



MEETING MINUTES

Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation Board of Trustees

January 13, 2021

Board Members Present:

Abuzuaiter, Marikay – City of Greensboro TAC
Austin, Kevin - Yadkin County
Butler, Jim - City of Burlington
Coleman, Carolyn – Guilford County
El-Amin, Fleming – Forsyth County
Frye, Darrell – Randolph County
Fox, Mike – NCDOT Board of Transportation
Grimes, Neal – High Point TAC
Hightower, Sharon – City of Greensboro
Holmes, Michael – City of High Point
Horn, Mike – Winston Salem/Forsyth TAC
Marion, Mark – Surry County
Mengert, Paul - PTAA
Mundy, Kevin – City of Winston Salem
Perkins, Andrew – NCDOT
Richardson, Mark – Rockingham County
Truell, Don – Davidson County
Williams, Leonard – Burlington-Graham

Others Present:

Terry Anderson, PART; Connie Conklin, PART; Sabrina Glenn, PART; Mark Kirstner, PART;
Toneq` McCullough, City of Winston Salem; Scott Rhine, PART; Dianna Thomason; PART;
Tammy Turner, PART; Tom Terrell Jr., Fox Rothschild.

Note: Michael Holmes arrived after the roll call.

I) Call to Order: Roll Call of Teleconferencing.

A roll call was taken, and a quorum established with 18 members of the PART Board in attendance.

A. Consideration of Resolution for Teleconference and Electronic meeting for November 12, 2021

Chair Marikay Abuzuaiter 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. With our voting today, Board members who are in attendance please state if you are a no or an abstain vote, otherwise all of those included on the call today will be considered a yes. A Resolution is presented to acknowledge the virtual meeting format.

Motion to adopt the Resolution for Teleconference and Electronic meeting for January 13, 2021: Sharon Hightower
Second: Fleming El-Amin
Discussion: None
Vote: 18-Yes / 0 – No / 0-Abstain

II) Overview of Meeting Process and Procedures

Chair Abuzuaiter 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 Abuzuaiter asked if anyone had contacted PART to register as a speaker from the floor. Scott Rhine indicated there was no public speakers. Chair Abuzuaiter asked if anyone who called in wanted to speak. There were none.

IV) Consideration of Meeting Minutes

There were no corrections or additions for the November 12, 2020 PART Board of Trustees meeting minutes.

Motion to accept the November 12, 2020 meeting minutes: Steve Carter
Second: Fleming El-Amin
Discussion: None
Vote: 18-Yes / 0-No / Abstain

Mike Fox arrived at the Meeting.

V) Consideration of PART Board Business Items

A. New Business

1) New PART Board member Oath of Office.

Mr. Rhine welcomed new PART Board member Kevin Mundy who was designated as the representative to the PART Board from the City of Winston Salem. Tom Terrell, Jr. administered the Oath of Office to Kevin Mundy being sworn in on Jan 13, 2021 Chair Abuzuaiter welcomed and thanked Mr. Mundy for his representation and service on the PART Board.

2) Approval of Contract Amendment-PART/NETS Operations, Maintenance, Management

Mr. Rhine gave an update on the unionization of the bus operators with our contractor National Express Transit Systems. He stated the bus operators had a majority vote in favor of unionization and joined Teamsters Local 391 Union. He added; for administrative purposes and taking into consideration our existing contract as well as the original RFP, it is in the best interest for PART

and our compliance regulations overseen by the Federal government under 49 U.S. C. A 5333(b), to have our attorney make amendments to include recognition of a unionized workforce, and stated collective bargaining agreements are done by our contractor and the local union. Sharon Hightower asked if Mr. Rhine still had concerns with unionization, and if the contract represents us in collective bargaining? She also asked if other staff was interested in joining the union as GTA's Maintenance personnel agreed to become unionized in Greensboro, and stated, please be advised that may change. Mr. Rhine said there are concerns with unionization due to the size of our operations. We have no objections to our bus operators having protection. Our contractor National Express Transit Systems (NETS) has various contracts across the U.S. giving them experience working with union organizations. Collective bargaining is handled through NETS and their representative with the Teamsters 391 Union as these are NETS employees. NETS does not expect or plan to request any adjustments on what the PART Board had approved in November with contract extension or rates of service. They have not finalized on what the work force agreement will be. He stated the vote was for Bus Operators. Our contract with National Express represents Bus Operators, Maintenance and Supervisory Personnel. In total we average 43 people, and in that total, there are 34-35 bus operators. Maintenance and Supervisory Personnel are not included with the unionization. For protection purposes reviewing our contract and adding references of unionization should to be recognized. Darrell Frye stated we are contracted through November 30, 2021 with renewal options. Mr. Rhine said that is correct, we are in our 4th year. Normally contracts are 3-5 years therefore it is not uncharacteristic to review the contract and entertain a solicitation process. If it is decided to issue an RFP, we could possibly start that process in April.

Motion to approve to Amend a Contract for Management / Operations / Maintenance Service with National Express Transit Corporation: Darrell Frye

Second: Fleming El-Amin

Discussion: None

Vote: 18-Yes / 0-No / 0-Abstain

Note: Mike Fox left the January 13, 2021 Board meeting 9am.

3) Overview of PART and 2021 PART Business activities

Mr. Rhine shared a presentation on the history and work activities for 2021 to acquaint new Board members with activities PART leads. He continued that prior to COVID19, there were several videos for outreach and business activities created in 2018 and 2019 to help educate riders on how PART operates as well as the new way of fare collection through our Smart Card and or iPhone application. Moving forward, the focus will be on the following: COVID19; maintaining safety procedures and Board of Trustees involvement. Another significant activity will be reshaping the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program. With COVID's impact on the van pool program, new strategies need to be developed by working with MPO's to embed programs at the local level. Meetings are already in process to advance this initiative. Financial for 2021; involvement with Finance Committee to access the local funding and short falls from COVID19 and strategy of funds involving the CARES ACT funds. PART Express 2021; involvement of Operations and Planning Committee and related to our current contract with possibility of a new RFP process, routes and items driven by businesses and rider usage. Darrell Frye asked with the loss of the Furniture Market this year how has that effected

PART? Mr. Rhine stated it affects us financially, as the vendors of the Furniture Market rented vehicles, with no Furniture Market there is less Rental Vehicle Tax. Kevin Mundy asked if the CARES funding had been expensed or was that budgeted to go out into the fiscal year so the remaining months, we have revenue from CARES dollars? Mr. Rhine stated it was set up within the current fiscal year meaning the money we received a year ago was forecasted and projected for some of our routes. We have different CARES Act funds from four different MPO's and that money is tied in with specific routes within that urbanized area. Some of our routes are covered one hundred percent by CARES Act funds through June 30 of this current fiscal year. We have more services in the Greensboro Urbanized area and expect those CARES ACT funds to be utilized before the end of the fiscal year. We have regular Federal funds in place meaning we have operating funds at a 50% level and in place from 2019 and 2020. Local funds need to match Federal funds. Fleming El-Amin stated, with the most recent allocations concerning COVID19 from the federal government, stimulus checks etc., did PART qualify for any of those funds? Mr. Rhine responded that the federal government announced funding for the CARES ACT, and he had not seen what that is from an FTA standpoint. Other funds dealing with personnel, your staff, things of that nature those go to other resources that are not a part of our funds sourced from FTA.

B) Old Business

1) Open Invitation – PART Board committee participation

Mr. Rhine invited participation with our various committees for PART. He gave an open invitation to all the Board members and stated that participation is voluntary and proves beneficial to PART Board members getting more engaged in the details of various programs, projects, and activities. He added that year 2020 Chair for each committee had agreed to continue in that position. Finance Committee Chair; Kevin Austin, Operations/Planning Chair; Neal Grimes, Personnel Chair; Fleming El-Amin. A summary of purpose and function of each committee is found in your Board package. Mr. Rhine asked Board members to reach out to him via email if interested. Chair Abuzuaiter added, committees help give insight on how things work.

VIII) Departmental Staff Reports

A. Department Staff Reports

Reports are in your Board package for your review.

XI) Chairperson Report

Chair Abuzuaiter added to move PART forward suggested having a thirty-minute orientation the orientation would be an overview of what goes on within PART and that it would be beneficial to understand what each staff member does and all programs of PART is engaged in. The second item; all Board members are truly the ones that can best to relate to community and discuss how important public transportation is. I think this Board does a great job being ambassadors for PART. In that vein, I would like for all of us to ride a PART bus from one city to the next, for marketing purposes. As elected officials' folks may listen to us and everyone can gain a feeling of trust if they see us on the bus. Sharon Hightower added this is a great idea and I would like to ask is are we restricting the amount of people on the bus as I would not want to take up that seat as others may need it. Mr. Rhine stated the only restrictions on the bus is distancing and the front of the bus being restricted to those with disabling issues and wheelchairs. Everyone else

separates themselves out. This is directly related to ridership and have not had any issues. Safety issues are in place and followed. We will set up an orientation for Board members. Sharon Hightower added if we are not social distancing on the bus and we want riders, but I feel we need to look at having some measures for social distancing. The other item is two years ago we spoke about adjusting routes in some places and look at factoring ridership in other areas such as Publix and Brown Summit. If we can increase ridership by looking at these options, I feel this would be beneficial. Steve Carter agreed with Ms. Hightower and said it may be good idea to identify we as PART Board members to riders to help them feel confident and comfortable riding PART. Chair Abuzuaiter asked to move forward with orientation and for Board members to stager rides on the PART bus for rider confidence in PART Board and the PART establishment. Fleming El-Amin commented on the ambassadors for PART, he stated he was filmed taking the vaccine for COVID19 and shared with the public for confidence in the vaccine, the thought is when you take a ride on the PART bus possibly use your phone to record a self-video of the ride to help market safety and confidence in public transportation. Mr. Rhine added he will reach out to Finance Committee for a meeting before our in February Board meeting. Chair Abuzuaiter asked Mr. Rhine what the best way for Board members is to send responses or suggestions for bus rides etc., Mr. Rhine stated to reach out via email or phone call.

Adjourned: 9:35am