
Wednesday, September 27, 2023

12:00 p.m.

GoTriangle Board Room

Board members present | Corey Branch, Patrick Hannah, Brenda Howerton [arr. 12:06 p.m.], Sig Hutchinson, Vivian Jones, Elaine O'Neal, Michael Parker, Sally Greene

Board members attending remotely | Mary-Ann Baldwin [arr. 12:03 p.m.], Jennifer Robinson [arr. 12:02 p.m.]

Board members absent | Michael Fox, Valerie Jordan

Durham Mayor and board member Elaine O'Neal administered the oath of office prior to the start of the meeting to Patrick Hannah, representative for the City of Durham and Durham County.

Chair Sig Hutchinson officially called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. A quorum was present. He welcomed Hannah to the board.

Robinson arrived.

I. Adoption of Agenda

Chair Hutchinson noted that the Interlocal Agreement between CAMPO and GoTriangle had been removed from the agenda.

Action: A motion was made by Jones and seconded by O'Neal to adopt the agenda as amended. Upon vote the motion was carried unanimously.

Baldwin arrived.

II. Public Comment

No comments.

III. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- August 23, 2023 | Regular Session Minutes.
- August 23, 2023 | Closed Session Minutes.
- Approved the unsealing of the following closed session minutes:
 - November 28, 2018 | Board of Trustees
 - February 27, 2019 | Board of Trustees
 - June 15, 2022 | Board of Trustees Closed Session A
 - August 24, 2022 | Board of Trustees
 - February 22, 2023 | Board of Trustees Closed Session B

- Approved FY2023 Q4 Triangle Tax District Durham and Orange operating fund budget ordinance amendments 0023 and 0024, respectively*.

*The budget ordinances are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

IV. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Nominating Committee Report

Michael Parker reported that the Nominating Committee, comprised of Sig Hutchinson, Elaine O'Neal and himself, met as required by the bylaws. He presented their recommendation for officers 2023-2024:

Chair	Brenda Howerton Durham County
Vice Chair	Mary-Ann Baldwin Raleigh
Secretary	Sally Greene Orange County
Treasurer	Vivian Jones Wake County

Action: A motion was made by Parker and seconded by Branch to approve the slate of officers as recommended by the Nominating Committee, terms effective October 1. Upon vote the motion was carried unanimously.

Howerton arrived.

C. Operations & Finance Committee Report

Michael Parker reported that the committee received updates on the Short Range Transit Plan and the low income fare program. He noted that GoTriangle has again received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financing Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. The committee also discussed the RFP for Financial Process Analysis and Enhancement Services.

D. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

Vivian Jones said the committee received a presentation on the rapid bus study. The committee recommended it be given to the full board next month.

E. New Business

None.

V. Other Business

A. 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:

- GoTriangle has purchased a table for the NC Go! annual dinner on October 11. The mission is to support efforts to improve transportation funding and the state's transportation infrastructure.
- The RUS Bus groundbreaking ceremony is October 24.
- GoTriangle is working with NCDOT on a grant application to develop a train station at RTP. The \$3 million match will be shared by the RTP transportation levy and the Wake and Durham transit plans. GoTriangle also is submitting a grant for relocation of the Regional Transit Center to this same site along with eleven electric buses.
- Lattuca recognized Sharon Chavis to introduce Jamila Ormond, the new Director of Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Several board members will be meeting with a group of RDUAA board members to discuss service to the airport.
- Sandra Freeman reviewed President/CEO approved contracts for August.

Parker asked about GoTriangle's goal for minority participation. Freeman responded that GoTriangle has a goal that is required by FTA and for DBE and another goal that also includes MWBEs and HUBs. She said she would bring back those numbers. Parker also asked about benchmarking to comparable organizations.

1. Communications Update

Eric Curry reminded the board of the groundbreaking ceremony on October 24 for RUS Bus. He also reported on the recent press event for the presentation of a \$900,000 check by Representative Deborah Ross to improve bus stop safety and accessibility in Wake County. The funding was part of the omnibus spending bill for fiscal year 2023. Curry also highlighted a new series on Instagram, YouTube, Twitter and Facebook, "The Ride," which provides updates about GoTriangle.

2. Operations Update

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

Vinson Hines shared the following statistics:

- August average weekday ridership: 5,777, down 2.1% from 2022 and down 6.8% from 2019.
- August average Saturday ridership: 3,673, up 131% from 2019 and up 39.7% from 2022.
- August average Sunday ridership: 2,235, up 129% from 2019 and up over 3% from 2022.
- Applications: 24 for bus operator received month-to-date.
- Operators: 65, including 8 trainees.
- The next training class is scheduled for October 9th. With interviews ongoing for the November class.
- Police responded to 2 incidents in August and EMS, 2.

Hannah asked if there has been a decrease in paratransit ridership. Hines responded that paratransit is seeing similar trends, with ridership remaining flat on weekdays and increasing on the weekend.

3. Capital Projects Status Report

Katharine Eggleston reported that GoTriangle is submitting a grant application for the Triangle Mobility Hub, to relocate the Regional Transit Center to RTP. Staff also is preparing for the groundbreaking for Raleigh Union Station bus facility. Staff is working to amend the development agreements for the RUS Bus project and a request has been submitted to Wake Transit for the additional funding.

Eggleston then informed the board that after conversations with partners about a potential grant application for regional passenger rail, it has been determined that a submission would not be made at this time. GoTriangle will participate in further conversation with partners about next steps for developing the framework for how an incremental, longer term vision would move forward.

Branch asked about preparations for a return to fares and if technology would allow for electronic payment. Eggleston responded that GoTriangle procured the technology for mobile ticketing – paying by phone or card - prior to the pandemic. She said the team is working to have that ready for expected reinstatement of fares on July 1, 2024. She added that GoTriangle is coordinating with other partners who may be considering returning to fares in order to coordinate the approach on technology and communications. The Operations & Finance Committee received a presentation this month on the work to develop a low income fare program. More information will be brought back in the next few months on a recommended framework for this program.

Vinson Hines responded that GoTriangle's current fareboxes are outdated and will need to be replaced. He said over half of the agency's operators have never used a farebox and will need to be trained. A new CAD/AVL system currently is being implemented as well. Parker asked the cost of updating the fareboxes. Vinson responded that is unknown at this time.

Lattuca noted that at this point, only Raleigh is considering returning to fares. Parker suggested a presentation to the board about the fare structure and technologies being considered.

B. General Counsel's Report

Byron Smith reported that GoTriangle was not successful in getting an increase to its vehicle rental tax in the legislative session. The roadblock is being fare free. Parker asked the revenue impact of a \$2 increase. Freeman responded just over \$2 million annually, but noted the possibly for an automatic adjustment for inflation every four years. Smith said he continues to meet with GoTriangle's lobbyist and members of the General Assembly.

C. Chair's Report

Chair Hutchinson said it has been an honor and pleasure to chair the organization. He recognized the staff and the work they do.

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

Sig Hutchinson reported that CAMPO voted to expand its boundaries into portions of Chatham, Harnett and Johnston counties. The group also received a report from the passenger rail subcommittee and voted to endorse the work of the subcommittee.

2. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

Sig Hutchinson no report.

3. DCHC MPO Board Representative

Michael Parker reported the DCHC MPO board voted unanimously to support grant applications by GoTriangle and NCDOT.

VI. Closed Sessions

Action: A motion was made by Jones and seconded by Howerton to enter into closed session at 12:53 p.m. pursuant to the General Statutes and purposes listed below. Upon vote the motion was carried unanimously.

A. Advice of Counsel

NCGS §143-318.11.(a) (3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

B. Employee Performance

NCGS §143-318.11.(a) (6) consider the performance of an employee.

Action: The board returned to open session at 1:27 p.m.

Chair Hutchinson reported that the board voted to release a letter from Parker Poe.

Action: On motion by Parker and second by O'Neal the board approved the FY2024 work plans and goals for the President/CEO, General Counsel and Clerk to the Board. Upon vote the motion was carried unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

Action: Chair Hutchinson adjourned the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

Prepared by:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the Board