
Wednesday, May 11, 2022

11:00 a.m.

Virtual | Webex

Board members present | Will Allen III, Corey Branch [left 12:55 p.m.], Brenda Howerton, Sig Hutchinson, Vivian Jones, Michael Parker, Renée Price [arr. 12:54 p.m.], Jennifer Robinson

Excused absences | Michael Fox, Valerie Jordan, Elaine O'Neal, Stelfanie Williams

Chair Sig Hutchinson officially called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m. A quorum was present.

I. Adoption of Agenda

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

II. Recognition of John Hodges-Copple

Board Chair Hutchinson presented for consideration a resolution in recognition of the 30 years of service by John Hodges-Copple to TJCOG and the region. Board members offered words of appreciation and tribute to Hodges-Copple. Chair Hutchinson then read the resolution for the record.

Action: On motion by Hutchinson and second by Branch the Board adopted *Resolution 2022 0001 Resolution of the GoTriangle Board of Trustees Honoring the Service of John Hodges-Copple*. Upon vote by roll call, the motion was carried unanimously. The resolution is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

III. Public Comment

No comments.

IV. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- March 23, 2022 | Regular Session Minutes.
- March 23, 2022 | Closed Session Minutes.
- April 13, 2022 | Special Session Minutes.
- Authorization for the President/CEO to award and execute a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for a Durham Bus Stop Optimization Study, not to exceed \$330,000.
- Authorization for the President/CEO to enter into a contract amendment with Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP, extending the contract term to June 30, 2023, and increasing funding by \$150,000 to support RUS Bus and by \$200,000 to support Commuter Rail.

V. General Business Agenda**A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

None.

B. Operations & Finance Committee Report**1. FY2023 Board Travel Requests**

Chair Hutchinson referred to the travel requests by Board members in the agenda package. He said the Committee recommended carrying these forward an additional month.

C. New Business

None.

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 reported on the following items:

- He thanked Mayor O'Neal, Commissioner Howerton and staff from the county, city and GoTriangle who participated in the Braggtown tour. A follow-up meeting is being scheduled with all the agencies involved to talk about how to resolve some of the problems.
- A presentation on D-O LRT project expenses was given to the Durham Board of Commissioners and other meetings have been scheduled for the Orange County Board of Commissioners and the Durham City Council as well as to the community.
- Patrick Stephens, Chief of Operations, is retiring this month. Vinson Hines will be the Acting Chief of Operations.
- A new Chief of Communications has been hired and will start May 17.
- Durham has eliminated the testing requirement for unvaccinated employees and GoTriangle will also suspend its testing requirements.

1. Operations Update

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

Patrick Stephens thanked Board members and staff for their support. He offered the following highlights from bus operations during his tenure:

- Introduced GoTriangle's role in emergency management in the region, including support for hurricane relief and Covid-19 response.
- Developed a level buying program for buses and through a repowering program have been able to extend the life of the fleet.
- In the process of installing a new CAD/AVL system.
- Procured a new radio system for bus operations.
- Relocating paratransit operations to the Plaza Building to create more space at an overcrowded operations and maintenance facility.

2. Capital Projects Status Report

Katharine Eggleston provided an update on the bus stop improvement program, with a focus on the Braggtown community. The presentation is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

She reminded the Board that GoTriangle has a contract with the City of Durham for management of the GoDurham bus system, which includes management of small capital improvement projects such as bus stops. There are approximately 1,000 bus stops in Durham, the majority of them being for GoDurham, with some shared stops and a few GoTriangle-only stops within the county. Ten stops in Braggtown have been improved over the last few years.

She explained that GoTriangle had conducted an inventory of all existing stops to assess existing conditions in 2020 and plans to update that inventory this summer. Working with the City of Durham and NCDOT, GoTriangle staff plans and prioritizes to determine the stops that will go through the design, permitting, right-of-way acquisition and construction process. The process is continual to keep the working moving throughout the year. The goal is to bring groups of 10-15 stops that are ready for construction to the Board every two months for contract award.

The prioritization methodology looks at ridership and assigns bonus points for stops that are categorized as opportunity stops or those that are located in environmental justice [EJ] or Black, Indigenous, and People of Color [BIPOC] communities; provide access to destinations that serve seniors, youth and persons with disabilities and locations that have roadway safety issues.

GoTriangle manages the construction process, procuring construction contracts, providing oversight of the contractor and inspecting the work for quality assurance.

Eggleston stated that staff is committed to increasing coordination with Durham County, the City of Durham and NCDOT, in particular the Durham's Neighborhood Improvement Services group. She stated that on the recent tour in Braggtown staff identified some bus stops where immediate improvements can be made by installing a light on existing electric poles or installing a 2-seat bench where there is adjacent sidewalk.

Eggleston talked about the Bus Stop Optimization Study which will identify opportunities for potential consolidation of stops that are very close together in order to provide faster, more reliable trips and relocate stops in places where safe and accessible improvements can be completed more quickly. She said constructability will be a large concern in the study and the expected outcome is a plan for adjusted or confirmed locations for bus stops throughout Durham to support efforts to make safety and accessibility improvements at every stop in the system in the coming years. She added that the bus stop improvements program is ramping up to complete improvements at up to 75 locations per year.

Eggleston then provided an update on capital projects. Her report and presentation are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

RUS Bus

Eggleston stated that construction has been initiated, with asbestos abatement being the first step followed by demolition of the building. She added that staff continues to monitor project delivery risks; a third risk workshop is scheduled this month. She offered a list of the top ten risks being monitored:

- Schedule – BUILD grant sunset date
- Multi-party team communication
- Development agreement execution
- Developer knowledge of federal requirements
- Market cost uncertainty
- Private overbuild interface scope impacts due to market conditions
- Private overbuild funding
- Third party coordination requirements/schedule
- Project scope/costs
- Alignment of private and public incentives

Greater Triangle Commuter Rail project

Eggleston stated the updated Metropolitan Transportation Plans and TJCOG's opportunity analysis indicate significant new job growth between 2020 and 2050 along the corridor identified for commuter rail as well as into north Raleigh and points north along the S-line corridor. She said this further confirms that commuter rail connecting Durham and Wake counties, and potentially Johnston County, will align very well with where region is projecting significant growth in jobs over next 30 years.

Additionally she stated that between 2020 and 2040 the region will add more than 750,000 people with a projected 700,000 additional vehicles to already congested roadways. Eggleston shared that preliminary analysis suggests commuter rail could provide 12,000 trips per day by 2040, again confirming that commuter rail investment in the region would provide an excellent alternative to travel on congested roadways.

Eggleston then shared maps of four primary locations where Norfolk Southern railroad capacity modeling identified a need for additional capacity improvements beyond the double track that has always been assumed to be part of the scope of the project. She said these improvements are needed to provide a fluid system to support on-time commuter rail and on-time intercity trains and then freight trains without additional delay:

- Additional siding in Burlington to eliminate freight delays at an Alamance County industrial facility. She stated improvements outside primary study area are not unexpected.
- Extending the double track from west Durham station to an existing siding towards Orange County to prevent delay for westbound freight trains. Staff is

discussing whether the existing siding can be extended as opposed to adding this whole length of double track.

- Additional track at the East Durham yard to allow freight operations to occur completely off the main line and give passenger trains dedicated access to the two mainline tracks [not identified in modeling, but recommended by Norfolk Southern to provide safe and reliable operations].
- Additional crossovers and additional track in Cary.
- A small improvement in Johnston County even if the service terminates in Garner.

GoTriangle has asked Norfolk Southern to respond to some potentially more cost effective solutions to the capacity issues they have identified. Eggleston said GoTriangle is waiting for a cost proposal from Norfolk Southern for modeling the additional scenarios for more all day and evening service.

Eggleston added that GoTriangle is looking at opportunities throughout the corridor to take advantage of the significant federal grant funding available. STV is providing an assessment of the corridor and potential projects that could be submitted independently to overlay what we are envisioning to do through New Starts.

She said once this assessment is complete, potential projects would need to be matched with grant opportunities and non-federal match dollars also identified. Operating and maintenance commitments will need to be made as well as determining who the sponsor or submitting agency for the grants will be and the timing for those submissions.

B. General Counsel's Report

Byron Smith reported a Board resolution was adopted in 2005 that defines what employee policies should come to the Board for approval. The Board discussed the need to refine the definitions in that resolution of "major" and "minor" amendments as well as the process for reviewing and revising all policies. Parker reminded Board members that the General Counsel was directed to bring recommendations from staff for amendments to internal policies and the Operations & Finance Committee to recommend amendments to the By-laws and Rules of Procedure. He suggested that the General Counsel and the Chair of the Operations & Finance Committee develop a schedule for this work. Price stated that the by-laws were distributed to the Board with instructions to share any concerns or recommendations for revision to the General Counsel. Howerton stated she felt that personnel responsibilities should go through the Personnel Committee.

Smith then reported that legal work continues on the RUS Bus project regarding exhibits that will not be signed until sometime later. He said the parties continue to work cooperatively.

C. Chair's Report

Chair Hutchinson offered the following comments:

- Thanked staff for the work on the RUS Bus project.
- Offered the Board's appreciation to Pat Stephens.
- Reported on a recent meeting with NCRR and applauded the communication between the organizations.
- Reminded Board members of the regular monthly meeting on May 25 and that the Planning & Legislative Committee will meet that day and receive presentations on commuter rail ridership and demographics.
- The Board tentatively plans to return to in-person meetings in June.
- July Board meetings have been canceled. He encouraged members to take that time to rest and refresh.
- Thanked those involved for organizing and participating in the tour of Braggtown and encouraged staff to make the issues raised a priority.
- Encouraged staff to continue listening to the Durham community and answering their questions regarding the D-O LRT project.

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

Will Allen III reported a report was received on the CAMPO office move from downtown Raleigh to Fenton in Cary. The Triangle Bikeway Study and final report was endorsed. The Greater Triangle Commuter Rail opportunity analysis reports on land use, affordable housing and travel markets were presented as well as the FY2023 Wake Transit Work Plan. CAMPO will be looking at census data to help determine if boundary expansions are possible. CAMPO also is considering a new sponsoring agency.

2. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

Will Allen III stated that the only report is from the South Florida commuter rail trip. He reiterated one of the biggest lessons learned: collaboration, trust and teamwork is required to execute and deliver projects such as theirs. He said the jurisdictions overcame any competitiveness and dissention and distrust in order to work together.

3. DCHC MPO Board Representative

Michael Parker said the MPO Board received an interim report on the governance study being done cooperatively for Orange and Durham counties. He said what remains to be resolved are the composition and voting rights of the Staff Working Groups and how the annual work plan is approved. The group also received an overview of the Durham and Orange County annual work plans.

4. RTA Trip Reports

Written reports from Will Allen, Corey Branch, Brenda Howerton, Sig Hutchinson and Elaine O'Neal are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

VII. Adjournment

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



Sig Hutchinson, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the Board