

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

Draft

MINUTES

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

Members Present: Michael Bradshaw (Social Service Provider – Disabled), Lois Connell (Persons of Limited Means), John Daugherty (Metro), Clay Kempf (Social Service Provider – Seniors), Michael Molesky (County Social Service Provider – Disabled), Robert Pesce (1st District), Camilla Pierce (Potential Transit User – Disabled), Adam Tomaszewski (2nd District), Bob Yount (MASTF)

Alternates Present: Sandra Coley (4th District), Steve Paulson (Metro)

Others Present: April Axton (Metro ParaCruz), Bryant Baher (Metro) Wally Brondstatter (Metro ParaCruz), Richard Camperud (Courtesy Cab), Tom Crain (Electric Bike Program), Ron Dean (UTU Local 23), Kelly Dunn (Yellow Cab Co.), James Monroe (Yellow Cab Co.), Bonnie Morr (UTU Local 23), Maria Ochoa (Courtesy Cab)

Staff Present: Karena Pushnik

Excused Absences: Lisa Berkowitz (CTSA – Community Bridges), Scott Bugental (1st District alternate), Link Spooner (CTSA – Lift Line)

Chair Michael Molesky called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

These were made.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Karena Pushnik distributed an article about Mobility Training for Watsonville Community Hospital.

John Daugherty distributed an article related to item # 5.10.4 regarding securement on buses.

3. Additions and Deletions

There were none.

4. Consent Agenda (Bradshaw/Yount – unanimous with the following amendments)

John Daugherty requested that the format of the minutes be changed to differentiate between

general actions and approved actions made with a motion. Michael Molesky requested that, if there was time, item 5.10.4 is discussed at the end of the meeting.

- 5.1 Approved Minutes of June 8, 2004 E/D TAC meeting
 - 5.2 Accepted Transportation Development Act fund projections as of June 04
 - 5.3 Accepted Highlights from June RTC meeting
 - 5.4 Accepted draft minutes from the 6/16/04 Paratransit Coordination Task Force
 - 5.5 Accepted FY 04-05 Section 5310 Grant Program draft awards
 - 5.6 Accepted article from the 7/25/04 Santa Cruz Sentinel titled Vehicles better suited for those with physical limitations
 - 5.7 Accepted article from the 8/1/04 Contra Costa Times titled East Bay paratransit needs outpace available resources
 - 5.8 Accepted article from 7/20/04 San Jose Mercury titled A small world may await older drivers in Silicon Valley
 - 5.9 Accepted advertisement regarding Edlerday
 - 5.10 Accepted Agency Updates (other than items on the regular agenda)
 - 5.10.1 Volunteer Center
 - FY 03-04 Fourth Quarter Report
 - 5.10.2 Private Operators
 - 5.10.3 Consolidated Transportation Services Agency
 - FY 03-04 Third Quarter Report
 - Lift Line Service Summary – FY 03/04*
 - Taxi Scrip Information/Application *
 - Medical Voucher Information/Application *
 - 5.10.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
 - Impact of Bus Service Cuts on Paratransit *
 - Mobility Device Securement Info *
 - 5.10.5 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
- (* - Items requested at the last E/D TAC meeting)

6. Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs

Karena Pushnik provided the staff report noting that the E/D TAC had previously developed a draft list of unmet paratransit needs, noting that paratransit includes for the purposes of discussion all specialized transportation for seniors and people with disabilities. Now included in the list are

unmet needs suggested by the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, Metro Advisory Committee and the Metro Accessible Services Transit Forum.

Michael Molesky requested that signage and self releasing securement for transit be included in the Unmet Needs list.

Robert Pesce requested that sidewalk improvements are included, noting that it is hard to get to bus stops. Specific examples include on Capitola Road between Webster and 15th Ave and the area around the mobile home parks in the Antonelli area off Capitola Road.

Action: Steve Paulson, Metro staff, volunteered to work on identifying sidewalk deficiencies near bus stops.

Bonnie Morr stated that the Santa Cruz Planning Commission prepared an analysis on sidewalks in the city and designated priority pedestrian access repairs.

Action: Karena Pushnik will request this information from Cheryl Schmidt, City of Santa Cruz.

Adam Tomaszewski asked Metro about the bus stop shelter removals currently taking place. Mr. Tomaszewski specifically requested that there be a shelter at the Aptos Library, a major transfer point for many buses. Metro responded that 22 shelters have been removed because they were unsafe or routes removed/realigned. Clay Kempf asked how Metro can have surplus capital funds available to start up ParaCruz in house, but not have sufficient capital funds to replace bus stop shelters. Bonnie Morr explained that the Bus Stop Advisory Committee (BSAC) receives an annual funding line item for bus stop and shelter improvements. The annual budgeted amount is about \$40,000.

Action: Metro will provide information for the next E/D TAC meeting about the list, schedule and cost for stop improvements. A copy of the most current BSAC minutes will also be included in the next meeting's agenda.

Clay Kempf noted that some of the items on the Unmet Paratransit/Transit Needs list seemed like less of a priority.

Motion (Kempf/Pierce, abstention by Daugherty): The E/D TAC approved submittal of the Unmet Paratransit/Transit Needs list with priority items highlighted.

7. Taxicab Operator Introductions and Ordinances

Karena Pushnik provided an overview noting that E/D TAC members had requested more information about taxi operations and the availability of wheelchair accessible taxi vehicles for cash-fare paying customers.

Courtesy Cab: Richard Camperud explained that he has: owned his company since 1993 and Courtesy Cab has been contracting with Lift Line since 1992; is considering expanding service in Hollister and possibly Santa Cruz; believes that people would benefit from having a choice of taxi operators; genuinely concerned about the public's mobility; hires caring employees; 95% of business is through contracts with ADA, Medi-Cal, etc.; has 25 cabs in fleet; is willing to purchase more wheelchair accessible vans if awarded an ADA contract; and has accessible vans available 24/7. John Daugherty asked about scrip and Mr. Camperud stated that Courtesy Cab Scrip is available and costs \$16 for \$20 worth of scrip. An additional \$2 is subtracted for seniors and people with disabilities.

Yellow Cab: James Monroe and Kelly Dunn explained the improvements being made to the company and service since taking over a few months ago stating that the previous owners had years to dismantle the service and that employees are sacrificing to make a go of it. Specifically, it was noted that: vehicles have been improved; a new computer dispatch system is on line; 31 drivers are on the roster and new drivers are being recruited (approximately 10 needed); and there are 28 vehicles, 5 of which are paratransit vehicles with 4 near retirement.

Bob Yount asked whether all taxi drivers smoke. Both Courtesy Cab and Yellow Cab representatives assured Mr. Yount that the no smoking in car policy is enforced and grounds for discipline or termination.

Jim Monroe stated that he does not have a problem with Courtesy Cab pick ups in the City of Santa Cruz and Richard Camperud noted that he is considering 4-5 cabs available in Santa Cruz.

Action: Items on the next agenda should include a continuation of taxi issues including the ordinance, 24/7 availability and licensing.

8. ADA Paratransit Service Update (oral report)

Bryant Baehr provided an overview of the current transition plans for the ADA Paratransit program called ParaCruz noting that: the UTU drivers ratified an agreement on July 9; negotiations are underway to lease real estate on Research Park Drive; employees at Community Bridges have until August 28 to decide whether to apply for ParaCruz positions; 70% of rides will be provided in-house; a Request for Proposals (RFP) will come out for privately contracted rides and will include number of rides and costs; there will be a pre-proposal conference for potential contracted ride bidders; the phone system is out to bid; dispatch computer software (Trapeze) and multiple servers have been purchased; frequently asked questions (FAQs) are being compiled; new vans are being acquired; outreach letters were sent to existing customer base on July 21 with two more pieces planned in September and October; service will transfer on November 1; and service will be seamless with no disruptions.

Staff for ParaCruz will include Steve Paulson, Wally Brondstatter and April Axton. The system will operate initially with 29 minivans, 3 small buses and possibly 2 Champion vehicles. The new phone number for ParaCruz is 425-4664. Phone lines for ParaCruz and Community Bridges will seamlessly interconnect, so that if people contact the wrong entity they can be transferred rather than have to hang up and call another number.

9. Review Agenda Items for Next and Future Meeting

- **Final Unmet Needs (consent agenda)**
- **Metro info on pedestrian amenities near bus stops, bus stop improvements, costs**
- **City of Santa Cruz Pedestrian Improvement Plan**
- **Taxi Issues (ordinance, availability, licensing)**
- **ParaCruz transition update**

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Prepared by: *Karena Pushnik, SCCRTC Staff*

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