



MEETING MINUTES

Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation Board of Trustees April 12, 2023

Board Members Present:

Abuzuaiter, Marikay – Greensboro Urban Area TAC
Alston, Skip – Guilford County
Austin, Kevin – Yadkin County
Besse, Dan – Forsyth County
Carter, Steve – Alamance County
Frye, Darrell – Randolph County
Fox, Mike – NCDOT Board of Transportation
Hightower, Sharon – Greensboro City Council
Horn, Mike – Winston-Salem TAC
Morris, Rick – Stokes County
Mundy, Kevin – Winston Salem City Council – *By Phone/Audio*
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 - 5

I) Call to Order – Roll Call of Attendance and Ethics Statement

A. Ethics Statement

Marikay Abuzuaiter 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 March 8, 2023 PART Board of Trustee meeting minutes were accepted without revisions.

Motion to accept the March 8, 2023 meeting minutes: Steve Carter

Second: Mark Richardson

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous 14 -Yes

IV) Report from PART Board Committee – PART Operations/Planning Committee

Sharon Hightower presented the PART Operations/Planning Committee March meeting update:

- Routes 1, 2 and 3 considered a proposed 30 minute frequency for all day services

- Ridership for North Market St. area will be side lined and reviewed at a later date as the cost could be non-supportive.
- Direct line service from Greensboro to Winston Salem with no transfer will be considered for implementation in upcoming fiscal year.
- Start of Saturday service will be placed on hold pending upcoming GTA changes
- Extending Route 2 Greensboro service with more employment and coliseum access will depend on City of Greensboro planning study.
- Route 9, Davidson County, will add a mid-day service in upcoming fiscal year.
- Route 10, PART has applied for a NCDOT grant to continue support for the route; Zoo trip has been planned for PART Board members for May 26th.
- Shuttle schedule change to PTIA from on demand to fixed schedule for service expansion will be implemented in the new fiscal year.
- Fares of all PART Express will stay the same in the upcoming fiscal year.

V) Consideration of PART Board Business Items

A. New Business

1. Presentation – NCDOT Rail by Jason T. Orthner, P.E., CPM Director

Scott Rhine introduced Jason Orthner, Director with NCDOT Rail. Mr. Orthner presented an excellent overview of the NC Rail System which NCDOT owns 109 miles of rail corridor. Maps of the NC Rail Lines (NS, NCR, CSX, Short Lines) were shared providing uses and future expansions including freight and safety improvements.

Maps of the Passenger Rail Service were also shared which includes 3 lines of service: 1) Intercity - connects centers of city and town; 2) Commuter - connects outlying areas and urban areas and 3) Light - connects the urban areas. Intercity rail services have had the highest increase in ridership from 2022-2023. Scott Rhine commented PART would like to expand the Interline Agreement with NC Rail on Intercity rail.

Future Developments include building a Charlotte Rail Station and Siemens Mobility Plant in Lexington, NC, and FRA Corridor ID Program Opportunities.

PART Board Discussion included plans for Winston-Salem rail lines in the future. Safety improvements include investigations and inspections of railroads, compliance of equipment including signals. Regarding load management, Mr. Orthner advised there is a current study on the design of grade separation regulating the number of lite cars loaded between heavy cars. With regards to knowing what is being carried on the cars considering recent accidents, Mr. Orthner stated transparency is very important and a focus for the future. Mike Fox commended Mr. Orthner's expertise and work with NCDOT Rail.

2. Approval to Extend Interlocal Agreements for Mobility Management Call Center

Scott Rhine presented the current agreement expires at the end of June 2023. PART is requesting approval to extend the interlocal agreement with City of High Point and Davidson County for a minimum of 3 years and to expand to other PART member agencies interested in joining the Mobility Management Call Center.

Motion to extend the Mobility Management Call Center Interlocal Agreement: Sharon Hightower

Second: Kevin Austin

Discussion: None Vote: Unanimous 14 – Yes

3. Consideration to Amend Vanpool Program Leasing

Scott Rhine presented that PART has managed the Regional Vanpool Program since July of 2000. PART is requesting approval to expand the current vanpool lease program with the option for leases to include workforce development for businesses, colleges and universities.

Motion to amend the Vanpool Leasing Program to incorporate Workforce Development

Needs: Steve Carter

Second: Skip Alston

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous 14 – Yes

B. Old Business

1. Approval to Sell Property – South Lexington Park and Ride

Scott Rhine presented Crosland Southeast request to purchase the road frontage from PART's South Lexington Park and Ride lot for development of a 7 Eleven store. A third-party appraisal was obtained, and the road frontage was appraised at a value of \$1,175. The appraisal report included the land is currently valued at \$195,500 which is higher than the original purchase value of \$167,000; therefore, the sale of the road frontage has zero impact on the existing facility. PART is requesting approval to sell the road frontage for \$1,175 to Crosland Southeast.

PART Board discussion included the purchase amount of \$1,175 will be placed in PART's Restricted Fund account to be applied to future capital purchases.

Motion to authorize the Sale of Property to Crosland Southeast for \$1,175: Kevin Austin

Second: Leonard Williams

Vote: Unanimous 14 - Yes

VI) 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.

Scott Rhine presented May 26 has been scheduled for PART Board members to participate in a zoo trip on the PART Bus Express. Mr. Rhine requested approval of the zoo trip for May 26.

Motion to authorize the zoo trip for May 26 for PART Board members: Steve Carter

Second: Darrell Frye

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous 14 – Yes

VII) Chairperson Report

Marikay Abuzuaiter announced Andrew Perkins is retiring from his position with NC A&T University. She encouraged Board attendance and quorum for May's Board meeting as several important initiatives will be presented.

VIII) Adjourn

Scott Rhine reminded Board members of a PART Board Finance Committee meeting following the Board meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: Skip Alston | Second: Steve Carter | Vote: Unanimous 14 -Yes