



DON WILLIS  
DIRECTOR

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SHYCOLE SIMPSON-CARTER  
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority  
Transportation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2021***

The Transportation Advisory Board of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 16, 2021, at the City of Goldsboro Anteroom, 214 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

**Members in attendance:** Keith Spivey, Vice-Chair.

**Members in attendance - Teleconference:** Amy Hartley, Secretary, Joanna Morrisette, Aaron Stryker, Valerie Wallace, and Steve Wiggins.

**Members absent:** Paula Edwards, Chair, Bob Dively, Barbara Aycock, Edward Cromartie, Chip Crumpler, Micajah Anderson, Shycole Simpson-Carter, Amy Smith, Tiffany Creech, Brooke Mickelson Cynthia Juliano, and Diana Campbell.

**Others in attendance:** Don Willis and LaShonda Oliver.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion of Keith Spivey and seconded by Steve Wiggins, the Transportation Advisory Board of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved the minutes of June 22, 2021.

### **Director's Report**

#### ***Financial***

The rural program is showing a gain of \$989.84 in July. The urban program is showing a loss of \$.29 in July. There are three pay periods for the first month of the new fiscal year. The urban funds will remain about balanced throughout most of the year due to the grant reimbursement process.

GWTA continues to watch for the results of the state budget to see whether the urban bus service will see the SMAP operating assistance restored, and whether the rural van service will see the ROAP operating assistance restored. GWTA has planned to receive \$239,000 in ROAP Funds and \$195,001 in SMAP funds, which would be consistent with the last level of funding provided by the NCDOT. Once ROAP funds are confirmed, GWTA will seek applications from agencies seeking to use funds to purchase trips. Recommendations will be brought to the Board of Directors for approvals.

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The NCDOT released the FY22-23 Community Transportation Program (CTP) application call for projects on July 12, 2021. This grant will fund GWTA's rural Administrative expenses. In addition, the call for projects includes Capital projects and also additional Rural State Operating (RSO) funds which we have used for the Mount Olive Service and additional rural trip demands. Applications will be due by October 8, 2021 and the GWTA Board of Directors will be provided the application for review and approval at the September 30, 2021 meeting.

NCDOT and NCHHS had provided substantial funding for trips to vaccines during the spring. While these funds have been very helpful, there is a significant amount of funds remaining. On August 17, 2021, additional flexibility was announced in our ability to use these funds through September 30, 2021.

The FY21-22 FTA grant application to FTA for urban operating, preventive maintenance, and ADA service has also been submitted. The grant is proceeding through the FTA review process. GWTA will use CARES and ARPA funds for some operations costs, and capital this year, and will continue to use FTA appropriations that have carried over from previous years for this fiscal year to cover ADA and maintenance costs. This approach reduces the need for matching funds from Goldsboro. The NCDOT has managed the FTA 5307 Governor's Apportionment funds in prior years, which has allowed GWTA to tap into funding for ADA services beyond the normal cap amount. However, NCDOT is working to transition their management of these funds completely to the FTA. GWTA is seeking clarification on the potential impact on our ability to draw additional ADA funds.

GWTA was reimbursed by NCDOT for the requested CARES Act funding to cover the operational deficit and losses during FY21.

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners met on August 3, 2021, and took action to re-affirm GWTA as the designated recipient of NCDOT funding for public and community transportation services.

***Outreach and Activities***

Don Willis made presentation at the Mount Olive Town Council meeting on Monday July 12<sup>th</sup>. NCPTA Executive Willis met with Willis at GWTA on July 13<sup>th</sup> and also attended the annual Chamber of Commerce Transportation luncheon. Willis met with QCA staff and assisted with coordination of ride counts during the week of July 12<sup>th</sup>. Willis participated in NCDOT grants webinar on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Willis participated in monthly call between NCDOT and Urban service providers on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Willis participated in monthly coordination call with NCHHS on Medicaid Transportation transition on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Willis met virtually with DSS staff about Medicaid transportation challenges on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Willis met with Goldsboro Manager and Town Councilman Matthews regarding benches and transit amenities on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Willis will meet with NCDOT/IMD Willis regarding proposed changes to urban 5307 funding virtually on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Willis participated in the quarterly NCPTA Board of Directors meeting in Wilmington on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Willis participated in a monthly Small Urban call with the NCDOT on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Willis met with the Emergency Manager and Dialysis Center representatives to discuss their annual emergency plan on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Willis participated in County

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Managers meeting on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Willis participated in statewide virtual managed care roundtable with NCHHS and the private health plans regarding Medicaid transportation on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Willis participated in NCDOT monthly meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Willis participated in MPO meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

***Training***

Operators received refresher training on emergency evacuation procedures on July 28th. Operators received refresher training on Emergency Procedures and Accident Reporting on August 26th. Operators will receive refresher training on Defensive Driving and Pedestrian Awareness on September 30th.

**Marketing and Public Relations**

Willis has begun the process of planning the annual efforts with QCA for the coming year. QCA expects to attend the September Board meeting to present the marketing plan for the Board's approval.

**Medicaid Transportation Broker Status**

ModivCare did not reach out to GWTA prior to the end of July to request an extension to our Interim Provider Agreement. Willis pointed out to ModivCare on August 3<sup>rd</sup> that there had not been a mutual agreement to continue services. Subsequently there was agreement to continue, with GWTA expressing that the rate structure offered would not extend "as is" into September. GWTA staff participated in a teleconference with ModivCare on August 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss issues and concerns with services since the transition to managed care. On August 13<sup>th</sup>, Willis held an additional teleconference with ModivCare to reset negotiations. ModivCare communicated on August 19<sup>th</sup> that a counter-proposal was under review by their attorneys.

GWTA and our peers continue to receive trip requests on a very short notice, making it difficult to provide services. This is being addressed with NCHHS and the Private Health Plans, as well as with each broker. OneCall is offering many more trips to GWTA than ModivCare at this time.

NCHHS Deputy Director Dave Richard announced they will extend flexibility for CT/PT providers dealing with the new broker model through the end of November to assure beneficiaries are served and providers are paid.

**ETAP Applications for FY22**

Willis shared the draft application of the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (EDTAP) with the TAB. Willis stated that the total amount of funding for EDTAP is approximately \$140,365. The Rural General Public (RGP) Transportation is \$105,326. There is a process to work with agencies that are interested in using the EDTAP funds. The agencies are to complete the application so that we can budget the EDTAP funds appropriately.

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**Other Business**

Willis stated that the driver of the quarter for the urban side is Tim McCoy and has been with GWTA for ten years. The rural driver of the quarter is Evon Lassiter and has been with GWTA for seven years.

Aaron Stryker gave an update on hurricane season and potential rip currents on the coast to be aware of. They are watching the Atlantic coast for storms. In addition, Willis stated that Stryker help facilitated the meetings with GWTA, emergencies services and Dialysis centers.

Joanna Morrisette stated that Wayne Community College has submitted a grant application and was awarded \$96,000 for two years. Of the grant funding, \$30,000 each year will go towards transportation services for students. Morrisette and Willis have met to discuss how to provide tickets in bulks to the students. The remaining funds will go for additional needs of students.

Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Submitted by: LaShonda Oliver