Meeting Agenda

Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation
Board of Trustees

January 13, 2021
8:30 AM

107 Arrow Road
Greensboro, NC 27409

NOTICE: This meeting is being held via Video/Teleconference with adjustments being made to protect our communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Teleconference dial in number: 1 (872) 240-3412
Access Code: 933-683-061

Video access link - https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/933683061
Meeting ID: 933-683-061
Agenda Items
January 13, 2021

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## Meeting Date: January 13, 2021

**Agenda Item No. I**

**Page No. 1**

**Action Requested:**

**Call to Order – Roll Call of Teleconferencing**

### Summary of Information:

Attachments **yes X no**

### A. Consideration of Resolution for Teleconference and Electronic meeting for January 13, 2021

PART Board action is requested to adopt the resolution on page 2 for our business activities today, and our ability to restrict public meetings to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

### Board Vote:

Motion by: __________________________
Second by: __________________________

Vote: For ________________ Against ________________
PIEDMONT AUTHORITY FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
Resolution Approving the Conduct of January 13, 2021
Board of Trustees Meeting by Remote and Electronic Means

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a national State of Emergency in response to a worldwide pandemic caused by a virus known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of North Carolina has declared a statewide State of Emergency and invoked powers enumerated in N.C. Gen. Stat. Chapter 166, Article 1A (the North Carolina Emergency Management Act) in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Guilford County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §166A-19.2, declared a State of Emergency in Guilford County as a result of COVID-19; and on March 24, 2020, Guilford County and the cities of High Point and Greensboro amended the declaration to order all citizens not performing certain essential tasks to stay at home and self-isolate; and

WHEREAS, the Guilford County declaration applies to all meetings conducted within Guilford County, including the regularly scheduled meeting of the PART Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, PART has statutory, contractual, and fiduciary duties that must be regularly conducted by its Board of Trustees despite threats imposed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. §160A-639 (General Powers of the Authority) grants the Authority certain broad powers; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. §160A-639(22) provides that the governing board shall have the power “to do all things necessary or convenient to carry out its purpose and to exercise the powers granted to the Authority;” and

WHEREAS, Board of Trustees has determined that the only healthy, safe, and logical manner in which to conduct PART’s business at this time is by electronic means enabling remote participation by board members and staff; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has also determined that it can implement certain safeguards to protect and facilitate the public’s right to participate electronically to observe all public discussions and decisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board of Trustees hereby invokes the broad powers granted in N.C. Gen. Stat. §160A-639(22) to take all necessary steps to conduct public business safely during officially declared states of emergency related to COVID-19, including meeting by electronic means.

2. The January 13, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting shall be conducted electronically in a manner determined by the Executive Director to enable maximum remote participation by the board, staff, and public.

3. This Resolution applies only to the January 13, 2021 meeting but may, upon proper amendment, be extended by electronic vote of the Board of Trustees to apply to future meetings if states of emergency on local or state levels require its extension. Its execution may be accomplished by electronic signature, each on separate pages, as necessary, to verify its adoption.
4. The Executive Director shall duly notify the public through all print and broadcast media outlets on the PART media list and by prominent notice on the PART website that the January 13th meeting will be conducted by electronic means. Notice shall include explicit instructions to facilitate and protect the right of public participation.

5. The Executive Director shall also provide board members and the public with instructions for receiving technical support to ensure and protect each person’s ability to participate remotely by electronic means.

6. A copy of this Resolution shall be sent by electronic means to each member of the Board of Trustees, PART staff, all persons who regularly attend PART meetings, and the media.

7. The Board of Trustees may adopt this Resolution by electronic vote through email, fax, or text messaging without motion or second.

   Adopted by electronic vote this the 13th day of January 2021.

____________________________________  ______________________
Marikay Abuzuaiter, Chairperson         Terry Anderson, PART Administrative Assistant
Board of Trustees                       Clerk to the Board

Approved as to form and content:

____________________________________
Thomas E. Terrell, Jr.
PART Board General Counsel

Seal:
Meeting Date: January 13, 2021

Action Requested:
Public Speakers that have registered via Contactus@partnc.org

Summary of Information:
PART has communicated to the general public via our social media, Facebook, TransLoc, website, and electronic mail resources to make the general public aware of our monthly Board meeting. At this time, we will provide the opportunity for public comments.

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Board Vote: Motion by: ________________________ Second by: ________________________
Vote: For ________________ Against ________________
### Consideration of Meeting Minutes

The November 12, 2020 meeting minutes are enclosed for PART Board review and approval.

**Board Vote:**  
Motion by: ________________________  
Second by: __________________________  
Vote: For ________________ Against _______________

Attachments: **yes** [x] no [ ]
MEETING MINUTES
Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation Board of Trustees
November 12, 2020

Board Members Present:
Abuzaidter, Marikay – City of Greensboro TAC
Besse, Dan – City of Winston Salem
Coleman, Carolyn – Guilford County
Frye, Darrell – Randolph County
Fox, Mike – NCDOT Board of Transportation
Grimes, Neal – City of High Point TAC
Hightower, Sharon – City of Greensboro
Holmes, Michael – City of High Point
Horn, Mike – Winston Salem/Forsyth TAC
Marion, Mark – Surry County
Morris, Rick – Stokes County
Perkins, Andrew – NCDOT
Richardson, Mark – Rockingham County
Truell, Don – Davidson County

Others Present:
Connie Conklin, PART; Chad Cook, Dixon Hughes Goodman; Dianna Thomason; PART: Leslie Stone,
National Express Transit; Mark Kirstner, PART; Sabrina Glenn, PART; Scott Rhine, PART; Stephanie Maker,
Dixon Hughes Goodman; Tammy Turner, PART; Tom Terrell Jr., Fox Rothschild;

Chair Dan Besse explained the virtual meeting conducted under the authority that the General Assembly has
provided under Statutes §160A-639 and §160A-639(22) with regards to the current state of emergency due to
COVID-19. Our Board is meeting virtually.

I) Call to Order: Roll Call of Teleconferencing.
A roll call was taken, and a quorum established with 14 members of the PART Board in attendance.

A. Consideration of Resolution for Teleconference and Electronic meeting for November 12, 2020.

Motion to adopt the Resolution for Teleconference and Electronic meeting for November 12, 2020: Mark
Richardson
Second: Neal Grimes
Discussion: None
Vote: 14-Yes / 0 – No / 0-Abstain

II) Overview of Meeting Process and Procedures
Scott Rhine encouraged everyone to keep their audio on mute to allow agenda items to be explained; then will
open for discussion giving everyone an opportunity to speak.
III) **Public Speakers registered via contactus@partnc.org**

Chair Dan Besse asked if anyone had contacted PART to register as a speaker from the floor. Mr. Rhine indicated that no one had. Mr. Besse then asked if anyone who called in wanted to speak. There were none.

IV) **Report from Board Committee**

Darrell Frye stated topics of discussion in the Nov 5th, 2020 Finance meeting included PART’s FY2020 year end audit results and FY2021 first quarter variance reports. He stated there is a 2 million dollar increase in fund balance bringing the balance to 10.7 million as of June 30, 2020. Mr. Frye said looking back on where we have been and where we are today gives me a sense of great accomplishment as there have been many difficult days in the past. Other things discussed were unutilized Park and Ride lots and proceeding with employing a realtor to help with the sale of these properties. The finance committee also agreed with the proposal to not move funds to the capital reserve for FY2021 so that funds would be available during these uncertain times. Mr. Frye expressed his pleasure to bring this report to the Board and the hope that there was a shared sense of confidence in the status of our association and where we are financially. Dan Besse thanked Mr. Frye and expressed gratitude and relief that we have both solid management and financial personnel on staff and in our committee. Mike Fox echoed Mr. Frye’s statement, and added it is refreshing to not worry about the financial issues, which allows us to focus on operations and how better we can serve the people. He thanked the staff and the Board for helping to keep a good financial standing.

V) **Consideration of Consent Agenda**

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda: Sharon Hightower
Second: Mark Richardson
Discussion: None
Vote: 14-Yes / 0-No / Abstain

VI) **Consideration of Meeting Minutes**

There were no corrections or additions for the October 14, 2020 PART Board of Trustees meeting minutes.

Motion to accept the October 14, 2020 meeting minutes: Marikay Abuzuaiter
Second: Michael Holmes
Discussion: None
Vote: 14-Yes / 0-No / Abstain

VII) **Consideration of Board Business Items**

A. **New Business**

1) **Presentation of FY2019-20 Annual Audit Report**

Scott Rhine introduced Chad Cook senior lead auditor with Dixon Hughes Goodman to the Board and stated Mr. Cook will give a presentation of the FY2019-20 Annual Audit report to the PART Board of Trustees.

Chad Cook thanked Scott, Connie and the finance team for their cooperation throughout the audit process. He congratulated the finance team as this marks the seventh year in a row that DHG issued an unmodified report with no findings or internal control deficiencies. Each year we look at the highlights and compare the current fiscal year to the prior and point out significant changes that have led to that. Throughout this report you will see a consistent theme, which is predictable as COVID-19 had impacts on financial results this year.

**Highlights of Financial Summary:** Total cash for FY2020 was 10.1M, this 3.2M increase was due to CARES Act funds received and the decrease in receivables. Fund balance for FY2020 is at 10.7M with an increase in net position of 1.8M. Current Assets increased by 2.6M largely due to the cash increase of 3.2M offset by a decrease in receivables. Capital Assets increased 3.0M offset by depreciation of 2.4M as well as disposal of
property in excess of .9M. Current Liabilities increased by .5M due to the timing of National Express invoice payments. Program Revenues were down .2M with reduced ridership and vanpool leases being suspended due to COVID but was offset by CARES Act funding and Capital grant funding. General Revenues decreased by 1.0M due to a .7M decrease in Rental Vehicle Taxes and the loss on the disposal of property. Expenses where down over prior year by .3M. Though revenues were below budget, expenses were also below budget by 1.8M.

Dan Besse thanked Mr. Cook for an outstanding report. He expressed appreciation for excellent work from Mr. Cook and Dixon Hughes Goodman. Mr. Rhine added, as Mr. Frye and Mr. Cook commented earlier that in the upcoming fiscal year, we anticipate a few adjustments when dealing with property assets and park and ride lots which affect our net position. We have been working with FTA over the past few years with plans to put them on the market, considering there are federal assets attached to them as well as bring this back to Board. Mr. Rhine stated, with the challenges of this pandemic and COVID19 he praised the efforts of both Dixon Hughes Goodman and the PART staff for the thorough job on the audit. There were no comments or questions.

**Motion to accept the FY2019-20 Annual Report: Darrell Frye**
Second: Don Truell
Discussion: None
Vote: 14-Yes / 0-No / 0 – Abstain

2) **Acceptance of FY2021 1st Quarter Treasurers Report**

*General Fund* revenues are at 8% and expenditures are at 19% of the annual budget. Rental Vehicle Tas, Fare Revenues and Grant Revenues are all down. Expenditures are also down due to delays in Routes 4, 5, 9 and 10 resulting in lower vehicle contract costs, maintenance costs and fuel. The net effect of Revenues under Expenditures excluding transfers at September 30, 2020 is $729,628.

*Commuter Resources Fund* revenues are at 8% of budget with total expenditures at 13%. Revenues are below budget due to reduced van pool leases and the NCDOT delay in granting TDM funds. Expenditures for CR – Original are at 11% of budget due to position vacancies, lower fuel prices and consumption due to drop in van pool leases, as well as reduced insurance premiums. Call Center departmental expenses are running at 18% due to position vacancies. The net effect of Revenues under Expenditures excluding transfers at September 30, 2020 is $55,918.

*Grants Fund* revenues and expenditures have not been realized through Q1. Six buses are on order with encumbrances of 2.9M.

**Motion to accept the FY2021 1st Quarter Treasurers Report: Darrell Frye**
Second: Don Truell
Discussion: None
Vote: 14-Yes / 0-No / Abstain

3) **Nominating Committee – 2021 Board Officers**

Darrel Frye thanked Mr. Perkins and Mayor Williams for participating in the process of nominations for the next PART Board of Trustees for year 2021. He also thanked Chair Dan Besse for outstanding leadership through this pandemic. He also stated Vice-chair Mayor Williams will not be seeking re-election of his current office and thanked him for a great job and his willingness for participating on this Board. He presented the slate of officers for the PART Board of Trustees 2021: Chair: Marikay Abuzuaiter, Greensboro Council; Vice-chair: Fleming El-Amin, Forsyth County; Secretary: Carolyn Coleman, Guilford County; Treasurer: Kevin Austin, Yadkin County. Dan Besse thanked Mr. Frye and stated the recommendations have been given, noting this does not require a second. He asked if there were other nominations including self-nominations to please speak up. There were no other nominations. Mike Horn made the Motion to accept the report from the nominating
committee by unanimous acclamations. Dan Besse recognized the motion and asked if there were any in opposition? He then stated; I hear no other nominations or votes in opposition. He then congratulated the newest PART Board of Trustees members and thanked the Nominating Committee for their recommendations.

**Motion to accept the Nominating Committees Recommendation of Board Officer year 2021: Mike Horn**

**Second: No Second needed**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: 14-Yes / 0-No / 0-Abstain**

**Note:** Mike Fox left the meeting.

4) **Consideration of PART Express Contract Extension**

Scott Rhine explained, PART has a contact in place for the management, operations and maintenance with National Express Transit to support our PART Express system. The existing contract start date was December 1, 2017 with an initial 3-year period that identified revenue hour rates for contract services and allows extension on an annual (12 month) or bi-annual (24 month) period not to exceed 7 years. PART has been working with our contractor over the past several months to identify and enhance our services and contract terms such as hourly rates, maintenance, protection of employees and employee benefits. During that time National Express informed us via letter dated November 2, 2020, located on page 19 of the Board package, that there is interest in forming a workers Union, with a voting period between November 13th to December 4th, 2020 with the result count set for December 7, 2020. The current contract expires November 30, 2020, making us in need of Management services for PART Express December 1, 2020, making this a timely manner. The recommendation, if the PART Board agrees, is our rate for revenue and service will stay in place for year 4 effective December 1, 2020. In negotiating discussions and correspondence pertaining to revenue such as; wages for operators, maintenance supervision and personnel. These rates were obtained throughout the state and other transit industries in North Carolina including other local providers and transit operations in the Triangle, and Charlotte. Mr. Rhine explained that National Express recognized the importance of this with adjustments trying to be met in rates for bus operators and support personnel due to the challenges of finding a workforce.

Considering the possibility of a Union forming, and unknown factors that may or may not be in union demands; our current contract ending November 30th, our recommendation is to extend our contract beginning December 1, 2020 to a minimum 60-day extension allowing us the opportunity to make adjustments if need be depending on the final vote. Dan Besse commented there could be technical adjustments depending on outcome of the vote but not in any way shape or form to influence the vote. Carolyn Coleman asked for clarity with the 60-day extension verses the full 12-month extension as she voiced concerns due to the possibility of interest in the workforce at National Express Transit becoming unionized and that we might be sending the wrong message. Mr. Rhine stated under normal circumstances we would offer the 12-month extension contract with set terms in place. Tom Terrell interjected that PART does not take and will not take a position on whether a union is good or bad or whether the drivers should or should not unionize. What we have said is that we have a contract in place and that it does not accommodate the structure of a unionized work force and we are trying to figure out if we can accommodate that. PART is not trying to send a message as we must acknowledge there are potential weight structures outside our budget and that is all we are doing. Dan Besse stated that since the process of shopping around for another contractor has not been instituted, what will that involve if the Board were to decide in January to not extend the contract for the remainder of the year? Mr. Rhine stated: we would recognize our termination clause in the existing contract. The typical time through a new solicitation process to obtain a management firm is 4 to 6 months which is one option. The second option is to not utilize an external management contract. We would retain our own workforce for the PART Express system. This would take 60 days due to the search for a workforce and other personnel related items. Within our contract the termination clause has certain protections. If we were to decide to release an RFP for another management firm or use in-house operations, the obligations from our contractor and our provider National Express is to maintain any kind
of transition of services. Darrell Frye stated; to avoid a tight timeline as these types of things usually take longer than anticipated should we extend to 120 days? Dan Besse stated in a follow up to Ms. Coleman’s and Mr. Frye’s question, he asked Mr. Terrell if there were any legal impediment to electing, presuming we have been satisfied with National Express’s management of PART Express this year, if there are amendments that are proposed during the year, that we could entertain a longer extension period. Mr. Terrell stated you could add terms and perimeters with our negotiations. Mike Horn commented, to better understand if we were to do our normal procedure as we have a contract that is performing what we believe to be satisfactory or above satisfactory management in normal circumstances we would extend the contract for a year. In context of extending for a year and there is unionization or if we extend for a year and there is no unionization, what are the implications? Dan Besse stated that National Express would be contractually obligated to provide service for the year at the rates agreed on. If the internal circumstances change in a way or costs increase, they would need to come to us and request a contract modification. Mr. Horn added; as opposed to altering the process we generally use, if we have an outcome that requires them to adjust their pricing we would have to deal with that as a Board. Mr. Rhine answered if the vote is for a union and the 12 month extension was put in place then we come back and make adjustments to the contract. If the vote for a union is no, and the 12 month extension is in place then we have no problems.

Darrell Frye stated, the 60 days puts us in a tight schedule and the 12 months does not put us in harm’s way, it does not prevent negotiating if necessary. I make a motion we change the extension from 60 days to 12 months.

Motion to change the 60-day extension to 12-month extension with National Express Transit: Darrell Frye
Second: Carolyn Coleman
Discussion: None
Vote: 13-Yes / 0-No / 0-Abstain

5) Information – 2021 PART Board Meeting Calendar
Dan Besse thanked the Board for their participation and added the 2021 PART Board meeting calendar is in the Board package and the next meeting is January 13, 2021

B) Old business – None

VIII) Departmental Staff Reports
A. Department Staff Reports
There were no comments or questions regarding the Departmental Staff reports.

XI) Chairperson Report
Chair Dan Besse addressed the PART Board stating this was his last meeting and term of service as a member of the PART Board and added it’s always a relief when handing over a position of major responsibility and to feel you are leaving your charge in good hands. I have that confidence in the Board, the new officers and our management and employees who have established such a continuous strong record of consistent, good performance.

Adjourned: 9:40am.
The Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation
Board of Trustees

Meeting Date: January 13, 2021
Action Requested:

Consideration of PART Board Business Items

Summary of Information: Attachments yes X no

A. New Business:

1) Oath of Office for PART Board of Trustee member
   Kevin Mundy has been designated as the representative from the City of Winston-Salem to the PART Board of Trustees. Mr. Mundy will be replacing Dan Besse on the PART Board.

   With the virtual meeting format being utilized; Scott Rhine will introduce Mr. Mundy and coordinate our Oath of Office.

2) Authorization to Amend National Express Transit Contract
   On December 16, 2020 National Express bus operator employees voted 18-9 to unionize as members of the Teamsters Local 391. A letter from our management firm, National Express is located on page 13 for your reference. It is also recognized that the PART Board of Trustee’s authorized a contract extension with National Express on November 12, 2020 for a 12-month period December 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021.

   While reference is made by the accompanying letter that no incongruities exist with our existing contract in recognition of the unionized work force, or the requirements detailed under 49 U.S.C. A 5333(b) it is PART management beliefs that updating our existing contract with National Express due to the inclusion of a unionized workforce is of the best interest to PART and our compliance regulations overseen by the Federal government. The PART Executive Director proposes that we update our contract to recognize the changes that have occurred with our management firm’s driver workforce and include appropriate language for the roles and responsibilities of National Express.

   A resolution is included on page 15 for PART Board consideration.

3) Overview of PART and 2021 PART Business activities
   Scott Rhine will be presenting a few items to the PART Board of Trustees on history and higher-level work activities in 2021.

B. Old Business

1) Open Invitation – PART Board committee participation
   There are presently 3 working committees for the PART Board of Trustee’s. The participation is voluntary and proves to be beneficial to PART Board members is getting more engaged in the details of the various programs, projects and activities of the regional authority.

   A brief overview is provided on the purpose and function of each committee. At the end of calendar year 2020 the committee structure included the following.
**Finance Committee**
- Meets at least 4 times (quarterly) in review of financial variance reports
- Reviews and recommends PART budgets, Capital forecast, Capital reserve funds
- Reviews and recommends financial policy updates
- Engaged in annual auditing, forecasting and budgetary decisions from various local governments as compared to PART.

2020 committee members – Kevin Austin (chair), Darrel Frye, Steve Carter, Mark Richardson, Rick Morris, Lenny Williams

**Operations/Planning Committee**
- Meets regularly to address public service and operationally related items for the regional authority.
  - PART Express (services, planning, policy related items)
  - TDM / Vanpool (policy related items for our vanpool program)
    - This is a program that will have much more involvement of the committee in 2021
- Provides input on the public service policies, customer engagements, surveys, marketing and outreach efforts
- Coordination efforts with local agencies
- Planned investments and disposal of assets to support our public services

2020 committee members – Neal Grimes (chair), Dan Besse, Marikay Abuzuaiker, Sharon Hightower, Carolyn Coleman, [Michaels Holmes/Mike Horn (participated by invite for a specific topic)]

**Personnel Committee**
- Meets at least once a year for evaluation of the PART Executive Director and employment contract review. (Coordinated by PART Board legal counsel)
- Meets when requested for PART employee personnel related matters and updates to employee handbook policies for PART staff

2020 committee members – Fleming El-Amin (chair), Darrel Frye, Kevin Austin, Neal Grimes, Carolyn Coleman, Lenny Williams, Mark Richardson

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**Board Vote:**

Motion by: ____________________________
Second by: ____________________________

Vote: For ________________  Against ________________
December 23, 2020

Mr. Scott Rhine  
Executive Director  
Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation  
Greensboro, NC

Dear Scott,

On Wednesday, December 16, 2020, the National Express operators voted 18 to 9, with 5 additional votes contested and uncounted, to unionize as members of the Teamsters Local 391. While this was not the expected outcome, this is certainly something that our team is competent and prepared to navigate.

As requested, we have thoroughly reviewed the RFP and Contract and have found no conflicts of interest arising from the unionization of the drivers. Your RFP is well-written and refers to the management of the employees as a function of the contractor in multiple sections including:

- 2.1 General Descriptions of Tasks
- 5.14.1 Management
- 5.14.4 Supervision
- 7.1.7 Staffing and Personnel Plan

As you have carefully avoided any indications of co-employment, any modifications to the existing will be unnecessary. Additionally, Section 5.14.2 places the burden of meeting your high standards squarely on the Service Provider.

Section 7. Termination, U.S.C. Part 18, FTA Circular 4220.1F refers to the possibility of strikes, and by inference a labor union, so the verbiage acknowledges the possibility of a unionized workforce. Additionally, Section 13 Transit Employees Protective Provisions references 49 U.S.C A 5333(b) which protects the rights of employees in collective bargaining. Again, while this may not have been our desired outcome, your RFP did an excellent job of providing language which would allow us to continue our relationship with no formal changes.

As expected, the proposed wages of the drivers are now subject to collective bargaining and are not able to be implemented until the ratification of the CBA. The Board Resolution clearly outlined this possibility and laid the framework for this eventuality. In preparing the aggressive wage proposals for the drivers, we believe that adequate monies were encumbered in the next budget year to allow us to present a wage proposal that will be beneficial and agreeable to the members during negotiations. Further, the current agreement between National Express and PART clearly indicates that the rates

At this point, we do not anticipate any delays in the election being certified, and we expect this to be completed no later than December 28th, depending on the holiday schedule at the NLRB. Once the recognition process is complete, then we will schedule time for both parties to begin the bargaining
process. Considering that Stephanie, Leslie, and our NEXT labor attorneys have all worked very well with Local 391 in the past, we expect a productive and timely negotiation process.

National Express operates many Unionized locations where we pride ourselves on having a proactive and great working relationship with them. Our leadership team are extremely knowledgeable and experienced in negotiating and managing a relationship with a Union. We have an internal legal team and will have one of their attorneys assigned who will support the operations team at every bargaining session and will continue to support the location once the agreement is ratified.

Again, this is not the outcome that we planned for, but we feel strongly that our ability to provide excellent customer service to the PART organization and to our customers will not be impacted in any way.

Scott, thank you again for your support of NEXT and please feel free to call me directly with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Matthew S. Wood
Chief Operating Officer
National Express Transit
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PART EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PART LEGAL COUNSEL TO AMEND A CONTRACT FOR THE MANAGEMENT / OPERATIONS / MAINTENANCE SERVICE WITH NATIONAL EXPRESS TRANSIT CORPORATION

WHEREAS, PART initiated a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the management/operations/maintenance of the PART Express system in July 2017, and received responses from four national firms; and

WHEREAS, PART awarded a contract with National Express Transit for a minimum 3-year period beginning December 1, 2017, with the option to extend our contractual relationship up to four additional years in single year, or dual year extension based on success and conditions detailed in our contract; and

WHEREAS, a year four contractual extension for the period December 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021 was approved by the PART Board of Trustees on November 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, National Express Transit has a workforce of professional vehicle operators that on December 16, 2020 voted to join the unionization of Teamster Local 391; and

WHEREAS, the roles and responsibilities, terms and conditions of the National Express contract executed in 2017 is needing reviewed and amended where applicable to recognize the newly formed union workforce.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PART Board of Trustee’s authorize the PART Executive Director and PART legal counsel to review and amend the contractual agreement with National Express Transit Corporation for inclusion of the unionized workforce and representation of the roles and responsibilities of the contracted service.

A motion was made by _________________ and seconded by _________________ for adoption of the above resolution, and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted on this 13th day of January, 2021.

I, MariKay Abuzuaiter, PART Chairperson does hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an excerpt for the minutes of a meeting of the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation duly held on the 13th day of January, 2021.

Approved: ________________________________  Witnessed: ________________________________
MariKay Abuzuaiter
PART Board Chairperson

Attest: ________________________________  Seal:
Terry Anderson
PART Administrative Assistant

Approved: ________________________________

Witnessed: ________________________________
Thomas E. Terrell, Jr.
PART Board Legal Counsel
Meeting Date: January 13, 2021

Action Requested:

**Department Staff Reports – Informational Items**

**Summary of Information:**

**Attachments** yes X no __

**Executive Director Updates:**

- PART has submitted a request to NCDOT to amend our current year TDM/Call Center – RideShare Agreement to restructure the workplan based on the impacts associated with COVID19
  - Develop a Triad TDM plan with member agencies, MPOs, Chambers of Commerce and businesses
    - Conduct interviews
    - Conduct surveys
    - Utilize results to prepare for the program activities in FY2021-22
- PART Administrative has been COVID19 free. PART Express has had zero COVID19 reports. PART operations had one employee in December that reported a COVID19 interaction with a family member. No contraction of the illness was received by the operations staff member.
- PART has 3 parcels of property presently listed on MLS for sale. These locations are the park and ride sites in Lexington, Mocksville and Asbury Church (Yadkin County)
- PART is working with a Council of Government agency in South Carolina on the potential transfer of excess vanpool fleet vehicles. This may be an action item for the PART Board in February.
- PART presently has three vacant positions. Two positions (1 FT, 1 PT) are related to our Call Center staff, and call intake has been adjusted with Davidson County transportation and High Point transit while employee search continues. The third position is related to Marketing Associate.
  - Join me in welcoming Bonita Wellington, HR Administrator to the PART Team
- City of Winston-Salem is undertaking a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) planning project that is focused on Urban Circulator in the downtown. The City received a funding award from the Federal Transit Administration – Congratulations Winston-Salem.
- City of Greensboro DOT has exciting and beneficial updates on their City webpage with a new look and portal for a vast amounts of news and information – good data and information being shared to the general public - https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/transportation
- City of Burlington DOT is moving into its 5th year (already) as a City department to manage and coordinate transportation related activities for an area of continued growth. Lots of growth, traffic, and new developments.

**Department staff report is on the following pages.**
PART welcome’s a new board chair
Each year the PART Board of Trustees Officers are elected to oversee the business activities and provide policy directives for the regional authority. An election was held in November and the new officers begin service in January 2021. The Board Officers for 2021 are:

Chair - MariKay AbuzuaIter, Greensboro MPO chair, Greensboro City Council
Vice-Chair - Fleming El-Amin, Forsyth County Board of County Commissioners
Secretary - Carolyn Coleman, Guilford County Board of County Commissioners
Treasurer - Kevin Austin, Yadkin County Board of County Commissioners

Also at the November meeting, the Board thanked past-chair Dan Besse for his 7 years of service on the Board and 5 years as Chair. Mr. Besse is taking a break from public service as an elected official. He will always be remembered as a great champion for public transportation. Chair elect MariKay AbuzuaIter states, “I am truly honored to chair the 2021 PART Board of Trustees, realizing the importance of picking up where past Chair, Winston-Salem City Council member Dan Besse, left off. PART offers exceptional opportunities to address regional transportation needs through innovation. I look forward to partnering with a host of member agencies to advance mobility for our residents and visitors.” She becomes the fifth chair in PART’s 22 year history.

Scott Rhine, PART Executive Director, commented, “It is exciting to have our PART Board leading advances in our mobility systems and the services PART provides to the Region through excellent leadership. Our new Chair will continue providing meaningful direction to achieve our agency’s mission and goal.”

Transit referenda approval remains strong
On Tuesday November 3, 2020, in communities across the United States, voters continued to voice their overwhelming support for public transit by approving 15 out of 18 ballot measures in support of public transit. Novembers election night results add to the 32 public transit measures already passed by voters this year, bringing the’s total to 47 out of 51 wins for public transit, a 92% approval rate.

In spite of the huge changes and difficult challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, voters have risen to support public transportation. Voters understand how important investments are to help our communities thrive.

“Voters throughout the country once again overwhelmingly said ‘yes’ to public transit ballot measures that will expand and improve public transit, spur economic development and job creation, and connect communities and the people who live in them,” said APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas. “Even during this pandemic and economic downturn, voters have spoken and pledged their vote where they know it’s needed – public transportation investment. These ballots once

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again underscore the importance of local, state, and federal partnerships in transportation investment.”

Indeed, since 2000, 74% of all transit funding ballot measures in the United States have had pro-transit outcomes. This includes the ballot measure which failed to overturn Mecklenburg County’s ½ cent sales tax. North Carolina’s performance when it comes to transit funding is even better than the national total. Since 2000, NC voters have voted for transit in all nine (9) transit related funding measures that showed up on ballots—that’s 100% pro-transit.

Source: APTA’s Center for Transportation Excellence tracks and records all of the measures on its website.

There’s a new app in town

PART strives to provide public transportation passengers with tools to give them an excellent experience including amenities like bike racks and free Wi-Fi. Passengers can even pay their fare on-line, then tap a Smartcard or scan their Smartphone as they board. In 2015 PART provided its first tool to passengers - TransLoc. TransLoc provides real-time bus tracking online or through an app downloaded on to a Smartphone. PART also uses TransLoc to provide service updates and delays. This tool also provides PART staff with bus performance data that is used to improve on-time performance.

TransLoc data was accessed 9,417 times by passengers during 2019. If you do not use TransLoc you might want to start. TransLoc has recently made major enhancement to its user experience. The old Rider app will sunset on January 31, 2021. The new app is simply called TransLoc. The icon image is shown to the left. It is available on IOS and Android platforms. Whether you are a current user of the app or you are ready to become a new fan – simply download the TransLoc app today. TransLoc is also available if for GTA, High Point Transit, DCTS and LINK passengers, making regional transit travel even easier.

“Slashing or eliminating the transit service that carried 34 million passengers a day in 2019 will cause a national mobility crisis in 2021, hobbling the economic recovery that a crisis-weary nation needs. Traffic is already returning to the nation’s roads, and could easily reach pre-pandemic levels of gridlock unless checked. In cities across the country, streets will become impassable if even a fraction of former transit riders return to work and errands in cars.”


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Safety and ridership during the pandemic

The pandemic has provided numerous disruptions to public transporation agencies and passengers across the Triad and the country. Providing an efficient, effective and safe service during this period has been challenging. Federal support through the CARES Act has played a vital role in keeping the buses running. One thing the pandemic has highlighted is that essential workers need public transportation. Ridership across the Triad’s four urban fixed route systems remains about 19% below the January 2020 baseline.

PART Express, a commuter express service, is 54% below the January baseline. Since May 2020 ridership slowly increased over the next five months. Historically the lowest ridership months are November and December. Matching that trend, ridership across the region dipped in November and we should not expect a significant rise again until February or March of 2021.

The decision to ride during the pandemic has been difficult for many and even discouraged by public health officials. However, transit systems across the country have taken extraordinary measures to keep drivers and the public safe. Systems have taken numerous steps from limiting the exchange of cash, speeding up boarding times, limiting capacity on the vehicles to requiring facial coverings. There have even been extreme measures like reducing service and discontinuing routes.

PART has made numerous service adjustments, required facial coverings and promoted contactless fare payment through Touchpass as its main safety strategies. But the effort continues as PART will be adding driver barriers to its vehicles. This will add an additional layer of protection for our essential frontline employees - our bus operators.

Enhancing security on campus

Identifying the need to integrate a seamless video surveillance system across the PART campus, an RFP was released in October. The scope of work included the upgrade of both hardware and software for PART’s administrative, maintenance, and Coble Transportation Center. Turnkey Technologies was awarded the contract and began work in November. Using Verkada’s hybrid cloud cameras and Command software, installation was completed in half the time of traditional programs. The web-based platform allows for accessibility and monitoring from any browser. The camera’s environmental sensors monitor and detect changes that occur across the facility. Most encouraging is the systems ability to expand and integrate remote facilities such as PART’s Park & Ride locations.
Meeting Date: January 13, 2021

Action Requested:

Chairperson Report

PART Chair, Abuzuaiter will provide additional updates and news to the PART Board.

Board Vote: Motion by: ________________________ Second by: ________________________

Vote: For ________________ Against ________________