



**Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's
Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
Social Service Transportation Advisory Council
Paratransit Advisory Council Meeting**

MINUTES-DRAFT

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

1. Call to Order

John Daugherty called the meeting to order at 1:39 pm

2. Introductions

Members Present:

Hal Anjo, Social Service Provider-Seniors (County)
Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA-Community Bridges
Debbi Brooks, Persons of Limited Means (Volunteer Center)
John Daugherty, Metro
Veronica Elsea, 3rd District
Sally French, Soc. Serv. Prov.-Disabled (Hope Services)
Clay Kempf, Soc. Serv. Prov.-Seniors Council
Mike Molesky, Social Service Provider - Disabled
Catherine Patterson Valdez, CTSA/Comm. Bridges, by phone
Patti Shevlin, 1st District
Robert White, 5th District

Alternates Present:

Kirk Ance, CTSA Lift Line
Sharon Barbour, 5th District

Staff Present:

Karena Pushnik

Others Present:

Tove Beatty, SCMTD

3. Oral Communications

Veronica Elsea commented on the ticket machine at the Metro station saying that the credit card feature is not accessible and that she contacted Metro to let them know.

Mike Molesky said that IHSS Commission has two openings, that they hold meetings every other month on the first Friday of the month at the offices on Emeline Street, Building K from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

John Daugherty told members that Metro has modified its service reduction to a 12% cut. Metro Board will consider the service reduction proposal on Friday April 22, and will make its final decision at its second meeting June 24 with the service reduction taking place in September 2011. Tove Beatty also noted that Metro has a \$3.8 million funding gap, and that the \$1.4 million in proposed service cuts will still leave a \$2.4 million budget hole to solve. Karena Pushnik volunteered to forward information to E&D TAC members about the public hearings that Metro will hold on the service cuts once the dates are available.

Action: The motion (Kempf/Elsea) -- to add Metro's Service Reduction Plan as Item 19 to the agenda, an urgency action item regarding Metro service cuts – carries with one abstention.

4. Additions and Deletions

John Daugherty announced an agenda change to move Item 16 after Item 12.

Karena Pushnik told members that there would be a commemoration event when escrow closes for acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and that an invitation will be sent out to members once the day and time have been determined.

CONSENT AGENDA

Action: The motion (Kempf/Anjo) -- to approve and accept the consent agenda -- carries with Mike Molesky abstaining.

5. **Approved Minutes from February 8, 2011 meeting**
6. **Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report as of March 2011**
7. **Received RTC Highlights through March 2011**
8. **Received Information Items**
 - a. **Article in 2/11/11 Contra Costa Times titled DMV comes to aid of older drivers**
9. **Received Agency Updates**
 - a. **Volunteer Center**
 - b. **Community Bridges/CTSA**
 - c. **Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)**
 - **ParaCruz Operations Status Report: Feb & Mar 11**
 - **Staff Report re: Taxi Renewals for ParaCruz Service**
 - d. **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission**
 - e. **Private Operators**

REGULAR AGENDA

10. **Approve TDA Claim from the Volunteer Center**

Karena Pushnik supplied an overview of TDA funding, noting that there are three claims on the agenda for the region's share of the ¼-cent sales tax as allocated according to established formulas in the Commission's Rules and Regulations.

Debbi Brooks provided information about the Volunteer Center's transportation program, which also supplies transportation to some individuals who do not qualify for ParaCruz services.

Action: The motion (Elsea/Molesky) -- to approve the TDA Claim for \$61,345 for the Volunteer Center -- passes with Debbi Brooks abstaining.

11. **Approve TDA Claim from Community Bridges**

Kirk Ance gave an overview of the TDA Claim from Community Bridges saying that Community Bridges serves low income and disabled individuals, many of whom are unable to use traditional public transit or the complementary paratransit. The TDA funds are projected to provide 23,500 of the almost 74,000 rides to be provided by Community Bridges in FY 2011-12. Mr. Ance explained the details of Community Bridges TDA funded transportation services and Karena Pushnik helped direct members to relevant ride projections in Community Bridges' TDA claim.

Members discussed the Elderday program funding which is now a State optional Medicare program and is in danger of being eliminated. Clay Kempf said that this would create transition from existing services to something else or a new service that has greater income testing to determine who may attend.

Members questioned why TDA funds would be allotted to the Interface Satellite Shelter Program (ISSP) and Mr. Ance responded that the program falls within the scope of the E&D TAC due to the many senior and disabled clients, as well as low-income individuals. Karena Pushnik said that ISSP had previously been funded by TDA, then funded by other means, and now is back on the list of TDA funded projects by Community Bridges.

Catherine Patterson Valdez was contacted by phone to determine more information about ISSP rides relative to Meals-on-Wheel or Elderday, which are more in alignment with the direction of the E&D TAC. Members questioned whether ISSP rides could be served by other non-TDA sources. Ms. Valdez said that ride-funding sources could be shifted as desired by the E&D TAC and RTC, however she made the case for why ISSP recipients meet the TDA funding criteria and the quantity of rides provided due to the low cost per unit. She said that she pursued ISSP funding which comes from the County of Santa Cruz and the county has cut funding.

Members also asked Ms. Valdez at Community Bridges why the cost per unit of TDA service under medical rides is higher than other rides. Ms. Valdez said that, of the past four years, the cost is lower than in previous years but the higher cost for this service versus other rides is due to lift accommodations needed for riders, the time it takes for drivers to accommodate those needs and the remote areas serviced.

In response to a member questions, Ms. Valdez clarified that one chart in the report shows TDA funding and the second chart shows rides provided with non-TDA funding sources and a third chart shows the total number of rides provided with all funding sources. The cost per service unit stays the same regardless of the funding source. Ms. Valdez also noted that the CEO of the Elderday program told her that the program would probably be restructured, but not cut.

Action: The motion (Elsea/French) -- for the E&D TAC to recommend to the RTC to approve the TDA Claim for \$515,295 for Community Bridges as presented and reassess regularly whether needs are being met per the quarterly reports provided to the E&D TAC -- passes unanimously with Kirk Ance and Lisa Berkowitz abstaining.

Action: The motion (Anjo/Molesky) -- for the E&D TAC to request documentation regarding unserved riders by fiscal year 2011-2012 from Community Bridges --passes unanimously with one abstention.

12. Approve TDA Claim from the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (Metro)

Tove Beatty provided an overview for Metro's TDA claim for \$5,244,963 for operating paratransit and fixed routes. She supplied details on fixed routes and ParaCruz rides for the last fiscal year saying that of the bus rides, approximately 135,406 used senior/disabled passes and 24,196 were wheelchair users. Ms. Beatty informed members that, as reported to the Metro board in March 2011, Metro is anticipating a continued drop in revenues in FY11/12 and in order to balance the budget, Metro is considering service cuts, layoffs, contract amendments, and new revenue options.

Bob White asked if the complementary paratransit program operated by Metro (ParaCruz) is federally mandated and Ms. Beatty replied that it is within ¾ miles of fixed route service.

Karena Pushnik noted that Metro provides paratransit beyond the federal requirements by providing door-to-door and extended hour service.

Action: The motion (Elsea/Kempf) -- for the E&D TAC to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve the TDA funding request from the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District for \$5,244,963 -- passes with John Daugherty abstaining.

Action: The motion (Kempf/White) -- for the E&D TAC to send a letter to Metro expressing its appreciation of Metro's effort to maintain the geographical area of service in order to minimize the impact on seniors, people with disabilities and paratransit -- passes with one abstention.

13. Recommend RTC Approval of Section 5310 Local Review Committee Recommendation

Karena Pushnik provided an overview of the FY 2011-2012 Section 5310 Grant Application noting that federal funds are available for capital equipment for specialized transportation for seniors and people with disabilities to eligible entities. The grant is allocated on a statewide competitive basis and historically has been a major source of funding for new paratransit vehicles and equipment for Santa Cruz County. She said that a local committee comprised of representatives from the Senior's Council and the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District convened on March 28 to score the applications. Ms. Pushnik supplied the details about the two applications and said that staff recommends that the E&D TAC recommend that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission approve the local review committee's scores for the two Section 5310 fund applications submitted by Community Bridges.

Action: The motion (Daugherty/Elsea) -- to recommend to the SCCRTC to approve the local review committee's scores for the two Section 5310 fund applications submitted by Community Bridges -- passes with one abstention.

14. Recommend RTC Approval of Annual Report and Unmet Needs List

Karena Pushnik provided an overview of the 2010 E&D TAC Annual Report and Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs List. She noted that no input has been received from the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District on the Unmet Needs list.

Action: The motion (Molesky/Elsea) -- that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission receive the review of the 2010 E&D TAC Annual Report and Unmet Need List -- passes unanimously.

15. Recommend RTC Approval of Member and Alternate Positions

Three applications were received for renewing member positions on the E&D TAC: Lisa Berkowitz representing Community Bridges/Consolidated Transportation Services Agency, Clay Kempf representing Social Service Providers for Seniors, and Debbi Brooks representing Social Service Provider for persons of Limited Means.

Action: The motion (Molesky/Elsea) -- to recommend that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission approve renewing three members to the E&D TAC -- passes with one abstention.

16. Receive Update on Bus Stop Improvements

Tove Beatty provided an overview of Metro's Bus Stop Improvement Plan and mentioned that she is waiting for the signature page to the Master Agreement with Caltrans so that the contract can be signed to start work. She has secured a contractor to begin some awning repair work ahead of the signed contract to be assured that the CTC does not revoke funding if the project does not start within the required timeframe and Caltrans has approved this contractor. Tove also gave detailed information about an easement procured by Metro in front of the County offices on Emeline for a complete bus stop and pad, and that Metro will build bus stop benches at the improvement locations to accommodate ADA accessibility.

Ms. Beatty informed members know that there is a set of bus stop criteria to which Metro is bound and any changes to improvements requires approval by the Board. Ms. Beatty supplied handouts about current bus stop structures, lighting for the bus stops and Simme-Seat information.

Veronica Elsea expressed concern that the proposed Simme-Seat bus seating accommodates the needs of all riders and asked if Metro would publicize for sight-impaired riders that there will be these new types of seats at certain locations. Ms. Elsea also asked about the installation of lighting and Ms. Beatty explained that it is for comfort and visibility at night. Ms. Beatty said that Metro would conduct awareness activities including working with Ms. Elsea to identify outreach mechanisms and getting the information to the Vista Center for the Blind.

Ms. Beatty said that she would bring information back to the E&D TAC and that the proposed deadline for the completion of the bus stop improvements is June 30, 2012.

17. Receive Pedestrian Safety Work Group Update – Work Group Chair

Veronica Elsea told members that the Pedestrian Safety Work Group co-sponsored a Pedestrian Workshop on March 26 in Watsonville and the event was a success in spite of inclement weather. She said that participants were very involved in the presentations.

Ms. Elsea also said that the Pedestrian Safety Work Group is continuing with an outreach component for getting the word out about sidewalk maintenance responsibilities for property owners. She said that the group is working with local jurisdictions and that they are getting ready to present their process to the RTC in May and then to the boards for the local jurisdictions.

18. Receive Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

Hal Anjo nominated John Daugherty for the position of Chair. With no other nominations, John accepted the position of Chair.

Patti Shevlin nominated Veronica Elsea for the position of Vice Chair. With no other nomination, Veronica accepted the position of Vice-Chair.

19. Meeting Adjourned @ 3:55 pm

Prepared by: Cathy Judd, SCCRTC Staff