



**United transportation union**



Jan Beutz, Chairperson  
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
1523 Pacific Ave.  
Santa Cruz, California 95060

February 9, 2004

Dear Supervisor and Chair Beutz,

Please find attached a correspondence that was sent to the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District.

The United Transportation Union would like to thank you for the Forum I believe this information sharing was helpful for the SCCRTC.

The United Transportation Union has concerns about the ADA rides and how they are being provided. These are Federally Mandated rides based on fixed route services, we have a responsibility to make sure these are handled with due diligence. We believe that our commitment to service is important and should be considered a factor in the process.

The Unions or the Labor force would like to be included in the upcoming Task Force, we look forward to a cooperative process and look forward to being able to find better solutions and services for our Elder Americans and People with Disabilities.

Respectfully,

Bonnie Morr, Chairperson  
United Transportation Union  
Local 23  
CcLinda Wilshusen, SCCRTC



**united transportation union**



Board of Directors

February 9, 2004

Les White General Manager  
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District  
370 Encinal St. Ste 100  
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Board of Directors,

On February 5<sup>th</sup> 2004 a public forum was held at the County Supervisors Chambers to address the Paratransit needs of our community. In attendance were the Transit District, Community Bridges, Social Service Program Providers, clients, The United Transportation Union and members, and Representatives from SEIU. Most of the dialogue centered around the needs of the community as it related to certification procedures, and a combined transportation system.

Paratransit as it relates to only the ADA rides (Americans with Disabilities Act) are the primary responsibility of the Transit District. This federally mandated service, must be based on the fixed route system. In order for the Transit District to accomplish this mandated program they must take the full responsibility for operating the service, including all liability issues.

Over the last few years Community Bridges has been in charge of this service. Unfortunately more than half of the Union employees from the Lifeline program have been laid off and have been replaced with a private taxi service.

The Unions are very concerned with this process of sub-contracting. Due to this process The United Transportation Union has filed a grievance on behalf of the Union workers being laid off and replaced with the taxi service. We are requesting that the Transit Board look very closely to what is occurring at Community Bridges.

The United Transportation Union has and will always be committed to the highest level of training and service and we expect to continue to be involved and participate in this process.

Respectfully,

Bonnie Morr, General Chairperson  
United Transportation Union Local 23

Cc Les White, Jan Beautz, Chair S.C.C.R.T.C., S.C.C.R.T.C. Linda Wilshusen