

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

MINUTES

**Tuesday, February 12, 2008
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Downtown Santa Cruz**

Members Present: Sharon Barbour (5th District), Virginia Butz (Potential Transit User 60+), Tom Crain (Potential Transit User), John Daugherty (SCMTD), Clay Kempf (Social Service Providers – Seniors), Michael Molesky (Social Service Provider-Disabled), Robert Pesce (1st District), Barbara Schaller (Social Service Provider – Seniors), Catherine Patterson Valdez (CTSA-Lift Line)

Alternates Present: Sandra Coley (4th District)

Others Present: Ciro Aguirre (SCMTD), Jean Brocklebank, April Warnock (SCMTD ParaCruz), Bud Winslow (CSL)

Staff Present: Lyle Broschat, Cory Caletti, Karena Pushnik

Excused Absences: Lisa Berkowitz (Community Bridges), Debbi Brooks (Volunteer Center/Persons of Limited Means)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Introductions

Introductions were made.

1. Oral Communications

Virginia Butz announced the need for more volunteers in the Senior Foster Grandparent program, and Clay Kempf stated that interested persons could contact him directly.

Tom Crain thanked Community Bridges and Catherine Patterson Valdez for her work in meeting an unmet specialized transportation need by transporting disabled children the Dragon Slayers center for animal therapy.

Clay Kempf distributed copies of the “Senior Update” newsletter.

Karena Pushnik briefly described her recent experience at the regional Pedestrian Conference held by the Federal Highway Administration in Watsonville.

Michael Molesky distributed informational notices that people can place on the windshields of cars that are suspected to be in violation of unlawfully occupying a handicapped parking space, and explained that members could obtain these notices from the Commission on Disabilities.

Catherine announced that a training session on transit and paratransit management certification would be offered through Caltrans, and also that a grants workshop would be held by Caltrans staff on February 29th in Monterey County at the Monterey-Salinas Transit conference room, relative to JARC and New Freedom funding.

Lyle Broschat briefly described his experience with an Easter Seals-sponsored teleconference on Mobility Management approaches. Part 2 of the teleconference will be held March 6 at 11:00 am.

2. Additions and Deletions

There were no additions or deletions. Item 8 was moved ahead in the agenda.

3. Consent Agenda

Karena announced that, regarding Item 5.11.5, the RTC voted not to proceed with a transportation funding sales tax measure at this time. The measure would have provided additional funding for specialized transportation.

Action: The motion (Pesce/Crain) to approve the consent agenda was adopted, with one abstention.

5.1 Approved Minutes from December 11, 2007 meeting

5.2 Received Transportation Development Act Revenues as of January 2008

5.3 Received final RTC State and Federal Legislative Agendas

5.4 Called for 5310, 5311, 5316 and 5317 project grant applications

5.5 Received Table of Contents of the Senior Transportation Toolkit and Best Practices
(CD copies available upon request)

5.6 Received Slides from RTC's Bicycle Committee Effectiveness and Efficiency
Workshop

5.7 Received Article from the Fall 2007 Community Transportation magazine titled Issue
Commentary on coordinated transportation

5.8 Received Article from the Fall 2007 Community Transportation magazine titled
Building a Skill Set for Coordinated Teams

5.9 Received Article from the Fall 2007 Community Transportation magazine titled
Collaboration Techniques that Build Consensus

5.10 Received Mr. Roadshow Article from San Jose Mercury News dated 1/23/08 titled
Safety Course for 50-plus Raises Ire

5.11 Received Agency Updates (other than items on the regular agenda)

- 5.11.1 Volunteer Center
- 5.11.2 Private Operators
- 5.11.3 Community Bridges/Consolidated Transp. Services Agency
 - Elderday and MORE Project Updates (oral)
 - Accessible Vehicle Inventory for Emergency Use
- 5.11.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
 - Bus Amenity Criteria (Information requested at previous mtg)
 - ParaCruz Operations Status Report: Dec 07 – Jan 08
 - 10/19/07 Minutes from Short Range Transit Plan Update Wksp
 - Call Stop Audit Report Oct – Dec 2007
- 5.11.5 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
 - Mobility Plan/Transportation Sales Tax Measure Update

6. Citizen Draft Ordinance Proposal Regarding Bicycles on Sidewalks

Karena Pushnik introduced Jean Brocklebank, who developed a countywide ordinance proposal to address bicyclist use of sidewalks. Jean explained that she initially approached the Seniors Commission with her proposal, and emphasized that this was a safety issue for both pedestrians and bicyclists. (Three cities in the county already have prohibitions against bicycles on sidewalks.) She stated also that she would be presenting her draft ordinance to the Traffic Safety Coalition.

Members suggested a number of modifications to the draft ordinance:

- Exclude children below a specific age from the requirements and an accompanying adult
- Exclude persons with development disabilities
- Consider statistical data on success of enforcement in other areas
- Consider seniors as a possible exclusion from enforcement due to their increased use of mobility devices
- Preserve flexibility for situations when bicyclists must use sidewalks
- Agree with the Bicycle Committee which generally support some kind of restrictions
- Motorized wheelchairs are also users of sidewalks
- Enforcement of this ordinance would be problematic
- Value this ordinance from the perspective of it being an educational tool
- Signage, especially bilingual signs, may be helpful

Karena Pushnik discussed the issue of complexity, and how education is a part of improving sidewalk safety, noting also that this should be approached as an issue of safety, and not a conflict between travel modes. Ms. Brocklebank will return to the E/D TAC at a later meeting with an updated draft including input from the Bicycle Committee, the Community Traffic Safety Coalition and the E/D TAC.

8. Same Day Service Change Policy for ParaCruz

John Daugherty introduced this topic by reading material from the agenda packet, and then the two representatives from the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO), Ciro Aguirre and April Warnock, provided additional background on the ParaCruz incident that brought into question Metro's current policy regarding same day service change. John also informed members that a

public hearing with the METRO Board was scheduled for March 28 to discuss this issue and existing policy.

Ciro Aguirre explained that the dispatcher, in this incident, was following METRO policy by not permitting the passenger to make a change in her ParaCruz destination. A manager was not contacted, and apparently only a manager can make exceptions to METRO policy. Ciro elaborated on the various justifications for creating and maintaining a policy of not permitting same-day changes, primary among them being the safety of ParaCruz passengers. He stated that Metro wanted to improve its policy in this regard, and assured members that it was now interim policy for such situations to be addressed directly by a manager, rather than leaving the decision to the discretion of the dispatcher.

Virginia Butz noted that in her experience providing paratransit dispatch services in another area, changes up to a specific radius of the original origin/destination should be allowed and that flexibility in the policy is needed to grant the dispatcher some discretion. Ciro explained that, in some cases, ParaCruz passengers are not capable of making decisions about changes in destination and that granting discretion to a driver or dispatcher could endanger the safety of passengers. Sharon Barbour, a driver of a taxi sub consultant contractor, stated that same-day changes were somewhat more common than what was presented. She cautioned that changes could result in missed pick-ups, and that, if charged, passengers may not have any additional money to cover the increased cost of being transported to a changed location.

Metro staff is considering two interim options to be provided: the return of the passenger to his/her origin, and that a location change can be made by paying an additional fee. Catherine stated that unexpected additional service costs would be a problem for some seniors.

Action: The motion (Kempf/Molesky) was approved, with two abstentions, to recommend that ParaCruz dispatchers be given the flexibility the best scenario/means to solve problems that arise with same day change requests.

Action: The motion (Molesky/Kempf) was approved, with two abstentions, to recommend that there be no additional surcharge be incurred by the ParaCruz passenger for the dispatcher's solution.

Action: The motion (Kempf/Molesky) was approved, with two abstentions, to recommend that Metro consider allowing same-day service, on a space-available basis.

Action: The motion (Molesky/Schaller) was approved, with two abstentions, to recommend that the METRO ParaCruz Customer Guide spell out the existing practice that METRO ParaCruz passengers will not be left stranded.

The E/D TAC will send a letter to the METRO with the above recommendations. The Metro Board hearing is tentatively scheduled at Santa Cruz City Hall, on March 28, at 9:00 a.m.

7. Senior Senate Proposal No. 28: Crosswalk, Curb, and Sidewalk Improvements

Virginia Butz introduced Bud Winslow, a California Senior Senate member, to discuss their proposal to implement crosswalk, curb, and sidewalk public safety improvements through state legislation. Mr. Winslow provided more background on the Senior Senate and the results of their

statewide legislative efforts. He explained that this proposal would require the state to require safety and accessibility measures to be incorporated into all crosswalk, curb and sidewalks to better protect seniors and people with disabilities. Mr. Winslow noted that the proposal would be implemented throughout the state and would not be included in the local ordinances governing the construction and maintenance of sidewalks. Clay announced that a local vacancy in the California Senior Legislature now exists, and interested individuals can contact him or Bud Winslow.

Action: The motion (Molesky/Barbour) was approved unanimously, to endorse the intent of the Senior Senate Proposal No. 28.

1. Solutions Summit Brainstorm

Clay Kempf distributed information about, and invitations to, the Senior Solutions Summit, to be held on March 19th. John Daugherty is the E/D TAC representative to this workshop, and the goal of the conference is to produce action plans with achievable objectives. E/D TAC members were encouraged to send solution ideas to either John Daugherty or RTC staff, Karena Pushnik.

10. Taxi Issue Discussion

This topic of discussion was deferred to the next meeting, because of time constraints. Lyle Broschat distributed a written scope of services for Monterey County's taxi regulation study, which is expected to be available for the next ED/TAC meeting.

11. Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan Update

Karena Pushnik, RTC staff, explained that AMBAG is developing a coordinated plan, now an administrative draft form, to be a formal draft in March. She requested specific comments from members, or that they wait until the March review period.

12. Review Items for Future Meetings

- Chair/Vice Chair Election (April)
- Fill/Renew Expiring member/alternate positions (April)
- Member Survey
- Sidewalk Repair Requirement at Time of Home Sale
- Pedestrian Duties added to Bicycle Committee
- Committee Effectiveness & Efficiency Workshop
- Information from Pedestrian Safety Workshop
- Taxi Regulation

13. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Prepared by: _____ *Lyle Broschat, SCCRTC Staff*