

---

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

12:00 p.m.

GoTriangle Board Room

---

**Board members present** | Will Allen III, Brenda Howerton, Sig Hutchinson, Vivian Jones, Elaine O'Neal [left 2:24 p.m.], Michael Parker, Renée Price, Jennifer Robinson [left 1:56 p.m.]

**Board members attending remotely** | Stelfanie Williams

**Board members absent** | Corey Branch [excused], Michael Fox, Valerie Jordan

Chair Sig Hutchinson officially called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

**I. Adoption of Agenda**

**Action:** On motion by Parker and second by Robinson the agenda was adopted. Upon vote the motion was carried unanimously.

**II. Public Comment**

No comments.

**III. Consent Agenda**

**Action:** A motion was made by Parker and seconded by Allen to approve the consent agenda. Upon vote the motion was carried unanimously.

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- June 15, 2022 | Special Session Minutes.
- June 15, 2022 | Closed Session A Minutes.
- June 15, 2022 | Closed Session B Minutes.
- June 22, 2022 | Regular Session Minutes.
- Approved the unsealing of the following closed session minutes:
  - November 28, 2018 | Board of Trustees
  - March 27, 2019 | Board of Trustees
  - April 24, 2019 | Board of Trustees Closed Session B
  - September 22, 2021 | Board of Trustees
  - September 29, 2021 | Board of Trustees
- Authorized staff to acquire right of way identified in Table 1 for bus stop improvements on behalf of the City of Durham.
- Authorized President/CEO to execute a contract renewal with Remix for transit planning software for an additional term of September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2025, with a maximum dollar amount of \$113,167.
- Approved the following increases to the purchasing cost thresholds, and delegated authority for apparatus, supplies, materials and equipment [ASME] to the President/CEO:
  - Construction and Repair from <\$300,000 to <\$500,000
  - Professional Services from <\$100,000 to <\$250,000
  - Apparatus, Supplies, Materials and Equipment from <\$90,000 to <\$250,000

Table 1 – Bus Stop Improvements Locations and the new Purchasing Thresholds Matrix are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

#### **IV. General Business Agenda**

##### **A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

None.

##### **B. FY2023 Board Member Travel**

The final list of travel requests for FY2023 was confirmed and is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

##### **C. Appointment of Nominating Committee**

Chair Hutchinson stated that he had asked Jennifer Robinson, Michael Parker and Stelfanie Williams to serve on the Nominating Committee. Robinson was asked to chair the committee.

**Action:** A motion was made by Hutchinson and seconded by Allen the Board appointed the members as named to the Nominating Committee. Upon vote the motion was carried unanimously.

##### **D. Operations & Finance Committee Report**

Renée Price reported that the committee considered the items from the consent agenda on bus stop improvement locations, the Remix software contract, increased procurement thresholds and amendments to the bylaws and also received an update on North Carolina's state of emergency.

###### **1. Amendments to Bylaws**

**Action:** A motion was made by Allen and seconded by Parker to approve the staff recommended amendments to the bylaws and to continue work on the other items identified [ethics and conflict of interest, officer and committee terms, committee responsibilities and EEO policy]. Upon vote the motion was carried unanimously.

The Board then discussed an additional amendment requested that would allow remote meetings of the Board. General Counsel Smith explained that as an appointed board the statutory requirements that apply to county commissions and municipal councils do not apply to GoTriangle. He stated that the bylaws govern GoTriangle's ability to hold electronic meetings.

Allen asked if meetings could be a hybrid, allowing both in-person and remote attendance. Smith stated nothing precludes a hybrid meeting. He added that the change also would allow Board members to be compensated for remote participation.

**Action:** A motion was made by Allen and seconded by Robinson to approve the additional changes to the bylaws to allow for remote meetings of the Board. Upon

vote the motion was carried unanimously. The bylaws as amended are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

**E. New Business**

None.

**V. 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 highlight the following items:

- Thanked staff for the improvements made to the Board Room.
- Announced the hiring of Eric Curry as Chief Communications Officer.
- Working with a facilitator on the Board retreat planned in November.

**1. EEO Quarterly Workforce Analysis**

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

**2. Operations Update**

The June and July monthly reports are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Vinson Hines offered several ridership statistics:

- Total FY2019 ridership 2.1M; FY2022 ridership 1.5M [70% of pre-pandemic levels].
- June 2021 ridership 104,318; June 2022 ridership 130,656 [25% increase].
- Pre-pandemic average weekday boardings 6,875; last week 5,000+ [74% of pre-pandemic levels].
- Saturday ridership is 98% of pre-pandemic levels.
- Sunday ridership is 27% above pre-pandemic levels.

Hines discussed recruitment efforts for open positions for operators, mechanics, service attendants and paratransit operators. He explained the new non-CDL training program and reported the referral bonus has increased to \$500.

Hines stated that negative interactions between customers and operators have increased along with an increase in non-destination riders and complaints. He explained that non-destination riders tend to be dealing with homelessness and fare free service allows them to ride all day. Hines stated that calls to police have increased, from 4 in 2020 [January-August] to 29 during the same period in 2021 to 40 in 2022 year-to-date. GoTriangle has hired a security service to patrol the Regional Transit Center and the Plaza. Hines said staff is talking with other transit providers about their practices and looking for assistance from outreach programs in the

community. He stated that operators are receiving training on conflict resolution and mental health awareness.

### 3. **Capital Projects Status Report**

The capital projects status report is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

#### **RUS Bus**

Katharine Eggleston's presentation on RUS Bus is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. She reported that since GoTriangle's joint development application for the RUS Bus project was approved by FTA the lease has been executed as well as the construction contract for phase 1. She highlighted the major issues being tracked:

- Coordination with CSX on demolition plans
- Design progression for private overbuild
- Private overbuild marketing and financing
- Review by USDOT of proposed scope, schedule and budget changes
- Tracking and analysis of schedule
- Cost estimates and budget analysis

Eggleston also discussed changes to the private overbuild project:

- Hotel removed from program
- Residential square footage increased to 600,000
- 585 rental apartment units
- 59 affordable units
- 18,000 square feet of retail
- 600 parking spaces

The next construction activity will be demolition, followed by erosion and sediment control, backfilling the basement, site grading and seeding.

#### **Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Study**

Eggleston offered the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Results. The presentation is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Eggleston highlighted that the Triangle's population in 2020 was 2 million, with 1.3 million vehicles. She said by 2050 an additional 1 million people and vehicles are estimated to join the region. Additionally by 2050 the region will add an additional 800,000 jobs; 350,000 of those will be near rail with the largest cluster in downtown Raleigh.

One major finding in the study is that implementation challenges in the corridor are not equally distributed. The phase 1 study earlier efforts assumed an additional track would be needed. Norfolk Southern modeling in this phase of study identified additional infrastructure beyond the addition of a second track to support the proposed service. The majority of that additional infrastructure is located near the

Durham freight railroad yard. Also identified were challenges related to coordination and timing with other projects, mainly grade separation projects committed in the STIP by NCDOT but now delayed. If the commuter rail project goes ahead of these projects, the cost could potentially accrue to the commuter rail project.

Eggleston also shared ridership projections: 12,000-18,000 boardings per day depending on the fare scenario selected. Ridership is distributed throughout corridor, with the strongest travel demand in the southeast Wake portion of the corridor from Raleigh to Garner.

The feasibility study includes two options for moving forward:

- West Durham to Auburn or Clayton

This option is estimated to cost \$2.8-3.2 billion, which is a 50% increase over the Phase 1 estimate. It would result in unfunded costs of potentially \$600 million for capital and an additional \$10 million or more per year for operation and maintenance. Ridership projections for 2040 are slightly higher than earlier estimates and service could begin between 2033 and 2035. Eggleston stressed the significance of the unfunded costs and concerns about how the project would score under updated New Starts criteria expected next year.

- Southeast Raleigh Wake County – Raleigh to Garner

Eggleston stated that given the challenges, there have been a lot of questions about implementing the project in phases. This option offers that opportunity, starting with the southeast Wake portion of the corridor from Raleigh to Garner. It is estimated to cost \$600-700 million to build and \$15 million per year to operate and maintain. It would carry about a third of the ridership of the full corridor and could be complete between 2031 and 2033.

Eggleston added that feedback at early presentations of the feasibility study results have generated questions about starting with the Raleigh to RTP segment. She responded that this segment would be higher in cost with similar ridership and more risk from coordination, scheduling and cost standpoints.

Eggleston stated that presentations are scheduled with stakeholder groups to receive input and a public comment period will include six open house events and a virtual event. The financial plan is being refined and grant strategies will be considered to inform a decision about whether or how to move forward.

Allen stated he feels it is a bad idea to fragment a rail corridor, saying there is a danger that the railroads will try to require another modeling study. He said he is against the phasing option offered and encouraged looking at the Raleigh to RTP segment. He added that he feels strongly about connecting all the cities in the region.

Robinson asked for information about timing if the phasing option were chosen.

Jones and O'Neal stated their agreement that the project should not be segmented.

Parker suggested that the language is wrong and it should be presented as one plan implemented in phases, adding that giving options gives the wrong impression.

Robinson left.

Howerton commented that the public will question a decision to leave Durham out or delay the Durham segment.

Lattuca responded that the goal is to build the full project but grant funding is not guaranteed. He stated that staff would bring additional information in September.

Price suggested including Orange County in the implementation timeline to show a full, phased buildout.

**VI. Closed Session | Rigsbee v. GoDurham; GoTransit Partners; GoTriangle; Alexandra Irene Tavarez; and City of Durham File No. 22CVS 2603**

- NCGS §143 318.11.(a) (1) to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. A motion based on subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall also state the name or citation of the law that renders the information to be discussed as privileged or confidential.
- NCGS §143 318.11.(a)(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. A motion based on subdivision (a)(3) of this section shall identify the parties in each existing lawsuit concerning which the public body expects to received advice during the closed session.

**Action:** A motion was made by Jones and seconded by Allen to enter into closed session at 2:06 p.m. pursuant to the North Carolina General Statutes and for the purpose listed above. Upon vote the motion was carried unanimously.

O'Neal left during the closed session.

**Action:** The Board returned to regular session at 2:50 p.m.

**B. General Counsel's Report**

General Counsel Smith reported that Tom Henry will be leaving GoTriangle for a position in the UNC Chapel Hill University Counsel's office. Board members offered their congratulations and appreciation to Henry.

**C. Chair's Report**

Chair Hutchinson reminded Board members of the scheduled retreat on November 30.

**D. Board Member Reports**

**1. CAMPO Executive Board Representative**

Will Allen III reported that the CAMPO executive board approved LAP 2024 target modal mix which includes 8% transit and two additional criteria: equity in LAP scoring and conscious development. The group received reports on the CAMPO organizational study, decennial administrative review, Greater Triangle Commuter Rail project report and preliminary draft STIP. Cary was selected as the new lead planning agency.

**2. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative**

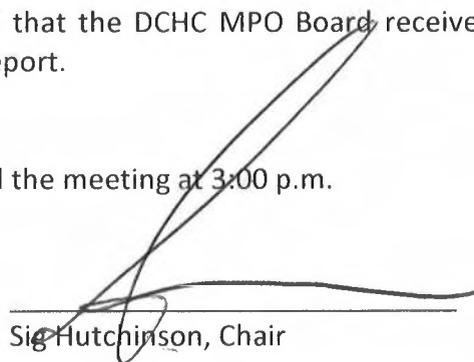
Will Allen III reported on the annual Transportation Breakfast, Melding Life Science and Transportation Innovation. His written report is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

**3. DCHC MPO Board Representative**

Michael Parker reported that the DCHC MPO Board received the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail project report.

**VII. Adjournment**

**Action:** Chair Hutchinson adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.



Sig Hutchinson, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC  
Clerk to the Board