



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

MINUTES-DRAFT

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

1. Call to Order

John Daugherty called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm

2. Introductions

Members Present:

Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA-Community Bridges
Donella Bloebaum, 2nd District
John Daugherty, Metro
Veronica Elsea, 3rd District
Sally French, Soc. Serv. Prov.-Disabled (Hope Services)
Catherine Patterson Valdez, CTSA/Community Bridges
Patti Shevlin, 1st District
Robert White, 5th District

Alternates Present

Patty Talbot, Seniors Council. Alt.

Excused Absences:

Hal Anjo, Social Service Provider-Seniors (County)
Debbi Brooks, Persons of Limited Means (Volunteer Center)
Tom Crain, Potential Transit User (Disabled)
Mike Molesky, Social Service Provider - Disabled

Others Present:

Ciro Aguirre, Metro
Cheryl Schmitt, City of Santa Cruz

Staff Present:

Cathy Judd
Karena Pushnik
Tegan Speiser

3. Oral Communications

John Daugherty mentioned that since the last E&D TAC meeting, Metro has cut fixed route service by 10% and said that it was accomplished without changes to ParaCruz service or layoffs of personnel. In response to a question, John said that the ParaCruz service area would change if fixed routes were deleted, but that the service hours of ParaCruz are fixed.

Sally French told members that Rosa's Law passed last week which strikes the term "mental retardation" from any federal statute and replaces it with the term "intellectual disability".

Tegan Speiser gave an overview of the joint project between the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) to analyze the feasibility of a 511 Traveler Information System including what 'real-time information' people in the Monterey Bay region might need and want. She invited members to go to www.511montereybay.org to take the survey and view informational videos. The survey closes at the end of October and is available in other formats including Spanish and paper copy.

Catherine Patterson Valdez let members know that she is in need of drivers for out-of-county medical transportation and asked for assistance. Members suggested contacting the Retired Military Officers Association and Sons in Retirement.

Catherine also mentioned that she is applying for a 5310 mini-grant for buses that UCSC and Camp Limited are going to donate back to the program for use in the Lift Line program for paratransit service.

Karena Pushnik said that the Elections Department received a grant to make improvements for access from the bus stop on Emeline to the front of the health services building. The Elections staff requested that flyers about special voting site provisions be distributed to the E&D TAC.

Patty Talbot said that although she didn't have complete information, Clay Kempf notified her that formalization of Section 5310 funding is being discussed at the state level. Information will be shared with the committee as it is available.

Karena Pushnik announced that the RTC is in process of updating the Guide to Specialized Transportation for Senior and People with Disabilities and hopes to have it completed to present at the December meeting of the E&D TAC.

4. Additions and Deletions

Robert White asked that Item 11a be pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Karena Pushnik said that Ciro Aguirre is coming from another meeting and that Item 14 would be moved to the end of the Regular Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Action: The motion (Elsea/Berkowitz) -- to approve and accept the remainder of the consent agenda -- carries unanimously.

- 5. Approved Minutes from August 10, 2010 meeting**
- 6. Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report as of September 2010**
- 7. Received RTC Highlights through September 2010**
- 8. Approved draft Thank you letter to Metro for service to the County Fair**
- 9. Received blog post in Santa Cruz Sentinel re: Sidewalk Maintenance Plan**
- 10. Received Santa Clara Co. Mobility Options Travel Training and Daycation program info**
- 11. Received Information Items**
 - a. 9/31/10 email from RTC staff to Robert White regarding the proposed Dinner Train (*pulled for discussion*)**
 - b. Monterey Co Taxi Authority established (TAMC Highlights, 8/25/10)**
 - c. 10/3/10 Article in Santa Cruz Sentinel regarding Arana Gulch**
- 12. Received Agency Updates**
 - a. Volunteer Center**
 - FY 09-10 Third Quarter Report**
 - FY 09-10 Fourth Quarter Report**
 - FY 09-10 Final Report**
 - b. Community Bridges/CTSA**
 - September 2010 Lift Line Program Report**
 - c. Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)**
 - ParaCruz Operations Status Report: August & September 2010**
 - Purchase of 22 vans and 5 minivans for ParaCruz**
 - d. Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission**
 - e. Private Operators**

REGULAR AGENDA

11a. 9/31/10 email from RTC staff to Robert White regarding the proposed Dinner Train

Robert White said that he spoke to Sierra Northern, the proposed rail operator, who told him that there is no requirement to incorporate ADA facilities into historic trains. He asked RTC staff if there was further information and staff said that the specifications on service details have not yet been negotiated. Robert requested more information about ADA compliance and if it applied to historic trains. The E&D TAC discussed whether to make a statement to the Commission requesting that ADA provisions be addressed once the acquisition is complete and the next phase of negotiations are underway.

Action: A motion (Elsea/White) -- to write a letter to the Commission requesting that when negotiations with Sierra Northern reach the operational level that the RTC request Sierra Northern to have one accessible car on each dinner train -- carries unanimously.

13. City of Santa Cruz TDA Claim – City of Santa Cruz Staff

Cheryl Schmitt, City of Santa Cruz, gave an overview of 2 projects which include pedestrian amenities for which the City is requesting recommendation of approval from the E&D TAC to the RTC for TDA funds in the amount of \$50,000 for each project;

- 1) Laurel Street pedestrian crossing and;
- 2) Mission Street extension bicycle-pedestrian path

She shared a diagram for the Laurel Street pedestrian crossing project that will incorporate refuge islands at cross walks to allow pedestrians a place to safely stop, if necessary, while crossing the street. Cheryl said that refuge islands have been successfully incorporated in other parts of the city at East Cliff Drive/Hiawatha and on Ocean Street near the Government Building. In response to a question of curb cuts, Cheryl said that curb cuts will be installed within the refuge island for the crosswalks. A member asked when the project was due to start and Cheryl said that it is already in design stage and should be in construction by March 2011.

Cheryl shared photos of existing conditions at the second project, the Mission Street Extension to the Wilder Ranch path. She noted that initially, concrete barriers were installed to allow 2-way traffic for pedestrians and cyclists on a one-way street for vehicle travel. Improvements including flexible posts and new signage will be installed for this project.

Action: A motion (Elsea/Shevlin) -- to recommend that the Commission approve the TDA claim for the City of Santa Cruz in the amount of \$50,000 for the Laurel Street pedestrian crossing project and \$50,000 for the Mission Street Extension bicycle-pedestrian path -- carries unanimously.

14. Final Bus Stop Improvement Plan – Metro Staff (*this item taken later in the agenda*)

15. Ballot Measures – RTC Staff

Karena Pushnik provided an overview of Propositions 21, 22, 23, 25, and 26 which have potential implications for transportation and transportation projects. John Daugherty informed members that Metro and City of Santa Cruz are in support of Proposition 22 so that stability is brought to funding for local transit.

16. Pedestrian Safety Work Group Update – Work Group Chair

Veronica Elsea, Pedestrian Safety Work Group Chair, told members that the committee completed its report for sidewalk maintenance responsibilities and will determine their follow-up steps with local jurisdictions. Veronica said that they will do another survey in June 2011 to find out how much progress has been made.

Veronica also shared that she and Karena Pushnik presented their report at the ***Pedestrians Count*** workshop held in Berkeley and sponsored by ***California Walks***. They discussed the process, the action plan and the best/worst practices. The materials were well-received and they were asked to present the materials to other agencies, including the City of Watsonville.

Cheryl Schmitt suggested that the Pedestrian Safety Work Group make a presentation to the Board of Realtors so that they can inform buyers and sellers of potential sidewalk issues that might be a point of negotiation in the purchase of the property.

17. Triennial Performance Audits – RTC Staff

Karena Pushnik gave an overview of the Triennial Performance Audits required by state law every three years for local transportation planning agencies and transit operators who receive Transportation Development Act funds. This 2010 audit includes Community Bridges and the Volunteer Center as recommended by the 2007 Triennial Performance Audit Report.

Karena said that one recommendation from the audit is for the RTC to work closely with Metro, Community Bridges and the Volunteer Center to develop a Short Range Transit Plan update. She said there will also be a Coordinated Plan in a couple years that will address the umbrella of services provided in the area and this committee may want to participate in the discussion about the importance and intent of transit.

Karena announced that a New Freedom fund grant was received and a signed contract from Caltrans should come by mid-November. Improvements near La Posada and along Frederick Street to Soquel Avenue, as well as other areas, were included in the grant.

18. Lift Line Eligibility Determination Process – Community Bridges Staff

Catherine Patterson Valdez said that Community Bridges is updating their website to include an online application for taxi script and medical transportation services including links to other services such as dining transportation and the Multi-Senior Service Program (MSSP). This allows the applicant the ease of filling in and submitting the form online. She said they tried to mirror Monterey Salinas Transit and Metro ParaCruz referral services to streamline their application process. She will present the proposal at the next E&D TAC meeting for committee review.

In response to member questions and comments, Catherine said that they receive and process between 2 and 5 applications daily, that ridership to meal sites has increased, that taxi script rides are at 100%, and that ride demand increases during the holiday season.

19. Mobility Action Plan Recommendations- Community Bridges Staff

Catherine Patterson Valdez apologized for not bringing the state's draft Implementation Plan. She said that it is an action plan addressing unmet needs and it recommends that the CTSA in the community, if there is one, could function as the mobility management center. Catherine said that she identified all of the unmet needs and feels that the area has developed become self sufficient with the many resources available.

John Daugherty said that although funding for a mobility management center project included in the Transportation Funding Task Force proposal did not proceed, there are other ways to achieve mobility management such as the 211 and 511 phone systems and the information and referral systems in place at Senior Network Services and the Central Coast Center for Independent Living. He noted that the Monterey County mobility management center is looking for partners reaching out to Cal State Monterey Bay to help handle paratransit. He said that at a meeting he attended in San Jose that VTA outreach is overwhelmed with all the different aspects of a mobility management center project.

Patty Talbot asked for the definition of a Mobility Management Center and Karena Pushnik said that there are many different definitions crafted for each area depending on their specific needs and resources available.

20. New Vice Chair – E&D TAC Chair

John Daugherty said that Mike Molesky, who is the current Vice-Chair, would not be able to fulfill his duty for this year and he wanted to open the floor for nominations to appoint a new Vice-Chair. John nominated Veronica Elsea and no other nomination was suggested.

Action: A motion (Daugherty/Valdez) -- to appoint Veronica Elsea as the new Vice-Chair for the E&D TAC -- carries unanimously.

14. Final Bus Stop Improvement Plan – Metro Staff (*this item taken out of order*)

Ciro Aguirre told members that, due to a project shift, Metro has \$500,000 for bus stop improvements. The challenge has been to identify stops that can meet the Title 6 requirements to distribute the repairs and modifications to all parts of the county. The current goal of Metro is to follow through with the locations discussed at the last E&D TAC meeting in August 2010 that include the priority origins and destinations identified by ParaCruz and Lift Line. Additionally, Metro has augmented some other areas to include approximately 94 bus stops. Ciro said that due to the requirements to use the Caltrans standards in Watsonville and the San Lorenzo Valley, those areas will receive limited improvements. In addition, Metro staff is analyzing the bus stop improvement list to ensure that improvements are not made in locations that might experience service cuts.

Karena asked that Ciro provide a draft electronic copy of the proposed improvements to forward to members for their review. A presentation of the final list of improvements will come to the next E&D TAC meeting on December 14, 2010 and will then go to the Metro Board in December or January.

21. December meeting time reminder

The meeting will be from 2:30 to 4:30 pm, not from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

22. Adjourn – 3:43 pm

Prepared by: Cathy Judd, SCCRTC Staff