



DON WILLIS  
DIRECTOR

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FREEMAN HARDISON, JR.  
CHAIRMAN

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

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

**Members in attendance:** Freeman Hardison, Jr., Chairman, Shycole Simpson-Carter, Vice Chairman (via phone), Bob Waller, Secretary/Treasurer, and Brent Heath (via phone).

**Absence:** John Bell, Berry Gray and Mark Stevens.

**Others in attendance:** Don Willis, Borden Parker, Tim Salmon, Carl Martin, and LaShonda Oliver,

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion of Bob Waller and seconded by Brent Heath, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting of June 20, 2019.

**Election of Officers**

Upon motion of Brent Heath and seconded by Bob Waller, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to appoint Freeman Hardison, Jr., as the seventh member to the GWTA Board.

Upon motion of Bob Waller and seconded by Shycole Simpson-Carter, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to appoint Freeman Hardison, Jr., as Chairman of the Board.

Upon motion of Freeman Hardison, Jr., and seconded by Bob Waller, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to appoint Shycole Simpson-Carter as Vice-Chairman of the Board.

Upon motion of Brent Heath and seconded by Freeman Hardison, Jr., the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to appoint Bob Waller as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board.

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**FY 2019-20 Rural State Operating Grant**

At 10:10 a.m., a public hearing was held on the FY 2019-20 Rural State Operating Grant application.

Don Willis gave an overview of the grant application. The total budget is \$130,000 with a 50% match of \$65,000. The request is the same funding amount as last fiscal year. GWTA has worked closely with the Town of Mt. Olive and they have secured some of the local match.

No public comments were received.

The public hearing was closed at 10:12.

Upon motion of Brent Heath and seconded by Bob Waller, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved for Freeman Hardison, Jr. to sign the FY2019-20 Rural State Operating grant application to be submitted to NCDOT.

**Director's Report**

***Financial***

The financial statement is unaudited and subject to change after an external audit is conducted. Both programs show three pay periods for the final month of the fiscal year. The rural program is showing a loss of \$13,270.60 in June and a gain of \$67,315.53 fiscal year to date. The urban program is showing a loss of \$10,349.54 in June and a loss of \$12,202.63 fiscal year to date. The City of Goldsboro only budgeted 258,129 for the fiscal year. Therefore, GWTA would only receive that amount to match available FTA grants. GWTA is working with the City to receive the local match funding from the Community Block grant to cover the remaining urban funding that is needed to balance the budget.

In light of changes in provision of health care and Medicaid transportation by the NC Department of Health and Human Services, a review of the GWTA billing rates may be in order for fiscal year 2020. There will be five broker companies that will be responsible for either sending trips or not sending trips to GWTA instead of one DSS agency that currently sends us trips. Each private company will have their own contracts and will seek to negotiate the billing rates and terms with GWTA. Revenues for these services decreased 13% by end of the fiscal year and could reduce further when changes take effect in February.

Rural grant funds available from NCDOT were also reduced last fiscal year. GWTA should consider changes in how agencies draw and use these grant funds for fiscal year 2020. Some of the loss in rural funds for June is a result of over expenditure in these funds, including agency EDTAP trips.

Wayne County elected not to match grant funds for replacement of four (4) vehicles last fiscal year, which will reduce final gains from the amount reported. However, Wayne County agreed to match grant funds for replacement vehicles for fiscal year 2020.

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Dial-a-Ride (DAR) services provided by the Rural program for the Urban program have also continued to increase. Part of the loss in rural and urban funds for June is a result of extending DAR services to Goldsboro which exceeds local funds available in FY 2019. The City of Goldsboro did approve an increase to the budget for fiscal year 2020; however, GWTA should still consider changes in how the DAR services are made available to better manage the increasing cost for these services.

### ***Ridership***

Ridership on the rural program for FY2018-19 was 69,410. This represents an increase of 6% from the prior fiscal year. Increase in services has traditionally benefited the rural revenue. However, the growth in services provided by the rural program to the urban program has not been sustainable and went beyond the available urban matching budget in fiscal year 2019. Urban bus ridership was 204,065. This represents a 2% decrease and is related to lost operating days in September during the hurricane.

### ***Marketing and Public Relations RFP***

On Monday July 15, 2019, the City Council received the results of the GWTA Marketing and Public Relations RFP and acted to approve contracting with Quest Corporation of America, the successful respondent in the RFP process.

### ***Outreach and Activities***

Willis met with the new DSS Director, Kim McGuire, on June 21, 2019, to discuss ongoing service partnership. Willis facilitated the marketing RFP review panel meeting on June 24, 2019. Willis attended the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) meeting and also met with a Medicaid Transportation Broker at a Town Hall meeting in Fayetteville on June 26, 2019. Willis met on July 1, 2019, with representatives of North Carolina Capital Management Trust (NCCMT) about fund performance and expectations for the coming year. Willis attended the Medicaid Transportation Roundtable discussion with NCHHS, NCDOT, and representatives from transportation broker companies on July 9, 2019. Willis and Board members, Shycole Simpson-Carter and Bob Waller, participated in dedicating a “Little Free Library” at the Transfer Center on July 10, 2019. The good news about this partnership was also published in a national transit industry periodical distributed by the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA). Representatives from the Federal Transit Administration visited the transfer center on July 24, 2019. The FTA representatives were in Goldsboro to review the latest TIGER grant project.

### **TAB Membership**

The GWTA’s Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) held its quarterly meeting on June 26, 2019. At the request of the Board of Directors, the TAB reviewed its membership requirements and also opportunities for participation. Membership on the TAB is largely prescribed by the NCDOT with a focus on representatives from key agencies that are served by the TAB. After reviewing membership expectations, the TAB noted that there had been some turn-over of individuals representing key

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agencies on the TAB, which the Board may choose to address by recognizing new appointees for those organizations. Staff has followed up with these organizations and individuals to secure commitments to participate. The TAB also suggested that the meeting location be rotated allowing organizations to highlight their programs and how GWTA is supporting outcomes. The TAB also requested staff survey members to determine if there are any standing conflicts with the proposed meeting schedule and also whether GWTA could take steps that would improve participation in the meetings. In addition, the TAB may consider adding a limited public comment period on agendas that would allow the public to be heard at the TAB meetings. There are four vacancies on the TAB that needs to be filled. Willis recommended Diana Campbell from the Health Department, Valerie Wallace from the Partnership for Children, and Cynthia Juliano from the Department of Social Services. In addition, there is a vacancy for the emergency management representative. The vacancy for that position will be filled as soon as the County hires a manager for emergency management position.

Upon motion of Bob Waller and seconded by Shycole Simpson-Carter, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to appoint Diana Campbell, Valerie Wallace and Cynthia Juliano to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB).

### ***Veteran Half Bus Fare Proposal***

Willis stated that the City of Goldsboro Mayor has asked if the Veterans Ride Free program could be for the entire year. Willis stated that Greenville offers this program for the year; however, GWTA offers the program during the week of Veterans Day. In researching the idea, other transit communities do not offer the program for the entire year and they actually model GWTA program. Willis recommended offering a reduced fare to Veterans. The Veterans can apply for a reduce fare card to be used throughout the year as well as continue the Veterans Ride Free program during the week of Veterans Day.

Upon motion of Brent Heath and seconded by Bob Waller, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to develop a program to offer the Veterans a reduced fare on the urban system for six months as a trial basis.

### ***Training***

All employees will receive training on emergency evacuation procedures on July 25, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Submitted by: LaShonda Oliver