

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

*MINUTES - Draft*

**Tuesday, February 10, 2009  
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Downtown Santa Cruz**

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Members Present: Hal Anjo (Social Service Provider-Seniors/Seniors Council), Lisa Berkowitz (CTSA-Community Bridges), Donnella Bloebaum (Potential Transit User - 60+), John Daugherty (Metro), Tom Crain (Potential Transit User - Disabled), Veronica Elsea (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Sally French (Social Service Provider- Disabled/Hope Services), Michael Molesky (Social Service Provider - Disabled), Sharon Barbour (5<sup>th</sup> District),

Alternates Present: Sandra Coley (4<sup>th</sup> District- Alternate), April Warnock (Metro ParaCruz)

Others Present: Kirk Ance (CTSA - Lift Line), Peg Gallagher (Metro), Ciro Aguirre (Metro), Clay Kempf (Seniors Council)

Staff Present: Karena Pushnik, Cathy Judd

Excused Absences:, Debbi Brooks (Social Service Provider), Shirley Forsyth (2<sup>nd</sup> District), Ben Morada (Private Operator)

**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**

- Lisa Berkowitz announced that February is coin drive month for Meals on Wheels. Flyers are up and donations can be made at any Bay Federal Credit Union Branch in Santa Cruz County.
- Clay Kempf announced that Saturday, March 7, Care Giver University will take place. It is a free training program for all care givers in the County. Classes are being offered in English and Spanish and interested individuals can register at Santa Cruz Adult School. More information is available through the Health Project Center.
- Michael Molesky let members know that the Central Coast Alliance for Health has exceeded 100K members and with expansion to Merced County their membership will rise to 175K.
- Karena Pushnik offered the latest Senior Network Resource Directories to everyone present and asked that they distribute them to anyone that would be interested.
- Sharon Barbour asked to have an item similar to the "Living the Paratransit Experience" be added to an upcoming E&D TAC agenda.

#### 4. Additions and Deletions

Lisa Berkowitz suggested that the E&D TAC discuss creative ways to reduce the size of the agenda packet for ecological reasons. Kirk Ance said that he did not have an oral report from Community Bridges.

#### 5. Consent Agenda

Karena Pushnik let members know that **Item 5.20.4**, letter from Metro to Mr. Jauregui, was not included in the packet and would be handed out during the meeting; numbered **5.20.4-30**. Mike Molesky pulled **Item 5.8** for discussion.

*Action: The motion (Elsea/Kempf), to accept the remaining consent agenda was approved.*

- 5.1 Approved Minutes from October 14, 2008 meeting
- 5.2 Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report as of Jan 2008
- 5.3 Received updated FY 08/09 TDA Allocations (adjusted due to reduced sales tax revenues)
- 5.4 Received RTC Highlights from December 08 and January 09
- 5.5 Accepted letter from the E/D TAC to the City of Santa Cruz expressing appreciation for suspension of payment requirements for all handicapped parking at City Lot #5
- 5.6 Approved nomination of Hal Anjo to the Regional Transportation Commission for the position representing County Social Service Providers for Seniors
- 5.7 Received RTC's final State and Federal legislative Agenda
- 5.8 Received emails dated 12/12/08 and 01/12/09 from Sarah O'Malley regarding reinstatement of bus service to La Posada housing area (*pulled for discussion*)
- 5.9 Received 12/08/08 email from Susan Willats, UCSC ADA Compliance Officer, regarding Getting to Performing Arts on Campus
- 5.10 Received the Caltrans notice about the availability of Transportation Planning Grants for FY 09-10 and associated workshops
- 5.11 Received email from County Public Works staff regarding request to mark edge of walkway on State Park Drive
- 5.12 Received email from Mission Pedestrian (Debbie Bulger) regarding walkable community video and sidewalks near Dominican Hospital
- 5.13 Received 10/29/08 Santa Cruz Sentinel article titled Proposed HOV Lanes on Highway 1 wins key endorsement
- 5.14 Received article from Community Transportation magazine titled The Challenge of Inclusiveness: Common Medical Conditions Impacting Transit Today

- 5.15 Received article from Community Transportation magazine titled Responding to New Trends Through a Usability Approach
- 5.16 Received 211 Proposal Information for Santa Cruz County
- 5.17 Received article in the Jan/Feb 09 California Transit Association magazine titled Wheelchair Users make the switch from Paratransit
- 5.18 Received article from the 1/26/09 Mercury News titled Gas Stations that aid the disabled
- 5.19 Received 11/2/08 Santa Cruz Sentinel article titled Care-a-Van for Kids marks 10 years
- 5.20 Received Agency Updated (other than items on the regular agenda)
  - 5.20.1 Volunteer Center
    - FY 2008-09 First Quarter Report
  - 5.20.2 Private Operators
  - 5.20.3 Community Bridges/CTSA
    - Life Line FY 07/08 Fourth Quarter and Year End Report
    - Lift Line FY 08/09 First Quarter Report
    - MORE/AWTP
    - Veterans Transportation Project Grant from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation
  - 5.20.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
    - ParaCruz Operations Status Report: October 08 – January 09
    - Felton Faire Bus Stop report and newspaper article
    - MAC 11/19/08 minutes regarding free fares on bus for ParaCruz clients
    - Letter dated 12/09/08 from Jan Beautz to the County requesting the Redevelopment Agency to allocate \$20,000 for bus Stop Upgrades
    - Letter dated 10/13/08 from Metro to Mr. Jauregui w/cc to E/D TAC
  - 5.20.5 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

## **5.8 Reinstatement of Bus Service to La Posada and Dominican Rehabilitation Center**

Michael Molesky asked whether the Metro's Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) addresses requested bus service to the Dominican Rehabilitation Center on Fredrick Street, and the senior housing at La Posada and on Gault Street. He also noted that the infrequent bus service to the Emeline Complex causes a hardship for individuals required to attend meetings at Emeline.

Ciro Aguirre noted that there are massive cuts to transit funding at the state and federal levels and that not only is no expansion planned, but that the Metro is attempting to maintain current service levels through cost cutting measures being implemented by Metro Management. Metro will likely be cutting service if local tax receipts drop to a critical level. An analysis of reinstating service to La Posada indicated that it would cost \$160,000 to add the 8 minutes to the 16 buses on the adjacent route serving the area. *(Note: Following the meeting Metro staff sent the following correction: "My recall error, this figure is inclusive of other service considerations that were being explored at the time in conjunction with La Posada." See Metro Staff Report dated 1/26/07 for various cost estimates to serve this area.)*

The SRTP does not include specific route recommendations, but rather recommends global service changes such as a switch to a trunk and feeder system, which is infeasible at this time due to budgetary considerations.

Comments on this item included:

- Pedestrian Safety Work Group is assessing safe paths of travel between bus stops and origins and destinations frequented by seniors and people with disabilities
- Is there a less costly options, such as diverting less buses or re-routing the 66 bus, so it's not an all-or-nothing proposal
- Request that this service be put at the top of the list so as funds become available, it is the first service reinstated
- Request that a response letter be sent to La Posada explaining what is being done and why

***Action: Ciro will provide the following information for the next E/D TAC meeting: letter to La Posada, re-assessment of Route 66 or 68 or another zero cost option, commitment that this service will be reinstated when funding becomes available***

## **6. Metro's Discount Fare Policy – Peggy Gallagher, Metro**

Peggy Gallagher distributed an updated copy of the ***Draft Older Adult and Persons with Disabilities Fixed Route Discount Fare Program*** policy. Peggy went through the draft document and explained the guidelines for qualified users and the accompanying discount fare. She stated that John Daugherty recommended replacing the term “Elderly” with “Older Adult” and noted that the Metro can not afford to lower the discount fare age from 62 to 60, nor consider allowing ParaCruz clients to ride free on fixed route bus service at this time due to budget issues. John Daugherty said that a question was raised regarding additional ticket agents and said that there are new ticket agents, Epic Adventures in Scotts Valley and Community Bridges/Lift Line in Aptos. Ciro Aguirre also mentioned that information regarding ticket agents can be found in ***Headways***, Metro's guide and route information publication. Sharon Barbour asked that the language for “a Personal Care Assistant” be changed to “one Personal Care Assistant”. Mike Molesky asked if there are other discount fare programs available and Peggy replied saying that there is a discount fare in place for children dependent on their height.

***Action: The motion (Barbour/Elsea), to accept Metro's working draft of the Discount Fare Policy with addition of the change to “one Personal Care Attendant” in the draft document was approved.***

## **7. Economic Stimulus Package Update (oral update) – Rachel Moriconi, RTC**

Karena Pushnik told members that Rachel Moriconi had been working with local jurisdictions to determine the projects that could be ready to go out to bid in 75 days if economic stimulus funds become available. Karena provided members with a hand out of the projects approved by the RTC at their February 5 meeting that could qualify for funds based on their readiness within those 75 days. She said that the Bicycle Committee and Pedestrian Safety Working Group recommended that the Commission require that bicycle and pedestrian improvements be included that as part of the local jurisdiction's road rehabilitation projects. Michael Molesky asked if bus shelters would be included in the list of projects to receive funding and April Warnock said that priority projects for Metro are Metrobase, replacement of the ParaCruz vehicles, Smart Card technology, and improvements to the dispatch and communications center.

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## **8. Pedestrian Safety Working Group Update – Veronica Elsea**

Veronica Elsea discussed the Pedestrian Safety Working Group and shared the group's mission statement. The group sent a letter and specific project recommendations to the Commission requesting local jurisdictions to include pedestrian improvements in road rehabilitation projects requesting federal economic stimulus funds to enhance pedestrian travel with emphasis on safety. She told members that the group prepared a survey to be sent to local jurisdictions requesting information relating to funding, projects, studies, and prioritization of projects. She mentioned that the Working Group would be attending the next ITAC meeting on February 19 to introduce the group and their survey to the public works directors. The group is also developing a list of priority pedestrian improvements based on the origins and destinations highly frequented by seniors and people with disabilities. She invited members to attend the next Pedestrian Safety Working Group meeting to be held on February 11 at 10 am at the RTC offices. Members asked questions relating to pedestrian hazards and what was being done to correct those issues, and offered suggestions about agencies to call for information and help with specific pedestrian issues.

## **9. Metro Driver Transit Training – John Daugherty, Metro**

John Daugherty shared information from his presentation to the December 2008 Metro Driver Transit Training class and focused on the materials and experiences that have been beneficial in training the fixed route Metro bus operators. He mentioned that this is an annual requirement for bus drivers. Drivers are encouraged to discuss their experiences and ask for help with issues that arise with disabled individuals.

### **9.1 Agenda Review**

Lisa Berkowitz suggested that staff find creative ways to reduce the size of the E&D TAC packets. Several suggestions were proposed including splitting the packet in 2 groups, the consent and discussion items, supply the link to articles or bring a reading file of articles to share during the meeting as opposed to including them in the packet, or using a laptop and projector during the meeting. Karena said that she is willing to review the packet and try to adapt it to eliminate unnecessary information.

## **10. Review Action Items and Next Meeting's (April 14) Agenda Items**

- **Action items from this agenda were reviewed**
- **Items for the next packet include:**
  - Discuss how the reduction in packet size is working form members.
  - Planning another event like the "Living the Paratransit Experience"
- **Ciro Aguirre to report back regarding the Short Range Transit Plan and service to the La Posada area Pedestrian Safety Working Group update**
- **TDA claim for the next fiscal year including an analysis for service for Elderday and costs**

## **11. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm

*Prepared by: Cathy Judd, SCCRTC Staff*