

**Triangle Transit Board of Trustees**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 19, 2008**

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

**Board Members Present:**

Bill Bell (arr. 1:18 p.m.)  
Jean Davis  
Joe Freddoso (left 3:20 p.m.)  
Alice Gordon  
Bob Hinshaw

Sig Hutchinson  
Jeff Merritt  
Ellen Reckhow  
Bill Strom

**Board Members Absent:**

William G. Smith (excused)  
Kenneth Spaulding

Nina Szlosberg (excused)

**Staff Present**

Laurie Barrett  
Michelle Dawson  
Shelley Epps  
Saundra Freeman  
Sylvester Goodwin  
Wib Gulley

David King  
Patrick McDonough  
Greg Northcutt  
Brad Schulz  
John Tallmadge

Chair Bill Strom called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

**I. Adoption of Agenda**

**Action:** On motion by Merritt and second by Gordon the agenda was adopted as amended above. The motion was carried unanimously.

**II. Recognition**

**A. Introduction of New Hires**

General Manager David King announced the hiring of Shelley Epps as Employer Outreach Coordinator.

**B. Announcement of Promotions**

None.

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

General Counsel Wib Gulley introduced Gary Joyner of Kilpatrick Stockton. Joyner stated that the firm is honored and excited to work with Triangle Transit.

**III. Public Hearings**

None.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

None.

#### **V. Consent Agenda**

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

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- October 22, 2008 – Regular Session Minutes; and
- Authorized the General Manager to execute a one-year extension of the contract with Maxwell, Freeman and Bowman for outside legal services (Resolution 2008 0021).

This resolution is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

#### **VI. Presentations**

David King introduced Scott Saylor of North Carolina Railroad Company and Jim Kessler with HNTB to present the findings of the North Carolina Railroad Freight and Commuter Rail Shared Track Study . The presentation is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Bell arrived.

Reckhow asked how high speed rail would be incorporated in the corridor. Saylor responded that trains operating 90 MPH or greater must be on a separate dedicated track, just as light rail. The Norfolk Southern (NS) agreement requires a separation of at least 25 feet for safety reasons. Saylor added that with electrified light rail lines it is better to have a buffer such as an intrusion fence between other operations.

Hutchinson asked about using part of the railroad corridor for bicycle infrastructure. Saylor stated that NS policy does not allow pedestrian or bicycle traffic in the corridor due to safety concerns. Hutchinson asked if bikes are allowed within other rail corridors. Saylor responded only abandoned lines and perhaps some isolated cases such as an area around Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

Strom asked what type of barrier between operations was assumed in the study. Kessler replied that it would be a combination of crash walls, intrusion fences and nothing. General Manager King added that at 26 feet no barrier is require; however, an intrusion protection system could be required and is good practice. Saylor noted that the standard in Charlotte was negotiated at 40 feet.

Merritt asked if at grade crossings are being eliminated or if wider bridges are being considered for the future. Saylor responded that the current standard for bridge clearance is four tracks. He said that NCRR also is working with NCDOT on bridges with walls that can be cut away for future expansion. He added that overhead clearance could become an issue for light or high speed electrified rail.

Reckhow asked a time frame for building the segments in the study if the funding were available. Saylor responded east of Raleigh would be the easiest and take approximately three to five years. Reckhow asked if any assessment of demand had been estimated. Saylor said no, it was a capital investment study only.

Saylor said that NCRR is interested in Triangle Transit's input on the study and whether the region would be interested in commuter rail. Strom replied that the Board could take this up at the retreat.

Reckhow asked how demand would be estimated for such a system. King replied the Triangle Regional Model would have limited utility; however, the model along with comparisons to similar areas around the country that have commuter rail could be used to make an estimate on ridership.

Saylor then talked about proposed corridor protection legislation.

Strom thanked Saylor and Kessler for their presentation.

## **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**

#### **1. Financial Analysis of Vanpool Program**

Committee Chair Joe Freddoso stated that the Committee recommended that the Board move forward with this item. He recognized Sandra Freeman to review this item.

Freeman stated that finance had looked at the impacts of growing the vanpool program to 100 vans in fiscal year 2009 and then to 170 vans by FY 2014. She said the current year growth is based on current demand for vanpools. Freddoso said that according to Laurie Barrett there is currently a waiting list of over ten.

Freeman said the staff recommendation is to increase the program to 100 vans this year, but the timing of those additions has not been determined. Reckhow asked about phasing the additions over a two-year period. King commented that there are 11 vanpools waiting now and Progress Energy is looking at starting three to six. He also pointed out that the net impact of adding a vanpool is positive for Triangle Transit.

**Action:** On motion by Merritt and second by Freddoso the Board adopted *Ordinance 2008 0009 Fiscal Year 2009 Major Capital Project Ordinance Amendment*. The motion was carried unanimously.

**2. Priority List of Transportation Projects**

Patrick McDonough presented the staff recommendation for project priorities to submit to the DCHC MPO to include in its 2011 – 2017 TIP.

**Action:** On motion by Davis and second by Reckhow the Board adopted *Resolution 2008 0020 Resolution of the Triangle Transit Board of Trustees Endorsing the Triangle Transit Project Priority List for the FY 2011-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Within the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization*. The motion was carried unanimously.

**VIII. Other Business**

**A. General Manager's Report**

David King highlighted the following:

- Attended Rail~Volution in San Francisco.
- The new Regional Transit Center opens December 1, with a grand opening and ribbon cutting scheduled to coincide with the Board meeting on December 17. The Regional Call Center moves into this building on Friday.
- Triangle Transit will be issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) in the next month to private bus operators for providing portions of our services.

**B. General Counsel's Report**

General Counsel Wib Gulley announced that the Town of Cary has joined the Regional Call Center. He also noted that staff is watching the potential rail corridor protection legislation. Gulley added that work has begun on a request to NCRR for an extension to the existing contract for corridor access.

Gulley then shared some comments about the Rail~Volution conference.

**C. Chair's Report**

Board Chair Bill Strom stated that helping regional leaders come to agreements about and clarifying their positions on the STAC report will be important work for Triangle Transit in the coming months. He also mentioned the January Board retreat and stated that he hoped to provide some of the information from Rail~Volution and potentially some of the speakers at this session.

**D. Board Member Reports**

**1. CAMPO TAC Representative**

Jeff Merritt noted that the joint TAC meeting was positive and those in attendance seemed to be in agreement about the STAC report. He asked David King to report on a recent meeting initiated by Raleigh Mayor Meeker with Wake County mayors and others. He said the group discussed the Wake County portion of the regional plan.

Bell commented that the STAC plan is too important to be based on the outcome of a referendum in three counties. He said a plan should be developed to allow the system to be created without a referendum. Strom thanked Bell for his comments and agreed that this is essential public infrastructure and this could be another retreat topic.

**2. DCHC TAC Representative**

Bill Strom noted that the DCHC TAC held a public hearing on the LRTP.

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

No report.

**4. Rail~Volution**

Joe Freddoso, Sig Hutchinson and Bill Strom prepared written reports for the agenda. They offered some highlights from the trip. Strom suggested that municipal planners working on transit-oriented development would benefit from attending this conference.

**E. New Business**

**1. Green Initiatives**

Sig Hutchinson suggested that Triangle Transit look into sustainability and what it has achieved.

Freddoso left.

**Action:** On motion by Hutchinson and second by Gordon the Board asked staff to prepare a report for the Board's retreat on sustainability. The motion was carried unanimously.

**2. Update on Post-STAC and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Committee**

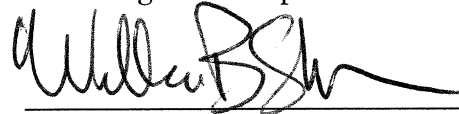
Previously covered.

**IX. Closed Session(s)**

None.

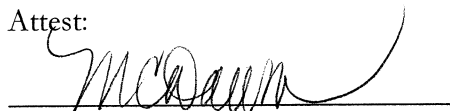
**X. Adjournment**

**Action:** Chair Strom adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.



Bill Strom, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC  
Clerk to the TTA Board