



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

**Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee**

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**Minutes – Draft**

**Tuesday, June 11, 2013, 1:30 p.m.**

**Watsonville Civic Plaza Building,  
275 Main St., Ste 450 4<sup>th</sup> Fl, Watsonville**

1. **Call to Order** at 1:33 pm
2. **Introductions**

***Members Present:***

Hal Anjo, Potential Bus Rider  
Debbi Brooks, Volunteer Center  
Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA (Community Bridges)  
John Daugherty, Metro Transit  
Veronica Elsea, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Sally French, Soc. Serv. Provider-Disabled  
(HOPE)  
Mike Molesky, Social Service Provider Disabled  
Patti Lou Shevlin, 1<sup>st</sup> District

***Alternates Present:***

April Warnock, Metro ParaCruz

***Excused Absences:***

Kirk Ance, CTSA Lift Line  
Sharon Barbour, 5<sup>th</sup> District

***RTC Staff Present:***

Grace Blakeslee  
Ginger Dykaar  
Cathy Judd  
Karena Pushnik

***Others Present:***

Bob Campbell, Seniors Council  
Erich Friedrich, Metro  
Paul Hierling, AMBAG

3. **Oral Communications**

John Daugherty announced that the Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities presented "Kudos" awards on 5/21 to Michael Bush, Bob Lagaugh, Bob Cotter and Metro maintenance staff.

Mr. Daugherty also mentioned that Metro's new *Headways* cover announces "Ride the Bus to Big Basin".

Karena Pushnik welcomed E&D TAC members and others in attendance to the RTC satellite office in Watsonville; a shared office space with the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD). She mentioned that the space is available on a limited basis, and can be reserved through RTC staff.

Ms. Pushnik said that the Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail DEIR was released for a 45-day review period and that public workshops are scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at the Loudon Nelson center and the City of Watsonville respectively from 6:00 – 9:00 pm.

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas - None

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Action: The motion (Anjo/Shevlin) - - to approve the consent agenda as amended- - carries with Lisa Berkowitz abstaining on approval of the April minutes.*

5. Approved minutes from April 4 and May 14, 2013 meetings

Veronica Elsea mentioned that the April minutes (Item 12) include an action item to send her a letter of thanks for service as Vice-chair; however, she does not have a recollection of this and has not received a thank you letter.

John Daugherty said that he did not see a copy of the letter of thanks (Item 11) to Commissioner Coonerty for his support letter to Metro for return of bus service to Frederick Street in the packet.

6. Received Transportation Development Act (TDA) Revenues Report as of May 2013
7. Received RTC Highlight through May 2013
8. Received Information Items
9. Received Agency Updates
  - c. Volunteer Center
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter TDA Report
  - e. Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
    - Mobility Management

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

10. Review Monterey Bay Area Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

Paul Hierling, AMBAG, provided an overview of the purpose of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan, its approximately 5 year timeline, and the update process. Mr. Hierling asked for input from E&D TAC members about unmet needs and projects to fill those needs.

Members suggested the following unmet needs:

- Lack of Metro fixed route and Paratransit on some holidays and the need to expand Lift Line service area from senior residential centers in less urban areas to serve seniors meal sites

- Minimal transit service on weekends problematic for transit dependent individuals including seniors, people with disabilities and low income individuals
- A larger pool of volunteer drivers, especially bilingual, is needed. Targeted outreach to recruit new drivers would benefit the Volunteer Center
- Because the provision of specialized transportation is more costly for remote areas, prioritize and encourage services, residences and other amenities for seniors and persons with disabilities in more densely populated areas that serve the largest number of people
- The cost of bus passes can restrict access to transit for low income and foster youth
- Better access between bus stops and destinations will encourage more walking and use of transit
- Access to transit and trip planning during non-business hours is limited for some people with impairments. Fully accessible and real time services are needed which could include: Automatic Vehicle Location System, Next Bus, real time tracker including hazards on path of travel
- Direct transit service between Santa Cruz County and the San Jose Airport is lacking and private services are costly
- The costs to property owners to repair sidewalks adjacent to their property can be prohibitive. Financial assistance for sidewalk repair would improve the pedestrian network

Comments of the draft Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services are due in 30 days and the public comment period will take place from July to August.

#### 11. Provide input on Complete Street

Grace Blakeslee provided an overview of the Complete Streets analysis which supports the transportation initiative portion of the sustainable communities strategy. The materials were provided at the previous meeting and Ms. Blakeslee said that today is the last chance for member input of the draft.

Veronica Elsea mentioned that the Pedestrian Safety Work Group provided input for this project at its last meeting emphasizing improvements needed along the Bay/Porter corridor.

Ms. Blakeslee said that the next step for the project is to develop guidelines.

Goals for the guidelines include:

- Improve safety
- Complete Streets Legislation to include all users
- Process to include all stakeholder in the design of facilities
- Tools to help local jurisdictions talk about the benefits and challenges of Complete Streets
- Link land use with transportation

Hal Anjo asked how guidelines will integrate with local jurisdiction general plans. Ms. Blakeslee said there are samples to help local jurisdictions move from policy to planning to design to implementation.

Ms. Blakeslee said she will come back to the E&D TAC in August with a draft of the Complete Streets Plan.

Paul Hierling said the Complete Streets guidelines is a menu of actions and policies local jurisdictions can use when they update their General Plans, which initiates the requirement to include text about Complete Streets.

## 12. Sustainable Community Scenario Planning

Ginger Dykaar, RTC Planner, provided a detailed power point presentation on the scenario planning process for 2014 Transportation Plan (RTP) and the 2014 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Components of the RTP/MTP:

- Goals & Policies
- Funding Estimates
- Project Lists
- Draft Plan
- Final Plan

Ms. Dykaar said the total transportation needs are \$5.6 billion, but only \$2.8 billion are projected in revenues including a ½ cent sales tax measure in 2016 if approved by voters. Ms. Dykaar said that 5 initial scenarios will be consolidated into 2 hybrid scenarios that will produce the preferred scenario to determine projects on the constrained project list.

Ms. Dykaar said that AMBAG and RTC staff will present results of the Initial Scenarios to the Commission at its meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>. She said that dates for upcoming workshops along with a survey from AMBAG will be provided to members via email.

## 13. Review Pedestrian Safety Work Group Pedestrian/Motorist Brochure

Veronica Elsea, Chair of the Pedestrian Safety Work Group reviewed the draft text of the Motorist Brochure. Ms. Elsea said the group has considered top priority items that will cover differences in behavior between motorist and pedestrians. She said the Pedestrian Safety Work Group seeks input from E&D TAC members to create a brochure to provide to motorists and pedestrians. Following text finalization the brochure will be formatted, printed and distributed.

Ms. Elsea provided a draft of the In Bus signs regarding the Hazard Report for members to view saying the signs will be printed in English and Spanish with Metro and RTC logos.

Ms. Elsea said the next regular meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Work Group will be June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 am.

*Action: The motion (Daugherty/Anjo) - - for E&D TAC members to approve the text of the Motorist Brochure and the In Bus sign - - carries unanimously.*

## 14. La Posada Bus Reinstatement Update

Erich Friedrich said Metro received a petition from La Posada Retirement Community residents to reinstate transit service along Frederick Street at Gault Street in Santa Cruz. Mr. Friedrich said Metro studied a range of options to address the needs expressed by La Posada residents.

Metro staff identified 5 options for reinstatement of service:

- Maintain status quo
- Assist the City of Santa Cruz to make capital improvements along Frederick Street sidewalks and the Soquel/Frederick intersection
- Limited restoration of Route 6
- Full restoration of Route 65
- Disrupt an existing route

Mr. Friedrich said that Metro staff recommends that the Board of Directors direct staff to pursue the Capital Improvement option.

Capital improvement paths of travel could include:

- Sidewalk improvement
- Crossing improvements
- Prolonged pedestrian sign time at the Soquel/Frederick Street signalized intersection
- Relocation of the Soquel/Frederick Street bus stops closer to the intersection

These capital improvements would improve the accessibility of the current Soquel/Frederick Street bus stops with no disruption to existing routing and frequency.

This information will be presented to the Metro Board on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

15. Adjourn 3:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Judd, RTC Staff

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