

Go Triangle Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2015

Board Room, The Plaza, 4600 Emperor Blvd., Suite 100
Durham, NC

Board Members Present:

Will Allen III	Ed Harrison
Mary-Ann Baldwin (arr. 1:30 pm)	Vivian Jones
William V. "Bill" Bell	Bernadette Pelissier
Jim Crawford Jr. (arr. 1:01 pm, left 2:07 pm)	Ellen Reckhow
Fred Foster Jr.	Jeff Sheehan (arr. 2:00 pm)

Board Members Absent:

Fred Day IV (excused)	Jennifer Robinson (excused)
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Chair William V. "Bill" Bell officially called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

Action: On motion by Allen and second by Reckhow the agenda was adopted, moving the CAMPO report to follow the General Business Agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

II. Recognition

A. Introduction of New Hires

General Manager Mann announced the hiring of Tracy Beckwith, Service Attendant; Timothy Brown, Mechanic III; Eugenia Collington, Bus Operator I; Mary Kate Morookian, Transit Service Planner; and Sherry Taylor, Real Estate Administrator.

B. Announcement of Promotions

General Manager Mann announced the promotion of Joseph Smith from Bus Operator II to Bus Operator III.

Crawford arrived.

III. Public Comment

Chair Bell recognized Mitch Rosen who requested that Go Triangle install 3-position bicycle racks on its buses.

IV. Consent Agenda

Action: On motion by Jones and second by Pelissier the consent agenda was approved. The motion was carried unanimously.

The following consent agenda item was approved:

- October 28, 2015 – Regular Session Minutes.

VI. Other Business

D. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO Executive Board Representative

Will Allen III reported that at the November meeting there were two public hearings, on the SPOT 4.0 proposed project list and the UPWP. He noted a letter from the CAMPO executive board chair outlining CAMPO's priorities related to the Wake County Transit Plan:

- A plan and schedule for making governance decisions (including who will administer the tax, how the MPO will be involved in future plan implementation and/or update decisions, and how decisions regarding implementation will be made) must be laid out prior to adoption of the plan; and
- A plan and schedule for developing the implementation strategy must be laid out prior to the adoption of the plan; and
- A general comfort level with the recommendations laid out in the plan.

V. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Operations & Finance Committee Report

1. Supplemental Programming of Transit Tax Revenues for Chapel Hill

Committee Chair Allen explained that Chapel Hill has requested an additional \$28,270 for this fiscal year (\$57,475 full year impact) for the expansion of service. He noted that it is well within the total available from the Orange County transit tax revenues for bus operations.

Action: On motion by Allen and second by Reckhow the Board approved the supplemental FY16 programming of sales tax and vehicle registration fee revenues for bus services and capital projects. The motion was carried unanimously.

2. Parking Survey Contract Extension

Committee Chair Allen also presented a recommendation to increase the parking survey contract by \$10,000 due to inclement weather and far fewer respondents to the survey than expected.

Jones commented that it seems the contractor has some liability in this and stated her concern about increasing the contract. Mann replied that part of the problem was gaining access at Duke and UNC to survey, which delayed the process significantly. He added that this was the responsibility of Go Triangle. Darcy Downs stated that staff has worked with the contractor to reduce their initial estimate for extending the contract from \$17,000 to \$10,000.

Action: On motion by Allen and second by Pelissier the Board authorized an increase in the Triangle Region Parking Behavior Survey contract from \$190,000 to \$200,000. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. NCR/Norfolk Southern/GoTriangle Commuter Rail Capacity Study Cost Overage

Committee Chair Allen explained that Norfolk Southern requested some additional modeling on this contract, to which the partners agreed, but resulted in a cost overage of about \$80,000. Woodside is splitting the cost with the three partners, with each being responsible for an additional \$19,618.

Jones asked why the additional cost was not approved prior to the work being done. Mann explained that the overage was not communicated in a timely fashion and the 25% share was a negotiated amount, having originally been asked to split the cost 50-50 with NCR.

Action: On motion by Reckhow and second by Allen the Board authorized the General Manager to increase the agreement value of the NCR/Norfolk Southern/GoTriangle agreement by \$19,618. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. Pilot Project with TransLoc

Committee Chair Allen stated that TransLoc approached Go Triangle regarding a pilot project to test the integration of Uber functionality with TransLoc's rider Smartphone application at no cost to us.

Action: On motion by Allen and second by Reckhow the Board authorized the General Manager to negotiate and execute a Pilot Partner Agreement with TransLoc, Inc. for the purpose of testing an integration of Uber

Transportation Service reservation functionality with TransLoc's Rider Smartphone application. The motion was carried unanimously.

C. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

Committee Chair Bernadette Pelissier stated that the committee discussed three items: a legislative strategy update, from our lobbyist Richard Stevens and the General Manager, regarding strategy to overturn the State cap on light rail spending; an update on the Wake Transit Plan; and the status of the work on the transit oriented development grant.

Action: On motion by Allen and second by Reckhow the Planning & Legislative Committee report was accepted. The motion was carried unanimously.

D. New Business

1. Resolution Granting Signature Authority

Board Clerk Michelle Dawson requested adoption of a resolution granting signature authority to General Manager Jeff Mann. She explained that this would be retroactive to his start date, July 27, 2015.

Action: On motion by Jones and second by Reckhow the Board adopted *Resolution 2015 0007 Resolution of the Go Triangle Board of Trustees Granting Signature Authority on Go Triangle Financial Accounts to Jeffrey Mann, General Manager.* The motion was carried unanimously.

Baldwin arrived.

VI. Other Business

A. General Manager's Report

General Manager Jeff Mann highlighted the following items from his written report:

- The NEPA preferred alternative for the D-O LRT project received unanimous endorsement by the DCHC MPO, the Durham City Council, the Chapel Hill town Council, the Durham County Board of County Commissioners and the Orange County Board of County Commissioners. Over 1,400 comments were received during the 45-day public comment period.
- Efforts continue to remove the light rail spending cap in the General Assembly, with a lot of support from the governor's administration, NCDOT, elected officials and the business community.
- Two independent cost reviews of the project have been completed and two consultant teams have been short-listed for the General Engineering Consultant (GEC) contract procurement.

- The Risk Assessment and Value Engineering workshops were held in November.
- Key project team positions are currently being recruited, with an offer pending for project director and real estate manager. An offer for Environmental Planner and Project Engineer have been accepted. He said that additional resources will be needed for public outreach and communications.
- Staff has identified some options for project office, to be occupied by mid-2016.
- The project team met with FTA Region IV officials in Atlanta and FTA in Washington, DC earlier this month to provide an update on our New Starts application process. Both meetings went very well.
- Twenty-two staff members met with the CATS (Charlotte) team for a peer exchange and tour of the blue line project under construction. He said the Go Triangle team conducted a strategic planning exercise on the trip to Charlotte. Lessons learned from CATS: bring operations in early so you don't design something that is too difficult or expensive to operate, proceed carefully with value engineering so you don't take out something you really need, and working with the railroad requires constant communications.
- Staff continues to work with its partners on the Wake County Transit Plan and with County staff in preparation for a referendum.
- Mann noted lower gas prices and lower ridership, but said ridership and productivity for Go Durham and Go Triangle are holding up. He also pointed out that complaints and accidents are down.
- Mann reported that six contracts, that did not require prior Board approval, were signed in the last two months totaling \$308,000.
- He applauded staff involved in the Golden Modes Awards ceremony held in Durham in November.

Baldwin stated her concern about the communications function and asked what positions are open and the timeline for filling them. Mann responded that the government affairs position is advertised, the media specialist will be in interviews soon and interviews are being conducted now for marketing manager. He added that he would like to bring on an additional position above the current headcount in communications and marketing to support the Wake County referendum efforts.

Reckhow added her praise for the Golden Modes Awards ceremony and the booklet that was prepared.

1. I-40/440 Fortify Update

Laurie Barrett stated that NCDOT has asked to extend the contract through December, 2016. She stated that staff continues to do outreach for this service. Harrison noted that BOSS usage seemed high. Barrett responded yes in October, but not used as frequently in November and December. Reckhow said she would like to see BOSS usage in other corridors.

Sheehan arrived.

2. Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Program Update

Greg Northcutt introduced Dave Charters who reported that last week an administrative draft of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was delivered to FTA in Atlanta for review and comment. Charters said that the final document will be submitted to FTA in February, meeting the two-year project development phase requirement in MAP-21. He added that this would include an application to enter final engineering.

Bell asked how comfortable staff is about meeting the February. Charters responded that everything is on schedule and no problems are anticipated.

Crawford left.

3. Legislative Update

General Manager Mann reported that House Speaker Tim Moore has named a House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions chaired by Representative Torbett and a Public Transit/Aviation Subcommittee chaired by Representative Jeter. He added that he is working closely with a group of lobbyists and interested parties to support and advance efforts to remove the light rail spending cap. Mann noted that the recently enacted FAST Act provides longer term funding for projects.

4. Wake Transit Update

John Tallmadge reported that the next big conversation will be about governance, with the expectation that key points will be complete by the time the transit plan is brought to the three governing bodies for adoption. He said there also will be discussion about developing an implementation plan, because the 10-year vision in the plan does not specify in what order anything happens. He added that a consultant may be brought in to help with that process. Tallmadge reminded the Board that adoption by the three boards is anticipated in late spring.

B. Interim General Counsel's Report

Interim General Counsel Karen Porter highlighted several items from her written report. She announced the retirement of Ruthann Gentry, Real Estate Administrator and Executive Assistant to the General Manager, at the end of the month.

Allen voiced a concern about work load in the legal department with vacancy. Chair Bell asked that the Personnel Committee discuss this matter.

C. Chair's Report

Chair Bell reported that he tries to maintain communications with the General Manager and sit in on meetings as needed. He said that he is pleased with the interest he sees in light rail and the positive comments he hears about our efforts. He suggested that we need to do a better job of sharing with the public the projected travel time savings. He acknowledged the work staff is doing in these challenging times.

D. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO Executive Board Representative

Previously covered.

2. DCHC MPO Board Representative

Bernadette Pelissier reported that there was discussion about how Go Triangle shares information with the DCHC MPO. She said that staff would provide quarterly updates to the MPO.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

No report.

4. Rail~Volution Report

Allen noted that his report had been sent previously to the Board.

Chair Bell stated that a citizen arrived late for the public comment period and recognized N'Zinga Al-Shams to address the Board. She shared a petition, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. She requested that the Board reinstate the free fare for ages 65 and above.

VII. Adjournment

Action: Chair Bell the meeting was adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.



William V. "Bill" Bell, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the Board