

**Triangle Transit Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2008**

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

Board Members Present:

Bill Bell (left 2:52 p.m.)
Jean Davis
Joe Freddoso
Alice Gordon (arr. 2:00 p.m.)
Bob Hinshaw

Sig Hutchinson
Ellen Reckhow
Bill Strom
Nina Szlosberg (arr. 1:15 p.m.)

Board Members Absent:

Jeff Merritt (excused)
William G. Smith (excused)

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 1:07 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

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

II. Recognition

A. Introduction of New Hires

General Manager David King announced the following new hires: bus operators Geraldine Snipes, Ron Morrow and Gloria Lopez and service attendant Lester Green.

B. Announcement of Promotions

None.

King then recognized Michael Rossiter, who recently completed the NC Transit Leadership Development Program. Rossiter thanked the organization for opportunity to attend the course and stated he felt it would be beneficial for all managers to attend.

III. Public Hearings

None.

IV. Public Comment

Chair Hutchinson recognized Johannes Norling who thanked the Board and staff for resuming evening service between the bus transfer center and Chapel Hill. He re-emphasized an earlier request for Chapel Hill buses to continue to pass by the current transfer center once the relocation of the transfer center occurs.

Hutchinson then recognized Graham Olive, Jr. who suggested television commercials featuring typical I-40 rush hour traffic to promote commuter rail. He also asked about a food court at the new transfer center. Reckhow noted that the proposed transfer center is an interim solution and this suggestion might be more feasible for the long term plan.

V. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda item was approved:

- February 27, 2008 – Work Session Minutes;
- February 27, 2008 – Regular Session Minutes (typographical error on page 3 should read \$300 *million* not \$300,000); and
- February 27, 2008 – Closed Session A Minutes.

VI. Presentations

A. Update on Durham Area Transit Authority (DATA) Operations & Issues

Steve Mancuso, Transit Administrator of the Durham Area Transit Authority (DATA), offered a presentation, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Szlosberg arrived.

VII. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Personnel Committee Report

No report.

C. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

No report.

Committee Chair Reckhow noted that the Committee would meet April 1 and discuss the Short-Range Transit Plan priorities. She also stated that staff had requested the Committee to move its May meeting up to the week of April 28. She suggested Tuesday, April 29, at 10:00 a.m. and asked the Clerk to poll committee members for availability.

D. Operations & Finance Committee Report

Bill Strom offered the report on behalf of Committee Chair Jeff Merritt.

1. Wake Forest – Raleigh Express Service

Strom stated that the Committee discussed moving ahead with this route, although outside the normal budget process. He stated the service would be a partnership with the Town of Wake Forest operating a local circulator (anticipating \$100,000 in JARC funds the first year); the City of Raleigh contributing \$100,000; Triangle Transit, \$125,000; and fare box estimated at \$50,000. Strom explained that the service would operate hourly during peaks on weekdays beginning July 1. He said the Board would be discussing other route adjustments and service hours during the budget process.

Action: On motion by Strom and second by Hinshaw the Board approved the commitment \$125,000 towards the Wake Forest – Raleigh Express service beginning July 1. The motion was carried unanimously.

VIII. Other Business

A. General Manager's Report

David King highlighted the following:

- The STAC process has been the dominant portion of his work.
- Met recently with the mayors of Knightdale, Wendell and Zebulon to discuss future service.
- The re-branding went well and review on the logo and buses have been very positive.
- The most recent edition of the *Triangle Business Journal* included an article on Triangle Transit's rental vehicle tax fund, accusing the agency of "hoarding" the money and attributes King as saying, "other uses can be found for (the) revenue" with the regional rail system currently not moving forward. King noted that his comment was we are fortunate to have these funds as the region moves forward with the STAC's work, noting that projects will need to be moved forward and some built up funds and on-going revenue source offers a great advantage. He also pointed out the contingent commitment to NCRR for \$15 million that would be paid from these funds. Strom pointed out that our savings is equivalent to the cost of building one elementary school, pennies compared to the cost of a three-county major infrastructure project. Reckhow noted that our fund balance is less than half of what Mecklenburg County's sales tax raises in one year.

Gordon arrived.

- King then recognized Sylvester Goodwin to report on final DBE participation with the Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility expansion project. Goodwin's presentation is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Gordon stated her astonishment that a request is being made to extend the contract with ITRE for the STAC process until May 31. She stated that at the meeting

February 29 she thought it was merely a matter of writing up the report and then holding a “celebratory” meeting. She emphasized that DCHC needs the report for its long range transportation plan and the public comment process related to that. Reckhow asked the reason for the additional time. Hutchinson then pointed out that it appears the Cary to RTP section has been de-prioritized on the map. King noted that STAC’s final report will defer to the MPOs on priorities. Northcutt stated that the map is being updated and no priorities would be shown on the map; however, the report will indicate assumptions regarding the timing of projects for costing purposes.

King then explained that the STAC’s report is now in draft form and should be approved at a meeting on April 25. He said that Triangle Transit has contracted with ITRE for logistics, report writing, publication and printing and the original 8-10 meetings scheduled actually became 17. Northcutt added that the STAC chairs and co-chairs have lead the scheduling and requests for additional information.

B. General Counsel’s Report

Chair Hutchinson noted that the General Counsel had to leave early. General Manager King pointed out that a lease had been signed with Dilweg for office space at the Imperial Center and staff is working on the interior up fit. He also noted that we are working with LC Industries for a lease for the Regional Transit Center, but issues have arisen with Duke Power and the Imperial Associates. King noted that an agreement is in place with Craig Davis Properties for up to nine months for our transfer center at 6 Park Drive and our current landlord at T.W. Alexander Drive has agreed to an additional one to two months beyond our current lease if needed. Gordon asked for estimated move date from the T.W. Alexander Drive location. King replied optimistically June possibly early to mid July.

C. Chair’s Report

Board Chair Sig Hutchinson noted the following:

- April committee agenda are at each member’s place for next week’s meetings;
- APTA Legislative Conference report also at each member’s place;
- Employee awards banquet;
- Re-branding event;
- Greater Raleigh Chamber of commerce InterCity Visit and Legislation Conference to Nashville will be April 10-13;
- Triangle Transit’s 19th Anniversary celebration will be held April 23 at bus operations. The start of the monthly Board meeting that day will be delayed until 1:30 p.m.
- The budget work session will be April 16 at 12 noon, with lunch at 11:45 a.m.

D. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO TAC Representative

No report.

2. DCHC TAC Representative

Bill Strom noted a letter in the agenda packet from DCHC TAC regarding 5307 funds. He suggested that the Board be advised of CAMPO's allocation to Triangle Transit as well.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

No report.

4. APTA Legislative Conference Report

Nina Szlosberg noted points from her conference attendance:

- Record transit ridership nationwide (up 200 million rides last year).
- People living near transit reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 4,400 miles per year. (VMT is one of the largest culprits of greenhouse gas emissions on the transportation side and transportation contributes approximately 30% of all greenhouse gases.)
- A family can save approximately \$6,500/year by using public transportation.
- Public transportation last year reduced GHG by 37 million metric tons.
- A new bill for a cap-and-trade system has the potential to raise \$4 trillion over its life, with transit receiving 1%. A group is lobbying for a greater share for transit.

Bell left.

E. Schedule for Public Comment on Short-Range Transit Plan Priorities

Emily Yasukochi requested that the Board authorize the Planning & Legislative Committee to release for public comment the Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) priorities in order to meet the tight time schedule for this project.

Action: The Board by consensus authorized the Planning & Legislative Committee to release for public comment the SRTP priorities.

F. New Business

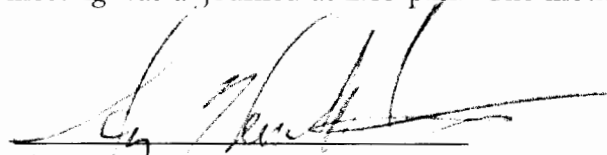
None.

IX. Closed Session(s)

None.


X. Adjournment

Action: On motion by Gordon the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.



Sig Hutchinson, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the TTA Board