
Friday, April 28, 2023

12:00 p.m.

GoTriangle Board Room

Board members present | Sig Hutchinson, Vivian Jones, Sally Greene

Board members attending remotely | Mary-Ann Baldwin [arr. 12:03 p.m.], Brenda Howerton, Michael Parker [left 1:02 p.m.], Jennifer Robinson

Board members absent | Corey Branch, Michael Fox, Valerie Jordan, Elaine O'Neal [excused], Stelfanie Williams [excused]

Chair Sig Hutchinson officially called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

I. Adoption of Agenda

Action: On motion by Jones and second by Greene the agenda was adopted. Upon vote by roll call, the motion was carried unanimously.

Baldwin arrived.

II. Recognition

Board chair Sig Hutchinson recognized president and CEO Chuck Lattuca for three years' service.

III. Public Comment

No comments.

IV. Consent Agenda

Action: A motion was made by Greene and seconded by Jones to approve the consent agenda. Upon vote by roll call, the motion was carried unanimously.

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- March 22, 2023 | Regular Session Minutes.
- March 22, 2023 | Closed Session Minutes.
- March 29, 2023 | Special Session Minutes.
- Approved Policy HRB-207 Employee Paid Holidays, adding Juneteenth as a paid GoTriangle holiday beginning June 19, 2023.

The policy is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

V. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Operations & Finance Committee Report

Michael Parker reported the committee made a recommendation on designating Juneteenth a holiday, which was approved on the consent agenda. The committee also endorsed the framework for reinstatement of fares and received a report on the zero emission transition plan.

C. New Business

None.

VI. Other Business**A. Fares Update**

Katharine Eggleston's presentation is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. She offered two options for next steps:

- Include fares in the FY2024 budget and follow the framework endorsed by Operations & Finance Committee, with a January 2024 implementation, update of the GoPass program and creation and funding of a low-income pilot program.
- Defer inclusion of fares in the FY2024 budget and include in the draft FY2025 budget for consideration. Staff would begin work on updating the GoPass program and creation and funding of a low-income pilot program.

The Fare Equity Analysis found that there are differences in usage rates of discount programs by minority and low-income customers compared to non-minority and non-low-income customers; however, there is no disparate impact and no disproportionate burden identified based on GoTriangle's policy. Staff proposes mitigation strategies to maximize access for minority and low-income customers.

During the outreach period, over 1,100 people participated in the survey, with 66% of the respondents reporting they ride a minimum of a few times a week. Over 50% supported a return to fares with a reduced fare option for low-income riders.

Eggleston stated that studies have shown that service improvements are likely to be more impactful than fare reductions, even for low income riders. Reduced fare programs can reduce the burden of fares for riders with limited abilities to pay and increase ridership. She also said that GoTriangle could generate revenue of \$10 million or more in fares over a five year period.

Recommended Framework

- Implement the 2019 adopted fare structure with mobile ticketing and fare capping on fares paid by each rider.
- Update the GoPass program to include reducing barriers to access; responding to all-day travel demand, hybrid work and varied commute patterns; and provide a stable revenue for long-term GoTriangle bus service reliability, restoration and expansion.
- Seek funding from the county transit plans to implement a multi-year GoPass pilot program for low-income riders.

- Defer implementation of fare restoration to January 1, 2024, in order to secure funding and implement the GoPass low-income pilot, ensure seamless restoration of the GoPass for pre-pandemic partners and communicate with riders.

Greene asked the status of returning to fares across the region. Eggleston responded that GoDurham plans to remain fare free for FY2024. The conversation for GoRaleigh is ongoing, but we have been told Raleigh has the financial ability to maintain fare free operations for an additional year. Baldwin added that a number of councilors in Raleigh are very committed to fare free, but the final decision for Raleigh will be made when the budget is approved. She said these discussions need to be coordinated because it could get complicated with different systems doing different things.

Parker agreed that this should be a regional conversation and GoTriangle's decision should align with GoRaleigh and GoDurham and not just in the short term.

Jones and Hutchinson stated their opinions that GoTriangle should return to fares.

B. Q1 EEO Workforce Analysis

Sylvester Goodwin's report is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

C. President and CEO's Report

A list of contracts approved by the president and CEO is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Lattuca reported on the following items:

- A letter was received from FTA asking for a plan for reimbursement of its share in the CSX corridor purchased in 2004. NCDOT is interested in the property for the S-line project. GoTriangle's response is due by May 20.
- Staff is planning a DBE conference in June to promote DBE opportunities with GoTriangle.

1. Operations Update

The monthly report is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Vinson Hines stated that the ridership issue with the new CAD/AVL system has been resolved.

- Average weekday boardings for March were 4,923, a 3.2% decrease from 2022 and 22.1% below March 2019. The CRX and DRX did not operate for most of March.
- Average Saturday ridership was 2,554, 13.7% higher than March 2022 and 43.4% higher than March 2019. This increase is despite operating less service. The previous Saturday level service should be restored by August.
- Average Sunday ridership was 1,710, 3.7% above March 2022 and 81.1% higher than March 2019.

- Police were called for three incidents in April, compared on only one time in 2022.
- Service on routes CRX and DRX was restored on March 27 along with other service changes designed to address reliability and safety.
- Seventy-four applications for bus operator were received in April, bringing the total to 652 since the new salary structure was announced in September. Since September, 34 operators have been hired.

Katharine Eggleston noted that GoTriangle is operating only about 70% of the pre-pandemic service, yet has recovered almost 80% of the ridership.

2. Capital Projects Status Report

The capital projects status report is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Gary Tober provided additional information regarding the property for which FTA has requested reimbursement of its share. He explained that the property was acquired as part of the regional rail project that didn't advance to FFGA. It is 6.89 miles in Wake County, purchased in 2004 and held on to because of NCDOT's S-line and other road projects. FTA has directed us to return the 55.7% federal interest. GoTriangle is in conversation with NCDOT rail division regarding reimbursement of the federal interest.

Katharine Eggleston stated that GoTriangle has a quarterly meeting on the RUS bus facility project scheduled with FTA in Atlanta. Staff continues to work productively with our development partner to identify a path forward for the transit component of the project to be completed as required by the BUILD grant by 2025.

Staff continues to work with the MPOs and their subcommittees on commuter rail to support their decision making on whether and how to move forward on the project and the cost share arrangement for the project if the decision is to move forward. She said staff also is working to provide more information about the overall program including other projects in the corridor that can be developed in parallel.

D. General Counsel's Report

General Counsel Byron Smith reported that the legal department is actively engaged regarding the RUS Bus issues and property issues related to the S-line. The staff issued various advisory opinions to different departments and continues to be engaged in contract reviews and procurement issue reviews. We also continue legislative outreach with GoTriangle's lobbyist regarding the initiatives before the General Assembly. One bill has been introduced by Chatham County Representative Reives that would allow buspool service beyond the current 10 miles limited into a county outside our region. The other is a bill to increase the vehicle registration fee.

E. Chair's Report

Chair Hutchinson reported that the work session scheduled for May 31 will be a small group format meetings.

F. Board Member Reports**1. CAMPO Executive Board Representative**

Sig Hutchinson said several reports and updates were received.

2. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

No report.

3. DCHC MPO Board Representative

Michael Parker reported that the MPO approved the Durham ILA and discussed carryover projects and the SPOT 7 process.

Parker left.

Jones asked the status of remote meetings for GoTriangle. General Counsel Smith responded that because GoTriangle is an appointed board, and not elected, there is a different standard that municipal and county boards. When the Governor's executive order was rescinded, the authority for elected boards to hold remote meetings was lost and they had to return to in-person meetings. Appointed boards are not covered by the same statute and are allowed to meet remotely.

Jones stated that she would like the Operations & Finance Committee to have a discussion about returning to in-person meetings.

VII. Adjournment

Action: Chair Hutchinson adjourned the meeting at 1:09 p.m.



Sig Hutchinson, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the Board