



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

MINUTES-DRAFT

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

1. Call to Order

John Daugherty called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm

2. Introductions

Members Present:

Hal Anjo, Social Service Provider-Seniors (County)
Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA-Community Bridges
Tom Crain, Potential Transit User (Disabled)
John Daugherty, Metro
Sally French, Soc. Serv. Prov. -Disabled (Hope Services)
Mike Molesky, Social Service Provider - Disabled
Catherine Patterson Valdez, CTSA/Community Bridges
Patti Shevlin, 1st District
Robert White, 5th District

Alternates Present

Sharon Barbour, 5th District
Sandra Coley, 4th District
Thom Onan, 3rd District
Patty Talbot, Senior Council
April Warnock, Metro

Excused Absences:

Donella Bloebaum, 2nd District
Veronica Elsea, 3rd District
Clay Kempf, Seniors Council

Others Present:

Ciro Aguirre, Metro
Tove Beatty, Metro
Maria Boyce, Metro
Claire Fliesler, Metro

Staff Present:

Cathy Judd
Karena Pushnik

3. Oral Communications

John Daugherty announced that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) turned 20 years old on June 6, 2010.

Mike Molesky informed members that the Santa Cruz Spinal Cord Injury Peer Support Group meets the 3rd Saturday each month at 1:00 pm at 610 Frederick Street and those interested could call Roger McKowan 457 7067 for more information. He added that the group could also be found on Facebook.

Robert White requested RTC staff to find out whether the dinner train, that may be a feature once the rail acquisition is complete, will be ADA compliant.

Lisa Berkowitz said that starting the 1st of September, Community Bridges Meals on Wheels will be providing two noon meal to seniors at the Scotts Valley Senior Center (*subsequent to the meeting CB decided to start with one day and move to two after staff and volunteers have a chance to feel settled with the new meal service*), which will serve roughly 25 to 30 seniors. Transportation will not be provided initially and the City of Scotts Valley will be providing the building and staffing costs.

Mike Molesky said that the In Home Health Services (IHHS) agency is offering a legislative training forum, including advocacy for ADA issues, the 1st Friday of each month at 1:30pm, Building K, Emeline Street, Room 206. Two senior legislators, Charles Molnar and Bud Winslow are the facilitators and the meeting is open to all. Mike suggested that Commission Chairs attend.

Karena Pushnik told members that the revised Bikeways map has been printed and is available free of charge, and she supplied copies to members. She also informed members that the Arana Gulch item will not be heard by the Coastal Commission in August and has been postponed to the October or December meeting and said she will keep members posted as to the date of that hearing. Mike Molesky said he was informed that there would be accessible transportation available for those who wanted to attend the meeting. John Daugherty mentioned that people would be able to testify via video and those interested should contact Charlie Dixon.

Karena Pushnik announced that the Commission approved the appointment of Robert White as the 5th District representative to the E&D TAC, Sharon Barbour as the Alternate for the 5th District and Sheryl Hagemann as the alternate representing Social Services/People with Disabilities.

Tom Crain requested information regarding ADA access to Mr. Toots on the Esplanade.

4. Additions and Deletions

Karena Pushnik informed members that **Item 15** had typographical errors and handed out a revised copy. In the interest of keeping the packet smaller Karena also supplied hand out materials for **Item 11** and other information items.

CONSENT AGENDA

Catherine Patterson Valdez requested that **Item 12b** be pulled from the consent agenda for further discussion.

Action: The motion (Anjo/Berkowitz) to approve and accept the remainder of the consent agenda carried unanimously with Mike Molesky and Catherine Patterson Valdez abstaining.

- 5. Approved Minutes from June 8, 2010 meeting**
- 6. Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report as of June 2010**
- 7. Received RTC Highlights through July 2010**
- 8. Received 6/8/10 E&D TAC letter to Metro regarding Bus Stop Improvement input**
- 9. Received 6/8/10 E&D TAC letter to federal legislators regarding support of 4722 – Active Community Transportation Act**
- 10. Received invitation to participate in online discussion about ADA transportation – June 26 through August 6**
- 11. Information Items**
 - a. MBayGRC's Caring for Seniors with Chronic Conditions courses**
 - b. Three articles on Travel Training/Transit Ambassadors**
 - c. Pedestrian Safety Workshop in Salinas, August 14**

12. Received Agency Updates

- a. **Volunteer Center**
- b. **Community Bridges/CTSA** (*pulled for discussion*)
 - **FY 09-10 Third Quarter Lift Line Program Report**
 - **July 20 Lift Line program report**
- c. **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission**
 - **ParaCruz Operations Status Report: June 2010**
- d. **Private Operators**

REGULAR AGENDA

12.b Community Bridges/CTSA including 3rd Quarter and 7/20 Board Reports

Catherine Patterson Valdez gave a detailed update on Community Bridges/Lift Line rides during the 3rd quarter. She noted that they will have to discontinue the rides for Dragon Slayers due to the low number of riders, the high amount of transportation time, poor road conditions, vehicle damage and funding cuts.

Catherine said that Taxi Script rides used are at 111% of their projection. She said that medical transportation is at 100% and Meals-on-Wheels is at 101%. Having exceeded funding for FY09-10 and with funding being cut for FY10-11, she indicated that Community Bridges will have to find some creative ways to fund all transportation.

She mentioned that the Watsonville City Council meeting agenda for that evening includes a request from Community Bridges/CTSA to move their maintenance, operation and intake facility from Aptos to a new location in Watsonville on Ford Street. Her office, dispatch and the IT group will remain at the Aptos location. She will provide an update at the next E&D TAC meeting.

Catherine informed members that they hope to acquire an older 8-passenger vehicle with a lift from UCSC to add to their fleet. The vehicle was originally acquired through Section 5310 program.

She also mentioned that the out-of-county transportation program for veterans funded by the federal New Freedom funds is growing and Community Bridges has been asked to extend their program to Monterey County. The funding currently available and the future scenario, make it unlikely to expand service at this time. Karena Pushnik asked about the dialysis rides that were also funded by the New Freedom grant and Catherine said that they have provided 850 dialysis ride during the months of April, May and June using New Freedom funds and that all goals are being met.

Action: The motion (Coley/Anjo) was made to accept Item 12b carries unanimously.

13. Receive Information/Provide Input on Bus Stop Improvement Program/Process – Metro Staff

Ciro Aguirre gave a presentation on the plan to expend \$500,000 in bus stop improvement funds, which were made available when the Metro no longer needed the funds secured for travel assistance due to Google Transit. Metro staff included bus stops/shelter locations based on input from the E&D TAC and the Pedestrian Safety Work Group about priority origins and destinations frequented by seniors and people with disabilities. Upgrades for shelters could include screening around existing shelters, re-roofing, repair to the adjacent sidewalks to prevent trip hazards, repainting of red curbing so vehicles do not park at the stops, and the installation of solar panels and beacons to alert bus drivers of riders waiting at stops or shelters in areas that are not well lit at night. In addition, the improvement proposal includes reductions in the length of benches

within several shelters in order to adhere to the ADA requirement of 60 inches of maneuverable space to accommodate wheelchairs. Some of the areas without shelters will have benches or drop-down seating installed and some will only be painted with red curbing. With a funding budget of \$500,000 available to complete all upgrades and repairs, Ciro said that Metro is limited to what repairs/upgrades can be made, and wants to make improvements in a geographically equitable manner. Ciro also explained that it would cost \$100,000 to \$250,000 to install a brand new shelter at a single location as they would be required to meet Caltrans' "new construction" requirements which include full ADA specifications and include a bus pad, landing, shelter, concrete, utility relocation and potentially purchase right-of-way. In addition, Ciro noted that the City of Watsonville has adopted the Caltrans standard for new construction so any improvements in Watsonville need to comply with the full set of construction standards, thereby pushing up costs for those bus stop improvements and reducing the total number possible.

The committee expressed appreciation to Metro for considering the needs of seniors and people with disabilities when prioritizing bus stop improvements. Concerns were expressed by the committee regarding the potential impacts to seniors of the proposal to make stops ADA compliant by reducing bench space. Suggestions included expending the funding to add benches to locations where they don't yet exist, to extend the paved landing area to accommodate wheelchairs, to extend the roof of the shelters to create more protected space for wheelchairs on the other side of the support post, and/or to replace the bench seats lost with fold down seating. Members also requested that when more funding is available, the priority list for improvements to the bus stop include following locations: the stop(s) used by people leaving Watsonville Hospital; and the outbound stop on Capitola Road at Jose Avenue that serves the Santa Cruz Health Center, public housing and the park. Attendees also wondered whether exemptions were possible to the Caltrans Standards in the City of Watsonville in order to avoid a full bus stop makeover and enable Metro to make a greater quantity of less costly improvements.

Karena Pushnik requested that Metro supply the E&D TAC with a list of all stops and the proposed improvements before the next meeting. She also requested that any observations by Metro staff doing field work about the condition of adjacent pedestrian facilities to bus stops be forward to the Pedestrian Safety Work Group (via email to Karena), since access to the stops will help remove barriers to use.

14. Receive Status Report about Mobility Outreach and Education and Agricultural Worker Transportation Programs – Community Bridges staff

Catherine Patterson Valdez presented her report about Community Bridges' Mobility Outreach and Education and Agricultural Worker Transportation Programs. She said that there was interest in a Mobility Center to consolidate and disseminate transportation information and possible locations for the center were discussed. Catherine said that this project is still eligible for federal Section 5317 capitol funding; however there is neither staff nor matching funding available for her to pursue this project at this time. She said that they will revisit this in the future and keep it on the unmet needs list.

Catherine visited farm day laborers who voiced concerns about feeder buses. Even though laborers could travel from their homes to the feeder buses that would then take them to work sites, they were worried that workers coming in from Greenfield and Kings County to Santa Cruz County to work could cause them to lose their jobs to out of area workers. The Association for Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) will be the lead to bring Agricultural Worker vans to this area, if feasible.

John Daugherty suggested that due to the remaining items on the agenda that the meeting time be extended.

Action: The motion (Berkowitz/Shevlin) to extend the meeting to 4:00 pm.

15. Receive Update about 2-1-1 System – E&D TAC Representative

Catherine Patterson Valdez is the E&D TAC representative to the United Way's 2-1-1 Steering committee. She gave a brief presentation regarding her attendance at a kick-off meeting for the committee. The goal of this committee is to identify resources throughout the county so that when calls come into the 2-1-1 center, accurate information is provided to the caller to assist with any issue they might have.

Karena Pushnik told members that 2-1-1 is operational and has started providing one-on-one call-in service with operators based in San Francisco. The transportation database used by the center was supplied in the packet and appears to be missing many of the key specialized transportation providers. Karena said that the RTC is in process of updating the *Guide to Specialized Transportation for Seniors and People with Disabilities* and suggested that once the new version is available that it be provided to 2-1-1 as an additional resource for specific transportation questions.

Catherine told members that 2-1-1 still needs volunteers to help staff in emergencies and that they could call Robert Hallbaur at 227-8544 for training and instructions.

Lisa Berkowitz suggested that members test the system by calling and asking a question of the center to see if accurate information is supplied by the operators.

16. Brainstorm Strategies to Publicize Bus and ParaCruz service to the County Fair held September 14-19 – E&D TAC Chair

Maria Boyce from Metro said that there would be transportation to the Santa Cruz County Fair available for 3 days from the Watsonville Metro Station on the 14th, 18th and 19th of September. She noted that the route will be an extension of the 79 with the same stops, but would have a specific sign stating "Fair" or something similar. Ciro mentioned that ParaCruz will also be running during those days complementary to the fixed route service. Maria said that notification about service to the County Fair would be available via flyers and on the Metro website. Members suggested that notification could be made through the media, to schools and senior centers and through mass email. Karena suggested that the information come to her so that she could send it out to other groups and committees for them to share as well.

Due to the length of this meeting the following, Items 17, 18, and 19, will be deferred to the December meeting of the E&D TAC.

17. Discuss Strategies to Advocate for Bus Service to La Posada/Dominican Rehabilitation Services along Frederick St Given the Current Decreased Revenues and Service Cuts

18. Receive Pedestrian Safety Work Group Update – Work Group Representative

19. Receive status report about updated Guide for Specialized Transportation – RTC Staff

20. Select Alternate Time for December Meeting (3:00 to 5:00 or 2:30 to 4:30)

Chair Daugherty made a recommendation to hold the December meeting from 2:30 to 4:30 which was acceptable to all members present.

21. Adjourn – 4:00pm

Prepared by: Cathy Judd, SCCRTC Staff