

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

MINUTES

Wednesday, December 9, 2003 ~ 1:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Downtown Santa Cruz

Members Present: Lisa Berkowitz (CTSA - Community Bridges), John Daugherty (SCMTD), Clay Kempf (Social Service Provider – Seniors), Michael Molesky (Social Service Provider – Disabled, County), Paul Sanford (Persons of Limited Means), Link Spooner (CTSA – Lift Line), Gail Stevens (Social Service Provider – County Seniors)

Alternates Present: Scott Bugental (1st Supervisorial District), Steve Paulson (SCMTD)

Others Present: Bryant Baehr (SCMTD), Eileen Hooten (CTSA), Sam Storey (Community Bridges), Les White (SCMTD),

Staff Present: Luis Mendez, Karena Pushnik, Kim Shultz

Excused Absences: Michael Bradshaw (Social Service Provider – Disabled), Sandra Coley (4th District), Robert Pesce (1st District)

Chair Michael Molesky called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were none

3. Additions and Deletions

There were none.

4. Consent Agenda (Bugental/Spooner - unanimous)

Approved with the following (italicized) amendments:

- 4.1 Approve minutes of November 12, 2003 meeting
Spelling of Co-mingling changed. Delete second to the last paragraph on page 4-2 per John Daugherty's request.
- 4.2 Accepted SCCRTC November Highlights/Schedule

- 4.3 Accepted Transportation Development Act fund projections - Nov 03
- 4.4 Accepted application for membership to the E/D TAC representing the Metro Accessible Transportation Services Forum (MASTF) from Robert Yount
- 4.5 Accepted follow-up information from the City of Santa Cruz regarding the disabled parking policies for the Santa Cruz Wharf
- 4.6 Article from the 9/25/03 Transit Access Report titled “Paratransit Research Proposal Generates Searing Opposition– *Not available to include in packet. Original circulated for information.*
- 4.7 Article from the 9/25/03 Transit Access Report titled “Ruling Rejects Bid Under ADA for Exception to Parking Limit – *Not available to include in packet. Original circulated for information.*
- 4.8 Accepted agency Updates (other than items on the regular agenda)
 - 4.8.1 Volunteer Center
 - a. First Quarterly Report for the FY 03-04
 - 4.8.2 Private Operators
 - 4.8.3 Consolidated Transportation Services Agency
 - a. Revised FY 03-04 TDA Claim
 - b. Fourth Quarterly Report for the FY 02-03 TDA Claim
 - 4.8.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
 - 4.8.5 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

5. Accessible Call Boxes

Luis Mendez provided an overview of the accessible Call Box issues. Per the E/D TAC’s request, Luis provided a demonstration of the various call boxes under consideration to members of the hearing impaired community at a gathering held November 8. The SCCRTC hired an American Sign Language interpreter to aid in the demonstration and assist with feedback. The gathering was held at the Live Oak Grange and about 50 people attended. Although some individuals preferred the Yes/No call boxes, most of those who provided feedback preferred the Comarco TTY call box due to the larger display.

Luis also explained to the E/D TAC the need for digital, rather than analog call boxes to maintain service beyond 2007. Scott Bugental requested that a hearing impaired consumer or advocate be included in the review panel for proposals to upgrade the call box equipment. Luis will return to the E/D TAC with more information about costs, reliability and maintenance issues for call boxes.

Action (Daugherty/Berkowitz – unanimous): The E/D TAC recommends that SCCRTC direct staff to prepare a Request for Proposals to add TTY technology to existing call boxes to serve the needs of hearing impaired individuals and to save costs, call boxes be upgraded to convert to digital technology at the same time.

6. California Senior Legislative Update

Gail Stevens highlighted the state and federal proposals coming out of the October California Senior Legislator session. A “rousing” town hall meeting was held in Sacramento to hear opinions. Gail was elected to the State & Local Government committee. Of interest to the E/D TAC are:

AP – 8, ADA Transportation Availability: This proposal requires ADA transportation systems to educate their employees regarding ADA requirements and to publish the availability of ADA systems in the media.

SP – 6, Disabled Persons License and Identification Card: This proposal requires the DMV to imprint the “wheelchair symbol” on driver’s licenses and photo ID cards for disabled persons showing proof of disability.

SFP – 5, Safer Older Driver Motor Vehicles (federal): This proposal directs the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in coordination with others, to promote motor vehicle designs and safety standards that improve the safety of older adults in vehicles. The E/D TAC requested that Gail track these proposals and report back to the committee.

7. Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District proposal to Bring the ParaCruz (ADA Paratransit) In-House

Les White reported that the Transit Board would be hearing about the ParaCruz issues in four parts. First, legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - Mandated Paratransit including recent court decisions and settlement agreements (Dec 12 SCMTD workshop). Second will be staff’s recommendation regarding ridesharing (formerly called co-mingling) with ADA – Mandated Paratransit and other rides including legal, efficiency and cost issues (Dec 19 SCMTD board meeting). The Transit District and Community Bridges are working together on the rideshare issue. Third will be a discussion of where ADA - Mandated Paratransit should be operated; with contractors, with the Transit District or a blended approach. Fourth will be the impact of ADA – Mandated Paratransit on other specialized transportation programs in Santa Cruz County, realizing that the effects of ADA Paratransit spill over to other transportation programs, service agencies, social service providers, etc. Both the third and fourth parts will be presented to the January 23 SCMTD Board meeting.

Clay expressed concern about other providers dumping rides on ADA Paratransit. He proposed a ½ day Summit/Workshop that focuses on how seniors and disabled people get where they need to go, partnerships, efficiencies, legal requirements and solutions. The intent is to have the community take part in the development of the specialized transportation network of services, rather than the have the transit district develop programs in a vacuum. Clay also noted that the national direction is to integrate and consolidate services. This creates better efficiencies (i.e. eliminates the need for 5 caseworkers). Michael Molesky noted that the County Health Services has been moving in that direction for many years.

Paul Sanford encouraged the use of planning to avoid unintended consequences.

A number of people wondered why there appears to be such a rush to make such dramatic changes to the system. Sam Storey noted that Les White was responding to the CTSA Board’s request to move the issue forward. The CTSA will let the SCCRTC know if the time constraints are less severe.

Scott Bugental expressed hope that the summit/workshop can be an opportunity to create a coming-together process.

Action (Sanford/Stevens with Daugherty abstaining): The E/D TAC endorses convening a community-wide paratransit summit followed by the development of a strategic task force intended to improve efficiencies in the county with emphasis on improving transportation needs for the client and improving cost efficiencies.

8. Consolidated Transportation Services Agency: Summit and Service Effects of Decreased Revenues Update

Clarification was requested about Central Coast Alliance for Health's Non-Emergency Transportation Policy. Specifically, can Medi-Cal pay for Red Cross out-of-county rides and can Community Bridges act as a broker for these rides. Sam Storey will try sending a reimbursement authorization through the system for an out-of-county ride and ***report back at the next meeting.***

Link Spooner from CTSA distributed a report outlining the modified goals for rides to be provided with Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds. The FY 2003-04 claim projected 12,072 service units and due to both decreased TDA revenues and increased costs, the CTSA is now projecting to provide 11,052 service units. ***Future Lift Line Service Summaries will include comparisons to the previous year.***

9. Legislative Agenda

Kim Shultz provided an overview of the SCCRTC's state and federal legislative agenda. Highlighted were the changes from last year's agenda. Karena also highlighted legislative measures that may be of concern to the E/D TAC.

Action (Bugental/Sanford): The E/D TAC accepts the staff recommended state and federal legislative agenda and recommends that the SCCRTC also adopt the agenda. In addition, the E/D TAC complements SCCRTC staff for including senior and disabled person's transportation issues in the legislative agenda.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 pm.

Prepared by: _____
Karen Pushnik, SCCRTC Staff

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