

**Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 27, 2008**

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

**Board Members Present:**

Bill Bell  
Jean Davis  
Joe Freddoso  
Alice Gordon  
Bob Hinshaw  
Sig Hutchinson

Jeff Merritt  
Ellen Reckhow  
William G. Smith  
Bill Strom  
Nina Szlosberg

**Board Members Absent:**

Kenneth Spaulding

**Staff Present:**

Laurie Barrett  
Michelle Dawson  
Saundra Freeman  
Sylvester Goodwin  
Damien Graham  
Wib Gulley  
David King

Mitchell Lodge x  
Patrick McDonough x  
Greg Northcutt x  
Brad Schulz x  
Juanita Shearer-Swink x  
John Tallmadge x

Chair Sig Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 1:47 p.m. upon the conclusion of the work session.

**I. Adoption of Agenda**

**Action:** On motion by Strom and second by Hinshaw the agenda was adopted, adding the adoption of a revised mission statement as discussed at the work session. The motion was carried unanimously.

**II. Recognition**

**A. Introduction of New Hires**

General Manager David King announced the following new hires: Juanza Mackey and Geraldine Snipes, bus operators; Ernest Shannon, dispatcher/supervisor; and Dale Oakley and Sharnee' Pierre, finance interns.

**B. Announcement of Promotions**

King also announced that Dan Roach has been promoted to Maintenance Supervisor.

**III. Public Hearings**

None.

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

Chair Hutchinson recognized Graham T. Olive, Jr. who suggested the implementation of a Statewide transit pass reciprocity system. He also spoke in support of a Triangle region rail system. Olive also asked about use of the KARTS system by Triangle residents. Chair Hutchinson asked that staff contact Mr. Olive to address his comments.

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

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

The following consent agenda item was approved:

- January 23, 2008 – Regular Session Minutes.

#### **VI. Presentations**

None.

#### **VII. General Business Agenda**

##### **A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

None.

##### **B. Personnel Committee Report**

Committee Chair Bill Strom stated that the Personnel Committee met for the purpose conducting the General Counsel's annual performance evaluation. He stated that the board would consider this item in closed session.

##### **C. Planning & Legislative Committee Report**

Committee Chair Ellen Reckhow reported that the Committee received additional information and provided feedback on the Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) and the Special Transit Advisory Commission (STAC). She said the Committee also discussed bus expansion through partnerships and directed staff to draft a resolution incorporating the Committee's input. Reckhow announced that the March 4 Committee meeting has been canceled.

##### **D. Operations & Finance Committee Report**

Committee Chair Jeff Merritt stated that the Committee received a presentation on finances in preparation for the FY09 budget process.

##### **1. Contract for Talking Bus Technology**

Merritt then recognized John Tallmadge, who explained that talking bus technology makes announcements at stops inside and outside the bus. He said the initial intent was to assist the visually impaired with navigating the system; however, it assists anyone using the system. He added that the technology also allows for announcement of safety and promotional information. Tallmadge said the new Gillig buses will include this technology and the hardware for the existing fleet was purchased off State contract. He said this contract is only for the software and installation on the existing fleet that is being retained (25 buses).

Tallmadge also noted that the contract includes 11 DATA buses and 11 and seven C-Tran vehicles; a NCDOT grant will cover 90% of the cost, with the local agencies paying the 10% match for their respective vehicles.

Reckhow asked how long the existing buses will remain in service and if the cost is justified for that period of time. Tallmadge responded that the remaining buses are scheduled for replacement in FY11, but the equipment is transportable at an additional installation cost.

**Action:** On motion by Strom and second by Smith the Board authorized the General Manager to execute a contract with Digital Recorders, Inc. for the procurement of Talking Bus software and installation of required software and hardware. The motion was carried unanimously.

## VIII. Other Business

### A. General Manager's Report

David King highlighted the following items:

- Much staff work continues with the STAC process, which is nearing a recommendation to the MPOs.
- The Raleigh Chamber to Charlotte was very valuable and extremely worthwhile.
- Discussions are being held with municipal and county managers regarding transit oriented development and potential funding from ad valorem based approaches.

### B. General Counsel's Report

The General Counsel noted that the site plan for the bus transfer center has been approved. Final engineering approval and the erosion permit may take an additional four to six weeks. The final agreement for the office lease is expected soon. Gulley explained that due to LC Industries' non-profit status, they can lease only directly to us and now we have learned that they can lease only to a particular type of non-profit or the entire parcel becomes subject to property taxes. He said that this issue is being researched for a solution. Reckhow asked if this property can accommodate any growth should the STAC recommendation require that. Gulley responded there is some room for expansion; however, there is additional space in the building that could be available in the future.

### C. Chair's Report

Chair Sig Hutchinson gave the following updates:

- Highlighted his experience on the Raleigh Chamber's trip to Charlotte. King reiterated that the tie between land use and transit and said that he will have a future presentation to the Board from a Charlotte staffer on this topic. Hutchinson highlighted that Charlotte has \$300 million in development along the rail line occurring now and another \$1.8 billion planned. King added that property values within a quarter mile of station sites have appreciated over the last five years approximately 55-60%, compared to about 30% throughout other areas in Mecklenburg County. Szlosberg stated that one presenter shared the recent

experience of the anti-transit campaign and the effort to repeal the sales tax for transit.

- Board member travel requests for FY 2009 are due March 31.
- A Friends of Transit group is being organized.

#### **D. Board Member Reports**

##### **1. CAMPO TAC Representative**

Jeff Merritt stated that Joe Bryan was re-elected CAMPO TAC chair and Wake Forest Mayor Vivian Jones elected vice-chair. He said he was taken aback by comments from mayors in outlying communities about transit and TTA.

##### **2. DCHC TAC Representative**

Bill Strom stated he had a Town Council conflict with the DCHC TAC meeting; however, there were no items related to TTA on the agenda.

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

Chair Sig Hutchinson reported that at the last meeting at which leadership endorsed its commitment to a regional bus system, the circulator system/connectors and a discussion of the rail corridor.

#### **E. Shuttle Procurement**

General Manager King distributed a purchase order, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes, to National Bus Sales & Leasing, Inc. for the purchase of five 2008 Goshen shuttles in the amount of \$483,005. He stated that this had been discussed with the Operations & Finance Committee and asked that the Board ratify this purchase contract. He said the shuttles should be delivered in 75-90 days.

**Action:** On motion by Bell and second by Merritt the Board ratified the contract with National Bus for the procurement of five shuttles for \$483,005. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **F. New Business**

Chair Hutchinson referenced the revised mission statement as discussed at the work session:

**Triangle Transit improves our region's quality of life by connecting people and places with reliable, safe, and easy-to-use travel choices that reduce congestion and energy use, save money, and promote sustainability, healthier lifestyles, and a more environmentally responsible community.**

**Action:** On motion by Smith and second by Reckhow the Board approved the revised mission statement as printed above. The motion was carried unanimously.

**IX. Closed Session(s)**

**A. General Counsel Performance Evaluation**

Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

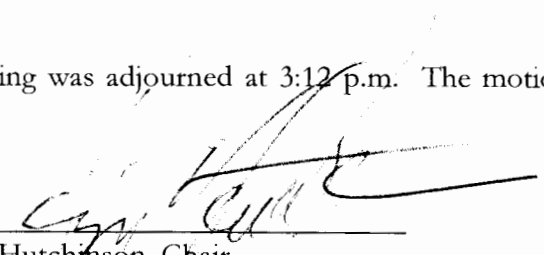
**Action:** On motion by Merritt and second by Hinshaw the Board adjourned into closed session for the purpose of and pursuant to the General Statute listed above at 3:01 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Action:** The Board returned to open session at 3:11 p.m.


Personnel Committee Chair Bill Strom reported that the Board in closed session approved the Personnel Committee's recommendation for a 5% salary increase for the General Counsel and his work plan for the upcoming year.

**X. Adjournment**

**Action:** On motion by Merritt the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

  
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Sig Hutchinson, Chair

Attest:

  
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Michelle C. Dawson, CMC  
Clerk to the TTA Board