

Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2008

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

Board Members Present:

Jean Davis	Jeff Merritt
Anne S. Franklin (left 3:30 p.m.)	Ellen Reckhow (left 3:30 p.m.)
Joe Freddoso (arr. 2:08 p.m.)	William G. Smith (arr. 1:13 p.m., left 3:21 p.m.)
Alice Gordon (arr. 1:07 p.m.)	Bill Strom (left 3:23 p.m.)
Bob Hinshaw	Nina Szlosberg (arr. 1:20 p.m.)
Sig Hutchinson	

Board Members Absent:

Bill Bell (excused)	Kenneth Spaulding
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Staff Present:

Michelle Dawson	David King
Brian Fahey	Eric Landfried
Saundra Freeman	Mitchell Lodge
Sylvester Goodwin	John Tallmadge
Damien Graham	Emily Yasukochi
Wib Gulley	

Chair Sig Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

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

II. Recognition

A. Introduction of New Hires

General Manager David King announced one new hire, Jenny Rogers as marketing intern.

B. Announcement of Promotions

King also announced the promotion of David Crandoll from Bus Operator I to Bus Operator II and Brian Fahey to Customer Service Manager (of the regional call center).

Gordon arrived.

King then announced the loss of a bus operator, Sammy Santana, on Tuesday.

III. Public Hearings

None.

IV. Public Comment

Chair Hutchinson recognized Graham Olive, Jr. who requested that TTA assist in securing Amtrak service. Strom suggested the request be referred to staff to provide additional information for the Planning & Legislative Committee to consider a letter of support.

Olive then stated his hope that commuter rail would become a reality in the Triangle.

Smith arrived.

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 item was approved:

- December 19, 2007 – Regular Session Minutes.

VI. Presentations

A. Update on Capital Area Transit (CAT) Operations & Issues

David Eatman, Transit Administrator of Capital Area Transit (CAT) made a presentation, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Szlosberg arrived.

Gordon asked the cost per hour for CAT. Eatman responded \$70 per hour.

Reckhow asked how the State government and NCSU GoPASS programs had helped ridership. Eatman answered that the GoPASS program, which also includes the City of Raleigh and Wake County government, accounts for approximately 10% of total CAT ridership.

Hinshaw asked about paid advertising on CAT vehicles. Eatman replied that advertising provides about \$100,000 in annual revenues and is limited to 25% of the total fleet.

C. FY2007 Audit Report

Scott Duda of Cherry, Bekaert & Holland presented the FY 2007 audit report. Information is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. Duda stated that TTA staff had reviewed audit findings in detail with the Operations & Finance Committee and discussed how the findings would be addressed. He then stated that TTA received an unqualified opinion, which is the highest rating possible. He added that there were two material control deficiencies and two non-material deficiencies.

Freddoso arrived.

VII. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Personnel Committee Report

No report.

C. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

Committee Chair Ellen Reckhow stated the Committee discussed extensively the budget and possible service expansion through partnerships. Reckhow suggested a fuller discussion on these topics with the full Board. General Manager King responded that the work session scheduled in February would be an appropriate time.

Szlosberg noted an essential question regarding expansion through partnerships is why a community that has been paying the taxes for ten years should contribute financially to a new service.

Franklin encouraged TTA to continue to build relationships with communities and work together to find a solution.

Gordon noted that the memorandum did not reflect the details of the arrangement between TTA and Orange Public Transit. She said TTA's cost per hour is \$93 compared to \$34 for OPT. Gordon explained that TTA reimburses Orange County 75% of the cost of operating the service from Chapel Hill to Hillsboro.

D. Operations & Finance Committee Report

Committee Chair Jeff Merritt noted that two items discussed by the Committee have been covered today. He complimented staff on the newly renovated Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility.

1. Potential Service Changes with Bus Transfer Center Move

Merritt asked General Counsel Wib Gulley to give an update on the relocation of the Bus Transfer Center (BTC). Gulley explained that the new location has not been secured for relocation in March and staff feels postponing any move to coincide with annual service changes in July or August would work out better.

General Manager King stated that staff is requesting adoption of all the recommended service changes today, with implementation in March of those changes not related to the relocation of the BTC and a future implementation date for the changes due to the BTC move.

Emily Yasukochi noted one change in the memorandum on requested service changes: routes 101 and 412S/413S would have negligible impacts to service hours. She then discussed the changes not associated with the move of the BTC and requested a March implementation of these changes:

Route	Action Recommended
46	Add by request stop at new Citizen and Immigration Services Center off Miami Blvd.
550/550	Substitute earlier PM trip for last PM trip on both routes; change departure time on one trip to improve on-time performance
570	Add stop at BTC

Reckhow asked why there is no Chapel Hill to RTP express. John Tallmadge explained that the decision was made to serve SouthPoint instead of operating a direct express. He said more recently service hour limitations and other opportunities have kept the agency from offering express service. He noted that two advantages of TTA's current express services are not present in this situation and therefore the service has not been pursued vigorously: parking constraints in RTP and the location of the BTC (a transfer is necessary within the Park).

Eric Landfried added that when the BTC relocates, one route from Chapel Hill into the Park would travel on I-40 making it more like an express service. He said a number of riders are served in the section along NC54 from Chapel Hill to SouthPoint.

Action: On motion by Strom and second by Smith the Board adopted the service changes as recommended by staff for March implementation as outlined above. The motion was carried unanimously.

Action: A motion was made by Merritt and seconded by Reckhow to approve additional service changes related to the relocation of the Bus Transfer Center at the time of the move.

Strom stated his preference to wait on approving the additional changes related to the relocation which have a budget impact. Hinshaw said he also would prefer to wait since the move is not yet confirmed.

Action: Merritt withdrew his motion to approve the additional service changes related to the BTC relocation.

2. **Revised Investment Policy and Procedures**

Merritt recognized Sandra Freeman, who explained that the investment policy was too restrictive in the current market and hence changes were needed to allow for longer term investments that would yield higher rates.

Action: On motion by Merritt and second by Smith the Board adopted the revised Investment Policy. The motion was carried unanimously. The policy is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Smith asked for quarterly investment reports.

General Manager King noted that the Operations & Finance Committee discussed funds deposited in non-interest bearing accounts. He said these idle funds have since been transferred to an interest bearing account with the NC Capital Management Trust. King also said that staff has asked Sun Trust to be more aggressive with TTA's accounts.

VIII. Other Business

A. Board Presentation

Chair Sig Hutchinson recognized the service of Anne Franklin with the presentation of an historical framed photograph of transit in downtown Raleigh. He gave Board members an opportunity to comment on her service.

Reckhow noted that Franklin brought tremendous expertise and passion to the issues, particularly during the inception of paratransit service. Reckhow also praised Franklin's efforts to work with partner agencies during her tenure as Boar Chair.

Gordon said that Franklin always did her homework, asked the hard questions and thought independently.

Szlosberg shared an experience from her first trip to DC with Franklin and the confidence and clarity she exhibited.

Smith thanked Franklin for her service and friendship.

Franklin added that she believes in public transportation because it is critical to our community. She thanked Board members for their support and noted that Joe Freddoso is enthusiastic and intelligent and will be a match for TTA.

B. Oath of Office – Joe Freddoso

Chair Sig Hutchinson then introduced Joe Freddoso, who is replacing Anne Franklin as Wake County appointee. Ellen Reckhow, Chair of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, administered the oath of office to Freddoso.

B. National Transportation Commission

David King introduced Patrick B. Simmons of the NCDOT Rail Division, whose presentation is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Smith, Strom and Franklin left.

C. General Manager's Report

David King highlighted the following items:

- The STAC is nearing the completion of its work by February 29. The group appears to have consensus on several corridors: North Raleigh to Cary, along 15-501 from Durham to Chapel Hill and downtown Durham to the Triangle Metro Center. He also noted that the group is calling for significant expansion in bus

service. He said the group is looking at a 2020 timeframe for a \$1.2 to \$1.3 billion capital project (current year dollars).

Reckhow left.

- Bus ridership last quarter was the best quarter in TTA's history.
- TTA has received the first of its new buses and will be hosting a press event March 17 to roll out the new fleet, name, colors and logo.

Freddoso urged staff to help convey the message about the significant impact of inflation on costs. He said he felt the region has lacked a sense of urgency and showing in dollars how costs escalate if projects are delayed could help to increase the sense of urgency.

D. General Counsel's Report

The General Counsel distributed his monthly report, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. He requested that the Board authorize a Request for Proposals (RFP) for outside counsel to replace Parker, Poe, Adams and Bernstein in view of the potential conflict of interest.

Action: On motion by Hinshaw and second by Merritt the Board authorized the General Counsel to submit a Request for Proposals for Legal Services to replace Parker Poe. The motion was carried unanimously.

E. Chair's Report

Chair Sig Hutchinson offered the Board's condolences to the family of Sammy Santana. He then thanked Anne Franklin for her service and welcomed Joe Freddoso to the Board. Hutchinson stated that Jeff Merritt has been appointed to replace Anne Franklin as representative on the CAMPO TAC. He said he would be participating in the Raleigh Chamber's trip to Charlotte tomorrow.

F. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO TAC Representative

No report – meeting canceled.

2. DCHC TAC Representative

Alice Gordon reported that the TAC is moving forward on its alternatives analyses with modes of transportation other than transit for the LRTP and will fold in the recommendations from the STAC.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

No report.

G. New Business

None.

IX. Closed Session(s)
None.

X. Adjournment

Action: On motion by Merritt and second by Gordon the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.



Sig Hutchinson, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the TTA Board