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## Correspondence Log
### August 2, 2012

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AGENDA: August 2, 2012

TO: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: George Dondero, Executive Director

RE: Director's Report

For Information Only

Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition

After the RTC approved entering into the operating agreement with the new short line operator (Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Railway), RTC staff and consultants completed the agreement and prepared and filed the petition to the Surface Transportation Board (STB). Union Pacific and Iowa Pacific are working on their corresponding STB petitions.

RTC staff and consultants have also been working on updating the purchase and sale agreement and ensuring that the required insurance policies will be ready to bind as soon as the RTC completes the purchase. Everything is in place to bind the premises environmental liability policy under the same terms and cost previously reported to the RTC. All updated information has been submitted to the broker for the general liability policy and we are awaiting confirmation from the insurance carrier that the policy terms and cost remain the same.

Staff and Caltrans are working to ensure that the invoicing and payment of state funds will proceed without delay and be expedited. Draft invoices have been sent to Caltrans for their review. If all goes well, the RTC should be the new owner of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line in September.

Trail Network Update

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Project is proceeding well. The Master Plan and the environmental document are currently being prepared. A Notice of Preparation and an Initial Study for the Environmental Impact Report will be released later this month. Public scoping meetings will be held on Wed, September 5th in Santa Cruz and Thursday, September 6th in Aptos. Due to the technical nature of environmental considerations addressed at scoping meetings, we are not anticipating high attendance. However, if Commissioners who are interested in attending are not available on those dates, please let me know at the end of today's meetings since we expect to be confirming locations later today.
Looking further ahead, a Draft Master Plan that will address trail alignments, implementation and design options will be released this fall and will be followed by another public workshop series. The dates and locations for those meetings are:

- Monday, November 26th – Aptos (location TBD)
- Tuesday, November 27th – Davenport (Pacific Elementary School)
- Wednesday, November 28th – Live Oak (Simpkins Swim Center)
- Thursday, November 29th – Watsonville (Civic Plaza Community Room)

All meetings will be held from 6-8 pm.

**T. Mike Walker Art Exhibit**

The RTC is pleased to announce its new two-month exhibit of collage art by T. Mike Walker. Mr. Walker grew up in San Francisco and received his MA in Language Art from San Francisco State University. In 2002 Mr. Walker joined the Board at the Santa Cruz Art League, becoming President of the Board from 2005-2010 and then took the position of Executive Director of the Art League which he still holds.

In addition to collage, T. Mike Walker draws, paints in watercolor, acrylic art, and oils. He has exhibited in Santa Cruz County for over a decade in many group and juried exhibitions as well as solo shows. His art will be available for viewing at the SCCRTC offices Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm through August 31st. See [www.tmikewalker.com](http://www.tmikewalker.com) to view Mr. Walker’s gallery.
Date: August 2, 2012
To: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
From: George Dondero, Executive Director
RE: Supplemental Staff Recommendation for a local $10 Vehicle Registration Fee Ballot Measure

Based on the 2/3 voter threshold requirement, the status of a funded campaign, and current public sentiments about the state of the economy and support for new funding measures, **staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission defer pursuing self help status to fund our community’s transportation needs this November.**

**Staff further recommends that the RTC continue working with the broad cross-section of the community** that has demonstrated strong support for addressing transportation funding shortfalls to provide information to the public on transportation needs and costs; and build on the momentum of these efforts to evaluate a range of funding options, including pursuing new local, dedicated funding sources at a future election. While staff recommends not placing the $10 VRF measure on the November 2012 ballot, it is important to acknowledge the following:

- There is strong recognition of need for infrastructure improvements and acknowledgement that local streets and roads serve all sectors of our community.
- There is strong recognition that local streets and roads need more maintenance.
- There is a growing understanding that doing nothing results in worsening road conditions leading to more costly repairs/reconstruction.
- A coalition of broad interests has formed to support the pursuit of self help status in an acknowledgement that state and federal sources for road maintenance are inefficient, shrinking, unreliable, and can be diverted to other uses.
- Many community organizations and community leaders are eager to endorse new local transportation funding strategies.
- Polling indicates that approximately 2/3 of likely voters would support the proposed $10 Vehicle Registration Fee measure. However, to maintain this 2/3rd support will require a robust campaign.
- Polling indicates even greater support (77%) for a ¼ cent sales tax for local transportation projects.
- Local jurisdictions, the RTC, and community groups are working together to increase public awareness of the cost to operate and maintain the existing transportation system, and the inability of existing funding sources, such as fuel taxes, to pay for local road repairs and multimodal improvements. For example, fuel taxes have not been increased since 1994, buying power has diminished by over 30% due to inflation, there is less revenue due to increased vehicle mileage and aging roads have increased maintenance needs over time.
July 31, 2012

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: November $10 Vehicle Registration Fee Ballot Measure

Dear Chair Nicol:

The Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) advises the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO), and other service providers on transportation needs for people with disabilities, seniors and persons with limited means.

At their July 31, 2012 meeting, the following motion was unanimously approved:

The Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee strongly supports and endorses the Regional Transportation Commission’s plan to secure local funding -- that cannot be taken by the state -- to fund street and road maintenance, safe routes to school and pedestrian projects offering safe and accessible transportation options for seniors and people with disabilities in the form of a $10 Vehicle Registration Fee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A. John Daugherty, Chair
Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
From: Wolff Bloss [mailto:wolffb@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2012 11:12 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Vehicle Registration Fee Ballot Measure

Hello,

As a car collector, I own seven vehicles. I only drive one at a time. I feel that this tax would penalize me for owning more than one vehicle. I would be more in favor of a tax that would not cause me to pay more than my fair share.

Wolff Bloss
Aptos

-----------------------------------------------

Thank you for your comments. They will be made available to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Cathy Judd, Administrative Assistant
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
Santa Cruz 831.460.3200 | Watsonville 831.768.8012
1523 Pacific Avenue | Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Follow our social networks for the latest RTC news
Dear RTC,

I will not support this regressive tax unless the funds are absolutely guaranteed to be used only for road repair and maintenance; NOT for Safe Routes to Schools, or bicycle/pedestrian improvements or infrastructure. The RTC already receives ample funding for the latter and should not be using this proposed amount as the importance is ROAD REPAIR for the safe use of everyone.

Please strike any reference in the measure that each municipality does NOT have the discretion to use the funds as they see fit--ONLY for road repair and maintenance.

Otherwise, I foresee that this measure does not have a snowball's chance....

Thank you,

Don Honda

__________________________________________

Thank you for your comments. They will be made available to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Cathy Judd, Administrative Assistant
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
Santa Cruz 831.460.3200 | Watsonville 831.768.8012
1523 Pacific Avenue | Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Follow our social networks for the latest RTC news
Add-on item pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2)

AGENDA: August 2, 2012

TO: Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: Kim Shultz, Senior Transportation Planner

RE: Student Shuttle Service for Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project Traffic Management

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the attached resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the Executive Director, with confirmation of the RTC Chair, to execute a contract with the student shuttle operator recommended by the evaluation committee for the period that the La Fonda Avenue Overcrossing is out of service to pedestrians and bicyclists.

BACKGROUND

On January 5, 2012, the RTC authorized a construction contract with RGW Construction for work to begin on the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project. A Notice to Proceed was issued to the contractor on February 3, 2012, following receipt of performance bonds and insurance certificates. The traffic management plan for the construction project includes a student shuttle for the period that the La Fonda Avenue overcrossing is out of service to pedestrians and bicyclists. The RTC authorized release of a request for proposals (RFP) from qualified providers to operate the student shuttle. Demolition of the overcrossing is scheduled to begin on August 6th and area schools are set to begin the new school year on August 29th.

DISCUSSION

The RFP was distributed to five student shuttle operators and posted on the RTC website. An evaluation committee was created to review the proposals. The proposal evaluation committee is comprised of representatives of the City of Santa Cruz, the Santa Cruz METRO, the University of California Santa Cruz Transportation & Parking Services, and RTC staff. Staff of the Santa Cruz City Schools District have also agreed to participate in the selection of the shuttle operator and assist in planning this service.
Proposals were received on July 26th from 2 operators:
  • First Student, Inc. operating out of San Jose
  • Michael’s Transportation Service, operating out of Watsonville

Business profiles of the respective shuttle operators are shown in Attachment 2. Interviews of the shuttle operators are planned for the afternoon of August 9th. Initially, it was planned to present the evaluation committee’s recommendation and proposed contract to RTC’s Transportation Planning Workshop on August 16th. However, the timeline of public outreach efforts of this and other travel demand management strategies designed to minimize congestion at neighborhood schools (reported in a separate agenda item) requires an accelerated contract approval process.

Advancing contract approval will allow staff working with school officials to finalize route planning, conduct dry runs and set time points of selected pick-up and drop-off stops in advance of planned back to school events on August 22nd at both DeLaveaga Elementary and Harbor High schools. Preliminary cost estimates from the respective operators are competitive and the cost is anticipated to be within the budget of $75,000 provided in the transportation management plan for the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project.

Accordingly, staff recommends that the RTC approve the attached resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the Executive Director, with confirmation of the RTC Chair, to execute a contract with the student shuttle operator recommended by the evaluation committee for the period that the La Fonda Avenue Overcrossing is out of service to pedestrians and bicyclists.

Staff will provide a report on the final action at the next RTC meeting. The proposed action is consistent with the Contract Change Order Procedure adopted by the RTC at the start of the construction project for change orders in the range of $50,000 to $100,000.

SUMMARY

Staff received two proposals in response to an RFP for student shuttle service during the time that the La Fonda Avenue overcrossing is out of service to pedestrians and bicyclists. It is necessary to award a contract as soon as possible to coordinate with public outreach efforts at neighborhood schools. Staff recommends that the RTC approve the attached resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the Executive Director, with confirmation of the RTC Chair, to execute a contract with the student shuttle operator recommended by the evaluation committee. The proposed action is consistent with the Contract Change Order Procedure adopted by the RTC at the start of the construction project.
Attachments:
1. Resolution authorizing a contract with a student shuttle operator in conjunction with the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project.
2. Business profiles of First Student and Michael's Transportation Services.

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RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
on the date of August 2, 2012
on the motion of Commissioner
duly seconded by Commissioner

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH A STUDENT SHUTTLE OPERATOR IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HIGHWAY 1 SOQUEL/MORRISSEY AUXILIARY LANES PROJECT

WHEREAS, the transportation management plan for the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project includes $75,000 in funds to operate a student shuttle service for the period that the La Fonda Avenue overcrossing is out of service to pedestrians and bicyclists; and,

WHEREAS, the RTC prepared and circulated a request for proposals for this service, has received two proposals from qualified service providers, has created a proposal evaluation committee to review and recommend an operator to provide this service, and has adopted contract change order procedures to expedite contract issues associated with the construction contract.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION:

1. The Executive Director is authorized, with confirmation of the RTC Chair, to execute a contract with the student shuttle operator recommended by the evaluation committee for the period that the La Fonda Avenue Overcrossing is out of service to pedestrians and bicyclists and up to an amount of $75,000;

2. The Executive Director is hereby authorized to amend the contract with the student shuttle operator as necessary to meet service needs as long as the amendments are within the approved RTC budget for the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS:

NOES: COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS

ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

Kirby Nicol, Chair

George Dondero, Secretary

Distribution: RTC Planner

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Company Profile

Leader in Student Transportation

First Student, Inc. has provided student transportation services to school districts for nearly a century. Our history of school bus service traces back to 1913. In this year, the Patchett Bus and Transportation Company had a bus designed by Ford Motor Company. Under the supervision of Mr. Patchett, this bus was designed and used to provide service for Newman Elementary students in California. Since those early days, First Student has grown to be North America’s leading school bus transportation company, safely transporting over four million students to and from school every day.

Today, First Student serves more than 1,500 school systems in forty (40) states and eight (8) Canadian provinces. With our fleet of more than 60,000 school buses and over 98,000 employees, we provide these customers with personalized transportation solutions by leveraging our economies of scale, global resources and systems expertise. Our innovative solutions ensure that the students and the community receive the safest, most efficient and cost-effective student transportation services possible.

First Student’s approach to business starts with our commitments to safety, operational excellence and customer service. This balanced approach keeps our focus on the benefits we provide to our school district partners, the ultimate of which is a safe and secure ride for students. Our services are delivered with professionalism and trust. We promise our customers that we will deliver and we will deliver what we promise. Furthermore, our success is built upon a foundation and history of providing school districts with what they expect – a safe, efficient and professional student transportation service. Our foundation is based on:

- **A Safety Culture**  Safety is our core value. It is an integral part of First Student’s culture and a way of life for our employees. Our safety approach focuses on the prevention of all injuries and collisions and is reinforced through participation and ownership at all levels. Our safety commitment promotes a safe, secure ride for students, positive parent and community goodwill, peace-of-mind and more.

- **Efficient Operations**  Our operational capabilities are unsurpassed in the industry. We continually monitor, plan, and innovate our operations in order to help our customers meet their needs today and well into the future. This is applicable to all aspects of our operations to include driver training, dispatch, routing, purchasing, inventory management and
maintenance. Our commitment to operational excellence promotes financial benefits and efficient transition times for our school district partners.

- A Customer and Community Focus  We provide students with easily accessible, friendly and personalized transportation service that ensures a great start to their school day. Our local teams are dedicated to providing district staff, parents and students with the level of service expected, forging a strong and successful partnership. For parents and students, our customer service commitment promotes a smooth transition from home to school and back again.
BUSINESS PROFILE:

Michael's Transportation Service, Inc. (MTS) has been providing transportation services throughout the Greater Bay Area and Central Coast for over 25 years. We serve public and private schools, government agencies, businesses, non-profit groups of all kinds, and individuals. Also, since 1996, our MTS Training Academy has graduated over 1,000 professional drivers. More on our outstanding Driver Training Academy, below.

In 2009, we became an Employee Owned Company. Our key goals are to keep safety paramount and provide world-class customer service. We have an A+ BBB rating. And as an American business (unlike foreign competitors), we help our economy to grow and support our workforce who share in both labor and capital when part of an ESOP.

Our transportation services include Home to School, Activity/Field Trips. Athletic Trips, Employee Shuttles, Extended Trips within and outside of CA, bus leasing, driver training, temporary driver staffing, vehicle maintenance, and vehicle sales. We have school buses, coaches, mini-coaches/employee shuttles, and limo's.

MTS also provides project based Employee/Contractor Shuttles to Valero, Tesoro and Conoco-Phillips Refineries. During major turn-arounds, MTS transports up to 4,000 refinery employees/contractors daily, for periods up to several months. For example, the most recent Valero Refinery project involved very successfully operating 30 vehicles/shuttles on a daily basis, for many weeks.

Our 100+ vehicle fleet includes seat-belt equipped buses. It is also one of the “greenest” around, with Diesel Particulate Filters (DPF's) as standard or retro-fitted equipment. We have received grants from both the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and Monterey County Air Quality District for DPF retro-fits. We are also just completing the "greening" of our Vallejo yard, including solar power.

Our drivers are fully certified, courteous, professional, and trained at our own MTS Training Academy. Our Academy is one of the only independent, California-certified driver training programs. We also provide passenger endorsement and in-service training.
We also offer temporary driver staffing services. These are experienced school bus, SPAB, and/or Class B (commercial) drivers.

Last year, we logged over 1,500,000 miles, performing over 13,500 round trips. We’ve served thousands of customers in the last 25+ years, and in 2010, received an exceptional Contractor Performance Assessment Report (CPAR) rating from the U.S. Coast Guard.

As noted above, our MTS Driver Training Academy has graduated over 1,000 professional drivers. The Academy offers comprehensive Class A, Class B, and Professional School Bus Driver training in the commercial driving industry. We have trained drivers for local and national trucking companies, tour and transit bus operators, and public/private school bus operators.