
Wednesday, September 28, 2022

12:00 p.m.

GoTriangle Board Room

Board members present | Will Allen III, Corey Branch, Brenda Howerton [left 1:35 p.m.], Sig Hutchinson, Vivian Jones, Elaine O'Neal, Michael Parker, Jennifer Robinson, Stelfanie Williams

Board members attending remotely | Renée Price

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

Chair Sig Hutchinson officially called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. A quorum was present.

I. Adoption of Agenda

Action: On motion by Allen and second by Howerton 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 Jones and seconded by Branch to approve the consent agenda. Upon vote the motion was carried unanimously.

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- August 24, 2022 | Regular Session Minutes.
- August 24, 2022 | Closed Session A Minutes.
- Amendment to the Board of Trustees Rules of Procedure.*
- Amendment to the Bylaws, Article XI Equal Opportunity Employer.*
- New compensation structure for maintenance and operations staff.*
- PP-001 Policy Development Policy and TS-200 Flexible Work Arrangements Policy.*

*These documents are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

IV. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Commuter Rail Transit Feasibility Study Update

Katharine Eggleston's presentation is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Updated Estimates

- Updated cost estimate is \$2.8-\$3.2 billion in year of expenditure.
- Annual operation and maintenance costs estimated at \$42 million.

- Daily ridership estimated at 12,000-18,000 by 2040.
- Service estimated to begin 2033-2035.

The increased cost of the project exceeds available funding identified for commuter rail implementation in the Wake Transit Plan and draft Durham Transit Plan and availability of federal funding is uncertain; therefore, to implement the full project additional funding must be identified. A phased approach is being considered which would take longer to implement and cost more money, but also help manage risks and available resources.

Phased Implementation Options

Start in the . . .	Capital Cost	2040 Daily Ridership	Complexity	Likely Timeframe
West between W Durham and RTP	\$1.4 - \$1.6B 50% of total project cost	3,000 25% of total trips	Highest risk	12 years
Middle Raleigh to RTP or Ellis Rd	\$800M - \$1B 25-30% of total project cost	4,000 33% of total trips	Medium risk	10 years
East RUS to Auburn	\$600 - \$700M 20% of total project cost	4,000 33 % of total trips	Lowest risk	8 years

The segment starting in the west has the greatest potential to see reduced transit project costs and more non-local funding by utilizing a phased approach. Durham County already is moving forward with an incremental approach, working to identify and pursue short-term opportunities to position for future state and federal grants.

The middle segment requires significant coordination to align requirements of multiple host railroads and align schedules of several planned projects. The estimated cost of this segment could be afforded in the next ten years with local funding and federal loans. Uncertainties could increase cost and/or cause delay.

The feasibility study identified fewer challenges in the eastern segment. Funding has not been identified to extend the project into Johnston County. This portion could be afforded in the next ten years with local funding and federal loans and excess financial capacity would allow for other projects as well.

Eggleston stated that a phased approach provides multiple potential paths forward; however, federal and state funding availability and timeline are uncertain. The project's New Starts ratings have challenges related to population density and ridership but continued regional growth could make the project or a first phase more competitive by the time it would be submitted for formal rating. She noted that there could be opportunities to offset project costs through rail infrastructure programs for safety or capacity projects and Amtrak station improvements.

Eggleston added that there is additional work to be done on the financial plan to consider permutations of potential first phases, future extensions and their timing. Staff is preparing for public outreach in early 2023.

C. Durham Transit FY 2023 Q2 Durham Transit Work Plan and Budget Amendment

Steve Schlossberg presented the FY2023 Q2 amendment to the Durham Transit Work Plan, which will provide the 20% local match [\$600,000] for a Federal Railroad Administration grant application for a location-specific study to identify solutions for grade crossing eliminations in east Durham in order to implement commuter rail. If the application is successful, the study will include public engagement, planning, preliminary design and NEPA review at the 3 locations where safety and operational issues or challenges have been identified: Plum Street, Driver Street and Ellis Road.

Action: A motion was made by Parker and seconded by Howerton to approve the FY2023 Q2 Durham Transit Work Plan amendment for the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail – East Durham Grade Crossing Study and Budget Ordinance Amendment 2022 0030. Upon vote the motion was carried unanimously. The budget amendment is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

D. Nominating Committee Report

1. Election of Officers

Jennifer Robinson reported that the Nominating Committee by a split vote recommends the reappointment of the existing slate of officers. She noted that with Renée Price's expected election to the NC House, Michael Parker is recommended to replace her as Treasurer. Robinson said Price expressed her desire to continue as Treasurer should she not win her election.

Chair	Sig Hutchinson Wake County
Vice Chair	Brenda Howerton Durham County
Secretary	Vivian Jones Wake County
*Treasurer	Michael Parker Chapel Hill

*Renée Price will continue as Treasurer if she does not win the election.

Action: A motion was made by Robinson and seconded by Allen to approve the slate of officers as recommended by the Nominating Committee. Upon vote the motion was carried unanimously.

E. Operations & Finance Committee Report

Jennifer Robinson provided the Committee report. She stated the Committee discussed the items approved on the consent agenda: amendments to the Rules of Procedure, Bylaws, compensation structure for operators and mechanics and internal policies. She added that there was a lot of discussion regarding the compensation increase related to the pay range maximums and how this could be a deterrent to applicants and employees.

F. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

Vivian Jones stated that the Committee received a report on route performance for FY2022 and ridership is getting close to pre-pandemic levels.

G. 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 reported on the following items:

- Eric Curry has joined GoTriangle as Chief Communications Officer.
- Vinson Hines, who has been in the interim position since May, has been named Chief of Operations.
- The Board retreat will be held at The Conference Center at NCBiotech on November 30. The facilitator, George Alwon, will be our facilitator and will be contacting Board members individually prior to the retreat.
- An RFP has been issued for a consultant to assist with updating GoTriangle's strategic plan.
- GoTriangle is assisting with the Triangle's bid to host the World University Games in 2027. The region has been named a finalist, along with Chungcheong Megacity in South Korea. GoTriangle led the transportation committee for the bid and produced some videos to sell North Carolina.

General Counsel Smith informed the Board that a settlement agreement has been signed in the Rigsbee lawsuit in which GoTriangle was named a defendant. He said the City of Durham has requested additional time to respond to our request for clarification about the City's intent regarding possible written notice of contract termination. Lattuca said that a major issue is whether Durham intends to take back the management of its bus contract and handle the procurement for a new operator. He said the current contract terminates June 30 which needs to begin very soon.

Lattuca then reported that a comment was made by a former CAMPO staff member at the Wake Transit TPAC meeting that GoTriangle may have misused Covid relief money. Sandra Freeman assured the Board that there is no basis for the allegations made against GoTriangle and there has been no instance of fraud or mismanagement of

federal dollars. She said GoTriangle has complied with federal guidelines and of the \$23.5 million awarded in relief funds, GoTriangle has been reimbursed in full for \$7.9 million in CARES Act funding and the remaining amount has been expended and the request for reimbursement made. She reminded the Board that GoTriangle's triennial review by FTA was last year and there were no findings. Additionally, GoTriangle has an annual audit, which had no findings, and the annual financial statements also are reviewed by the Local Government Commission.

Howerton left.

1. Operations Update

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

Vinson Hines stated that ridership continues to improve, with average weekday daily boardings approaching 6,000, or over 70% of pre-pandemic levels. He said Saturday and Sunday ridership is strong with Saturday at 94% of pre-pandemic numbers and Sunday, 29%. Hines said the pay increase approved today for operators and mechanics would be effective September 25. He said that GoTriangle has created a 30-second silent recruiting video that will play at seven area DMV offices. Hines updated the Board on safety incidents. Year-to-date incidents requiring policy response have been 48, compared to 34 during the same period in 2021. He clarified that the incidents are not totally attributed to non-destination riders with incidents also involving youth, domestic/family and random encounters between strangers. He said staff continues to reach out to homeless advocacy agencies to try to connect riders with services.

2. Capital Projects Status Report

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

Katharine Eggleston reported that demolition at RUS Bus will begin this week and design is advancing for phase 2 with a vertical construction component. With the elimination of the remove component, the developer will have to submit a revision to the administrative site review process with the City of Raleigh.

B. General Counsel's Report

No report.

C. Chair's Report

Chair Hutchinson noted the RTA Regional Transit Awareness Day tour happening tomorrow. He also mentioned that staff will be publishing Board member feature stories on the GoTriangle website and sharing them on social media. CAMPO has scheduled a public hearing on October 19 for the Wake Transit Community Engagement Policy Update; information will be sent out. He emphasized the Board retreat scheduled for November 30.

D. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO Executive Board Representative

Will Allen III reported the recommended draft CAMPO organizational study was approved and will address staffing needs and salaries. He also mentioned the public hearing on the Wake Transit Community Engagement Policy Update.

2. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

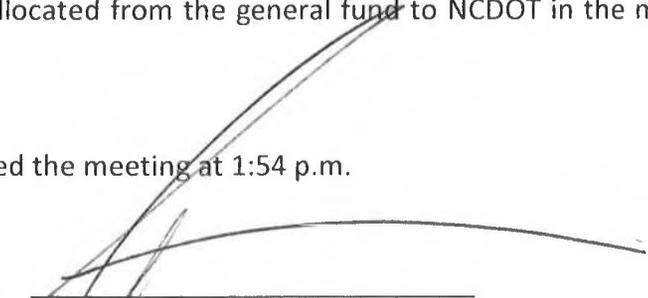
Will Allen III also highlighted the Regional Transit Awareness Day tour.

3. DCHC MPO Board Representative

Michael Parker reported on a discussion about project swaps for MPOs in the STIP due to additional funding allocated from the general fund to NCDOT in the most recent budget.

VI. Adjournment

Action: Chair Hutchinson adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m.



Sig Hutchinson, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the Board