



DON WILLIS
DIRECTOR

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BERRY GRAY
CHAIRMAN

*Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2024*

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met for a regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at the City of Anterroom, 214 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Members in attendance: Berry Gray, Chairman; Octavius Murphy, Secretary/Treasurer; Jamie Taylor; and Barbara Aycock

Members absent: Hiawatha Jones, Vice Chairman; and Rob Dingess

Others in attendance: Don C. Willis, Director

Call to Order

Chairman Berry Gray called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM and welcomed Board members. There was a roll call to assure a quorum was present of appointed Board members.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Gray asked the Board members to review and approve the proposed agenda. Barbara Aycock made a motion to approve the agenda as is. The motion was seconded by Jamie Taylor and received unanimous approvals.

Election of At Large Member

Chairman Gray opened the discussion about election of an at large member by the appointed Board. Chairman Gray explained that the six appointed members (three city and three county) are responsible to elect the seventh Board member. There was discussion among Board members about candidates from the community. Barbara Aycock made a motion to elect Brenda Davis from Mount Olive as the seventh member. Jamie Taylor seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously. Chairman Gray requested Director Willis to make contact with Ms. Davis for a GWTA orientation meeting.

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Public Hearing for the FY26 CTP Grant Application

Chairman Gray opened the public hearing at 10:08AM noting the timeline to submit request for annual funds to the NCDOT. Director offered comments regarding the application. This year the administrative amount requested is \$303,089 which includes a 15% local match of \$45,463. In addition, GWTA is again applying for \$130,000 from the Rural State Operating (RSO) grant, which requires a 50% local match of \$65,000. These funds are used for the Mount Olive Connector and Circulator as well as additional rural trips in Wayne County. Rural buses that have reached useful life and are now eligible to be requested for replacement in this grant as well. The total capital amount requested is \$920,500 which includes a 10% local match of \$92,050. The total funding request for the FY26 CTP Application is \$1,353,589 with total local match of \$202,513. Willis stated GWTA works with the County each year as part of their budget process to determine how much local matching assistance is available. Willis noted there are public comment forms that the public may fill out demonstrating their attendance and asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to provide feedback and comments on the application before the Board takes actions. No comments were received, and the public hearing closed at 10:12AM. Director noted the application had been made available for public review for a week prior to the hearing, and there had been no feedback before the hearing. Board further discussed the purposes for these grant funds, and Director also discussed how the local match may be covered. Director will make request to the County to consider the local match needs for this rural grant as part of their upcoming FY26 budget process. A motion was made by Octavius Murphy to approve application and for the Chairman, Secretary, and Director to execute Authorizing Resolutions and approve documents necessary for the FY26 CTP program application to the NCDOT. Barbara Aycock seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gray requested the Board review and approve the minutes provided. A motion was made by Barbara Aycock to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 29, 2024. Jamie Taylor seconded the motion. The Board provided unanimous approval of the minutes.

Presentation of Marketing Plan

Sandee Launch represented QCA (Quest Corporation of America) and made a PowerPoint presentation to the Board regarding plans for Marketing and Public Relations activities in the coming year. Passed accomplishments were reviewed and new initiatives were reviewed, such as highlighting and celebrating employees; developing ridership and enhancing communications about GWTA services; more efforts to attract employees such as first responders; incorporating more technology applications (such as QR Codes); and updating the annual customer survey feedback process, with an intent to build upon past successes. An update to the GWTA website is underway with a focus on more interactive options, including short videos and a “Seymour Says” section. New promotional items will be developed, including a new calendar for 2025, as ways to bring community attention and awareness to the GWTA. “Seymour the Bus” will continue to be used in various new contexts to help get the word out about GWTA and how to use the services available. Launch concluded her presentation with appreciation for the ongoing partnership with GWTA. Chairman Gray asked if “Seymour the Bus” could speak French Creole and Spanish in some of the outreach videos and Launch confirmed QCA has staff that will do that work. Director Willis expressed appreciation for the regular communications and teamwork from the Quest team and for their responsiveness to GWTA's needs. Chairman Gray thanked Sandee and the QCA team for their work.

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Director's Report

Director reported timely submission to the NCDOT of ROAP (rural) and SMAP (urban) operating grant applications totaling \$438,968 for GWTA in FY25. Agency use of the EDTAP portion of the ROAP funds was discussed, and that the Board would be asked to approve recommendations for these funds later during the meeting.

Director reported unaudited year end gain in the rural program of \$200,228.73 and minimal loss in the urban program of \$1,838.39. Director expects the year end rural gain to be larger once NCDOT has completed approval of year end grant reimbursements.

Director reported GWTA will again celebrate the week of Veteran's Day with fare free bus services for veterans as a result of Board action to honor the veterans in our community. Also, that GWTA will be highlighting National Disability Employment Awareness month and how GWTA provides access to employment opportunities during the month of October.

Agency EDTAP Recommendations

Director noted that the TAB (advisory board) held its quarterly meeting on September 19, 2024. Director provided qualified agencies serving the elderly and disabled with an opportunity to apply for EDTAP funds (part of the ROAP application) to be set aside to cover costs of elderly and disabled trips during FY25. Agencies provided applications by end of business on September 25, 2024. Director provided a report of the requests received, which exceeded the funds available again this year. Funds made available by the NCDOT for FY25 are less than had been available in the prior FY24. Director provided recommendations for funding to each agency that applied based on available funds and how the funds had been used in prior years. Board discussed how agencies might handle receiving less funds than requested. Board members reviewed agency funding requests. A motion was made by Barbara Aycock to accept the recommendations of the Director for agency EDTAP funds for FY25. Jamie Taylor seconded the motion. The Board provided unanimous approval.

Training

Director noted that GWTA employees would receive Defensive Driver and Pedestrian Awareness refresher training at the September meeting.

Chairman Gray asked if there was any further business. Hearing no further business, Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 10:43am.

Submitted by: Don C. Willis