



DON WILLIS
DIRECTOR

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FREEMAN HARDISON, JR.
CHAIRMAN

*Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2019*

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 25, 2019, at the City of Goldsboro Anteroom, 214 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Members in attendance: Freeman Hardison, Jr., Chairman, Bob Waller, Secretary/Treasurer, Brent Heath, Mark Stevens, John Bell, and Berry Gray.

Absence: Shycole Simpson-Carter, Vice Chairman.

Others in attendance: Don Willis, Borden Parker, Chester McClarin, Thelma Allen, and LaShonda Oliver.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Bob Waller and seconded by Berry Gray, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting of March 28, 2019.

Bus and Van

Chairman Hardison recognized the driver of the year. Willis stated that each year there is a process that decides the driver of the year. In order to be selected as driver of the year, the person will have to be driver of the quarter. This process includes safety, teamwork, and recognition from other drivers. The driver of the year for the urban bus system is Chester McClarin. McClarin has worked with GWTA for two years and 8 months. McClarin stated that he works to serve the public as well as make sure he treats them with dignity and respect. The driver of the year for the rural van system is Thelma Allen. Allen has worked with GWTA for two years and 8 months. Allen stated that she enjoys what she does.

Mobi Award

Willis shared the Mobi Award certificate with the Board. GWTA was invited to be a finalist for the award. This is the first annual NCDOT Mobi Award which is for projects within the last five years.

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Director's Report

Financial

GWTA remains in a good financial position. The rural program is showing a gain of \$30,058.01 in March and a gain of \$105,165.55 fiscal year to date. The urban program is showing a gain of \$2,932.94 in March and a loss of \$1.30 fiscal year to date. As mentioned previously, the urban funds will remain about balanced throughout most of the year due to the grant reimbursement process.

A proposed budget request was submitted timely to Wayne County which would include \$26,400 to meet the 10% matching requirements to replace five rural service vehicles meeting useful life.

A bill was recently introduced by the legislature which is intended to address the 25% rescission in state (SMAP) funds which match federal operating dollars for our urban bus service. The reduction is expected to be \$45,000 for the coming fiscal year. GWTA submitted a proposed budget request to the City of Goldsboro which included additional funds to cover the rescission and maintain urban bus service levels. If the legislature approves restoration of SMAP funds, then the request for additional funds would not be necessary.

GWTA is still awaiting notification of the federal allocation amount from the NCDOT. It is anticipated that the Board will set a grant public hearing date in May with the public hearing held at the June Board meeting.

Upon motion of Mark Stevens and seconded by Brent Heath, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to set a public hearing date on the FTA grant application for May 30, 2019, or June 20, 2019, dependent upon when the Federal releases the federal FY18 apportionment.

Request to Address Additional Shelters

Goldsboro City council has requested the Board consider participation in funding additional shelters. The City has an interest of adding additional shelters at bus stops. There was an FTA grant for bus shelters that were placed at higher riding locations by the previous Director. If the city procures an additional shelter, it would likely cost between \$4,000 and \$6,000. The City has asked GWTA to consider the following locations (with boarding counts from last spring) included: Ash/Herman (7); Elm/Poplar (3); Elm/Andrews (2); and Slocumb/Seymour (3). The outbound stop at Ash/Herman currently serves the DSS and Health Department and is closest in boarding riders to some of our other stops with shelters now. The rider counts at the stops will be updated this spring. At this time, the location that supports the cost of adding a shelter is Ash/Herman. The industry standard for shelters, boarding per day is ten. Because we are a small system, it could be difficult to have 10 boarding passengers per day. The Board discussed that the need for bus shelter is at Ash/Herman and there is not a need based on industry standard for the other locations that was requested. Willis stated that the bus shelter at Dillard Academy does not have ridership to support the need for a shelter. In addition, adding a shelter at Dillard Academy did not increase ridership at that location.

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Upon motion of Brent Heath and seconded by Bob Waller, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved recommending that Goldsboro move the shelter at Dillard Academy to the proposed site at Ash/Herman if Goldsboro determined a shelter was needed at that location.

Marketing and Promotions

Ridership counts occurred the week of April 8, 2019, and results are being compiled to be presented at the May Board meeting. Also, Customer Satisfaction Surveys are underway, including a new online option. The survey results will also be presented at our May Board of Directors meeting.

The Mayor has asked if GWTA could consider a “Veteran Ride Free” throughout the year. Willis stated that he has reached out to other transit and some are piloting GWTA’s current promotion to have a “Veterans Ride Free” for a week at Veterans Day. Because Goldsboro is a military town, there are concerns that the promotion throughout the year can depress fare box revenue. Additionally, there are concerns that asking the bus drivers to administer the passengers that are veterans could result in passengers that are not veterans riding for free. Willis proposed that we offer a reduce ride for veterans.

Upon motion of Mark Stevens and seconded by Berry Gray, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved for Don Willis to have a discussion on a reduced fare promotion for veterans with the Mayor and City Council as need be.

TAB Membership

Willis stated that concerns had been raised by a citizen at city council and at our last TAB meeting in March regarding TAB membership and participation. The City Manager asked for the Board of Directors to address the concerns raised, as the Board of Directors makes appointments. Willis noted that the TAB is an advisory board required by the NCDOT, and which must meet certain representation expectations to satisfy the NCDOT. Willis agreed to bring the concerns shared to the TAB at their June meeting and ask the TAB for any recommendations for the Board of Directors.

Mount Olive Service Update

GWTA continues to provide deviated fixed route circulator service and a connector service to Mount Olive. Total ridership through the end of March was 1,976, while the 50% matching costs for the year to date is \$36,843. Fare box received to date is \$2,073. The best performing month is still about 30% below the average expected for the year. Conversations continue with Mount Olive officials and NCDOT to determine if the grant may be extended for an additional year, and if there is any local matching commitment. The GWTA Board would need to consider whether to support operation of this service for an additional year and whether to provide something toward the required 50% service match. GWTA participated at the Pickle Festival in Mount Olive on April 13, 2019 to help promote the service.

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Outreach and Activities

GWTA participated in the Wayne Community College Job Fair on April 2, 2019. On April 3, 2019, Willis and Vice Chair Simpson attended the first annual NCDOT's MOBI Awards Ceremony representing GWTA as a finalist for the Award. Willis attended Chamber's Health Care Luncheon on April 11, 2019, for an update on expected changes to Medicaid and the State Health Plan. GWTA participated in the "Real World Summit" training event for VR customers on April 17, 2019, assisting over 100 high school students to plan for transportation in their future. GWTA also plans to again support the Wings Over Wayne Air Show on the last weekend in April, providing shuttle service to the disabled parking lots.

Training

Operators received training on First Aid at our monthly meeting on April 25, 2019. Dispatcher received NCDOT's Reasonable Suspicion Drug and Alcohol Program Training on April 17 & 18, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Submitted by: LaShonda Oliver