



FRED FONTANA  
DIRECTOR

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FREEMAN HARDISON, JR.  
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority  
Governing Board Meeting Minutes  
July 26, 2018***

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 26, 2018, 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, Brent Heath, Joe Daughtery, Bill Pate and Antonio Williams.

**Others in attendance:** Don Willis, Fred Fontana, Karen Tinsley, and LaShonda Oliver.

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion of Joe Daughtery and seconded by Bill Pate, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting of June 21, 2018.

**Election of Officers**

Upon motion of Joe Daughtery and seconded by Antonio Williams, 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 Joe Daughtery, 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 Joe Daughtery 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.

**TAB Appointments**

Fred Fontana stated that NCDOT has added new requirements as members to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB). GWTA will need to appoint a member of the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) and Emergency Management. Patrick Flanagan has agreed to serve on the TAB as the RPO as well as Mel

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Powers of Emergency Management. Don Magoon has retired from Wayne Community College and Joanna Morrisette has agreed to serve as his replacement. In addition, The TAB is required to have a representative from a mental health organization. Luis Guzman of Cherry Hospital has served on the TAB, but, has low attendance. Venessia Hill of East Pointe has agreed to serve on the TAB and replace Guzman as the representative for mental health.

Upon motion of Bob Waller and seconded by Freeman Hardison, Jr., the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to appoint, Patrick Flanagan, Mel Powers, Joanna Morrisette and Venessia Hill to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB).

Fontana informed the Board that the TAB By-Laws will have to be amended by the TAB members. The By-Laws states that there should be 16 members; however, it will be increased to 18 members in order to meet NCDOT guidelines.

### **Mount Olive Update**

The Mount Olive Service began on July 2, 2018. As of July 20, 2018, the ridership count was 231 with 171 of those rides made during the first week that the rides were free. After the first week, the ridership count has been approximately 10 riders per day. The Mt. Olive circulator and connector has been promoted for several months. It has been in the newspaper several times. There are flyers and schedules in several locations in Mt. Olive. Fontana stated that there has been positive feedback. It is too soon to determine the need; however, the ridership will have to increase in order to continue the service.

Don Willis stated that the Mayor of Mt. Olive has invited him to speak to the University of Mount Olive to help promote the service. Willis has met with representatives at Mount Olive Pickle as well as other organizations in Mt. Olive.

### **Director's Report**

#### *Financial*

The rural program is showing a gain of \$1,769.45 in June and an entire year gain of \$200,327.42 and the urban program is showing a loss of \$17,407.13 in June and an entire year gain of \$0.40. The City of Goldsboro budgeted \$244,000 for the fiscal year. GWTA will only receive the \$243,212 needed to match FTA grants.

NCDOT has informed GWTA that the SMAP cut will be \$45,000 for this fiscal year. That is slightly less than anticipated. As discussed last month, this loss will be made up with urban fund balance, elimination of the extra trip on the Purple and Blue route, and elimination of service on three holidays. In addition, GWTA was able to receive \$15,000 of Community Development Block Grant funds.

Fontana informed the Board that the rural year revenue is based on the agency cost of \$13.50 per trip for van service in the county. The van service for out of county trips has remained at \$3.00 per mile. Fontana cautioned that there will be changes in Medicaid transportation and health services by the NC Department of Health and Human Services. They will be looking at contracts with manage care providers such as

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Humana or Aetna that will find subcontractors to broker Medicaid transportation. They may consider the out of county rate as being too high. The out of County rate has not been reviewed since July, 31, 2014. It was stated at that meeting the rates will be revisited at a later time. Fontana recommended that it needs to be reviewed due to the change in the Medicaid transportation that will be coming soon. Joe Daughtery asked that there will be an opportunity to adjust the rate if it is deemed too high. Willis stated that some of the brokerage firms will try to dictate the rates. Fontana stated that the \$13.50 is in line with other counties and probably is on the low end. The out of county may be too high if it goes through a brokerage service. Humana nor Aetna will not be setting the rate, but, will contract with another company like Logisticare to manage Medicaid transportation. Logisticare will use existing transportation providers or a “mom and pop” transportation company to provide the trips for a low rate. Most of the people in the industry are opposed to this brokerage service approach. If Medicaid goes away from the existing transportation providers, the cost for other transportation service such as Senior Services, Wayne Opportunity Center and other agencies will increase in order to offset the loss of the Medicaid trips.

*Shelters*

A bus shelter has been installed on Elm St. in front of Dillard Academy and in front of the farmer’s market at the Maxwell Center. The damaged shelter in Westhaven has been replaced. GWTA has met with City staff to locate a site for a shelter on Ash Street close to the Health and Social Services Departments. Daughtery asked if the shelter needs to be at the location on Ash Street or on the side street. Fontana stated that the location on Simmons Street has been reviewed; however, considering route time, it may be impossible to use that location. Willis stated that the turns are difficult for a bigger vehicle. There is an existing county owned lot near the possible future location of the Health Department. Antonio Williams asked about the bus stop near Rite Aid on Ash Street. Fontana stated that they reviewed the stops inbound and outbound. The inbound bus stop was chosen because it is owned by the County. There will not need to be negotiation on putting a shelter on Ash Street and that location near Rite Aid since it is private property. Fontana stated that they are reviewing bus stops on Slocumb Street by the basketball court, the City Public Works Department is assisting. Williams stated that a bus shelter is needed on John Street near the park and W. A. Foster Center. Currently, there is only a bench. Williams stated that the input he got from Dillard Academy is the staff is excited about the shelter. It will make an impact when the kids go back to school. Williams asked the Board to consider some type of marketing because he think it will help out the ridership. Daughtery asked if there are maps at the bus stops. Williams stated that he talked about putting boxes with directions and time. Daughtery stated that in larger cities they will have the times at the bus stops. Life is busy and no one wants to wait an hour. It may promote more ridership. Fontana stated that our bus stops generally serve one route. The other cities have them so you know there are multiple routes coming by there. As of now, we have the trip finders on the website and use the smart phones to see what bus they need to take and what time they need to get there.

*Ridership*

Ridership on the rural program for FY2017-18 was 65,377. This represents an increase of 13.1% from the prior fiscal year. Within the trips provided by the rural program, ADA trips increased 9.1% to 6,203 and DAR trips increased 43.6% to 2,609. While increase in ADA and DAR benefit the rural revenue, they are costing the urban program a growing amount that is not sustainable. Urban bus ridership was 207,848. This represents a 3.0% increase.

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*Outreach*

Willis presented information about GWTA to the Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) Program of the American Academy of Pediatrics at Wayne Community Hospital on July 16, 2018.

*Training*

Drivers will receive refresher training on emergency evacuation procedures at the monthly meeting of July 26, 2018.

**Other Business**

Williams asked how many shelters are in storage as of now. Fontana stated that there are two. (Fontana was in error. There are three). One shelter will go on Ash Street. Daughtery asked about the cost. Fontana stated that the cost of the shelters is \$4,000 each and \$1,000 for pouring the concrete. Williams stated that a bus shelter is needed on Slocumb St. by Courtyard near the basketball court. Fontana stated that they have reviewed a location near there; however, there is a ditch where the bus goes on Slocumb Street. There is not a place to put the shelter for easy wheelchair access.

Fontana informed the Board of the possibility of an FTA Section 5310 transportation grant. The grant program was previously used by the NCDOT for capital vehicle replacements. NCDOT will allow the grant to be used for operating assistance. This may help with the shortfall of the SMAP funds next year. GWTA will not apply for the grant. The agencies, City or County will be applying for the grant and they will purchase transportation from GWTA.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Submitted by: LaShonda Oliver