



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

**Watsonville Community Room
275 Main Street, Suite 400, 4th Floor, Watsonville CA 95076**

1 Call to Order: 1:31 pm

2. Introductions

Members Present:

Kirk Ance, Community Bridges/Lift Line
Pam Arnsberger, 2nd District
Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA
Debbi Brooks, Social Service Provider- Persons
of Limited Means
John Daugherty, Metro Transit
Veronica Elsea, 3rd District
Clay Kempf, Social Service Provider for Seniors
Greta Kleiner, Potential Transit User Disabled
Michael Molesky, Social Service Provider
Disabled

Alternates Present:

Sheryl Hagemann, Hope Services
April Warnock, Metro/ParaCruz

Excused Absences:

Cara Lamb, Potential Transit User

Unexcused Absences:

RTC Staff Present:

Grace Blakeslee
Cathy Judd

Others Present:

Lori Welch Bettencourt
Ramon Cancino, Community Bridges
Felipa de Leon, Commission on Disabilities
Tom Duncanson
Gary Edwards, Advocacy, Inc.
Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville
John Mills
Ernestina Saldana

3. Oral Communications

- Michael Molesky distributed two articles; one titled *Most Livable Cities* and the other titled *Level Playing Field* pertaining to accessibility for all ages
- Grace Blakeslee reminded members that the RTC offers travel reimbursement for the allowable direct transportation costs incurred to attend E&D TAC meetings
- Appreciation for Veronica Elsea and John Daugherty for their presentation of the E&D TAC Committee Report to the Regional Transportation Commission at its April 7 meeting.
- Grace Blakeslee announced that the RTC's Transportation Improvement Plan (TriP) will be discussed at the special May E&D TAC meeting
- April Warnock told members that Metro announced at its March 25th meeting that there will not be any changes to Metro ParaCruz service and service fees
- John Daugherty mentioned an article in the Good Times titled *Cuts Loom for Metro*
- Clay Kempf told members about the *Draft 2016-2020 Area Plan on Aging* and provided a hand out. A public hearing on the Draft Plan is scheduled for April 20, 2016 at 10:00 am at the Live Oak Senior Center

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

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approved Minutes from February 9, 2016

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the February 9, 2016 E&D TAC meeting. Members expressed concern that the draft minutes for the February 9, 2016 E&D TAC meeting did not convey the significant concerns raised nor reflect the controversy involved in the extensive discussion by the Committee regarding Item 16 Transportation Expenditure Plan- Mobility Access Funding.

Action: The motion (Kempf/Arnsberger) - - to amend the minutes from the February 9, E&D TAC meeting for Item 16 Transportation Expenditure Plan – Mobility Access Funding Category to reflect the depth of the conversation that occurred regarding Item 16: Transportation Expenditure Plan and include all motions that were made during the Item 16 discussion and to correct Item 19 Pedestrian Safety Work Group Update to state that Veronica Elsea mentioned she experienced difficulty using the on line hazard report form in its entirety and not only the “Pin Drop” feature - - carries.

Ayes: Pam Arnsberger, John Daugherty, Kirk Ance, Clay Kempf, Greta Kleiner, Sheryl Hagemann, Debbi Brooks, Lisa Berkowitz, Michael Molesky

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Action: The motion (Daugherty/Brooks) - - to approve the consent agenda Items 6 through 13 - - carries.

Ayes: Pam Arnsberger, John Daugherty, Kirk Ance, Clay Kempf, Greta Kleiner, Sheryl Hagemann, Debbi Brooks, Lisa Berkowitz, Michael Molesky

Nays: None

Abstain: None

6. Received RTC Meeting Highlights

7. Recommended RTC Approve Lori Welch as E&D TAC Member representing District 4

8. Recommended RTC Approve John Mills E&D TAC Alternate Member representing Potential Transit User (Disabled)

9. Recommended RTC Approve Tom Duncanson as E&D TAC Alternate member for District 2

10. Received Information Items

- a. Letter to Santa Cruz Metro from E&D TAC inviting Metro staff to attend the May 10, 2015 Special Meeting of the E&D TAC to discuss Metro Service Reductions
- b. Santa Cruz Sentinel Article, March 2016 – Santa Cruz County's Elderly Population Ranks Amongst Fastest Growing in the United States
- c. Caltrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Fact Sheet

11. Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report

12. Received Agency TDA Report - none

13. Receive Agency Updates

- a. Volunteer Center - none
- b. Community Bridges – none
- c. Santa Cruz Metro
 - i. ParaCruz Report for October-December 2015
 - ii. Santa Cruz Metro Operational Analysis Fact Sheet

- iii. Santa Cruz Metro March 25, 2016 Board Report – Update on Comprehensive Operational Analysis

REGULAR AGENDA

14. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

The floor opened for nominations and Veronica Elsea and John Daugherty were nominated to continue representation as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the E&D TAC. Both Ms. Elsea and Mr. Daugherty accepted the nominations.

Action: The motion (Ance/Brooks) - - to appoint Veronica Elsea as Chair of the E&D TAC and John Daugherty as Vice Chair - - carries.

Ayes: Pam Arnsberger, John Daugherty, Kirk Ance, Clay Kempf, Greta Kleiner, Sheryl Hagemann, Debbi Brooks, Lisa Berkowitz, Michael Molesky

Nays: None

Abstain: None

15. City of Watsonville Coastal Rail Trail Design

Murray Fontes, Principal Engineer, City of Watsonville discussed the City of Watsonville Coastal Rail Trail project. The City of Watsonville is the lead agency for implementation of the Coastal Rail Trail from Walker Street to Lee Road.

Members were interested in:

- The pavement to be used on the trail
- If the trail would be lighted
- If there would be any parking facilities at Lee Road
- If the trail would continue beyond Lee Road
- If the trail would still be constructed even if there would not be rail service along the line

Mr. Fontes informed members:

- That the trail would be constructed of asphalt
- The trail will not be lighted
- There are no parking facilities
- Trail use would be from dawn to dusk
- There are no plans to continue the trail beyond Lee Road but there would be a link down to Pajaro Dunes

16. City of Santa Cruz Coastal Rail Trail Design

Grace Blakeslee, RTC Transportation Planner, described the Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail Master Plan and provided an overview of the City of Santa Cruz Coastal Rail Trail from Natural Bridges Drive to Pacific Avenue. Ms. Blakeslee informed members that large printed images depicting the preliminary design for the Natural Bridges Drive to Pacific Avenue portion of the Coastal Rail Trail are on display at the RTC Offices and available on the RTC website. Ms. Blakeslee reported that a number of private and public funding sources are used to deliver this project, which reflects the broad community support for the Coastal Rail Trail. Mr. Molesky described lighting and signing technologies that could be incorporated into the trail.

17. Review and Recommend RTC Approval of 2016 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs List

Grace Blakeslee, RTC Transportation Planner, reviewed the Transportation Development Act (TDA) statutes requirements for consulting with designated social services transportation advisory councils to annually identify transit needs. RTC staff recommends that the E&D TAC provide input on the *Draft 2016 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs List*, and recommends the Regional

Transportation Commission adopt the *Final 2016 Unmet Paratransit Needs* list following a public hearing on May 5, 2016.

Mr. Molesky identified the need, if Metro fixed routes are cut, for increased availability on fixed route buses of locations for individuals using a mobility device. Mr. Molesky explained that without additional locations for mobility devices on buses, individuals in wheel chairs could be stranded when buses are full. John Daugherty let members know that Metro has a policy that if buses are full and the next bus would not pass for 30 minutes that the driver would call Metro ParaCruz to send a back up vehicle to assist the traveler.

Committee members discussed the need for paratransit service on holidays. Pam Arnsberger discussed the role of free transit rides for seniors and people living with disabilities in increasing fixed route transit ridership and reducing transit agency costs by way of decreasing the number of paratransit rides. The Committee discussed the barriers for caregivers of seniors and people living with disabilities to obtain transportation to reach their clients.

Action: The motion (Kempf/Molesky) - - to recommend additions to the Unmet Needs List to: address the need for transportation for caregivers of seniors and people living with disabilities, address the need for transportation services to detention facilities for family members, to separately address the need for free and low costs paratransit and transit, and to include the ride to work program as a strategy for addressing gaps in transportation services for families and caregivers; and that the Regional Transportation Commission approve the Unmet Needs List as amended - - carries.

Ayes: Pam Arnsberger, John Daugherty, Kirk Ance, Clay Kempf, Greta Kleiner, Sheryl Hagemann, Debbi Brooks, Lisa Berkowitz, Michael Molesky

Nays: None

Abstain: None

18. Approve Transportation Development Act Claim for Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Grace Blakeslee, RTC Planner, reviewed the Metro TDA Claim on behalf of Metro staff. Ms. Blakeslee also mentioned that RTC and Santa Cruz Metro staff will recommend that the RTC postpone sub-allocating STA funding until the State clarifies FY 2016-17 STA apportionments. Members expressed concern that a representative from Santa Cruz Metro did not attend the E&D TAC meeting to respond to questions pertaining to this TDA claim.

Action: The motion (Brooks/Kleiner) - - to recommend to the Regional Transportation Commission approval of the TDA claim for Metro for \$6,701,163 and have Metro available to discuss and answer questions at the May meeting of the E&D TAC - - carries.

Ayes: Debbi Brooks, Greta Kleiner, Veronica Elsea, Sheryl Hagemann

Nays: None

Abstain: Pam Arnsberger, Clay Kempf, John Daugherty

19. Approve Transportation Development Act Claim for Community Bridges

Kirk Ance, Community Bridges, provided information for the TDA claim for Community Bridges for \$658,360, and reviewed the Operation Plan Service of Units Exhibit C-2 with members.

Mr. Ance and Ramon Cancino responded to questions about:

- Dialysis rides covered under Medi-Cal and TDA
- Community Bridges service is complimentary to ParaCruz service
- Funding for Elderday is down over Meals-on-Wheels

Action: The motion (Molesky/Brooks) - - to recommend to the Regional Transportation Commission approval of the TDA Claim for Community Bridges for \$658,360 - - carries.

Ayes: Pam Arnsberger, John Daugherty, Clay Kempf, Greta Kleiner, Sheryl Hagemann, Debbi Brooks,

Michael Molesky

Nays: None

Abstain: Lisa Berkowitz, Kirk Ance

20. Approve Transportation Development Act Claim for Volunteer Center

Debbi Brooks provided information for the Volunteer Center TDA Claim for \$78,376. Ms. Brooks mentioned that the Volunteer Center provides one-on-one service to doctor appointments and grocery shopping. The Volunteer Center services are provided with volunteer drivers and she mentioned that they receive thank you letters on a regular basis from individuals who are very appreciative of the Volunteer Center services.

Action: The motion (Daugherty/Arnsberger) - - to recommend to the Regional Transportation Commission approval of the TDA for the Volunteer Center for \$78,376 - - carries.

Ayes: Pam Arnsberger, John Daugherty, Clay Kempf, Greta Kleiner, Sheryl Hagemann, Michael Molesky

Nays: None

Abstain: Debbi Brooks

21. Pedestrian Safety Workgroup Update

Veronica Elsea mentioned that the Pedestrian Safety Workgroup continues its work on the draft brochure 'What Pedestrians and Bicyclists Want Each Other to Know' and expect to have a working draft available in June. Ms. Elsea mentioned that the next regular meeting for the Pedestrian Safety Workgroup is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2016 at the RTC from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the small conference room. Ms. Elsea mentioned that the group discussed the Pedestrian Hazard Report Form and that she and others are not able to use the form and the map included with the form.

22. Adjourn 3:55 pm

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Judd, RTC Staff