

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

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 10, 2004 ~ 1:30 pm**  
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Downtown Santa Cruz

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Members Present: Lisa Berkowitz (CTSA - Community Bridges), John Daugherty (SCMTD), County), Robert Pesce (1<sup>st</sup> District), Camille Pierce (Potential Transit User – Disabled), Link Spooner (CTSA – Lift Line), Adam Tomaszewski (2<sup>nd</sup> District), Bob Yount (MASTF)

Alternates Present: Scott Bugental (1<sup>st</sup> District), Sandra Coley (4<sup>th</sup> District), Steve Paulson (SCMTD)

Others Present: Lois Connell (Volunteer Center)

Staff Present: Karena Pushnik

Excused Absences: Clay Kempf (Social Service Provider – Seniors), Michael Molesky (Social Service Provider – Disabled, Gail Stevens (Social Service Provider – Seniors)

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Vice Chair John Daugherty called the meeting to order at 1:36 pm.

**1. INTRODUCTIONS**

The attendees introduced themselves. Karena Pushnik noted that were three excused absences: Michael Molesky, Clay Kempf and Gail Stevens.

**2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Karena Pushnik announced that the meeting will be taped to assist with accurate minutes. Tapes will be kept until the next meeting.

Lisa Berkowitz announced that the Meals on Wheels program will again join with local florists for a fund raiser. For each person volunteering to deliver flowers on February 13 and 14, the program will receive \$5. In addition, the Volunteer Center will benefit from orders placed with Betsy's Flowers, Fancy Flowers, Ferrari Flowers, Florabunda Florists Nursery, Flower Mill Florist of Soquel, Fresh Flowers Direct and River Nursery/Flower Shop.

Ms. Pushnik relayed Michael Molesky's announcement that a coalition has been formed to fight the proposed deep budget cuts to MediCal and In Home Health Services (IHHS). Information can be found at [athenarocks.com](http://athenarocks.com).

Camille Pierce announced that her new e-mail address is [marklael@aol.com](mailto:marklael@aol.com).

Adam Tomaszewski announced that on February 12 he would officially enter his 81<sup>st</sup> year!

### **3. Additions and Deletions**

There were none.

### **4. Consent Agenda (Spooner/Bugental - unanimous)**

- 4.1 Approved minutes of January 20, 2004
- 4.2 Accepted Transportation Development Act fund projections as of Jan 04
- 4.3 Accepted article from 1/27/04 Register-Pajaronian titled CH{ awarded traffic grant: Senior drivers target of new program
- 4.4 Accepted agency updates (other than items on the regular agenda)
  - 4.4.1 Volunteer Center
  - 4.4.2 Private Operators
  - 4.4.3 Consolidated Transportation Services Agency
    - a. Revised First Quarter Report
  - 4.4.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
  - 4.4.5 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

### **5. February 5 Public Hearing Regarding Paratransit**

Ms. Pushnik noted that there the Paratransit Public Hearing held at the County Government Center was well attended. She outlined a process whereby interviews with stakeholders would occur over the next few weeks and a work plan would be drafted by March 8. The SCCRTC requested to see the Work Plan including Task Force membership, tasks and schedule for their April meeting. Ms. Pushnik distributed a list of potential stakeholders and requested input.

Scott Bugental suggested that the Ombudsman Advocate would be a good representative for all the residential care facilities. He reiterated the E/D TAC's request for plenty of riders on the Task force, decision makers from funding agencies and elected officials. Sandra Coley recommended that at least one Spanish-speaker be on the Task Force representing the Latino community. That person may be found at the Watsonville Senior Center. Translation services may be needed for the Task Force.

John Daugherty appreciated the early start time and the live television coverage of the public hearing. Karena Pushnik noted that a video tape is available for viewing at the SCCRTC offices. Future meetings about paratransit might have even better attendance if they were held on a weekend day.

Steve Paulson noted that he has researched other systems both in California and other states. The Paratransit Inc. system in Sacramento has interesting components including free ridership for seniors over 75 years of age. About 5% of seniors aged 65+ use transit. In Santa Cruz County, 27% of ParaCruz ridership is 85 or older. Sandra Coley noted that about half of the participants in the "Hop on the Bus, Gus" program are seniors.

The committee suggested that the following items be included in the Paratransit Work Plan:

- Research paratransit system/networks in other areas, including differences in regulations in different states
- Research statistics about senior and disabled populations in Santa Cruz County
- Research definitions, including those requested by Commissioner Pat Spence
- Identify opportunities to expand Mobility Training, to tap into latent demand and market the program
- Research profile of current paratransit riders
- Identify all available vehicles by type

***Action (Bugental/Yount – unanimous): The E/D TAC acts to hold another meeting in March to provide input into the paratransit work plan.***

## **6. Amendment to the SCCRTC’s Rules and Regulations**

Karena Pushnik provided an overview of the status of the SCCRTC Rules and Regulations. Comments received by phone from Chair Molesky were discussed. Regarding Item O; Attendance at Meetings on page 5, committee members requested that the wording be changed to reflect committee members. Also, the committee requested language stating that if a member or alternate does not attend three consecutive meetings, they may be replaced. This language was in the individual committee bylaws, but was deleted in the Committee Evaluation/Bylaws update process.

The committee questioned whether Item T: Conflict of Interest Code (p. 6) should be extended to committee members also. Legal counsel was requested to determine the legally prudent course of action.

The committee questioned whether Item G: Special Allocations conflicted with Item E; Transportation Development Act on the same page (p.8). They questioned how “high priority projects” are defined, the circumstances under which action can be taken and what kinds of guarantees were built into rebuilding the reserve.

The committee requested that requirement for a final report from the Transit District for TDA funds expended (4d on page 12) be extended to other TDA recipients, the CTSA and Volunteer Center so that the requirements are consistent.

Finally, the Committee requested that the committee membership section of the E/D TAC Bylaws be changed so that it is a suggestion rather than a requirement for there to be representatives from the Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission and the Commission on Disabilities.

***Action (Spooner/Berkowitz, with Daugherty and Yount abstaining): The E/D TAC requests that the Special Allocations section, Item G on page 8, be changed to require a 2/3 majority for approval.***

## **7. Availability of accessible Taxis for Regular Fare Service**

Since no one from the taxi companies were present to discuss this item, the Committee requested that a letter be sent to both companies requesting information about their accessible taxi availability policies and that representatives attend the April 13 E/D TAC meeting. In addition, the committee requested research on the local jurisdiction/ordinance requirements for taxi providers.

## **8. Section 5310 Local Review Committee**

Karena Pushnik reiterated the value of Section 5310 grant funds to Santa Cruz County and the application/scoring process.

***Action (Yount/Coley, with Daugherty, Berkowitz and Spooner abstaining): The E/D TAC approves a local review committee for Section 5310 grant applications consisting of the Transit District, Central Coast Center for Independent Living, Seniors Council and the Commission on Disabilities.***

## **9. Unmet Needs Hearings**

Karena Pushnik provided an overview of why the Unmet Needs Hearings occur. She noted that again the Senior's Council is amenable to combining both unmet needs meetings for wider publicity and outreach. Steve Paulson asked whether the testimony gathered from the Paratransit Public Hearing could be rolled into the Unmet Needs process. Also, per the E/D TAC bylaws, one meeting per year is to be held in south county.

***Action (Spooners/Yount – anonymous): The E/D TAC approved a plan to hold the special March meeting in Watsonville following the Unmet Needs Hearing on March 8, pending room availability.***

## **10. Renewal of E/D TAC Members and Alternates**

Karena Pushnik reviewed the E/D TAC roster, highlighting vacancies and expiring positions. The committee recommended that Senior's Commission representative Barbie Schaller be contacted regarding the position representing Potential Transit User – 60+ and that Roger McKowan be contacted for the position representing the Fifth Supervisorial District. It was also requested that there be a concerted effort to have cross-cultural representation as well as a representative from the Red Cross. Applications for E/D TAC membership/alternate positions will be distributed at the Unmet Needs Hearings/Workshops.

## **11. Review agenda items for next meetings**

- a. Paratransit Plan (March)
- b. Annual Report (April)
- c. Accessible Taxi Availability (April)

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 pm.

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Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Karena Pushnik, SCCRTC Staff

