

GoTriangle Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2019

Board Room, The Plaza, 4600 Emperor Blvd., Suite 100
Durham, NC

Board Members Present:

Will Allen III	Michael Parker
Sig Hutchinson	Ellen Reckhow, Chair
Wendy Jacobs	Jennifer Robinson
Vivian Jones	Steve Schewel
Valerie Jordan (arr. 12:10 p.m.)	Russ Stephenson (arr. 12:25 p.m., left 1:22 p.m.)
Mark Marcoplos	Nina Szlosberg-Landis

Board Members Absent:

Andy Perkins

Chair Ellen Reckhow officially called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

Action: On motion by Parker and second by Hutchinson the agenda was adopted, adding a budget overview after the fare change recommendation. The motion was carried unanimously.

II. Recognition

A. Introduction of New Hires

President and CEO Mann announced the hiring of Rodney Perry and Jacorya Suggs, Service Attendants; Samuel Tatum, Tomira Brandon, Benita Griffin and Michael Best Jr, Bus Operators and Purshotam Khemraj, Facilities Technician.

B. Announcement of Promotions

Mann announced the promotion of Willie Noble from Project Engineer to Manager of Construction.

C. Presentation of Service Awards

None.

D. Recognition of Roadeo Awards

Mann announced that GoTriangle's paratransit team placed third in the light transit vehicle (LTV) competition at the statewide Roadeo. He recognized team members Sherry Moore, Felicia Martin and Laverne Taylor. He also congratulated Terrence

Miller, Miguel Benitez, and Ronald Bejarano for participating in the 35-foot bus category.

Jordan arrived.

E. NCDOT Recognition of Hurricane Florence Relief Efforts

Mann expressed appreciation and presented emergency response recovery pins on behalf of Transportation Secretary Jim Trogdon to Martin Bess, Charisse Corpening, Brett Hawkins and Keith Clark for operating the storm relief buses following Hurricane Florence.

Mann then announced the resignation of John Tallmadge, interim project director for the D-O LRT project and Director of Regional Services. Board members offered personal comments and thanks to Tallmadge.

III. Public Hearing - Proposed FY20 Budget

Action: Chair Reckhow opened the public hearing on the proposed FY20 budget at 12:16 p.m. There being no speakers, the hearing was closed at 12:16 p.m.

IV. Public Comment

Chair Reckhow recognized Kevin Primus who commented about the discontinuance of the D-O LRT project.

V. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- April 24, 2019 – Budget Work Session Minutes;
- April 24, 2019 – Regular Session Minutes (with the addition on page five of this statement by Jacobs after the 9 to 1 vote on the commuter rail pre-planning study: *Jacobs stated she could not support using Durham County funds for a purpose outside the adopted Durham County Transit Plan.*);
- April 24, 2019 – Closed Session A Minutes; and
- April 24, 2019 – Closed Session B Minutes.

VI. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Fare Change Recommendation

Mary Kate Morookian’s presentation is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Russ Stephenson arrived.

Morookian reviewed the goals and process for the fare study, which was conducted as a task of the Wake Bus Plan, with participation by GoTriangle, GoRaleigh, GoCary, and GoDurham. The recommendations are based on the evaluation of ridership and revenue impacts as result of the changes.

Morookian then presented the revised proposed fare changes, based on Board feedback regarding the significant increase in the 7-day regional pass price. She noted that the biggest change is the elimination of an express fare distinction.

Current Fare Structure			Proposed Fare Structure	
Fares	Regional	Express	Fares	Regional
Single Ride	\$2.25	\$3.00	Single Ride	\$2.50
Day Pass	\$4.50	\$6.00	Day Pass	\$5.00
7-Day	\$16.50	\$22.00	*7-Day	\$20.00
31-Day	\$76.50	\$102.00	31-Day	\$80.00
Discount Single Ride	\$1.00	\$1.25	Discount Single Ride	\$1.25
Discount Day Pass	\$2.00	\$2.50	Discount Day Pass	\$2.50
Discount 7-Day	\$7.50	\$9.25	**Discount 7-Day	\$10.00
Discount 31-Day	\$34.00	\$42.50	Discount 31-Day	\$40.00

*reduced from previously proposed \$24.00

**reduced from previously proposed \$12.00

Morookian added that staff is recommending to revisit the potential of increasing the 7-day pass to \$24.00 in FY21 based on an analysis of pass usage and benefits realized after the implementation of fare capping.

Reckhow suggested that this first increase should be in place longer than just a few months before consideration of a second increase. Robinson suggested staggering the increase over several years to the target price and getting the message of incremental increases out to the public early.

Morookian added that the stored value card will continue to be an option for customers to receive a discount without being locked into a set pass period. She said additional benefits will include fare capping, free boardings for seniors, mobile ticketing and making the passes available at retail locations.

Parker challenged the Board to consider how to raise the revenues, working with regional employers and universities, to get to a fare free system. He said this is the way to address issues of economic equity, access to jobs climate change and maximizing ridership. He noted there would be savings realized from not collecting fares. Robinson suggested that staff provide an assessment of the cost savings associated with not collecting fares and potential alternative funding sources.

Reckhow suggested a monthly fare free Friday to encourage people to try the bus.

Morookian pointed out that staff is recommending the implementation of the new fare structure, if approved, in early 2020, commensurate with the implementation of mobile ticketing and fare capping as a mitigation for the fare increases. Implementation of fare free boardings for seniors is recommended at the time of fall service changes on August 4th to be consistent with GoCary and GoRaleigh.

Action: On motion by Schewel and second by Parker the Board approved the fare change proposal to be implemented early 2020 commensurate with the implementation of mobile ticketing and free boardings for seniors effective August 4 with approved service changes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Action: It was the consensus of the Board to direct staff to research the potential for a fare free system and report back to the Operations & Finance Committee.

C. FY20 Proposed Budget Presentation

Saundra Freeman reviewed recent changes to the proposed FY20 budget. This information is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Reckhow suggested reaching out to the Research Triangle Foundation about partnering with us to fund the signs for the Transit Connect program. Morookian stated that the Foundation has been involved in the development of the Transit Connect program and they have been identified as a community funding area and plans to apply for funding for a portion of the Transit Connect program.

Jacobs asked for a list of the positions that remain in the Durham-Orange Transit Plan. Parker asked for the split between Durham and Orange counties in the proposed budget. Reckhow requested information on the new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. Parker asked that the presentation include information about GoTriangle's technology infrastructure and cyber security.

Action: On motion by Parker and second by Schewel the Board voted to excuse Stephenson. The motion was carried unanimously.

Stephenson left.

VII. 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.

Mann highlighted the following items:

- A meeting is planned with Jim Trogdon and the Turnpike Authority to discuss transit on I-540.
- Following the Board's request to seek contributions from other partners for the commuter rail study, NCCR has committed \$50,000, Johnston County will consider a request for \$75,000 on June 3rd, Orange County has approved a \$75,000 contribution and a meeting is scheduled with Alamance County.

Reckhow asked how to handle the Board's direction to form a joint committee with the NCCR Board. Mann stated that Scott Saylor is in favor of it. Reckhow suggested one GoTriangle representative from Wake County and one from Durham County. Allen and Jacobs volunteered.

Jacobs asked for the strategy around the decision points needed for commuter rail. Parker reiterated his previous request for the management structure. He requested a formal presentation at the next meeting.

1. Wake Transit Update

Patrick McDonough stated the Major Investment Study (MIS) of Commuter Rail Transit Evaluation Results would be distributed within the week and would come to the Board next month.

2. Transit Operations Report

Patrick Stephens reported that the new Proterra buses are on schedule to be in service in December and the Gilligs sometime in September.

3. Communications Update

Mike Charbonneau's presentation is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. He also shared videos about the Carolina Hurricanes mural wall on a GoTriangle-owned building in Raleigh and a video comparing commuting by car and the Piedmont train.

B. General Counsel's Report

General Counsel Shelley Blake reported that the rezoning application for RUS Bus has been filed and the RFP for the developer will be issued soon. A contract amendment with HR&A will be coming next month.

C. Chair's Report

Chair Reckhow noted the special meeting of the Board on Tuesday, June 4. She also stated that five Board members will be participating in the RTA Leadership Briefing and Tour to Richmond, Alexandria and Arlington, Virginia next month. Finally she stated that the officers had selected to work with APTA on the D-O LRT project review. She said the assessment is performed by volunteers from the industry and one APTA staff member. The cost is based on expenses for the on-site visit, estimated at \$15,000-25,000. The visit is anticipated in July.

Jacobs recommend that the Board consider exit interviews for employees leaving GoTriangle. Robinson suggested evaluating that in the coming year. Jacobs requested a copy of the scope of work.

D. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO Executive Board Representative

Will Allen III reported that several updates and reports were received, including the Southwest Area Study, SPOT 6.0 and Federal rescission. He added that seven of the eight project applications received for the Section 5310 Program of Projects (enhanced mobility for seniors program) were funded, three at reduced levels. GoTriangle's request for four replacement vehicles for ADA paratransit service was reduced to three vehicles.

2. DCHC MPO Board Representative

Ellen Reckhow stated an update on the 15/501 corridor study was received and the potential for BRT has been added to the study. The group also received an update on an East Durham railroad safety project and money previously programmed for the D-O LRT project in the FY20-29 STIP was reprogrammed to support Morrisville to Clayton BRT.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

Will Allen III reported on the TriMAP meeting, with the keynote by Bobby Lewis, NCDOT COO.

4. Chatham/Orange Joint Planning Task Force Representative

Mark Marcoplos reported on the meeting and stated that he would share a presentation on Orange County's 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Jacobs requested that a regular update be added to the agenda beginning next month on the status of Durham bus stops.

VIII. Closed Session - D-O LRT Project Office

Action: On motion by Parker and second by Allen the Board entered into Closed Session at 2:26 p.m. pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11.(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. The motion was carried unanimously.

Action: The Board returned to regular session at 2:41 p.m.

Action: On motion by Parker and second by Schewel the Board voted to terminate the lease on the D-O LRT project office and authorized the payment of the unamortized improvements of \$160,000. The motion was carried unanimously.

IX. Adjournment

Action: Chair Reckhow adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.



Ellen Reckhow, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the Board