

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

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 13, 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), Link Spooner (CTSA – Lift Line), Bob Yount (MASTF)

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

Others Present: Eileen Hooten (CTSA)

Staff Present: Karena Pushnik

Excused Absences: Sandra Coley (4th District), Lois Connell (Persons of Limited Means) and Adam Tomaszewski (2nd District)

Chair Michael Molesky called the meeting to order at 1:38 pm.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Karena Pushnik noted that there were three excused absences: Sandra Coley, Lois Connell and Adam Tomaszewski.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Bob Yount announced that Santa Monica has banned smoking on beaches, imposed fines for cigarette butt trash and that the legislature is considering raising the age to purchase cigarettes to 21. Mr. Yount also noted that there are laws on the books stating that a person turning in someone breaking the law can receive half the amount of the fine.

Clay Kempf noted that he and Link Spooner attended the Association for Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) planning meeting for a workshop to be held in June on regional mobility and aging. **The California Health and Human Services Agency's Strategic Plan for an Aging California Population will be e-mailed to the E/D TAC for their review.**

3. Additions and Deletions

The committee, by action (Daugherty/Kemp – unanimous), added an emergency item about the SCCRTC's Expenditure Plan to the agenda.

4. Consent Agenda (Daugherty/Spooner - unanimous)

*Karena Pushnik called attention to the E/D TAC Roster, item #4.14, and encouraged current committee members to help nominate people to fill the vacancies for the following positions: Social Service Provider for Seniors (County), Potential Transit User 60+, and representatives from the 3rd, 4th and 5th Supervisorial Districts. **Pushnik will follow up with Barbie Schaller, Francie Newfield, Donald Alegre, Gail Goodrow, and Supervisors Wormhoudt, Campos and Stone.***

- 4.1 Approved Minutes of March 16, 2004 E/D TAC meeting
- 4.2 Accepted Transportation Development Act fund projections as of January 04
- 4.3 Accepted Highlights from April RTC meeting
- 4.4 Accepted article from 3/10/04 Register-Pajaronian titled Don't fence them in: Retirees head to wide open spaces
- 4.5 Accepted article from 3/12/04 Register-Pajaronian titled Helping others is charitable and satisfying
- 4.6 Accepted article from 3/24/04 Register-Pajaronian titled Stranded in La Selva
- 4.7 Accepted article titled Power Wheelchair program helps non-ambulatory seniors, disabled
- 4.8 Accepted article from 3/20/04 San Jose Mercury News titled Disabled Parking space includes loading area
- 4.9 Accepted ad from the Senior's Council in the Register-Pajaronian
- 4.10 Accepted ad from the Volunteer Center in the Register-Pajaronian
- 4.11 Accepted E-Mail from Gail Stevens resigning from the E/D TAC
- 4.12 Accepted application for Robert Pesce for re-appointment to the E/D TAC to the member position representing the First Supervisorial District
- 4.13 Accepted application for Camille Pierce for re-appointment to the E/D TAC to the member position representing Potential Transit User – Disabled
- 4.14 Accepted updated E/D TAC Committee Roster
- 4.15 Accepted agency updates (other than items on the regular agenda)
 - 4.15.1 Volunteer Center
 - 4.15.2 Private Operators
 - 4.15.3 Consolidated Transportation Services Agency
 - 4.15.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
 - 4.15.5 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

5. Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Nominations were entertained for Chair and Vice Chair of the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee.

Action: *Michael Molesky for another term as Chair (Daugherty/Berkowitz – unanimous) and John Daugherty for another term as Vice Chair (Kempf/Berkowitz – unanimous).*

5.1 Expenditure Plan of Projects for the November 2004 Sales Tax Measure

Karena Pushnik provided an overview of the process for the development of the draft Expenditure Plan to be released to the public at the April Transportation Policy Workshop. Concerns were raised by the committee that ½ a million dollars a year would not be enough for specialized transportation in Santa Cruz County given that current costs total about \$6m per year (\$2.3 m for Community Bridges programs + \$2.5m for ADA Paratransit + \$1m for programs run by the San Andreas Regional Center). Given the projected increase in the population of seniors expected to hit a peak in 2015 and last until 2030, funds in the draft expenditure plan would not meet current program needs (deficits) plus inflation assuming to be 4% year. Committee members expressed interest in making sure that specialized transportation has a sustainable method of expanding service to meet the projected needs. Concerns were also raised about the disproportionate amount of funds for E/D transportation relative to other funding categories in the expenditure plan, such as pedestrian/bicycle projects or contingency. The importance of specialized transportation to seniors and people with disabilities was emphasized, and that in some cases it is the only lifeline available to the outside world. Many people have no other real transportation choices, unlike those who ride bikes.

The issue of funding timing and ability to borrow against different project types was discussed.

Action (Kempf/Spooner with Daugherty abstaining): *The E/D TAC approved a letter to the SCCRTC outlining all of the above reasons for requesting that the amount of funding for Senior and Disabled Transportation be increased to \$65m over 30 years (\$2.1 million per year) and that funds for local city/county improvements be decreased to \$58m. In addition, the E/D TAC requests to be a part of any future “round table” discussions about the Expenditure Plan with other community leaders.*

6. Section 5310 Grant Application Score Review

Karena Pushnik explained the process for reviewing the applications and the composition of the Local Review Committee. Scores for both the Camping Unlimited and Community Bridges applications were reviewed. Clay Kempf, a member of the statewide Section 5310 committee, noted that there are grumblings again about changing the allocation from a needs-based assessment to a population formula.

Action (Daugherty/Yount with Spooner and Berkowitz abstaining): *The E/D TAC recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission approve the Local Review Committee’s scores for the Section 5310 fund applications from Camping Unlimited for a large replacement bus (68 points) and a small service expansion bus (57 points), and for mobile data computer equipment, related hardware and licenses for Community Bridges (94 points).*

7. Paratransit Coordination Task Force

Karena Pushnik outlined the plan approved by the SCCRTC at their April meeting including the Task Force membership, goals/issues and work plan/schedule. Discussion ensued about whether it was important to offer Task Force members some kind of compensation, such as free bus passes or paratransit rides.

8. E/D TAC Annual Report/Unmet Needs

Karena Pushnik reviewed the Annual Report focusing specifically on the Annual Needs which will be used to justify future funding requests.

Action: Revise the Unmet Needs per E/D TAC input, include them in draft form in the RTC May packet, and schedule a public hearing at the June RTC meeting.

9. Transportation Development Act claims from the Volunteer Center and Community Bridges

Link Spooner distributed a revised Exhibit A for the Community Bridges Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim including projected number of rides provided with TDA funds. The committee questioned how the numbers were shown and requested that the table be revised to show separate columns for all of the things funded by TDA: Taxi Scrip, Red Cross, Stroke Center, no-shows for TDA rides, no-shows for non-TDA (ADA) rides and transportation program administration. The TDA claim for both the Volunteer Center and Community Bridges/CTSA will go to the City of Santa Cruz for consideration at their April 27 meeting.

10. Review Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a. Final List of Unmet Needs
- b. Accessible Taxi Availability
- c. Expenditure Plan Projects
- d. Pedestrian Projects
- e. Role of Governing Boards/MASTF
- f. Thanks to Jim Bosso
- g. Minutes of April RTC on Paratransit Task Force
- h. CTSA TDA Accounting

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm.

Prepared by: Karena Pushnik, SCCRTC Staff

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