



## MEETING MINUTES

### Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation Board of Trustees February 15, 2023

#### **Board Members Present:**

Abuzuaiteer, Marikay – Greensboro Urban Area MPO  
Alston, Skip – Guilford County  
Austin, Kevin – Yadkin County  
Besse, Dan – Forsyth County  
Butler, Jim – Burlington City Council  
Carter, Steve – Alamance County  
Frye, Darrell – Randolph County  
Fox, Mike – NCDOT Board of Transportation  
Hightower, Sharon – Greensboro City Council  
McClure, Fred – Davidson County  
Mundy, Kevin – Winston Salem City Council  
Richardson, Mark - Rockingham County  
Williams, Leonard – Burlington-Graham TAC  
Wolfe, Martha – High Point TAC

#### **Others Present:**

Scott Rhine – CEO/General Manager, PART; Tom Terrell, Fox Rothschild, LLP; Connie Conklin, PART; Mark Kirstner, PART; Chris Robbins, PART; Tammy Turner, PART; Andrew Sowers, PART; Guests - 4

#### **I. Call to Order – Roll Call of Attendance and Ethics Statement**

##### **A. Ethics Statement**

Marikay Abuzuaiteer requested any PART Board members with conflicts of interest to identify those conflicts and refrain from any participation in the matter involved.

**There were no identified conflicts from PART Board members.**

#### **II. Public Speakers signed/registered for public comment**

There were no public speakers.

#### **III. Consideration of Meeting Minutes**

The January 11, 2023 PART Board of Trustee meeting minutes were accepted without revisions.

**Motion to accept the January 11, 2023 meeting minutes: Darrell Frye**

**Second: Steve Carter**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: Unanimous 14 -Yes**

#### **IV. Special Recognition – PART *In the Spotlight Award***

Scott Rhine presented *In the Spotlight* PART Express Operator of the Year award to Barbara Townsend. Ms. Townsend was recognized for both her professional and personal achievements. She is also an active volunteer in the community including a nonprofit “Next Step Loved Ones” founded by her. Congratulations to Barbara Townsend for exceptional service!

## **V. Report from PART Board Committee – Operations/Planning Committee**

Sharon Hightower presented the Operations/Planning committee met in February to discuss several initiatives including:

- 7 Eleven Store – South Lexington Park and Ride Lot – agreed to sell small strip of PART property for road improvements.
- Vanpool Purchase – over the course of the next 5 years, 20 new vans will be needed. Authorized PO to vendors to purchase replacement vans.
- Ride Share – MPO’s will be able to link to page, RidetheTriad.org which is used by PART for marketing purposes.
- Route Planning – Many opportunities will be available with economic development and growth and how PART can connect and network via PART express and other services.

## **VI. Consideration of PART Board Business Items**

### **A. New Business**

#### **1. Oath of Office to new PART Board Members**

Scott Rhine presented Commissioner Fred McClure of Davidson County and Commissioner Dan Besse of Forsyth County as new PART Board Members. Tom Terrell administered the Oath of Office to Commissioners Fred McClure and Dan Besse being sworn in on February 15, 2023. PART Board members welcomed Commissioners McClure and Besse to the PART Board of Trustees.

#### **2. Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment**

Connie Conklin, CPA/CFO PART Director of Finance and Administration, presented an overview of the FY 2022-2023 Budget Ordinance Amendment.

##### **a) Amendment of the General Fund Annual Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023**

Connie Conklin presented:

- **Expense Increase 38K** – Compensation Study
- **Expense Increase 10K** – Capital Outlay GMV
- **Appropriation adjustment required to balance budget 48K**

**Motion to approve the Amendment of the General Fund Annual Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023: Mark Richardson**

**Second: Sharon Hightower**

**Vote: Unanimous 14 -Yes**

##### **b) Amendment of the Commuter Resource Annual Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023**

- **Revenue Increase 125K** – Result of upswing in Vanpool leases
- **Expense Increase 15K** – Compensation Study
- **Appropriation adjustment required to balance budget 110K**

PART Board member discussion included questions regarding why an increase in vanpools. PART vanpools decreased to 9 during COVID. Since COVID, PART has gradually increased with 29 vanpools currently as distribution by county has spread and increased awareness by marketing strategies.

**Motion to approve the Amendment of the Commuter Resource Annual Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023: Mark Richardson**

**Second: Sharon Hightower**

**Vote: Unanimous 14-Yes**

### **3. Consideration of Surry County Tax District Amendment**

Scott Rhine presented in Surry County there are ongoing expenses to operate the 3 Park and Ride Lots: a) lot in Pilot Mountain to be sold to O'Reilly Auto Parts b) lot in Pilot Mountain and c) lot in Mt. Airy. PART is recommending reducing the tax rate from 5% to 2% to continue the maintenance needs of property investments in place in Surry County.

PART Board member discussion included if Surry County was aware of the proposed tax reduction. The information has not been shared. Upon approval by the Board of Trustees, will ask Surry County how they desire to handle the collection of the tax – a) Surry County to collect directly or b) PART collect directly from businesses. To allow sufficient time for all parties involved to make the tax rate adjustment, the effective date of the resolution should be amended to April 1, 2023.

**Motion to accept Amending the U-Drive IT Vehicle Tax in Surry County and Amend the Effective Date to April 1, 2023: Skip Alston**

**Second: Darrell Frye**

**Vote: Unanimous 14 -Yes**

### **4. Approval to Sale Right-of-Way to Private Sector**

Scott Rhine presented NCDOT needs the frontage of the land of the South Lexington Park and Ride Lot to widen the road for the development of 7-Eleven. The land sale will be coordinated with Crosland Southeast, developer for 7-Eleven. The South Lexington Park and Ride Lot will not be impacted as the frontage is located outside of PART's fence. A site plan for the proposed development including the frontage was provided.

PART Board member discussion included had a value of the frontage been requested. Upon approval by the Board of Trustees, an appraisal will be requested to determine the value to be paid to PART including all expenses associated with the land transfer to be absorbed by Crosland Southeast. PART is requesting approval to move forward with discussions to sale the land to Crosland Southeast.

**Motion to approve to Coordinate Land Sale to Crosland Southeast in Support of 7 Eleven Store #42315: Mark Richardson**

**Second: Jim Butler**

**Vote: Unanimous 14 -Yes**

### **5. Consideration of Vanpool Vehicle Purchasing**

Scott Rhine presented the market is competitive for the availability of chassis from both Ford and Chevy. PART has continued to look for a replacement van (both new and used) since Board

approval to utilize insurance payment and has not found a good option. PART is requesting approval to provide letters of intent to both Ford and Chevy dealers on State Contract of intent to purchase 15, 2024 passenger vans when released. Pricing for 2024 models will be released in April or May 2023, and dealers will receive a limited quantity.

PART Board member discussion included vans will be purchased on state contract and will be gas powered vans as electric or hybrid is not yet available. Other dealers were reviewed; however, Ford and Chevy are the 2 dealers providing the need for 12/14 passenger vans for state contract. Upon asking if the current fleet of chassis could be salvaged, it has been determined it is too difficult and safety features are disabled.

**Motion to authorize to provide Letters of Intent to Retailers on State Contract for Replacement Vanpool Vehicle Purchasing:**

**Mark Richardson**

**Second: Steve Carter**

**Vote: Unanimous 14 - Yes**

**B. Old Business**

No Old Business to discuss.

**VII. Departmental Staff Reports**

Scott Rhine provided updated information items for Departmental Staff reports and the CEO/General Manager updates that are included in the agenda packet.

**VIII. Chairperson Report**

Marikay Abuzuaiter welcomed our newest Board members, Fred McClure and Dan Besse. She encouraged the PART Board to take a field trip in April or May to the NC Zoo in Asheboro and to send out a poll for interest.

**IX. Adjourn**

Scott Rhine reminded Board Members of a joint Personnel / Finance committee meeting following the Board meeting.

**Motion to Adjourn: Steve Carter**

**Second: Leonard Williams**

**Vote: Unanimous 14 -Yes**