

**Triangle Transit Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes**

April 22, 2009

Board Room, The Plaza, 4600 Emperor Blvd., Suite 100
Durham, NC

Board Members Present:

Mary-Ann Baldwin

Bill Bell (arr. 1:06 p.m.)

Alice Gordon (arr. 1:11 p.m.)

Sig Hutchinson

Jeff Merritt

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

Julie Robison

William G. Smith

Bill Strom

Board Members Absent:

Joe Freddoso (excused)

Nina Szlosberg (excused)

Staff Present:

Laurie Barrett

Michelle Dawson

Saundra Freeman

Damien Graham

Wib Gulley

David King

Patrick McDonough

Greg Northcutt

Brad Schulz

Juanita Shearer-Swink

John Tallmadge

Chair Bill Strom called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

Action: On motion by Robison and second by Smith the agenda was adopted. The motion was carried unanimously.

II. Recognition

A. Introduction of New Hires

General Manager David King recognized the re-hiring of Stephonie Smith, paratransit operator. Wib Gulley then introduced Assistant General Counsel Karen Porter.

Bell arrived.

B. Announcement of Promotions

None.

C. Above and Beyond Award

General Manager David King presented *Above and Beyond Awards* to Rodney Simmons, Mary Acevedo and James Perry. Laurie Barrett explained that they were the first to discover the fire at the Bus Operations & Maintenance Facility on March 28. Their swift actions and initiative to move other buses minimized damage.

Gordon and Reckhow arrived.

III. Public Hearings

None.

IV. Public Comment

Chair Strom recognized Graham Olive Jr. who suggested legislation requiring on-premises bus stops at major shopping centers. He also suggested a merger or partnership between Triangle Transit and PART to offer service from Clayton to Winston-Salem.

Action: On motion by Smith and second by Merritt the Board referred Olive's comment to the General Counsel for a report back on how to proceed. The motion was carried unanimously.

V. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda item was approved:

- March 25 – Regular Session Minutes;
- March 25 – Closed Session A Minutes;
- March 25 – Closed Session B Minutes; and
- March 25 – Closed Session C Minutes.

VI. Presentations

A. UNC's Transportation Sustainability Initiatives

The presenter was unable to be present.

B. How Triangle Transit Can Become a More Sustainable Transportation Agency

John Tallmadge introduced students from Duke's Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy: Rene Alarcon, Justin Elswit, Megan Kauffmann and Jaime Rooke. The group looked at policies Triangle Transit could implement to become a more environmentally sustainable transit agency.

The students' presentation is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. The recommendations, which focused on the use of water, electric and fuel resources, were:

- Engage in a sustainability program (such as one sponsored by APTA),
- Monitor consumption and use tracking system,
- Change behavior, and
- Upgrade technology.

Strom stated that he would like to hear more about APTA's program at a future meeting. He suggested that staff present its suggested approaches to these recommendations also.

Board members commended staff and students on the work.

Action: On motion by Hutchinson and second by Reckhow the Board referred the presentation to the General Manager for recommendations on next steps at the May Board meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

VII. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Personnel Committee Report

Committee Chair Jeff Merritt noted a letter regarding the recent salary study.

C. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

Committee Chair Ellen Reckhow stated the Committee discussed several items, but took no action.

Jeff Merritt noted the life of Senator Vernon Malone from Wake County, who recently passed away.

D. Operations & Finance Committee Report

William Smith gave the Committee report on behalf of Committee Chair Joe Freddoso.

1. Cherry Bekaert & Holland, LLP, Contract for Auditing Consultant Contracts

Smith stated that in anticipation of questions about this item, the Committee requested a detailed memorandum, which was provided in the agenda package. He said this is the third time an increase in the contract has been requested and is not guaranteed to be the last.

Action: A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Reckhow to adopt *Resolution 2009 0002 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Board of Trustees Authorizing the General Manager to Modify the Contract With Cherry Bekaert & Holland, LLP, for Ongoing Financial Review Services.*

Reckhow asked if the total includes the annual audit services. Freeman responded no, only the overhead analysis.

Reckhow commented that contractors should be required to contribute to the cost of the audit when errors and issues are discovered.

Action: Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously. The resolution is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

VIII. Other Business

A. General Manager's Report

The General Manager's report is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. General Manager David King highlighted:

- Staff continues to follow and pursue legislation to allow counties to have a vote on a ½ cent sales tax to support transit activities. The legislation passed the House on the second reading. He said there are potential issues in the Senate, particularly adding in highways as a use the tax could support. King referenced the roll call of votes on the bill. Baldwin suggested that thank you letters be sent to sponsors and supporters.
- The RTA trip to Dallas was worthwhile. Jeff Merritt will give a presentation.
- Noted the quality and talent of staff at Triangle Transit.

Gordon asked the status of the individual county meetings and plans. King responded that the Wake County plan is under development but a draft is being circulated for comment. He said Durham and Orange counties are still in the discussion stage. He said it is possible the two could try to fit their plans together due to their greater interdependence.

Hutchinson asked about the recent Federal announcement regarding high speed rail initiatives. King responded that Pat Simmons of the NCDOT Rail Division feels that North Carolina is well positioned and likely could receive some funds. King added that work on grade crossings and bridges and underpasses would benefit future high speed rail service, freight carriers and future Triangle Transit light rail service.

C. General Counsel's Report

General Counsel Wib Gulley noted several items in his written report.

D. Chair's Report

Chair Bill Strom reminder Board members of the budget work session scheduled for Monday at 11:30 a.m., with lunch. He said that travel requests have been received and although close to the amount of the budget, some adjustment may be necessary.

D. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO TAC Representative

Jeff Merritt stated that CAMPO meets today.

2. DCHC TAC Representative

Alice Gordon reported for Bill Strom that the DCHC Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is out for public comment. She stated that for the first time the DCHC MPO and CAMPO LRTPs appear in one document as a joint report. She said DCHC also approved some stimulus projects and there was discussion about the Intermodal bill. Gordon reported that the Durham-Orange Friends of Transit group is moving forward.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

Sig Hutchinson reported that Tri-MAP meets on Friday. He said that RTA held a leadership tour in conjunction with the Raleigh Chamber's InterCity visit to Dallas.

4. Raleigh Chamber InterCity Visit & RTA Leadership Tour

Jeff Merritt presented a slideshow and Sig Hutchinson distributed trip notes, both of which are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. Bill Strom and Mary-Ann Baldwin also contributed to the report.

F. New Business


None.

IX. Closed Sessions

None.

X. Adjournment

Action: On motion by Hutchinson the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.



Bill Strom, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the TTA Board