



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

MINUTES-FINAL

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

1. Call to Order

John Daugherty called the meeting to order at 1:35 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)
Clay Kempf, Soc. Serv. Prov.-Seniors Council
Patti Shevlin, 1st District
Robert White, 5th District

Excused Absences:

Mike Molesky, Social Service Provider - Disabled
Catherine Patterson Valdez, CTSA/Community Bridges

Alternates Present:

Staff Present:

Cory Caletti
Cathy Judd
Karena Pushnik

Others Present:

Cheryl Schmitt, City of Santa Cruz
Cliff Walters, Sierra Northern RR

3. Oral Communications

Veronica Elsea reported on the implementation of the new Metro ticket machine saying that the machine is completely accessible. She suggested that Metro place a labeled model of the fare box next to the ticket machine to help Metro users become familiar with it prior to boarding buses.

John Daugherty noted that Metro began use of new fare boxes in buses and ticket vending machines at the Santa Cruz and Watsonville Metro stations since the first week of December 2010.

Lisa Berkowitz announced that February is coin-drive month for Meals on Wheels held in cooperation with all County Bay Federal Bank. Individuals can make donations at any Bay Federal branch.

Karena Pushnik informed members that a Pedestrian Safety Workshop is scheduled for March 26 from 10:00am to 2:00pm in Watsonville. The workshop -- held jointly with the Pedestrian Safety Work Group, other local groups and California Walks, and Safe Trek -- will focus on pedestrian safety issues and include an emphasis on seniors and people with disabilities and accessibility needs of the community. The workshop, conducted in Spanish, will have translation devices available.

4. Additions and Deletions

Karena Pushnik supplied a handout for Item 10.

CONSENT AGENDA

Veronica Elsea asked to pull Item 8 from the consent agenda for further discussion and John Daugherty moved the item to number 18.

Action: The motion (Elsea/Brooks) -- to approve and accept the consent agenda as amended -- carries unanimously.

5. **Approved Minutes from December 14, 2010 meeting**
6. **Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report as of January 2011**
7. **Received RTC Highlights through January 2011**
8. **12/14/10 letter from the E&D TAC to Metro regarding the Bus Stop Improvement Plan – Moved to Item 18 of the Regular Agenda**
9. **Received copy of January 2011 letter from Census Bureau regarding local designation impacting funding for the region**
10. **Received Information Items (circulated at the meeting)**
 - a. **Multipurpose Senior Services Program – Action Alert Flyer**
11. **Received Agency Updates**
 - a. **Volunteer Center**
 - b. **Community Bridges/CTSA**
 - **Lift Line Program Report**
 - c. **Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)**
 - **ParaCruz Operations Status Report: Dec 10 & Jan 11**
 - **Metro Budget and Potential Impacts to Service: January 14 agenda**
 - d. **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission**
 - **Acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Line Update**
 - e. **Private Operators**

REGULAR AGENDA

12. **Receive Accessibility Report on Proposed Recreational Rail Services**

Karena Pushnik announced that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved the project and funding for the rail acquisition. She said that escrow has not closed yet, but there has been discussion about proposals for service.

Cliff Walters, staff from Sierra Northern Railroad, gave an overview of the existing freight service on the rail line and the discussion that he had with fellow Sierra Northern staff Chris Hart and Dave Magaw about the proposed plan for recreational service. Sierra Northern is working with the City of Santa Cruz on the details of the service which is planned to start in May 2012. Sierra Northern is collaborating with the non-profit Golden Gate Railway Museum and hopes to use historic Lark Southern Pacific enclosed rail cars, which are the same as those used for the Suntan Special.

The planned service would consist of several rail cars with one car being ADA compliant. That car will be set up to secure all types of wheelchairs on one side of the car with seating on the other. Ramps will be constructed at the station stops to bring passengers up to the train floor elevation. The proposed service is envisioned to start near Depot Park and Washington Street and initially have stops at the main entrance of Wilder State Park and at plaza near Kelly's Bakery.

Service is planned to be on a year-round basis and with each trip being 2 hours long with a 12-mile round-trip. Trains would leave every 2 hours and individuals would be able to stay at each stop as long as desired before returning to Depot Park. The ticket cost has yet to be determined. The train would have enclosed cars, run at 15 mph on Class I track, and have a capacity of 220 people per train. Sierra Northern is considering layers of service; first class to coach fares with a bar/club car planned which will highlight local foods. The train itself would not have bathrooms, but bathroom facilities are present near Depot Park and at each stop. Sierra Northern is also discussing how to accommodate bicycles and possibly surfboards for the future. Cliff said this plan of service, depending on how successful, could extend to destinations in Davenport in 2 to 3 years.

Issues discussed included advanced reservation requirement for riders with special needs, ADA compliant ramps to access the train and if a Certified Access Planner Specialist (CAPS) would review the plan for the ADA compliant ramp installation planned. The E&D TAC members requested that, if at all possible, the plans include restrooms on the train.

13. Review Regional Public Participation Plan – RTC Staff

Karena Pushnik gave an overview of and background for the Monterey Bay Public Participation Plan. The Draft Plan is scheduled to be released at AMBAG's February 9 board meeting, one day after the E&D TAC meeting. For that reason the document was not enclosed with the staff report and agenda packet. The draft document was available at the meeting. RTC staff recommend that the E&D TAC focus on the outreach strategies currently in use and potential new strategies outlined in Chapter 5. Karena said that the E&D TAC could either form a subcommittee to review and prepare comments to send to AMBAG on behalf of the E&D TAC or send comments individually. The committee opted to have RTC staff forward the link once the document is posted online, and send their comments to Karena to be compiled and forwarded to AMBAG.

As further information, Karena said that the Green House Gas requirements, AB375 and SB32, require outreach strategies included in local government efforts to include public to help reduce Green House Gas emissions and what that means in terms of transportation and land use and how those two things work together. This committee will have input on what those projects are/how the money will be spent, how priority for those projects is set, and how to include the community in that discussion. Cory Caletti offered that the main point of the plan is to solicit ideas already compiled and how to go about on-going outreach to the public. John Daugherty asked if social media should be included in the outreach.

14. Review Draft Unmet Needs List and Outreach Plan – RTC Staff

Karena Pushnik gave an overview of the Unmet Needs process to provide input for the Draft Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs list, and review the plan and schedule for the Unmet Needs and Annual Report. The Draft Annual Report will be available for review at the April 12 E&D TAC meeting. The Commission will adopt the Draft Unmet Needs list at a public hearing in May. Members asked for a revised list to remove obsolete items and to reprioritize Item 6 to level H2.

John Daugherty requested members find another site for the April meeting of the E&D TAC to fulfill the bylaws of the committee. Sites discussed for the April meeting were the Senior Dining Center, Watsonville City Hall, the United Way office, Jade Street Center, the new Live Oak Family Resource Center, the Community Foundation on Soquel Drive and the Aptos Library. Some sites are not on fixed bus routes therefore not easily accessible. Members will relay information to Karena Pushnik about availability of sites discussed.

15. Determine Section 5310 Review Committee – RTC Staff

Karena Pushnik provided an overview of Section 5310 Grant Application and the Local Review Committee. She said that two years worth of funding is available from federal grant sources to

serve accessible transportation needs. Karena said that these are capital funds for the purchase of special transportation vehicles and related equipment, administered by Caltrans under direction of the California Transportation Commission (CTC). Applications are due May 6 she encouraged Community Bridges to apply. Sally French noted that Hope Services would be applying this year. A local committee to review the applications could consist of representatives from the following agencies, Seniors Council, Metro, Commission on Disabilities, Central Coast Alliance for Health and the Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL).

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

Veronica Elsea said that the Pedestrian Safety Work Group is looking forward to the upcoming workshop that was mentioned earlier in the meeting under Oral Communications. She said that the Pedestrian Safety Work Group is working on follow-up actions for private property owners and their responsibility for sidewalk safety. The Group is discussing outreach methods to relay information to the public and the specifics for each jurisdiction. The Group is starting the contact process for each jurisdiction to find out the outreach mechanisms available.

17. Nominate Potential Members and Alternates for Vacant Positions representing the 2nd and 4th Supervisorial Districts – E&D TAC Chair

John Daugherty mentioned that there are two vacancies, the 2nd and 4th Districts, on the E&D TAC. In answer to a question of representation, Lisa Berkowitz offered to speak to the 2nd District Representative at the upcoming AAA Advisory Committee meeting to ask if they could suggest a representative to the E&D TAC. Karena Pushnik mentioned that she received a call from Commissioner Greg Caput's aide, Martin Garcia, and let him know that there is a vacancy for Commissioner Caput's district. John Daugherty asked Debbie Brooks if she would be interested in reapplying and she agreed. Karena Pushnik mentioned that other seats occupied will expire soon and suggested that if members were interested in serving again that they submit updated applications. Veronica Elsea asked to have the roster revised to reflect her as Vice-Chair.

18. Received 12/14/10 letter from the E&D TAC to Metro regarding the Bus Stop Improvement Plan – *Previously Item 8*

Veronica Elsea said that she spoke on behalf of the E&D TAC at the Metro Board meeting on January 17. The Metro board acknowledged Veronica's attendance at the meeting. At that meeting Veronica gave details on issues raised at the December E&D TAC meeting about bus stop improvements and that she requested updated information from Metro before the plans go out to bid or are constructed. The Metro board approved a revised motion that included consultation with the E&D TAC on the bus stop design, no information has been received yet.

Members agreed that they would support placing the status of the bus stop improvements on the April agenda and receive a report from Metro. RTC Staff will follow up with Metro on this request.

19. Adjourned 3:25 pm

Prepared by: Cathy Judd, SCCRTC Staff