



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

MINUTES-DRAFT

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

1. Call to Order

John Daugherty called the meeting to order at 2:33 pm

2. Introductions

Members Present:

Hal Anjo, Social Service Provider-Seniors (County)
Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA-Community Bridges
Debbi Brooks, Persons of Limited Means (Volunteer Center)
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

Excused Absences:

Tom Crain, Potential Transit User (Disabled)
Mike Molesky, Social Service Provider - Disabled

Alternates Present

Sandra Coley, PVTMA
Patty Talbot, Seniors Council. Alt.

April Warnock, Metro ParaCruz

Staff Present:

Cathy Judd
Karena Pushnik
Rachel Moriconi

3. Oral Communications

In an effort to reduce costs and paper consumption, the RTC will distribute the E&D TAC packet only electronically, unless members or others wish to receive the hard copy.

4. Additions and Deletions

Replacement pages are available for the draft October 12, 2010 minutes, Item #5. Veronica Elsea asked to pull Item 5 from the Consent Agenda, as she would not be able to review the replacement pages in order to vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Action: The motion (Anjo/Elsea) -- to approve and accept consent agenda -- carries unanimously with Veronica Elsea and John Daugherty abstaining from voting on Item 5.

5. **Item pulled from consent agenda - Minutes from October 12, 2010 meeting**
6. **Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report as of December 2010**
7. **Received RTC Highlights through December 2010**

8. **Received Information Items**
 - a. **Nothing was distributed**
9. **Received Agency Updates**
 - a. **Volunteer Center**
 - **FY 10-11 First Quarter Report**
 - b. **Community Bridges/CTSA**
 - **FY 10-11 Report as of November 2010**
 - c. **Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)**
 - **ParaCruz Operations Status Report: October-November 2010**
 - **Metro & Monterey Salinas Transit Transfers**
 - d. **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission**

Karena Pushnik announced that as result of the recent election, at least three new RTC members would be appointed. Committee members agreed that new RTC members should be invited to attend an E&D TAC meeting to become aware of the committee's work.

- e. **Private Operators**

REGULAR AGENDA

5. ***Item 5 pulled*** – Minutes from October 12, 2010 meeting replacement pages.

Action: The motion (Berkowitz/Patterson-Valdez) -- to approve and accept the Minutes from October 12, 2010 -- carries unanimously with Veronica Elsea and John Daugherty abstaining.

10. **Appreciation for Sandra Coley's Service on Committee – E&D TAC Chair**

John Daugherty announced that Sandra Coley, Pajaro Valley Transportation Management Association, who served as a Member and Alternate on the E&D TAC Committee for over 12 years, would be leaving the committee. He wanted to thank her for her commitment to transportation in all capacities and modes. He presented her with an appreciation award certificate that he read aloud.

Sandra Coley discussed her responsibilities with the PVTMA over the past 12 years, thanked the committee members, said that she enjoyed the time she spent serving on the E&D TAC, and will miss everyone.

11. **Review Metro's Final Bus Stop Improvement Plan – Metro Staff**

John Daugherty presented an overview of the final draft Bus Stop Improvement Plan Final Draft. Karena Pushnik noted that final action on the Bus Stop Improvement Plan will be taken by the Metro Board on 12/17. Following the October meeting, an email was sent to Metro staff with the E&D TAC's questions regarding concerns about reducing the size of bus benches to accommodate wheel chairs. Clarification was also requested on the terminology in the improvement list pertaining to the benches.

April Warnock mentioned that she had spoken with Metro's Operations Manager, Ciro Aguirre, before the meeting. She said she could not speak to the questions posed but would follow-up.

Veronica Elsea asked if there was a particular priority for the completion of improvements. April responded that the list was organized by location, and that all improvements would be made and in no specific priority.

Veronica Elsea voiced her concern that the Bus Stop Improvement Plan schedule did not allow time for E&D TAC comments to be included in the staff recommendations for Metro's Board meeting. Although E&D TAC members did receive the materials in advance of the meeting, she did not feel that any response by an individual would have the impact that comments would have from a group such as the E&D TAC. She wants to raise the level of importance of the E&D TAC and she feels that the E&D TAC, as an advisory body, should have the appropriate materials

included in their packet to be able to present useful, appropriate comments in a timely manner to make an impact. She also voiced interest in the E&D TAC having good working relationships with Metro and other agencies.

Karena Pushnik suggested that at their February 2011 meeting, the E&D TAC look at issues to be discussed for the coming year and send out notification to other agencies so that they could send information to the E&D TAC in adequate time for review and response.

April Warnock offered to help committee members to provide input on the Bus Stop Improvement Plan by forwarding email from the committee to appropriate Metro staff members.

Action: The motion (Elsea/Anjo) -- to send a letter with a calendar that includes items of interest to the committee to agencies and service providers and request that information be included in the E&D TAC committee packets in a timely manner -- carries unanimously.

Action: The motion (Elsea/Anjo) -- to send a letter to the Metro Board expressing:

- 1. Appreciation for the Metro staff's extensive work on the Bus Stop Improvement Plan, support for Metro's efforts to improve bus stops to accommodate seniors and people with disabilities and values the geographic equity reflected in the plan;***
- 2. Questions and concerns about benches and seating, specifically plans to shorten benches and/or install flip down seats, and requests that Metro strive to accommodate all bus riders, especially given potential service cuts; and***
- 3. Requests that Metro staff continue to work on the details of implementing the plan with the E&D TAC before work is put out to bid or construction begins.***

-- carries unanimously with John Daugherty abstaining.

- a. Letter from Patti Lou Shevlin received 10/19/10

Patti Lou voiced her concern and hope for return of bus service at La Posada. She feels that there are special needs in that area with the Gault Street Apartments, the library, and Dominican Rehabilitation Center. There is now a new apartment complex, Redwood Commons, in that area as well.

Members suggested that Metro might be more receptive to re-instating service if they are aware that there is a new apartment complex in the area. In response to the question: are service revisions possible given the upcoming negative 2011 Metro budget situation? John Daugherty said, in short, yes, it is highly likely that there will be additional service cuts during 2011; however, the routes cut could be re-drawn to maximize ridership.

It was suggested that this item would be on the February 2011 E&D TAC agenda so that a well thought out proposal, including supporting statistics, could be presented to the Metro Board.

12. Receive RTC Adopted State & Federal Legislative Agendas – RTC Staff

Rachel Moriconi gave an overview of the State and Federal Legislative Programs for 2011.

Veronica Elsea said that she had heard of a federal bill to be introduced by John Carey mandating research on dealing with quiet cars and pedestrian safety and told Rachel that she would forward any information she receives.

A member asked about changes in districts and boundaries. Rachel responded that every 10 years the census bureau re-evaluates what they define as urbanized areas and looked at grouping Santa Cruz, Watsonville, and Salinas into one urbanized area. Metro staff evaluated what this could mean to the agency. Currently Metro receives federal transit funds since Santa Cruz is classified a high performing rural area service. As part of a larger area, Santa Cruz would no longer be eligible for those funds. She mentioned that the RTC wrote a letter in opposition

from a funding standpoint. Comments were due at the end of November and it is yet to be determined how the census bureau will respond.

John Daugherty said that the region proposed by the census would also result in a decrease in funds for MST (Monterey/Salinas Transit) and other groups. He said that Metro is dependent on the economy for the sales tax revenues to increase and that there is no other funding stream to make up for funds that would be lost in a new declared region.

13. Accept New Guide, Review Outreach Plan – RTC Staff

John Daugherty presented the new Guide to Specialized Transportation in Santa Cruz County for Seniors and People with Disabilities. Karena Pushnik noted that the revised date is inside the back cover. Guides will be sent out in early 2011 to agencies listed in the Guide, City Councils, libraries, Metro, DMV, SSI, Vista Center, Cabrillo Stroke Center, and senior centers/living centers. The booklet will also be uploaded to the SCCRTC website. There is a plan to make a Spanish version. A question was asked about cost for a Metro ParaCruz attendant, and it was clarified that there is no cost for a qualified personal care attendant but there would be cost for any additional companion. Members suggested that other agencies might be willing to link the Guide on their website.

14. Review Reimbursement for Transportation Costs to Meeting Concept – RTC Staff

Karena Pushnik said that there is concern that there are people who choose not to become members or alternates of the E&D TAC because they cannot afford transportation to and from the meetings and that she was considering bringing this idea to the RTC's Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee. For broader participation by non-agency representatives, the implementation of vouchers might be considered. Members provided input on whom, limits, and how a voucher system would work. In addition, it was mentioned that the Stroke Center has prepaid rides. Members suggested that there be a distinction between regular versus occasional attendance, and that rides for attendees could be set up with allocated monies on a case-by-case basis.

Action: The motion (Berkowitz/French) -- to explore cost and need associated to compensate individuals for bus, ParaCruz, taxi script or other transportation modes to attend E&D TAC meetings -- carries unanimously.

15. Receive Pedestrian Safety Work Group Update – Work Group Chair

Veronica Elsea said that the Pedestrian Safety Work Group has begun follow-up work on reporting property owner responses for sidewalk maintenance. Last week the Work Group met with representatives from all five local jurisdictions and agreed on a set of standards for good/bad sidewalks. Follow up tasks for the Work Group will be to develop an outreach plan that could include public service announcements, flyers, utility notices, and other media outreach. As suggested by a member, planting of specific trees should be addressed by the local jurisdictions.

16. Accept 2011 E&D TAC Schedule – RTC Staff

Action: The motion (Patterson-Valdez/Elsea) -- to accept and approve the E&D TAC draft meeting schedule for 2011 -- carries unanimously.

17. Adjourn 4:29 pm

Prepared by: Cathy Judd, SCCRTC Staff