

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

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004 ~ 1:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Downtown Santa Cruz

Members Present: Lisa Berkowitz (CTSA - Community Bridges), Clay Kempf (Social Service Provider – Seniors) John Daugherty (SCMTD), County), Michael Molesky (Social Service Provider – Disabled), Robert Pesce (1st District), Camille Pierce (Potential Transit User – Disabled), Link Spooner (CTSA – Lift Line), Adam Tomaszewski (2nd District), Bob Yount (MASTF)

Alternates Present: Scott Bugental (1st District), Sandra Coley (4th District)

Others Present: Susan Hogue (The Epilepsy Network)

Staff Present: Karena Pushnik, Tegan Speiser

Excused Absences: Jim Bosso (Private Operators), Michael Bradshaw (Social Service Provider – Disabled), Gail Stevens (Social Service Provider – Seniors)

Chair Michael Molesky called the meeting to order at 1:36 pm.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Karena Pushnik noted that were three excused absences: Jim Bosso, Michael Bradshaw and Gail Stevens.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Bob Yount announced that the MASTF meeting on March 18 would include discussion about the future of the committee including options to disband, to work more closely with Metro and to seek non-profit status. **Regardless of the future of MASTF, it may be important to consider a MAC position on the E/D TAC.**

Michael Molesky noted that information on the impact of the governor's proposed budget, especially the impact on in-home health services, can found at: www.homecare.org.

Sandra Coley provided copies of the Aptos Times which has a cover story about paratransit.

3. Additions and Deletions

Karena Pushnik noted that the schedule on the agenda was wrong.

4. Consent Agenda (Daugherty/Spooner - unanimous)

- 4.1 Approved minutes of February 10, 2004
- 4.2 Approved the application for E/D TAC Membership by Lois Connell for the position representing Persons of Limited Means
- 4.3 Accepted the flyer from the In-Home Supportive Services Advisory Commission and Public Authority regarding an educational conference titled Under One Roof to be held May 22 at the UCSC Inn
- 4.4 Accepted Agency Updates (other than items on the regular agenda)
 - 4.4.1 Volunteer Center
 - a. FY 03-04 Second Quarter Report
 - 4.4.2 Private Operators
 - 4.4.3 Consolidated Transportation Services Agency
 - 4.4.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

John Daugherty explained that the Metro Advisory Committee (MAC) was approved last October by the Transit District board and is now accepting applications. The 11 members of the board nominate 1 MAC member. The first meeting is expected to be in April and the terms last 2 years. A member may renew up to three times. One-third of the members are required to be disabled and they will seek representatives for the Hispanic community. The E/D TAC expressed concern that there were no representatives specifically for senior citizens.

- 4.4.5 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

5. Recommendations for 2004 Transportation Enhancement Act (TE) Fund Awards

Rachel Moriconi, SCCRTC Staff, provided an overview of the Transportation Enhancement Act funds and that \$1.8 million is available. She noted that The Regional Transportation Plan projects and the TE on the April RTC agenda.

John Daugherty asked whether the Soquel Drive project would result in a net gain or loss of parking. Specifically he asked whether the City of Santa Cruz will lose revenue if off-street parking (non-metered) parking is provided. Buses may have difficulty with bus stops if there is a parking revenue loss. The committee expressed concern about losing bus stops on Soquel. If the project is selected, the RTC and E/D TAC will work with the City to make sure ADA parking requirements are met.

Lisa Berkowitz requested information about whether projects could still be pursued if awarded partial funding. Ms. Moriconi confirmed that most projects would be using a variety of funds and that partial funding was definitely an option.

Ms. Moriconi reviewed the both the staff recommendation and the SCCRTC's Bicycle Committee recommendation. Scott Bugental distributed a spread sheet with suggested recommendations based on pedestrian, bicycle, safety and access priorities.

Bob Yount visited a number of the sites and recounted his opinions.

Action: *The E/D TAC recommended, by vote, the following projects (in priority order. In addition, the E/D TAC requests that Public Works staff attend future meetings to discuss the project designs:*

1. **Tie:** *Bay Ave Sidewalk in Capitola
Soquel Ave Bike Lanes in Santa Cruz*
2. *Watsonville Wetlands Trail Project*
3. *East Cliff/Hiawatha Ped & Bike Crossing*
4. **Tie:** *Coastal Rail Trail in County
San Lorenzo River Bike/Ped Bridge in Santa Cruz*
5. **Tie:** *Hacienda Dr Bike Lanes and Sidewalks in Scotts Valley
Wilder Ranch Bikeway in County*

Not recommended:

*Watsonville Entryway Median Landscaping
UCSC Water Pollution Mitigation*

6. Paratransit Coordination Task Force and Work Plan

Karena Pushnik, SCCRTC Staff, provided an overview of the process thus far and reviewing the results of the Stakeholder Survey included in the packet. Again it was reiterated that the issues are not “us vs. them” and that the RTC is involved as an overarching funding and policy agency. Ms. Pushnik noted that a meeting would be held with RTC and SCMTD staff board members. The committee requested more information about why Community Bridges would not be at the meeting. *(Staff confirmed following the meeting that it was one of the stakeholder meetings and that additional meetings/discussions had already taken place with other stakeholders including Community Bridges.)*

Michael Molesky and Link Spooner asked about whether other service providers were under consideration.

Scott Bugental noted that for the Task Force to succeed, it needs to show early on that it will be functional, that it will roll up its sleeves and get to work. Clay Kempf suggested that elected officials be contacted to assure them that the Task Force will work if the process is supported by all parties.

Link Spooner noted that the ADA Paratransit Contract is up for renewal in July 05 and that Community Bridges will need to make a contract that works best for their agency.

Adam Tomaszewski requested that SCMTD management staff attend more E/D TAC meetings.

Bob Yount noted that he had made an application to be on the SCMTD’s Metro Advisory Committee (MAC) and would like to continue his membership in the E/D TAC.

The composition of the Paratransit Coordination Task Force and key issues were discussed. The E/D TAC discussed the committee representative. Sandra Coley would bring a wealth of knowledge to the Task Force and represent south county. However, she declined to be the

main member stating that due to funding uncertainties, her program/position may be impacted. The E/D TAC then agreed to nominate Scott Bugental as the member with Sandra Coley as the alternate.

With respect to key issues, the E/D TAC cited the following issues:

- Increased demand for point A to B specialized transportation
- Separate fee schedules for adaptive vans (including co-mingling)
- Service area for ADA Paratransit
- Rule-oriented approach flawed
- Inter-county transfers
- Who will be the CTSA and will it be consolidated or coordinated?
- Using the Alliance for Health example, get creative spending pool of available funding the best way

Action: The E/D TAC recommends that 1) pertinent SCMTD and committee minutes be included in the E/D TAC packet, 2) other issues be considered and 3) Scott Bugental be the E/D TAC representative to the Paratransit Task Force from the E/D TAC, with Sandra Coley as the alternate.

7. Review agenda items for future meetings

- a. Section 5310 (4/13)
- b. Annual Report (4/13?)
- c. Accessible Taxi Availability
- d. Election of Chair/Vice Chair (4/13)
- e. Expenditure Plan projects (4/13)
- f. Pedestrian Projects
- g. Guide for Specialized Transportation (4/13)
- h. Role of Governing Boards/MASTF (4/13)
- i. Unmet Needs (4/13)

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Prepared by: Karena Pushnik, SCCRTC Staff

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