

GoTriangle Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2020
Held Remotely via Webex

Board Members Present Remotely:

Will Allen III	Mark Marcoplos
Corey Branch	Michael Parker, Chair
Michael Fox	Jennifer Robinson
Sig Hutchinson	Steve Schewel (arr. 12:05 pm)
Wendy Jacobs	Stelfanie Williams (arr. 12:05 pm)
Vivian Jones	

Board Members Absent:

Valerie Jordan (excused)

Chair Michael Parker officially called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

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

II. Recognition

A. Employee Service Awards

President/CEO Lattuca recognized Gerard Cuthbert for 10 years' service and Randy Johnson for 15 years' service.

B. Recognition of Nina Szlosberg-Landis

Chair Parker recognized Nina Szlosberg-Landis, former NCBOT representative. To commemorate her service, she will receive a crystal bowl engraved with the current and past logos of GoTriangle. Board members offered words of appreciation.

III. Public Comment

No comments.

Jacobs noted an email she had received from a Durham resident noting concerns about COVID-19 policies and procedures on GoTriangle buses. She stated that she would share the comments during the COVID-19 report.

IV. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- August 26, 2020 – Regular Session Minutes and
- Approved the unsealing of closed session minutes: January 24, 2018; February 28, 2018; and October 30, 2019.

V. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Election of Board Officers 2020-21

Chair Parker reminded board members of the Nominating Committee's recommendation for current officers to serve a second, one-year term:

Chair	Michael Parker (Chapel Hill)
Vice Chair	Sig Hutchinson (Wake County)
Secretary	Steve Schewel (Durham)
Treasurer	Vivian Jones (Wake County)

Action: On motion by Allen and second by Marcoplos the Board approved the Nominating Committee's recommendation for current officers to serve a second, one-year term. The motion was carried unanimously.

Parker thanked the members of the Nominating Committee - Jennifer Robinson, Wendy Jacobs and Mark Marcoplos.

VI. 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. He recognized Jennifer Green to provide information about temporary service adjustments.

Green stated that the service changes are in response to ridership changes related to COVID-19. She said beginning October 11th, in conjunction with other scheduled service changes, Route 100 will serve the airport only after 6:30pm and all day Sunday. An RDU shuttle will provide service between the RTC and the airport every 30 minutes Monday through Saturday. This changes is intended to improve travel times between Raleigh and the RTC to better serve our ridership. Staff estimates of the 650 daily trips between Raleigh and the RTC, only 22 of them are to the airport directly. The Research Triangle Foundation has informed us that many of its employers will not be bringing employees back to the Park until spring or sometime in 2021; therefore, the NRX and Route 311 will remain suspended along with a temporary suspension of Route 105.

Lattuca stated that airport traffic is about 24% of its pre-COVID level and it could take as long as four years to return to the former level. He said all these changes would be revisited in 90 days. Lattuca added that staff is trying to respond appropriately to ridership and GoTriangle's resources.

Lattuca then highlighted the following items:

- A GoTriangle bus was in a fatal accident on Sunday, colliding with a truck near the Streets at Southpoint. The truck driver was killed in the accident and it is under investigation by Durham police. Our driver and the three passengers were transported to the hospital and evaluated with no severe injuries. The driver is resting at home. Hutchinson asked about resources for the driver's psychological health. Lattuca responded that services are offered through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and all employees have been reminded of and encouraged to use this service if needed.
- Have spoken with several firms about doing the governance review as requested by the Board. He stated that it may require a Request for Proposals (RFP). He asked board members to share any comments about the scope of work.

1. COVID-19 Update

Eric Bergstraesser reported that ridership is still around 50% of pre-COVID ridership on weekdays and 75-80% on weekends. GoTriangle will be participating in APTA's Health and Safety Commitments Program.

Jacobs shared the concerns she received by email from a GoTriangle rider:

- signs requiring masks are not very visible due to window tinting
- face coverings being offered are of poor quality
- operators are not consistently wearing face coverings
- location of the mask dispenser on buses is not convenient
- audio announcements requiring masks are difficult to hear

Bergstraesser replied that he would look into these concerns and see if any changes could be made.

Schewel asked what staff feels is the rate of compliance with mask wearing by riders is. Bergstraesser said it is very high, 90% or above.

2. Capital Projects Status Report

Katharine Eggleston's update on the commuter rail project is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. She stated that technical work continues and discussions are underway with NCR and NS about the network modeling. Staff also is starting public engagement.

Lattuca noted that NCRR's new president Carl Warren is a good partner in this project and that small group meetings of NCRR and GoTriangle technical staff are occurring.

Jacobs suggested an opportunity in Durham for community engagement at the Streeter on Friday and Saturday nights.

B. Chair's Report

Chair Parker reported that the O&F Committee will begin meeting regularly starting in October. The committee will meet on the first Thursday of each month, virtually for now, in order to have any questions addressed before a Board vote.

C. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO Executive Board Representative

Will Allen III stated that VMT is reported to be down 25%, with a commensurate reduction in gas tax revenue. The group also received a presentation of the Freeway and Street-based Transit (FAST) report. The locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the Wake Transit BRT western corridor was announced as Western Boulevard in Raleigh to Cary Town Boulevard and Maynard Road. Allen also explained that the Triangle East portion of I-540 is being accelerated due to federal financial advantages of an approximate 3% lower interest rate.

2. DCHC MPO Board Representative

Michael Parker reported that DCHC is planning a governance study and work has begun on the 2050 MTP with a considerable update to the goals and objectives to address climate change and social and racial equity and approval of the public engagement plan. The MPO also received a report on the 15-501 corridor study, which is being released for public comment. He said the board expressed concern that the study is too car-centric and not focused enough on alternative means of transit to move people faster and better.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

No report.

VII. Adjournment

Action: Chair Parker adjourned the meeting at 1:22 p.m.

Prepared by:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the Board