

AGENDA: May 6, 2004

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Linda Wilshusen, Executive Director
RE: **Paratransit Coordination Task Force Appointments**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Review nominations and make RTC appointments to three positions on the Paratransit Coordination Task Force: one representing a skilled nursing/residential care facility, one from the medical community or senior housing development, and one consumer of paratransit services;
 2. Accept appointments from other entities to be represented on the Paratransit Coordination Task Force;
 3. Appoint one of the two paratransit taxi operators as a member of the Task Force and appoint the other as an alternate;
 4. Confirm the appointment of Commissioner Tony Campos to represent the RTC on the Task Force along with Commissioner Wormhoudt who was appointed in April 2004 as the Task Force Chair;
 5. Direct staff to notify RTC representatives of their appointments to the Task Force; and,
 6. Direct staff to organize and host the first Paratransit Coordination Task Force meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2004 from 3pm to 6pm in the ABC Room of the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium.
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BACKGROUND

At its April 2004 meeting, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approved a work program, goals and membership of a short-term Paratransit Coordination Task Force. This 24-member Task Force, whose purpose is to improve coordination of paratransit services in Santa Cruz County, will meet between May and December 2004 and will be chaired by Commissioner Mardi Wormhoudt. It is anticipated that a final plan and recommendations will be ready for the RTC's approval in January of 2005 and to be provided as information to the SCMTD and Community Bridges Boards of Directors soon thereafter.

The Task Force is designed to include a broad cross section of representatives including RTC and SCMTD board members, service providers, funding agencies, advocacy groups, social service providers, union representatives, County departments, residential care facilities and system users.

Some appointments are to be made directly by agencies themselves and some appointments by the RTC and the SCMTD Board of Directors.

During the past month, staff contacted the various entities that will be represented on the Task Force to secure their agencies' appointments to the new group. In addition, almost 300 letters were sent and display ads were placed in local publications soliciting nominations for the three RTC appointments to the Task Force: one from a skilled nursing/residential care facility, one from the medical community or senior housing development and one consumer of paratransit services

DISCUSSION

RTC Appointments

Eleven nominations were received for the three positions to be appointed by the RTC, some for the same person. These are summarized in Attachment 1. Staff recommends the following appointments:

- **Skilled Nursing Facilities and Residential Care** – Lisa Pearson from Watsonville Nursing and Rehabilitation is recommended to bring South County and Hispanic viewpoints to the Task Force.
- **Medical Community or Senior Housing Developments** – Roger McKowan from Dominican Rehabilitation Services is recommended because he works in the medical community, he is personally a high volume user of paratransit and because he lives in the San Lorenzo Valley bringing rural transportation issues to the Task Force. In addition, there were three different nominations for Mr. McKowan.
- **Consumers of Paratransit** – Adam Tomaszewski resides at Via Pacifica in Aptos and is recommended to bring the mid county perspective to the Task Force. Mr. Tomaszewski is also active with Transit District committees and the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee.

Other Entity Appointments

Most of the agencies invited to serve on the Paratransit Task Force submitted their appointments to the Paratransit Task Force by the deadline for this agenda packet. These Task Force representatives are provided in Attachment 2. Staff has made efforts to contact those entities that have not yet responded and will report on any new appointments at the RTC meeting.

Regarding the Task Force seat for taxi operators providing paratransit, both Courtesy Cab and the newly acquired Santa Cruz Transportation (Yellow Cab) appointed their own representative, Richard Camperud and James Monroe, respectively. Due to the competitive nature of the business, it may not make sense to require a single participant to represent both of these companies. **Options for resolving this dilemma include: adding another position to the Task Force to allow both companies to be represented; allowing half votes from each company; or having the RTC appoint one taxi operator as a Task Force member and the other operator as the alternate.**

RTC Commissioner Appointment

Along with Task Force Chair Wormhoudt, a second RTC Commissioner, who does not currently serve on the SCMTD Board of Directors, was also approved to serve on the Paratransit Coordination Task Force. The SCCRTC Chair and staff recommend that Commissioner Campos, who has expressed interest in serving in this capacity, be appointed to this position.

Meeting Schedule

Taking into account the availability of a meeting place and the schedules of people who are on the committee through a work affiliation as well as paratransit system users, a regular meeting time of 3pm to 6pm on the third Wednesday of each month has been proposed. Meetings will be held in the ABC Room of the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. The first meeting date will be Wednesday, May 19, 2004. Confirmation of the suggested regular meeting time and place will be made by participants at the first meeting.

SUMMARY

Per RTC direction at the April 2004 meeting, staff has solicited and received nominations and appointments to the new Paratransit Coordination Task Force. Several nominations for three positions to be appointed by the RTC have been provided for the Commission's review and consideration. Staff recommends that the Commission also appoint Commissioner Campos as the second Commission representative on the Task Force to serve along with Commissioner Wormhoudt who was already appointed as Task Force Chair in April. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 19 in the ABC Room of the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium from 3pm to 6pm. Confirmation of the regular meeting time will be made by participants at the first meeting.

Attachments:

1. Nominations for RTC Appointments to the Paratransit Coordination Task Force
2. Appointments from Other Agencies to the Paratransit Coordination Task Force

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