at Moore Square to communicate regarding transfers. Moran noted that Triangle Transit drivers are safe and courteous.

Hutchinson then recognized Johannes Norling who also acknowledged Triangle Transit's safe, courteous and on-time drivers as well as the transit service planners. He stated his hopes that the Transfer Center would remain in its current location, but said if it does move, he requests that the route from Chapel Hill would maintain its path along Highway 54. He presented a letter to the Board with his suggestions, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Hutchinson called on Charles Boehlert who asked about service through Perimeter Park and suggested providing information to potential riders.

Hutchinson then recognized Graham Olive Jr. who said he would like to see expansions of the Hillsborough and Wake Forest routes.

There being no further comments, the hearing was closed at 1:23 p.m.

**IV. Public Comment**

Chair Hutchinson recognized Graham Olive, Jr. who said he would like to see service until midnight and increased service to Apex and Beaver Creek Commons.

## V. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- July 23, 2008 – Regular Session Minutes;
- Resolution authorizing the submittal and execution of a grant application to the FTA and the NCDOT for funding under Title 23, United States Code, Section 149 (Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program) (2008 0012); and
- Resolution committing local matching funds to Federal and State grant awards (2008 0013).

## VI. Presentations

None.

## VII. General Business Agenda

### A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

### B. Personnel Committee Report

None.

### C. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

None.

### D. Operations & Finance Committee Report

#### 1. Authorization to Execute Two Contracts for Consultant Support of the Regional TDM Program

Jeff Merritt recognized John Tallmadge who explained that the regional 7-year Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plan completed last year calls for Triangle Transit to take the lead on TDM program support and conduct individualized marketing. He stated that individualized marketing is planned through employers in five hot spot locations and residents in Wake Forest and the Wakefield neighborhood in Raleigh to be funding through matching grants. He stated that the Operations & Finance Committee recommended approval for 1,000 households at \$142,000; however, staff is requesting authorization to go up to 3,000 households at \$189,150. He added that the grant has been approved up to \$100,000 at a 50% match.

**Action:** On motion by Merritt and second by Hinshaw the Board adopted *Resolution 2008 0014 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Board of Trustees Authorizing the Execution of a Contract for Consultant Services in Support of TDM Program* and *Resolution 2008 0015 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Board of Trustees Authorizing the Execution of a Contract for Individualized Marketing Services*. The motion was carried unanimously.

**2. Express Bus Service Addition**

Erik Landfried discussed the recommended service changes to the express routes due to overcrowding issues, adding one morning and one afternoon trip on the four routes. He stated that this addition of eight daily service hours is estimated to add \$170,000 in costs with approximately \$15,000 expected in fare box revenues. Landfried added that this is an interim solution to the overcrowding and Bus Operations is preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for contracted service.

Landfried distributed a summary of comments received, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Merritt noted that the Committee recommended that the Board consider additional express services, subject to a financial review. He asked Sandra Freeman about the financial impact. Freeman responded that she has identified several opportunities to offset the majority of these costs, one being a regional paint shop budgeted at \$70,000 which Triangle Transit will not participate in this year.

Gordon asked about the RFP. Laurie Barrett responded that it is in the draft stage but would include Triangle Transit's cost per hour and attempt to address the express routes, routes that have significant deadhead hours and other routes proposed in the Short Range Transit Plan.

**Action:** On motion by Merritt and second by Smith the Board unanimously approved the service changes listed below:

Route	Service Change	Service Hours Impact
500 (Chapel Hill to Raleigh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Add 6:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. departures</li> <li>▪ Adjust 5:40 p.m. departure time to 5:45 p.m.</li> <li>▪ Adjust 6:10 p.m. departure time to 6:15 p.m.</li> </ul>	Adds 885 hours (500 and 550 combined)
550 (Raleigh to Chapel Hill)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Add 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. departures</li> </ul>	
600 (Durham to Raleigh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Add 7:37 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. departures</li> </ul>	Adds 794 hours (600 and 650 combined)
650 (Raleigh to Durham)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Add 6:37 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. departures</li> </ul>	

**3. Overcrowding on Route 420 (Hillsborough-Chapel Hill)**

Erik Landfried provided an update on this issue, explaining that Orange Public Transit (OPT) has only smaller vehicles and therefore cannot offer increased capacity for the route. He added that another issue with this route is related to the new Durham Tech campus in Hillsborough and a dedicated park-and-ride lot. He said service to this route will require re-routing, new schedules and a public

comment period. He said this would be planned for the start of spring semester, but staff is working not on the capacity issues.

Landfried said that Chapel Hill Transit (CHT) has given an initial proposal for operating the route and UNC will be approached about a potential financial partnership.

Szlosberg arrived.

Gordon thanked staff for bringing the issue to her attention and their work on this matter: She asked how efforts might be accelerated, particularly serving the park-and-ride lot and the Durham Tech campus. She said she would like to see this item as an action item next month.

King responded that staff is working as hard as possible and realizes the urgency of the matter.

#### **E. Nominating Committee Report**

Chair Sig Hutchinson reported the following officer nominations, stating that the election would be held in September:

Chair	Bill Strom
Vice Chair	Jeff Merritt
Secretary	Ellen Reckhow
Treasurer	Joe Freddoso

### **VIII. Other Business**

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

David King highlighted:

- Regional versus jurisdictional issues are expected to surface during the MPO process of adopting LRTPs regarding how a proposed ½ cent sales tax would be spent. Merritt asked about data on current commuting patterns within the region. King suggested a presentation by Patrick McDonough on this topic.
- NCRRT will be releasing its report on commuter rail in the next month. He cautioned that commuter rail brings people who live far out into a job center, but has limited ability to shape tomorrow's growth. He said it could become a fourth competitor for scarce funds along with increasing existing service, funding circulator systems, and building a 56 mile rail system. King reminded Board members that transit should be a tool to help shape growth that is sustainable, green, transit and market friendly, and economically competitive.
- Staff is working with consultants on the technology options for the 56 miles of rail in the STAC report. He said several factors have caused staff to consider light rail over the diesel multiple unit, including the potential attitude of railroads and the FRA, the price and availability of petroleum, energy security, operating characteristics and flexibility.

Gordon asked about the questions from the FTA regarding its investment in property purchased during the New Starts project. King responded that Triangle Transit was given 18 months to make the case that that property purchased was going to be of value to the region for transit in the future. He stated that the STAC effort was beneficial to proving the case and staff prepared information to FTA and requested an additional three years.

**B. General Counsel's Report**

General Counsel Wib Gulley reported that work is on-going to finish the financial reviews of the New Starts project consultants and sub contractors. He also stated that he is working with the Commuter Resources department to develop a standardized GoPass contract. Gulley also said that Triangle Transit has received covenant approval for the Regional Transfer Center (RTC) and construction should begin soon.

Gulley then reported on a condemnation case outstanding in downtown Cary. He stated that a second mediation has been scheduled but the case could proceed to Court.

**C. Chair's Report**

Board Chair Sig Hutchinson noted that Nina Szlosberg is on the cover of *Women's Edge* Magazine and him, the Raleigh Downtowner. He shared a copy of the mission statement of the Capital Area Friends of Transit (CAFT) group.

Merritt noted that General Manager King recently presented at the Raleigh Chamber planning conference and additionally the Chamber's Intercity Task Force has narrowed its list of possible cities in 2009 to three with transit as the central focus.

**D. Board Member Reports**

**1. CAMPO TAC Representative**

Merritt stated that he was unable to attend. Szlosberg reported that there is no strategy for public outreach on CAMPO's LRTP. She encouraged staff to assist and support those efforts. She also noted her concern that modeling for the LRT uses land use assumptions based on today's development patterns and zoning which is biased against transit.

**2. DCHC TAC Representative**

Gordon noted that the TAC discussed the schedules for the LRTP and a new TIP process is starting.

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

Chair Sig Hutchinson reported that he attended the leadership committee meeting and met with the incoming RTA chair, who would like to work more closely with Triangle Transit. The RTA has endorsed the CAFT mission statement. RTA also is concerned about diesel and interested in light rail.

**E. Regional Transit Center (RTC) Ticket Building and Bus Shelters**

Greg Northcutt stated that the time frame is tight to have the ticket building and shelters on the ground by the opening of the RTC. He said the budget estimate is

\$60,000 for the shelters and \$70,000 for the ticket building and he requested an additional 30% on top of that for a maximum of \$170,000.

**Action:** On motion by Merritt and second by Freddoso the Board adopted *Resolution 2008 0016 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Board of Trustees Authorizing the Execution of Two Purchase Orders for the Fabrication and Installation of a Ticket Building and Bus Shelters for the New Regional Transit Center (RTC)*. The motion was carried unanimously.

Northcutt stated that he had a list of green items associated with the procurement and site plans and drawings.

Szlosberg suggested incorporating Triangle Transit's new logo and colors on the ticket building to continue to support the brand.

#### **F. Recommended Name Change for Paratransit Service Program**

Laurie Barrett presented a recommendation from the Accessible Services Advisory Committee for the name T-Linx for Triangle Transit's Paratransit service. She said the Committee chose this name because it was not associated with their disability and that it had no other name associations.

Szlosberg agreed with the rationale but suggested that in the future T-Linx would be an obvious name for a feeder system for a rail line.

**Action:** On motion by Smith and second by Merritt the Board approved the name, "T-Linx," for Triangle Transit's paratransit service. The motion was carried six to one with Davis, Freddoso, Hinshaw, Hutchinson, Merritt and Smith voting in the affirmative and Gordon voting in the negative.

Gordon noted she voted against the name knowing that it would pass but to reflect the issue raised regarding future use of the name.

#### **G. FY 2008 Budget Ordinance Amendments**

Sandra Freeman presented a budget amendment for FY 2008 to true up revenue based on actual receipts.

**Action:** On motion by Smith and second by Hinshaw the Board adopted Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Ordinance Amendment 2008 0007 and Fiscal Year 2008 Major Transit Investment Fund Budget Ordinance Amendment 2008 0008. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **H. New Business**

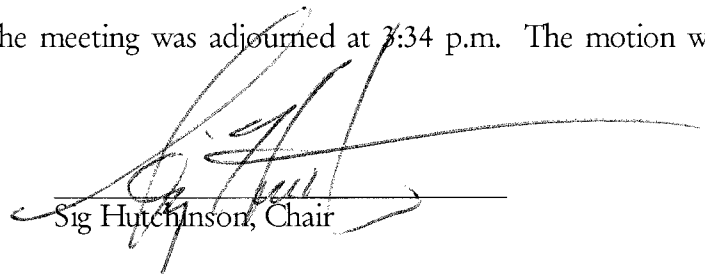
None.

#### **IX. Closed Session(s)**

None.

**X. Adjournment**

**Action:** On motion by Merritt the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.



Sig Hutchinson, Chair

Attest:



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Michelle C. Dawson, CMC  
Clerk to the TTA Board