



**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 13, 2010

1. Call to Order

John Daugherty called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm

2. Introductions

Members Present:

Hal Anjo, Social Service Provider-Seniors (County)
Debbi Brooks, Volunteer Center
Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA-Community Bridges
Tom Crain, Potential Transit User (Disabled)
John Daugherty, Metro
Veronica Elsea, 3rd District
Sally French, Soc. Serv. Prov. -Disabled (Hope Services)
Clay Kempf, Seniors Council
Mike Molesky, Social Service Provider - Disabled
Catherine Patterson Valdez, Community Bridges

Excused Absences:

Sharon Barbour, 5th District

Others Present:

Ciro Aguirre, Metro
Carolyn Derwing, Metro
Charlie Dixon, Member of the Public
Peg Gallagher, Metro
MaryLou Goeke, United Way
Michael Lewis, 1st District Applicant
Doug Patrick, Pedestrian Safety Work Group
Cheryl Schmitt, City of Santa Cruz
Patti Shevlin, 1st District Applicant
Tad Sterling, United Way Volunteer

Alternates Present

Sandra Coley, 4th District
April Warnock, Metro

Staff Present:

Cathy Judd
Karena Pushnik

3. Oral Communications

John Daugherty voiced his thanks to the United Way staff for providing their conference room for use for this meeting of the E&D TAC.

Karena Pushnik announced that the RTC will be holding a public hearing Wednesday, April 14th at 7:00 pm at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Santa Cruz County Building on the Rail Acquisition and encouraged public comment at the meeting or in writing.

Clay Kempf announced the 2nd Caregiver University event free to all participants to be held at Inner Light Ministries on Saturday, May 15, 2010.

4. Additions and Deletions

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Action: The motion (Kempf/Brooks) to approve and accept the consent agenda carried unanimously.

5. **Approved Minutes from February 9, 2010 meeting**
6. **Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report as of March 2010**
7. **Received RTC Highlights from February - April 2010**
8. **Approved letter from E&D TAC to City of Capitola regarding support of their Caltrans grant application for pedestrian, bicycle and transit planning**
9. **Approved renewal application for Catherine Patterson Valdez for Community Bridges/Lift Line member position**
10. **Approved application for Kirk Ance for Community Bridges/Lift Line alternate position**
11. **Information Items**
12. **Received Agency Updates**
 - a. **Volunteer Center**
 - **FY 09-10 Second Quarter Report**
 - b. **Community Bridges/CTSA**
 - **March 2010 (all) Lift Line Program Report**
 - **3/10/10 Letter regarding Out of County Medical Program vehicles**
 - c. **Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)**
 - **ParaCruz Operations Status Report: March 2010**
 - **ParaCruz Taxi Subcontractor report**
 - **ParaCruz New Vehicle Contract report**
 - d. **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission**
 - e. **Private Operators**

REGULAR AGENDA

13. **Support for 211 System - United Way Staff**

Mary Lou Goeke Executive Director of the United Way gave an overview of the promise and potential of the 211 System which would connect people to essential community information and referral services. The United Way in Santa Cruz is the lead agency to develop the local 211 phone service that will be a public utility and be governed at the Federal level by the Federal Communications Commission and in California by the Public Utilities Commission. Based on the Federal and State requirements, the United Way has applied for license to operate the 211 System. She is hopeful that the 211 System will be available to the public on July 1, 2010. Mary Lou requested a letter of support for the United Way's 211 System from the E&D TAC and also asked that the E&D TAC appoint a representative to its 211 steering committee.

Tad Sterling, a United Way volunteer and lead staff person for the 211 System development, spoke about services and resources people can access in their communities benefits of the 211 System and the 211 implementation happening county-by-county as well as pre and post disaster assistance.

April Warnock asked if Mary Lou has heard about the Nixel System that individuals can sign up for that can send community or traffic alerts as a text to a cell phone and she suggested that this service could also tell recipients to call 211 for additional information when they get an alert.

Members asked if the 211 System will be a non-profit service, how it will be promoted, and if the service accommodates bilingual aid. Mary Lou said that this system is available for non-profit services only. In terms of promotion, KSBW has committed to \$100,000 worth of ads and she is also requesting agencies and companies to help with the outreach effort by promoting it on their websites, trucks and buses, etc. Mary Lou said that the call center can accommodate English, Spanish, Cantonese and Mandarin and has a resource to the AT&T language line for 127 languages and the TTY service.

A member felt that the establishment of this new system will take funding away from existing programs and Mary Lou let members know that the funding source to support the new 211 System will not be the same funding sources as are available for existing services.

Action: The motion (French/Elsea) to write a letter of support for the 211 System to the United Way carries with abstentions from Clay Kempf and John Daugherty.

Catherine Patterson Valdez volunteered to represent the E&D TAC on the United Way's 211 System steering committee.

14. Approve Draft Pedestrian Maintenance Report for Release to RTC – Pedestrian Safety Work Group Chair

Veronica Elsea, Chair for this sub-committee, thanked all the members who helped and served on this sub-committee and contributed their expertise in producing the Draft Pedestrian Maintenance Report. She discussed the goals of the committee, shared pictures showing sidewalk issues that need attention, discussed the responsibility of the property owner for repair of sidewalks and talked about the information received pertaining to current practices the committee received from the five local jurisdictions to inventory and make progress on sidewalk conditions.

Veronica said that the committee surveyed the 5 local jurisdictions and other jurisdictions across the nation and came up with 7 components the committee felt vital to achieve their goals.

- Conduct network-wide audits – local jurisdictions check their areas by a percentage of total sidewalks or responding to specific complaints
- Report sidewalk network status at regularly defined intervals
- Implement process that assures prompt resolution of safety and access issues
- Promotion of community value of property owners maintaining sidewalks
- Communication to residents about jurisdiction's program for ensuring sidewalk maintenance
- Create highly visible campaign for reporting sidewalk issues
- Develop information and support resources for property owners seeking to address unsafe sidewalk conditions

Members voiced their thanks and approval of all the hard work put forth by this sub-committee and discussed aspects of the findings and how those findings affect mobility.

Veronica asked members to get additional comments or suggestions to her by Monday, April 19th to be presented at the next sub-committee meeting on Wednesday, April 21st. She mentioned that the Draft Pedestrian Maintenance Report will be presented to the Commission at its June 3rd meeting.

Action: The motion (Patterson Valdez/Kempf) for the E&D TAC to accept and forward the Draft Pedestrian Maintenance Report and appendices to the Commission for their consideration and send it to the 5 local jurisdictions and the Redevelopment Agencies as well passes unanimously.

14.a METRO's Revised Discount Fare Policy - Metro Staff

Peggy Gallagher informed members that the triennial audit of Metro's Discount Fare Policy revealed that minor revisions were needed to be in compliance with the Federal Transit Administration's Regulations. She said the policy has been revised to create 3 distinct categories:

1. Senior Citizen;
2. Disabled Persons; and
3. Medicare Card Holder

Other minor revisions to the policy include the purchase of bus passes on Metro's new website which launched on March 18, 2010. Peggy said to qualify for a discount fare; a qualified individual must present one of the required items of identification to the bus operator, transit center ticket agent or at a Metro pass outlet when paying a fixed route fare which is spelled out under section IV, Eligibility, 4.01 through 4.04 of the Policy and Regulations document.

She requested support of the Policy and Regulations recommendations from the E&D TAC that Metro staff will be bringing back to its board.

Members asked for three changes. The first to have Medicare eligibility explained more clearly, the second to clarify wording with regard to forms of identification, and the third to add Marriage and Family Therapists to the list of approved entities.

Action: The motion (Berkowitz/Kempf) to approve Metro's revised Discount Fare Program with amendments including MFT (Marriage & Family Therapists) passes unanimously.

15. Approve Volunteer Center's FY 2010-2011 Transportation Development Act Claim – Volunteer Center Staff

Karena Pushnik gave a detailed overview for all three TDA claims -- Volunteer Center, Community Bridges, and Metro Transit District -- saying that the RTC allocates Transportation Development Act funds from the region's share of the ¼ cent sales tax according to established formulas in the Commission's Rules and Regulations.

Debbi Brooks gave an overview of the Volunteer Center's goal to provide 4,600 one-way trips to eligible clients over FY 2010-11. Because this program uses volunteer drivers, it is a highly cost effective method of providing rides to many in the county who are ineligible for ParaCruz services.

Action: The motion (Elsea/Patterson Valdez) that the E&D TAC recommend to the RTC approval of the TDA funding request from the City of Santa Cruz on behalf of the Volunteer Center for \$51,754 passes unanimously.

16. Approve Community Bridges' FY 2010-2011 Transportation Development Act Claim – Community Bridges Staff

Catherine Patterson Valdez gave an overview of the Community Bridges TDA claim along with a handout saying that the agency is changing the process of taxi scrip and considering using a one-way coupon. She provided a sample of the coupon they intend to use which she says will allow more thorough tracking of rides. She said that taxi scrip rides are down 65% or their original goal due to current scrip value based on past taxi rates. She also discussed all the other claim elements including the number of rides, distance traveled and the cost for services. Members discussed ride requirements and restrictions.

Action: The motion (Elsea/French) that the E&D TAC recommend to the RTC approval of the Community Bridges TDA funding claim for \$488,721 passes unanimously.

17. Approve Metro Transit District's FY 2010-2011 Transportation Development Act Claim – Metro Staff

Ciro Aguirre informed members that, due to the current economic situation, Metro would need to raise the cost of the Highway 17 Express fares, reduce service on some fixed routes and shift funds from capital projects to operations. Carolyn Derwing explained what routes and schedule times would change and assured members that even though these changes would take effect, all areas would still have service but that service timetables and route numbers would change. This translates into no service area changes for ParaCruz. She provided a handout that explained all cuts in service. Ciro let members know that fare increases would be implemented by June 10, 2010. He also let members know that Metro would hold a public hearing in September and will accept comments until June 11, 2010. Any additional service cuts will be discussed at the June E&D TAC meeting.

Veronica let Metro know that she is concerned that more disabled riders would be left behind due to full buses and also mentioned that the sight impaired do not have the best access to Metro's website. Ciro noted that bus drivers should not discriminate on riders left behind due to full buses.

Action: The motion (Kempf/Molesky) that the E&D TAC recommend to the RTC approval of Metro's TDA funding claim for \$4,974,478 passes with John Daugherty abstaining.

Clay Kempf voiced his appreciation that the service cuts do not affect the service area and therefore do not impact ParaCruz service.

Action: The motion (Patterson Valdez/Elsea) to endorse Metro's retaining the entire service area including ParaCruz passes unanimously.

17. a Emergency Add-On Item: State Budget/Funding Loopholes

Clay Kempf requested that an emergency item be added to this E&D TAC agenda due to the impending Governor's budget revise due out in May.

Action: The motion (Kempf/Anjo) to add this item to today's agenda passed unanimously.

Clay voiced his concern that large corporations are being allowed to retain their ability not to be taxed and said that if tax loopholes were closed funding for vital services would increase allowing fewer service cuts for those most in need.

Action: The motion (Kempf/Molesky) to recommend that the E&D TAC send a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger to close corporate tax loopholes to retain vital funding for services passes with John Daugherty abstaining.

18. Review Draft Annual Report/Unmet Needs List – RTC staff

Karena Pushnik provided a brief overview of the draft 2009 Annual Report for the E&D TAC, which highlights the committee's activities over the past year. In addition, she noted that the Unmet Needs List was amended to show comments received and projects completed. Both the Annual Report and Unmet Needs will be presented to the RTC at their June meeting. Comments will be received before and at the meeting.

19. Review Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) – RTC staff

Karena Pushnik reminded the committee that comments on the Draft 2010 RTP and SEIR are due to the RTC by April 19. Executive summaries of both documents were included in the packet and are posted on the RTC website. These documents are used as the "blueprint" to determine which projects should have priority as funding becomes available. The RTC will review comments on the documents at their May meeting and will adopt them at their June meeting.

20. Consider Recommendations to RTC for New E&D TAC Member/Alternate Applications Received – Chair

The floor was opened for new applicants to introduce themselves for consideration as members of the E&D TAC. Michael Lewis and Patty Shevlin introduced themselves and spoke of their experiences.

Action: The motion (Elsea/Anjo) to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve Patty Shevlin as the representative for the 1st District and Michael Lewis as the alternate passes unanimously.

21. Adjournment - 4:45pm

Prepared by: Cathy Judd, SCCRTC Staff