

GoTriangle Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2021
Held Remotely via WebEx

Board Members Present Remotely:

Will Allen III	Michael Parker, Chair
Corey Branch	Renée Price (arr. 1:11 p.m.)
Michael Fox (arr. 12:05 p.m., left 1:30 p.m.)	Jennifer Robinson (left 1:30 p.m.)
Brenda Howerton	Steve Schewel (arr. 12:03 p.m.)
Sig Hutchinson	Stelfanie Williams
Vivian Jones	

Board Members Absent:

Valerie Jordan

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

I. Adoption of Agenda

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

II. Recognition

A. Employee Service Awards

President/CEO Lattuca recognized the following employees for their service to GoTriangle:

10 years - Isaiah Ewing, Dawit Noza, Frank Doria and Nathaniel Williams

20 years - Abraham Gebremariam

III. Public Comment

No comments.

IV. Consent Agenda

Action: On motion by Allen and second by Williams the consent agenda was approved. Upon vote by roll call, the motion was carried unanimously.

The following consent agenda item was approved:

- February 24, 2021 – Regular Session Minutes.

V. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Operations & Finance Committee Report

Vivian Jones reported that the Committee received a presentation from our consultants on financing options. She stated that additional information would be shared in the coming months, including the challenges GoTriangle faces. Sandra Freeman also shared information about the upcoming FY22 budget.

Price arrived.

C. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

Will Allen III reported that the Committee received several presentations:

- Wake BRT program by City of Raleigh staff
- Equitable Development around Transit by City of Raleigh staff
- 15-501 corridor transit enhancement by Jay Heikes
- 2027 World University Games application to host by the Triangle region

D. Contract Amendment with Ward and Smith Business Consulting

General Counsel Shelley Curran stated that Jeff Bandini with Ward and Smith has been assisting with the RUS Bus project. She requested that the Board authorize a contract amendment to increase the contract amount up to an additional \$200,000 and extend the contract through March 30, 2022.

Action: On motion by Allen and second by Howerton the Board authorized an amendment to the contract with Ward and Smith Business Consulting, LLC to increase the budget up to an additional \$200,000 and extend the term to March 30, 2022. The motion was carried unanimously.

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.

Lattuca highlighted the following items:

- The World University Games is the second largest multi-sport event outside the Olympics. He said the bid committee would be looking for a letter of support from GoTriangle.
- National Transit Workers Appreciation Day was celebrated on March 18 at the Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility. Special guests included

NCDOT Secretary of Transportation Eric Boyette and Wool E. Bull. Several Board members were in attendance as well.

1. Operations Update

Patrick Stephens' report is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. He thanked those who organized the operations event and stated his pride of the operators and transit workforce. GoTriangle has provided only 31 trips for vaccinations, but is prepared for those requests to increase as the vaccine becomes available to more people. Between 30-50% of the transit workforce has received at least the first dose of the vaccine, with additional folks scheduled this week. He added that the majority of the paratransit operators have been vaccinated.

He noted that in March ridership has begun to trend upwards, with the first 4,000+ ridership day since the pandemic began. Ridership is averaging approximately 55-66% of pre-Covid levels.

Hutchinson encouraged all employees to get vaccinated for their safety.

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 said the only concern currently is when rail network modeling will begin and whether it can be completed by the target date of year end. Other technical work is being advanced including an economic development study by TJCOG. Work also is being done on engineering studies in downtown Cary and downtown Durham. The new project website is being prepared as well as planning for the second round of public engagement. Staff is having good engagement with NCCR on the technical side.

Lattuca reported that Norfolk Southern is seeking protection for Amtrak regarding indemnification and liability. He said a letter will be sent today regarding coverage for Amtrak. He added that the Board will receive a walk-through of the new website next month.

B. Chair's Report

Chair Parker again thanked those who organized the event for operations. He also stated that Representative Vernetta Alston introduced a bill to create a joint legislative study committee on commuter rail.

Lattuca commented that this is helpful legislation for the State to look at all projects and help prioritize and facilitate State involvement and make sure projects are complementary.

Curran said she appreciated Representative Alston introducing the bill and thinks it can be beneficial.

C. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO Executive Board Representative

Will Allen III stated that in addition to the joint public hearing with the GoTriangle Board of Trustees on the Wake Transit Plan update, the CAMPO Executive Board approved a resolution endorsing a Statewide CMAQ program application which would provide funds for RUS Bus parking. A Bus Rapid Transit Extensions Major Investment Study from Cary to Research Triangle Park and from Garner to Clayton also was approved. An update was received on the draft FY22 Wake Transit Work Plan highlighting concerns about costs which are higher than originally assumed.

2. DCHC MPO Board Representative

Michael Parker reported a Staff Working Group recommendation to allocate \$400,000 of CMAQ money to GoTriangle for a bus facility and enhanced bus stop and transfer facility near the Wegman's in Chapel Hill was approved although Durham did not support the recommendation.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

No report.

VII. Closed Session – RUS Bus Negotiations

Action: On motion by Jones and second by Robinson the Board entered into Closed Session at 12:47 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; and NCGS §143-318.11.(5) to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease. Upon vote by roll call, the motion was carried unanimously.

Action: On motion by Price and second by Branch the Board returned to regular session at 1:32 p.m.

Fox and Robinson left during the closed session.

Action: On motion by Allen and second by Hutchinson the Board authorized the negotiation and signing of final business term sheets for the three primary development agreements for the RUSBUS project: joint development agreement (JDA), development

services agreement for public improvements (RDA), and ground lease agreement (ground lease). The motion was carried unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

Action: Chair Parker the meeting was adjourned the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

Prepared by:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the Board of Trustees