



**Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee**
(Also serves as the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council)

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

**Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Office
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m.

Members present:

Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA

John Daugherty, Metro

Veronica Elsea, 3rd District

Tara Ireland, Social Service Provider – Persons of Limited Means

Clay Kempf, Social Service Provider – Seniors

Lori Welch-Bettencourt, 4th District

Alternates present:

Jesus Bojorquez, CTSA – Lift Line

Unexcused absences:

Jon Bailiff, Social Services Provider – Disabled

Dulce Lizarraga-Chagolla, Social Services Provider – Seniors

Excused absences:

Kirk Ance, CTSA – Lift Line

Caroline Lamb, Potential Transit User

RTC staff present:

Grace Blakeslee

Joanna Edmonds

Rachel Moriconi (by phone)

Guy Preston

Anais Schenk
Tommy Travers

Others present:

Debbie Benham, Scotts Valley resident
Jean Brocklebank, Live Oak resident
Ray Cancino, Community Bridges
Michael Lewis, Seniors Commission
Wondimu Mengistu, Metro
Theresia Rogerson, Community Traffic Safety Coalition/HSA
Sean Vienna, AMBAG

2. Introductions
3. Oral communications

Jean Brocklebank, Live Oak resident, announced that the County Disabilities Advisory Commission has an agenda item for their next meeting regarding waste management bins blocking the sidewalk. Ms. Brocklebank suggested that the E&D TAC consider adding an item regarding barriers on sidewalks to a future meeting agenda.

Member John Daugherty announced Santa Cruz Metro is hiring a Marketing, Communications, and Customer Service Director with an application deadline of February 25th and that details can be found on the Metro website.

Ray Cancino, Community Bridges, announced that Community Bridges is in the process of purchasing two new electric vehicles for Lift Line, which they will formally announce on Earth Day in April. Mr. Cancino said that this would not have been possible without the support of Measure D, E&D TAC, and the RTC.

Michael Lewis, Seniors Commission, announced that he maintains a website called Santa Cruz Online that includes a calendar and weekly review of all public meetings held in Santa Cruz County. Mr. Lewis noted that the goal of the Santa Cruz Online website is to encourage public participation in government meetings.

Member Lisa Berkowitz announced that the 6th Annual Food from the Heart fundraiser, benefiting Meals on Wheels, will be held at Chaminade Resort on March 8th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm and that details about the event can be found on the Community Bridges website.

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas
None

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approved minutes from October 9, 2018
6. Received RTC Meeting Highlights
7. Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report
8. Received FY 19-20 TDA Claims Funding Cycle Calendar
9. Received Measure D Update
10. Recommended that the Regional Transportation Commission approve appointment and reappointments to the E&D TAC Committee
11. Accepted 2019 E&D TAC Roster
12. Accepted correspondence from the public
None
13. Received 2019 E&D TAC Calendar
14. Received Information Items

A motion (Kempf/Daugherty) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with members Lisa Berkowitz, Jesus Bojorquez, John Daugherty, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Clay Kempf, and Lori Welch-Bettencourt voting in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

15. Received Program Updates
 - a. Volunteer Center – FY 18/19 TDA 1st Quarter Report
Member Tara Ireland announced that the Volunteer Center has started using a custom web-based application that will be a more effective means of making matches between their users and volunteer drivers.

- b. Community Bridges – FY 17/18 TDA 4th Quarter Report and Annual Report
Member Jesus Bojorquez shared information about Lift Line’s service that provides transportation to the Louden Nelson Center for senior fitness classes Monday through Saturday.
- c. Santa Cruz Metro
Member John Daugherty explained that the Metro ParaCruz operations status report for July, August, and September 2018 was included in the agenda packet. Mr. Daugherty announced that Metro ParaCruz riders could use their ParaCruz pass to ride fixed-route Metro buses at a discount. Committee members asked questions about Metro ParaCruz’s on-time performance over the last two years and challenges with the recruitment and retention of paratransit drivers for Metro ParaCruz, including the wage inequity between paratransit and fixed-route drivers.
- d. SCCRTC

Grace Blakeslee, Transportation Planner, announced that AMBAG’s Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan was adopted and included input from the E&D TAC. Ms. Blakeslee announced that the RTC accepted the Unified Corridor Study Plan, including a preferred scenario, at the January 17th meeting and the next step is to pursue funding for projects included in the study. Ms. Blakeslee noted that there are several E&D TAC committee membership vacancies and that RTC is looking for opportunities to inform the community about membership positions. Ms. Blakeslee provided a handout with information about the North Coast Rail Trail Environmental Impact Report and the RTC proposed action on the North Coast Rail Trail Environmental Impact Report at their March 7th meeting. Joanna Edmonds, Transportation Planning Technician, provided an update regarding the distribution of the RTC’s updated Guide to Specialized Transportation.

No action taken.

17. Introduce New SCCRTC Executive Director Guy Preston
(*Taken out of order to accommodate presenter’s schedule*)

Grace Blakeslee, Transportation Planner, introduced Executive Director Guy Preston to the committee. Executive Director Preston provided information about his previous employment and project delivery experience. Mr. Preston shared his appreciation for programs like ParaCruz and Lift Line as well as the attendance and level of participation in the E&D TAC. Veronica Elsea, chair, thanked Mr. Preston for coming to the meeting and shared that she looks forward to a good working relationship with the committee.

No action taken.

16. Cruz511 Update

Grace Blakeslee, Transportation Planner, introduced Anais Schenk, Transportation Planner and Cruz511 Program Manager, and explained that this presentation is brought to the E&D TAC to provide information about RTC program activities and programs focused on pedestrian safety issues. Ms. Schenk explained that the next phase of modernizing Transportation Demand Management (TDM) efforts is to provide improved access to mobility services. The RTC released an RFP for a "Commuter Manager" platform and expects to begin work with the selected vendor in March of this year.

Committee members discussed the need for the platform to be accessible and inclusive for all users, including the elderly and disabled population, and requested that the platform provide information about Lift Line, ParaCruz, and other paratransit services.

No action taken.

18. Preliminary Draft 2019 Unmet Needs

Grace Blakeslee, Transportation Planner, explained that each year the E&D TAC voluntarily produces a list of unmet paratransit and transit needs in Santa Cruz County, referred to as the Unmet Needs List. The committee reviews the preliminary draft of the Unmet Needs List in February, the committee discusses updates to the Unmet Needs List in April, and the RTC considers adoption of the final Unmet Needs List at the May RTC meeting.

Committee members considered adjusting the timeline for development of the Unmet Needs List to align with the introduction and discussion of legislation bills at the State level. Committee members discussed updates to the 2018 Unmet Needs List, including electrification of vehicles and infrastructure for the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) and Metro, safe paths of travel to key destinations, taxi scrip, and Transportation Network Companies (TNCs such as Uber and Lyft) as 1st/last mile solutions.

No action taken.

19. Cap and Trade-Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP)

Rachel Moriconi, Transportation Planner, explained that the California Legislature has established a Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) to distribute revenue from the sale of carbon emission credits (Cap & Trade funds) for transit operations and capital projects that reduce greenhouse gases and improve mobility, with an emphasis on serving disadvantaged communities (DAC). Ms. Moriconi explained that funds are apportioned by

formula to regional agencies (RTC) and transit agencies. Ms. Moriconi provided examples of eligible projects, such as new or expanded transit service, new or improved transit facilities, electronic fare equipment, bike lockers, free/discounted passes or vouchers, and purchase of zero-emission buses and charging infrastructure. Ms. Moriconi explained that the program requires outreach efforts to be made to community-based organizations and asked that the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) identify priorities for LCTOP funds which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, possibly including items from the Unmet Needs List, for this year or future years.

Ray Cancino, Community Bridges, shared that their agency is located within the DAC area in Watsonville and that they are in the process of preparing a new location for vehicle storage where they are looking to install solar panels and charging stations that could also be used by Santa Cruz Metro and Monterey-Salinas Transit. Community Bridges is also looking to purchase an additional electric vehicle. Wondimu Mengistu, Santa Cruz Metro, shared that Metro intends to apply for the full amount of LCTOP funds to develop and install electric charging infrastructure and a battery storage facility likely at the Metro facility on River Street. The committee members discussed the potential greenhouse gas reduction benefits of transit programs serving the elderly and people living with disabilities.

A motion (Kempf/Welch-Bettencourt) was made to recommend that the RTC consider LCTOP funding for free fixed route transit rides for ADA paratransit eligible passengers and promote electrification of transit and paratransit services, including charging stations and vehicles. The motion passed with members Lisa Berkowitz, Jesus Bojorquez, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Clay Kempf, and Lori Welch-Bettencourt voting in favor and member John Daugherty voting against.

20. Draft Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Complete Streets Corridor Plan

Rachel Moriconi, Transportation Planner, requested that committee members provide input on the Draft Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Complete Streets Corridor Plan. Ms. Moriconi noted that the plan is available on the RTC website, that two open houses took place in January and February, a public hearing was held at the February RTC meeting, and that input received before February 15th would be considered for the final plan. Joanna Edmonds, Transportation Planning Technician, shared that there is also an online survey on the RTC website and asked that committee members share this information with friends and colleagues who live in the San Lorenzo Valley. Staff agreed to

distribute a copy of the Highway 9 Complete Streets Plan presentation to committee members.

No action taken.

21. Pedestrian Safety Work Group Update

Veronica Elsea, Chair, announced that the next Pedestrian Safety Work Group meeting will be in March, and that there would be more of an update at the committee's April meeting.

No action taken.

22. Notice Chair and Vice Chair election

Veronica Elsea, Chair, announced that the Chair and Vice Chair election will be at the committee's April meeting.

No action taken.

23. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:09 pm.

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Edmonds, Staff