



DON WILLIS
DIRECTOR

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SHYCOLE SIMPSON-CARTER
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Transportation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2020***

The Transportation Advisory Board of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2020, at the City of Goldsboro Anteroom, 214 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Members in attendance: Paula Edwards, Chair, Keith Spivey, Vice-Chair, and Steve Wiggins

Members in attendance - Teleconference: Amy Hartley, Secretary, Shycole Simpson-Carter, Tiffany Creech, Joanna Morrisette, Diana Campbell, and Aaron Stryker

Members absent: Bob Dively, Barbara Aycock, Edward Cromartie, Chip Crumpler, Cynthia Juliano, and Valerie Wallace

Others in attendance: Harlie Carmichael, Brooke Mickelson (via phone), Don Willis and LaShonda Oliver

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Keith Spivey and seconded by of Steve Wiggins, the Transportation Advisory Board of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved the minutes of December 19, 2019.

By-Law Review and Officer Elections

Don Willis reviewed the By-Laws and the agency representation that should be on the TAB and is required by NCDOT.

Upon motion of Shycole Simpson-Carter and seconded by Tiffany Creech, the Transportation Advisory Board of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to appoint Paula Edwards as Chairman.

Upon motion of Paula Edwards and seconded by Steve Wiggins, the Transportation Advisory Board of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to appoint Keith Spivey as Vice-Chairman.

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Upon motion of Tiffany Creech and seconded by Paula Edwards, the Transportation Advisory Board of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to appoint Amy Hartley as Secretary.

Director's Report

Financial

The rural program is showing a loss of \$43,716.48 in May and a gain of \$9,564.14 fiscal year to date. GWTA earns rural revenue based on trips provided. Due to the pandemic, trip volume has been down significantly and budgeted revenues have not been realized. The urban program is showing a gain of \$576.06 in May and a gain of \$246.55 fiscal year to date. The urban funds will remain about balanced throughout most of the year due to the grant reimbursement process.

Marketing and Public Awareness Efforts

In June, QCA assisted GWTA to develop a safety awareness campaign: We are Your Safe Way, We are Your Gateway. An initial effort would include providing each rider with a "safety recommendations to ride" card and a single scarf embossed with the GWTA logo.

In April, GWTA put on hold our typical spring customer surveys and ride counts, due to the current pandemic. Instead we implemented a "We Are Essential, We Are GWTA" campaign to highlight the importance of maintaining our services for the community. The campaign also highlights the need for trips actually taken to be essential consistent with the state Executive Order to stay at home.

In July, GWTA is re-running our "Great Place to Work" campaign and holding open interviews for drivers.

Veterans Half Bus Fare Pilot Program

GWTA began a six-month pilot program offering veterans half fare city bus rides in November 2019. Prior to the pandemic, the program had been well received with eligible veterans taking advantage of the reduced price for service. The process in place appear to be working and fare box revenue was not negatively impacted prior to the pandemic. The Board approved to continue the program through the end of the year to further assess ridership.

Outreach

Willis attended NC Public Transportation Association Board of Directors meeting in Concord on February 7th. GWTA participated in the senior health fair at the Senior Center on February 7th. Willis attended MPO meeting on February 13th. GWTA participated in NCDOT on site safety review on February 18th & 19th. Willis meet with representatives from the Census Bureau at their request on February 24th. GWTA also held a job fair at the transfer center on February 29th.

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Willis met with staff of the Wayne Pregnancy Center on May 7th to explore bus options and van options to support their location. Willis has participated in teleconference efforts regarding the statewide bus procurement RFP. Willis teleconferenced with DSS Director on May 29, 2020 to discuss budget and also further coordination needed to address COVID. Willis teleconferenced with NCDOT Intermodal Division Interim Director Heather Hildebrand on June 3, 2020, to discuss availability and need for CARES act funds. Willis attended NCPTA Board of Directors annual meeting by teleconference on June 10, 2020.

Drivers of the Year

Tim McCoy has been recognized as the bus operator of the year, and Michael White has been recognized as the van operator of the year. They are excellent representatives of the GWTA. Their names are on a plaque in the transfer center commemorating all of our recognized operators of the year. They also received a personal plaque and gift card in appreciation of their accomplishments.

Training

Operators will receive refresher training on the ADA on June 25th.

Impacts of COVID on GWTA Operations and Public Safety Efforts

Willis stated that GWTA is engaged with NCDOT and DHHS on their recommendation on safety and protocols during COVID-19. GWTA consistently cleans the vehicles, operators are to wear their masks and plexiglass have been installed on the vehicles. Don shared with the TAB samples of the mini sanitizer bottles and sanitizer packets that are given to passengers. Some seats have been blocked off on the vehicles and in the Transfer Center to encourage social distancing. In addition, passengers are asked to take the survey regarding Covid symptoms and are asked to wear their masks.

Impacts of COVID on GWTA Funding and Billing Rate

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners met on June 2, 2020, and accepted the GWTA rate increase from \$13.50 to \$15.00. If ridership recovers and NCDOT releases sufficient additional CARES Act funding, then no further rate adjustment will be needed.

GWTA has received 100% of the FY20 ROAP and SMAP funds. NCDOT has continued to experience a cash flow challenge which is why the funds for the current year were provided to us so slowly. The legislature zeroed these funds for FY21 as a result of the budget crisis at NCDOT.

NCDOT's cash flow challenges have worsened with lost revenue due to the pandemic. GWTA has been approved for initial CARES Act funds in the amount of \$260,994 by NCDOT for county services, which will help us cover costs for the remainder of this fiscal year and the beginning of FY21. NCDOT has not committed additional CARES funds for Wayne County and GWTA is actively communicating the need for those funds to be made available.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Submitted by: LaShonda Oliver