
Wednesday, September 22, 2021

12:00 p.m.

Virtual | Webex

Board members present | Will Allen III, Michael Fox [arr. 12:11 p.m., left 1:15 p.m.], Brenda Howerton, Sig Hutchinson, Valerie Jordan, Vivian Jones, Michael Parker, Renée Price, Charlie Reece, Jennifer Robinson, Stelfanie Williams

Excused absences | Corey Branch

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

I. Adoption of Agenda

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

II. Recognition

A. Employee Service Awards

President/CEO Lattuca recognized Harriet Lyons and Roger Fowler for 10 years of service to GoTriangle.

III. Public Comment

Chair Parker recognized Vanessa Mason Evans for public comment.

- Vanessa Mason Evans, chair of the Bragtown Community Association, spoke in support of the continuation GoDurham route 9 service to the Bragtown community.

Reece stated that he had not heard route 9 was being eliminated but he would follow up with Ms. Evans by email after speaking with Durham's transportation director.

IV. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- August 25, 2021 – Regular Session Minutes
- August 25, 2021 – Closed Session Minutes
- Unsealing of the following closed session minutes:
 - October 30, 2018 | Personnel Committee
 - July 24, 2019 | Board of Trustees
 - April 22, 2020 | Board of Trustees
 - May 26, 2021 | Board of Trustees
- Authorized contract with Corbett Clearing & Demolition, LLC for the demolition and site clearing of all structures located at these addresses on Farrington Road, Durham: 4815, 4825, 5009, 5015, and 5017.

- Authorized staff to enter into easement, right of entry agreements, and other agreements, acting on the advice of counsel, necessary for NCDOT to complete two grade separation projects located on GoTriangle-owned railroad right-of-way in Wake County.

V. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Nominating Committee Report

Chair Parker shared the Nominating Committee's recommended slate of officers to serve for the next year beginning October 1. He thanked them for being willing to serve.

Chair	Sig Hutchinson Wake County
Vice Chair	Brenda Howerton Durham County
Secretary	Vivian Jones Wake County
Treasurer	Renée Price Orange County

Action: On motion by Allen and second by Williams the Board elected the proposed officers as recommended by the Nominating Committee. Upon vote by roll call, the motion was carried unanimously.

Parker clarified that although officer terms begin October 1, by-laws indicate new committee membership and committee chairs are effective January 1.

C. Operations & Finance Committee Report

Committee chair Jones stated all items were approved on the consent agenda.

D. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

Will Allen reported that the committee received presentations from John Hodges-Copple of TJCOG on two reports related to the GTCR corridor analysis. Last month the committee reviewed the Affordable Housing analysis and today, the Travel Market analysis. He stated that both presentations had been sent to the full Board and encouraged members to review them.

Affordable housing takeaways

- 6,000+ units of LBAR housing are within a one mile radius of the rail corridor, especially in Wake and Durham counties.
- 22,000 units of multi-family NOAH are along the rail corridor, including a large percentage in Johnston County.
- There is potential to double LBAR housing units within station study areas.
- Existing affordable housing would earn "medium-high" score for federal funding; additional planned affordable housing could raise this score.
- Opportunities exist for more affordable housing using public and anchor institution land along the corridor.
- First-mile/last-mile connections are important to serve affordable housing.

Travel market takeaways

- Rail corridor is 4% of the area of Durham, Johnston, Orange and Wake counties, but has 30% of the jobs [280,000].
- 23% of the region's jobs with earnings below \$40,000 are located within the rail corridor.
- Wake-Durham regional connection is the largest in North Carolina, over 96,000 workers live in one county and work in the other.
- Eight of the top ten job hubs in the region are along the rail corridor.
- 56,000 workers live and work in block groups along the corridor.
- Almost 70,000 people live in neighborhoods completely or partly in the corridor and achieve thresholds for the amount and concentration of BIPOC, lower income, zero-car households and legally-binding, affordability-restricted housing units.
- Safe and seamless "first-mile/last-mile" connections are essential to serve these neighborhoods.

Allen noted the top traits that influence transit propensity are vehicle availability, income and race/ethnicity. He said zero car households are 15.8 times more like to use transit as the general population. He added that the final report on land use will be presented in the next few months.

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.

President/CEO Lattuca offered the following updates:

- Michelle Peele hired as the Wake Transit Program Coordinator.
- Special Board meeting on the 29th will be a deep dive into the commuter rail feasibility study.
- Recently met with the Durham City Manager, Wanda Page.
- Provided an update on commuter rail to the Durham state delegation, Johnston County Commissioners, Association of Consulting Engineers and RTP Owners & Tenants; and have plans to meet with the Johnston County state delegation, Durham County Commissioners and Wake County Commissioners.
- Met with Brian Litchfield, Chapel Hill Transit director, to discuss driver recruitment and other issues. There are plans to host another joint operator recruitment fair.
- The Planning & Legislative Committee will be discussing potential legislative initiatives – the potential for expanding our geographic region and increasing revenues.
- Recently asked by NCDOT for help on getting workers to a potential site in Chatham County.
- Ridership is growing, now at 66% of pre-Covid levels.

1. Operations Update

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

Patrick Stephens said to combat the operator shortage, paratransit operators are volunteering to drive on their time off and maintenance employees are being used as well. Other efforts being implemented are an increase in starting pay, aggressive recruitment efforts, and staff is working to identify routes that could be outsourced on a short term basis. He added that GoDurham is discussing a new operator training program with Durham Tech and Laurie Barrett also is involved.

Stephens also reported that in the past six months there have been three separate incidents of the theft of catalytic converters from paratransit vans. A third party security service was recently brought in during hours of non-operation. High definition cameras also have been installed.

Hutchinson asked about operator safety related to mask requirement on transit. Stephens responded there recently was one incident of assault on an operator.

Parker asked the status of vaccinations among employees, particularly operators. Stephens replied at the last poll, 74% of operations staff were vaccination [34 individuals unvaccinated]. Parker asked about incentives for vaccinations. Lattuca stated that GoTriangle has not implemented a mandatory vaccination program, but is providing education on the benefits of vaccination. He stated that a federal guideline might impact GoTriangle. Fox stated that NCDOT as a cabinet agency implemented a vaccine requirement effective September 1. Parker encouraged a more aggressive approach to getting people vaccinated. Hutchinson stated that he agrees, but recommended an incentive program. Allen agreed.

2. Capital Projects Status Report

The capital projects status report and presentation on major project updates is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

B. Office of the General Counsel Report

Interim General Counsel Tom Henry stated that he is involved in preparations for the work session next week on commuter rail. He also reported that GoTriangle's legal team and NCDOT had met with the new General Counsel for NCRR.

C. Chair's Report

Chair Parker reported that the General Counsel search is moving quickly to completion.

D. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO Executive Board Representative

Will Allen III reported there was a presentation by the City of Raleigh on the four BRT corridors in Wake County. He stated his concern for the lack of sensitivity to the criticality of easy connections to RUS Bus. The other main item was the adoption of the 2050 MTP with about 32% allocated to transit, but requiring a lot of state and local funding.

2. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

Will Allen III had no report, but told of a planned trip to South Florida in January.

3. DCHC MPO Board Representative

Michael Parker reported that none of the scenarios developed by the staff for the 2050 MTP went far enough in achieving the MPO goals for VMT reductions or mode shifts so staff was directed to create another option that would go further toward achieving the goals the MPO has articulated.

Parker added that there is a joint MPO meeting on September 29.

VII. Closed Session | General Counsel Search Update

Chair Parker stated that a motion to adjourn the closed session would be a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Action: On motion by Price and second by Howerton the Board entered into Closed Session at 1:14 p.m. pursuant to NCGS §143 318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness or conditions of appointment of an individual public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee and NCGS §143 318.11.(a)(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 (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract. Upon vote by roll call, the motion was carried unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

Action: On motion by Price the closed session and the meeting were adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Prepared by:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the Board