

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

MINUTES

**Tuesday, April 8, 2008
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Downtown Santa Cruz**

Members Present: Sharon Barbour (5th District), Lisa Berkowitz (Community Bridges), 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: Debbi Brooks (Volunteer Center/Persons of Limited Means)

Others Present: Ciro Aguirre (SCMTD), Debbie Bulger (Mission Pedestrian), Donnella Bloebaum, Veronica Elsea, Sally French (Hope Services), Meg Powell, Cheryl Schmitt (City of Santa Cruz), April Warnock (SCMTD ParaCruz)

Staff Present: Lyle Broschat, Cory Caletti, Karena Pushnik

Excused Absences: Sandra Coley (4th District), Tom Crain (Potential Transit User)

1. Call to Order

Chair John Daugherty called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made.

3. Oral Communications

Robert Pesce announced that he was nominated by Jan Beautz, and, with her decision not to seek another term, will be resigning from the E/D TAC. This was discussed more under item # 13.

Clay Kempf distributed copies of the Senior Council Annual Report.

Cheryl Schmitt, from the City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department (420-5187), explained her role in ensuring compliance of City property owners in the maintenance of sidewalks adjacent to their properties, and distributed a brochure outlining the responsibilities of property owners. A recent survey showed that property owners complied at a rate of 66% with City requests to eliminate hazards, and Cheryl encouraged members to call her with questions and with reports of non-compliance.

Ciro Aguirre, from Metro Transit, distributed a revised service policy describing senior and disabled qualifications for transit identification passes, and agreed to return in two months to hear comments from E/D TAC members, prior to Metro Board approval. John Daugherty described the process of applying for an ID card, and suggested that interested persons could contact him directly.

4. Additions and Deletions

There were no additions or deletions.

5. Consent Agenda

Item 5.4 was pulled for discussion, and Karena Pushnik acknowledged a one-word correction to the most recent minutes (item 5.1), noting that the Transportation Development Act revenues, because they are based on sales taxes, are coming in below projections (item 5.2) .

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

- 5.1 Approved Minutes from February 12, 2008 meeting (*with wording change on page 4 of minutes from consultant to contractor*)
- 5.2 Accepted Transportation Development Act Revenues as of March 2008
- 5.3 Accepted Web link to Bus Stop Tool Kit:
http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ESPA_BusStopToolkit
- 5.4 Approved draft thank you letter to Community Bridges for Transportation to Dragonslayers (*pulled for discussion*)
- 5.5 Accepted presentation materials from 3/6/08 Mobility Management teleconference
- 5.6 Accepted USA Today article dated 2/25/08 titled Accidents lead cities to improved crosswalk safety for pedestrians
- 5.7 Accepted information materials regarding the Mid-Year Reduction package of bills signed by the California state governor in early Feb 2008
- 5.8 Received Agency Updates (other than items on the regular agenda)
 - 5.8.1 Volunteer Center- Second Quarter Report for FY 2007-08
 - 5.8.2 Private Operators
 - 5.8.3 Community Bridges/Consolidated Transp. Services Agency
 - Elderday and MORE Project Updates (oral)
 - Lift Line Report as of 01/31/08
 - 5.8.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

- ParaCruz Operations Status Report: Feb – Mar 08
 - ADA Compliance Report
- 5.8.5 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

5.4 Approve Draft Thank You letter to Community Bridges for Transportation to Dragonslayers

A substitute page was provided to the committee, and John Daugherty read the proposed letter to Community Bridges, acknowledging appreciation for its role in transporting disabled children to the Dragonslayers Event.

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

(Item 6 was deferred for later in the agenda)

7. FY 2008-09 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim for Community Bridges and the Volunteer Center

Karena Pushnik explained the origin and distribution of TDA funds, and that the RTC was responsible for overseeing the use of these funds by the Volunteer Center and Community Bridges. Every year, each of these non-profit agencies submits a claim packet, detailing where and when the funds will be spent.

Catherine Valdez presented the most current operating budget and ride statistics for this fiscal year (FY 2007-08) from Community Bridges (CB), explaining that the high cost of the DragonSlayers transportation service distorted the overall per-ride cost average for the TDA Medical ride category. She added that CB staff continued to examine unmet transportation needs within the community, with the intent of providing service to all in need.

(On the subject of Taxi Scrip, Meg Powell asked for clarification of when a taxi meter should begin running, given that disabled persons in wheelchairs required assistance prior to the cab actually leaving the curb. Sharon Barbour asserted that the meter should not begin running until the passenger is secured, though there is a \$4.00 initial flag drop fee.)

It was acknowledged by members that Community Bridges' claim was incomplete, and therefore the Committee could not make a recommendation to the RTC. Karena explained that the E/D TAC could either schedule a special meeting in May, or that RTC approval for the claim could occur at the August meeting, after the July break.

Action: The motion (Kempf/Molesky), to schedule a limited-agenda May meeting to resolve this TDA claim recommendation, was approved, with two abstentions.

Debbi Brooks presented the TDA claim report for the Volunteer Center, after describing the history and functions of this non-profit agency. The VC maintains three different locations within the county, and meets individual transportation needs, without charge to the recipients, by using volunteer drivers.

Action: The motion (Barbour/Kempf), to recommend that the RTC approve this TDA claim, was approved, with one abstention.

9. Committee Annual Report

Lyle Broschat explained that the Committee's Annual Report was directly derived from the minutes of all E/D TAC meetings of the past calendar year, and that it primarily reflected the committee's achievements and members' responses to a wide range of issues and opportunities for comment on decisions and policies of local government. The list of Unmet Needs is also included with the Annual Report and is far more extensive than funding available. He suggested that members compare the previous year's work with the long list of unmet needs, and try to refine the prioritization of these needs, because there were too many high priority needs to reasonably address.

Action: The motion (Kempf/Molesky), to recommend that the RTC approve the Annual Report, revising unmet need #45 to "Restore service to Gault Street, La Posada area, Blackburn Street (Santa Cruz), Independence Square (Watsonville), and simultaneously with the restoration of service to senior residences and centers, and areas of high density concentrations of mobility challenged individuals," was approved, with one abstention. The motion was further amended to change the priority level for # 7 (page 13) from Low to Medium, and include medical facilities to the destinations listed in #2 .

Action: The motion (Molesky/Kempf), to reschedule the public hearing, including the Annual Report and Unmet Needs, to the end of this fiscal year, was approved, with one abstention.

6. Sanctuary Scenic Trail Request for Proposals

Cory Caletti, RTC staff, explained the planning process for completion of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Master Plan, a Plan that includes both Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. Planning is the responsibility of the Sanctuary Scenic Trail Task Force, which includes participation of two members from the E/D TAC. Cory specifically requested Committee participation in defining and monitoring accessibility needs in trail planning, based on Universal Access Standards, in the development of the Request for Proposals to be released to potential consultants.

Michael Molesky commented that it might be advantageous to also include the California Conservation Corps in the planning and implementation of the trail project. Cory added that the next meeting of the Task Force would be on April 23, and that she would be returning to the Committee for further input on development of the trail. Tom Crain, although not in attendance, is also participating in the Sanctuary Scenic Trail planning/development process.

10. Follow-up from Same Day Service Change Policy for ParaCruz Public Hearing

April Warnock, METRO staff, provided an update on the METRO Board adoption of a revised procedure for authorizing same-day changes for ParaCruz passengers, changes that, under new policy, allow METRO supervisors to approve such changes, thereby offering more flexibility to both users and METRO employees when the destination given by the passenger turns out to be

incorrect. April expressed appreciation for the Committee's recommendations and participation in bringing about this change in policy.

Ciro Aguirre, METRO staff, clarified that there are always back-up options for unexpected circumstances, which may arise in the course of managing transit operations.

11. Follow-up from Solutions Summit, including Possible Action on Proposition 98

Clay Kempf distributed summaries of topics discussed at the recent Senior Solutions Summit, in Santa Cruz. Clay explained that there are now action groups forming, based on discussions from the Summit. He also mentioned that these groups would likely be establishing website "Blogs" (www.seniorscouncil.org) to carry on the conversation about these specific senior-related topics.

Barbara Schaller commented that she followed through from her participation on the mental health topic by establishing a memory course through her church. Lisa Berkowitz gave members a contact number for continuing work from the Summit: 688-0400 ext.11.

Clay added that two new sub-groups emerged from the Summit, one, an "Aging in Place" group, and the other, to oppose Proposition 98, which would propose to eliminate rent control. He suggested that many more action groups would likely be forming. The committee requested more information about Proposition 98 at their next meeting.

12. Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan Update

Karena Pushnik, RTC staff, explained that any proposed projects seeking four sources of federal funds (Sections 5310, 5311, 5316 and 5317) would require that the projects be derived from the 3-year Coordinated Plan and be justified by needs assessment. She distributed an update on this 3-county plan for review by members. She mentioned also that some funding might be available for sidewalk improvements, if it is related to transit access, and that transit vouchers, but not transit passes, are eligible to receive funds.

Section 5310 funds would also be available for Mobility Management Centers. RTC staff will return to the E/D TAC with a Mobility Management Center proposal for Section 5310 funds.

13. Recommendations for E/D TAC Members and Alternates

Karena explained that, as the result of outreach efforts by RTC, there were several new applicants for vacant positions on the E/D TAC, including: Social Service Provider-Disabled, 2nd District, 3rd District, and 4th District, and, with Robert Pesce's announcement of retirement, also the 1st District.

Four of the applicants were present at the meeting: Sally French, Meg Powell, Veronica Elsea, and Donnell Bloebaum. Thom Onan is also interested in returning to membership as a representative of his supervisorial district. Members agreed that applicants present at today's meeting be given highest priority in the appointment process.

Action: The motion (Molesky/Kempf), to request staff to fill as many vacancies with the interested applicants, and give priority to those applicants present, was approved unanimously.

14. Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Action: John Daugherty and Tom Crain were nominated (Kempf) for election to Chair and Vice Chair, and their election was unanimous.

15. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Items for Future Meetings

- Update on Membership (May)
- Proposition 98 (May)
- TDA claim from Community Bridges (May)
- Mobility Management Grant application (May)
- Sidewalk Repair Requirement at Time of Home Sale (June)
- Pedestrian Duties added to Bicycle Committee (June)
- Taxi Regulation (June)
- Review of Metro Service Policy, describing senior and disabled qualifications for transit identification passes (June)

Prepared by: _____ Lyle Broschat, SCCRTC Staff