

GoTriangle Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2020

Held Remotely via WebEx

Board Members Present Remotely:

Will Allen III

Corey Branch

Michael Fox - ex officio, non-voting

Sig Hutchinson

Vivian Jones

Valerie Jordan - ex officio, non-voting

Mark Marcoplos

Michael Parker, Chair

Ellen Reckhow

Jennifer Robinson

Nina Szlosberg-Landis - ex officio, non-voting

Board Members Absent:

Wendy Jacobs - excused

Steve Schewel - excused

Chair Michael Parker officially called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. once a quorum was received.

I. Suspension of By-laws

Action: On motion by Allen and second by Reckhow the Board suspended those provisions of the By-Laws that would require physical attendance of any Board or committee member at meetings for the transaction of business. This action includes Article II (Section 6, 7, and 9) and Article X and will remain in effect for the duration of the referenced Executive Orders, but will be automatically terminated upon rescission of the Declaration of a State of Emergency related to Coronavirus Disease 2019. The motion was carried unanimously.

II. Adoption of Agenda

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

III. Recognition

Information on new hires and promotions was included in the agenda.

IV. Public Comment

No comments.

V. Consent Agenda

Action: On motion by Branch and second by Allen the consent agenda was approved. The motion was carried unanimously.

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- February 21, 2020 – Closed Session Minutes;
- February 26, 2020 – Regular Session Minutes;
- February 26, 2020 – Closed Session Minutes; and
- March 11, 2020 – Special Session Minutes.

VI. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Commuter Rail Transit MOU

Katharine Eggleston stated that all the other parties to the MOU (Durham County, Wake County, the two MPOs, NCDOT and NCRR) except Johnston County have approved it. Johnston County is scheduled to vote in April. If GoTriangle approves it today, a consultant contract amendment should come to the Board in April.

Parker asked if there would be impacts if Johnston County is delayed in approving. Eggleston responded no on the project side, technical work can move forward with the Durham to Garner piece. Tom Henry stated that the MOU includes an April 15th deadline for Johnston County so that they could join the other parties as quickly as possible. He stated if Johnston is unable to meet that deadline, the other parties would have to come together and decide whether to forgive any missing of the deadline.

Action: On motion by Allen and second by Reckhow the Board adopted Resolution 2020 0001 Resolution of the GoTriangle Board of Trustees Approving a Memorandum of Understanding in Support of Continued Development of the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Project. The motion was carried unanimously. The resolution and MOU are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

C. FY20 Work Plan Amendments

Jay Heikes' presentation is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. He presented five FY20 Q3 work plan amendments, which also require budget ordinance amendments.

- Orange County – purchase of five light duty buses for OPT mobility on demand service, received positive recommendation from Orange staff work group - net impact \$229,500
- Durham County - service changes implemented on January 25, 2020, in accordance with the GoDurham Short Range Service Plan - cost neutral
- Durham County - additional funding to construct the final three bus stops of FY20 GoDurham Better Bus Stops, includes Glenview Station Walmart bus

stop which is the third busiest bus stop with and more substantive improvements – net impact \$250,000

- Durham County – Durham County’s share of additional funding tied to the MOU for commuter rail, total Durham County share \$2.7 million - \$465,000 from remaining FY20 funds – net impact \$2,235,000
- Wake County – Wake County’s share for commuter rail amendment - \$333,000 from carry-over funds and remaining \$5.67 million reallocated from commuter rail reserve - cost neutral

Action: On motion by Reckhow and second by Allen the Board unanimously approved amendments to the FY20 county transit tax work plans for Orange, Durham, and Wake counties and enacted the budget ordinance amendments listed below:

- 2020 0006 GoTriangle FY20 Triangle Tax District - Orange Operating Fund Budget Ordinance Amendment
- 2020 0007 GoTriangle FY20 Triangle Tax District - Orange Capital Fund Budget Ordinance Amendment
- 2020 0008 GoTriangle FY20 Triangle Tax District – Durham Operating Fund Budget Ordinance Amendment
- 2020 0009 GoTriangle FY20 Triangle Tax District – Durham Capital Fund Budget Ordinance Amendment
- 2020 0010 GoTriangle FY20 Triangle Tax District – Wake Capital Fund Budget Ordinance Amendment

These budget ordinance amendments are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

D. Suspension of Fares and Service Change Procedures

Interim President/CEO Curran requested authority to be able to make fare collection and service change decisions as necessary during the period of Emergency Orders related to COVID-19. She asked that the Board suspend GoTriangle by-laws, resolutions, and policies related to the establishment of fares and service changes. Curran added that rear boarding began on Monday and fares were suspended temporarily.

Action: On motion by Branch and second by Reckhow the Board delegated to the President and CEO the authority to make fare-collection and service-change decisions as necessary to respond to the rapidly-unfolding coronavirus emergency in the manner that best serves public health and the health interests of GoTriangle’s customers and employees and suspended existing GoTriangle by-laws, resolutions and policies related to the establishment of fares and service changes to the extent

such provisions might conflict with this delegation of authority. This delegation will automatically terminate upon rescission of the declaration of a state of emergency related to coronavirus disease 2019, unless rescinded earlier by vote of the GoTriangle Board of Trustees. The motion was carried unanimously.

Curran noted that this authority will terminate upon termination of the state of emergency or by action of the Board of Trustees.

VII. Other Business

A. President and CEO's Report

A list of contracts approved by the President and CEO and this month's capital projects status report are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Curran highlighted the following items:

- In addition to the suspension of fares and implementation of rear boarding on Monday, employees at the Plaza Building have been encouraged to work from home. Bus operations are considered an essential service. We are working with Raleigh and Durham about reducing service while continuing to serve the public.
- The buses are receiving extra cleaning with a strong disinfectant. Eric Bergstraesser is participating in a daily call with other regional service providers.

Bergstraesser added that ridership is down 70% this week from last, which was down 65% from the prior year. The regional transit agencies have been holding daily calls for the past week and a half discussing best practices for disinfecting buses and possible service changes. We would like to collaborate for a regional message that makes it easy for our customers.

Rear boarding and fare-free is going well. Today we are starting audio announcements and public service messages about COVID-19 as well as placing placards on the buses. The handicapped seats are raised to increase the distance between the driver and passengers. Cleaning is now being conducted in some cases twice daily and with the procurement of a fogger we can get places that regular cleaning cannot access. Our facilities cleaning also has been stepped up through our third party vendor.

Last week we held a meeting with bus operations to communicate that they are our primary concern and what we are doing to protect them and our customers. We also were able to hear from them about their concerns.

Szlosberg-Landis asked about the stimulus bill. Bergstraesser responded that the CARES Act could pass this afternoon, which should include \$20 billion for transit - \$4 billion for rural and \$16 billion for urbanized areas. Parker stated it has increased to \$25 billion and APTA will be conducting a webinar today at 4 p.m.

Bergstraesser added that FTA has relaxed some of its standards for formula funds on operating. Staff is tracking all expenses related to COVID-19.

Parker thanked everyone for their dedication and hard work during these difficult times. He noted that many are putting themselves at risk to provide essential service.

B. Chair's Report

Chair Parker stated that it is important that messaging be consistent: stay home if possible, use your private vehicle if you must get out and the bus as a last resort.

C. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO Executive Board Representative

Will Allen III reported the following items were approved:

- FY20 Wake Transit Work Plan amendment for commuter rail early project development activities
- MOU in Support of Continued Development of the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Project
- Resolution of Support for the Development of the Rail Corridors Referred to as the S-Line and SA-Line for the Benefits of Improved Passenger Rail, Improved Freight Movement, Improved Commuting Options and Economic Development.

Allen added that the group also received a status report on the Wake Transit Plan Update.

2. DCHC MPO Board Representative

Ellen Reckhow stated that the MPO board also approved the MOU for commuter rail and discussed the SPOT process. She said two items on the list would be beneficial to commuter rail by improving bridges and above-grade crossings to enhance the corridor.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

Will Allen III advised that RTA has implemented an innovation series, with webinars in April on innovative approaches to freeways, intersections and transit and automated mobility and connected transportation.

4. Chatham/Orange Joint Planning Task Force Representative

Mark Marcoplos reported on a 15-501 corridor report by Chatham County, which he will make available.

VIII. Adjournment

Action: On motion by Branch the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Prepared by:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the Board