

Go Triangle Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2015

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

Board Members Present:

Will Allen III (left 2:50 pm)

Mary-Ann Baldwin (arr. 2:00 pm)

William V. "Bill" Bell (left 2:52 pm)

Jim Crawford Jr. (left 2:53 pm)

Fred Foster Jr. (arr. 1:05 pm)

Ed Harrison (arr. 1:06 pm)

Vivian Jones

Bernadette Pelissier

Ellen Reckhow (arr. 1:06 pm)

Jennifer Robinson (arr. 1:12 pm)

Board Members Absent:

Fred Day IV (excused)

Jeff Sheehan (excused)

Chair William V. "Bill" Bell called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. (Without a quorum, the Chair moved to the recognition portion of the agenda.)

II. Recognition

A. Introduction of New Hires

General Manager Mann announced the hiring of Otis Agnew, Cephus Berry and Melissa Bowman, Bus Operators I; Joe Biondi, Safety & Security Specialist and Corwin Matthews, Procurement Administrator.

Foster arrived.

B. Announcement of Promotions

General Manager Mann announced the following promotions: Tammy Bouchelle from Assistant Legal Counsel to Associate Legal Counsel and Jenny Green from Transit Service Planner to Capital Projects Planner.

Harrison and Reckhow arrived (quorum now present).

I. Adoption of Agenda

Action: On motion by Pelissier and second by Allen the agenda was adopted. The motion was carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Chair Bell recognized Cyndy Simonson to speak. She stated that her husband, Tony Selton, also signed up to speak but she would be speaking for him. Simonson spoke about a recent poor customer service experience.

Chair Bell asked that the General Manager follow-up with Ms. Simonson and share Go Triangle's customer service policy with the Board. Reckhow suggested that staff revisit the lost and found policy and procedure.

Robinson arrived.

IV. Consent Agenda

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

The following consent agenda items were approved:

- September 23, 2015 – Work Session Minutes;
- September 23, 2015 – Regular Session Minutes;
- September 23, 2015 – Closed Session Minutes; and
- General Manager 2015-16 work plan.

V. General Business Agenda

A. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

None.

B. Operations & Finance Committee Report

Committee Chair Will Allen III stated that the Committee received annual reports for bus performance, the call center and financial results. He noted that ridership increased by 1% due to new services being offered and on-time performance was 87%. He said productivity dropped by 9%. He stated that the Committee also discussed how some systems are integrating shared services like Uber.

1. 2016 Medical and Ancillary Benefits Package

Allen stated that 2016 insurance quotes were a 20% increase over the current year; however, staff negotiated it down to 13.1%. The Committee discussed whether the time had come for employees to share in the cost of health coverage, but it was decided to continue coverage at 100% for one more year. He said the next year would be used to prepare employees for a financial contribution beginning in 2017.

Action: On motion by Reckhow and second by Pelissier the Board approved 2016 insurance coverage with current providers, with a 13.1% increase in medical coverage and no increase for ancillary benefits. (GoTriangle will continue to contribute 100% for employee only coverage, 75% for employee/spouse or employee/children coverage and 65% for family coverage.) The motion was carried unanimously.

D. Planning & Legislative Committee Report

Committee Chair Bernadette Pelissier reported that the Committee received a summary of the \$1.7 million grant from FTA for station area planning. She said the Committee also received a legislative update.

E. New Business

1. 2016 Meetings Calendar

Action: On motion by Allen and second by Pelissier the Board adopted the 2016 meetings calendar. The motion was carried unanimously.

VI. Other Business

A. General Manager's Report

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

- We continue to work with supporters of the project to remove the Legislative cap on funding in the short session and restore the funds previously allotted to the project, as well as working with NCDOT to increase the State's share in the project to 25%.
- The public comment period for the project closed on October 13 with 1,365 comments received.
- The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the General Engineering Consultant (GEC) went out on October 13.
- An independent cost review of the project is underway and should be complete in 6-8 weeks
- Advertisements for key project positions have been posted.
- We continue to work closely with the Wake Transit Strategy team to promote a regional focus and assure that the plan adequately addresses regional services. The draft plan will be released to public on December 8.
- Ridership was off slightly in September, but productivity was down 15%. Some of the Fortify services continue to not perform as well as we would like. On time performance is at 96%. Accidents were down 28%; however, complaints were up.
- Go Durham ridership is up 4% with productivity holding steady at 32 passengers per hour, one of the highest in North Carolina. On-time performance was off slightly and accidents were up; however, complaints for Go Durham were down significantly.
- Five contracts were signed in September for a total of \$161,000.

Bell asked if there is a pattern to the complaints. Mann responded that a number of the complaints are about the WiFi service. He said that new routers are being installed which should address a large number of the complaints.

1. I-40/440 Fortify Update

Brad Schulz offered the report, which is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

2. Triangle Regional Transit Program Update

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

3. Legislative Update

Jeff Mann reported that an action plan is being developed regarding the Legislative funding cap for light rail. He added that a position description to focus on community and intergovernmental relations is being finalized.

4. Wake Transit Update

John Tallmadge reported that the Advisory Committee met for the final time. Service today is about 30% ridership and 70% coverage. The body decided the appropriate split is 65% ridership, 35% coverage. Most of the conversation was about whether the plan should have commuter rail initially, even if its limits were within Wake County; whether the plan should not pursue commuter rail until it could be connected to Durham and the funding package was put together; or whether the plan should not include a commuter rail component at all, just bus with BRT. After a lot of discussion, the group selected the second alternative (not to pursue commuter rail until it could be connected to Durham and when a funding package could be put together).

Reckhow asked when the West side would have the capacity for regional commuter rail. Mann responded that if there are no new funding sources, 2032-2033. He said Go Triangle would work with Durham County to look at creating ways of funding commuter rail as opposed to waiting until after the light rail project is complete.

Tallmadge noted that bus expansion under any of the scenarios will be significant, \$80-\$100 million per year compared to \$22 million per year today. He said the plan will be released on December 8th at the Raleigh Convention Center and additional public and stakeholder comment will be received before the final plan is prepared next spring.

Mann added that the final plan has to be approved by this Board, as well as CAMPO and the Wake County Board of County Commissioners.

B. Interim General Counsel's Report

Interim General Counsel Karen Porter noted the following items:

- Tammy Bouchelle is working on the NCRR lease agreement. Draft terms are expected next month. Agreements have been finalized and signed with NCRR and Norfolk Southern for review of the 30% plan for the DOLRT.
- The real estate acquisition management plan for the DOLRT is being finalized.
- Our joint procurement for new buses with the City of Durham and the Town of Chapel Hill has been released.
- Contracts are closed to being signed for the Go Durham fixed route and Access management companies.
- There is a new tenant for the parking lot on West Chapel Hill Street in Durham near the old greyhound bus station.
- The quarterly report on properties was submitted to FTA on October 1. They have requested additional information in the next report on easements and rights-of-way.
- Go Triangle ended a bus agreement with a leasing agency that has resulted in a dispute which has a potential for litigation involving the leasing agent, Go Triangle and the City of Raleigh. The attorneys have agreed to arbitrate in a non-binding mediation. Porter stated her opinion that the parties can come to a reasonable settlement.
- Porter stated that a new contract for the lease of smaller cutaway buses is being negotiated to be used for the Fortify project. Go Triangle would be leasing six and the City of Raleigh, nine, for one year. Go Triangle's cost would be \$360,000 to be reimbursed through NCDOT's Fortify project. She asked if the Board would be willing to authorize the General Manager to sign a contract for the lease. Chair Bell stated it appears a November meeting is not needed and recommended the Board consider action.

Action: On motion by Reckhow and second by Jones the Board authorized the General Manager to execute a contract up to \$360,000 for the lease of six cutaway buses. The motion was carried unanimously.

C. Chair's Report

No report.

Chair Bell recognized General Manager Mann. Mann noted that automatic door openers will be installed in the Plaza Building. He said it may require the removal of the inside glass doors on the west side of the building which would cause the loss of some thermal efficiency; however, he feels the tradeoff to improve accessibility is worth it. He added that the total estimated cost is \$11,000.

D. Board Member Reports

1. CAMPO Executive Board Representative

Will Allen III reported that the five-year contract with the City of Raleigh for 5307 funds was renewed. He said Go Triangle's share for FY15 is about \$1.5 million.

3. Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) Representative

Allen stated that the TriMAP quarterly meeting was predominantly about celebrating the new flight to Paris. He said there also was a Wake County Transit update.

Allen left.

2. DCHC MPO Board Representative

Bernadette Pelissier reminded the Board that the DCHC MPO will vote on the preferred alternative for the NEPA process in November.

Bell left.

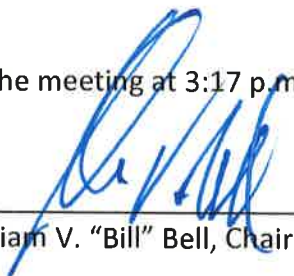
4. APTA Annual Conference Reports

Written reports from Ed Harrison, Fred Foster and Ellen Reckhow are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Crawford left.


VII. Adjournment

Action: Vice Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.



William V. "Bill" Bell, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the Board