

Draft

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

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 12, 2004 ~ 1:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Downtown Santa Cruz

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- Members Present: Lisa Berkowitz (CTSA – Community Bridges), Lois Connell (Persons of Limited Means), Tom Crain (Electric Bike Program), John Daugherty (Metro), Clay Kempf (Social Service Provider – Seniors), Michael Molesky (County Social Service Provider – Disabled), Link Spooner (CTSA – Lift Line), Bob Yount (MASTF)
- Alternates Present: Sandra Coley (4th District)
- Others Present: Richard Camperud (Courtesy Cab)
- Staff Present: Karena Pushnik
- Excused Absences: Robert Pesce (1st District), Adam Tomaszewski (2nd District)
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Michael Molesky called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

These were made.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Sandra Coley announced that there will be a Senior Health Fair at Watsonville Community Hospital on October 22 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Richard Camperud offered to send a van or two to transport attendees.

Clay Kempf announced that the Seniors Council will be sending out their 4-year needs assessment surveys. Information from the assessment should be available in Spring of 2005.

4. Additions and Deletions

Item # 9 – Planning Partnership Grants was deleted.

5. Consent Agenda (Spooner/Daugherty with Berkowitz abstaining with the following amendments. Item 5. 5 was pulled for discussion)

- 5.1 Approved Minutes of August 10, 2004 E/D TAC meeting
(*Spelling errors corrected*)
- 5.2 Accepted Transportation Development Act fund projections as of September 04
- 5.3 Accepted highlights from August and September RTC meetings
- 5.4 Accepted final and draft minutes from the 8/18/04 and 9/15/04 Paratransit Coordination Task Force meetings
- 5.5 Committee Appointment Application for James Monroe
(*Pulled for discussion*)
- 5.6 Accepted FY 04-05 Section 5310 Grant Program final awards
- 5.7 Accepted Short and Long Term Recommendations from the 6/25/04 Senior Mobility Conference hosted by the Association for Monterey Bay Area Governments
- 5.8 Accepted announcement for the Aging and Safe Mobility Symposium on November 16 in Sacramento
- 5.9 Accepted article from 9/21/04 Santa Cruz Sentinel titled Gray-hairs on scooters overrun Kentucky town
- 5.10 Accepted article from 8/10/04 Register Pajaronian titled Seniors feeling squeeze from county budget cuts
- 5.11 Accepted article from 8/12/04 Register Pajaronian titled Seniors swing into action
- 5.12 Accepted article from 9/7/04 Mid-County Post titled Meals on Wheels Suffers Reduced Transportation Due to Funding Cuts
- 5.13 Accepted Agency Updates (other than items on the regular agenda)
 - 5.13.1 Volunteer Center
 - 5.13.2 Private Operators
 - 5.13.3 Consolidated Transportation Services Agency
- Lift Line Report
 - 5.13.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
 - 5.13.5 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
- Measure J Public Information materials

5.5. Private Operator Representative

The E/D TAC considered applications from both James Monroe and Richard Camperud for the member and alternate positions on the committee representing private operators.

Action (Motion by Daugherty/Second by Coley): The E/D TAC recommends that Richard Camperud be the member and James Monroe be the alternate representing private operators on the committee.

6. Taxicab Operator Introductions and Ordinances

The E/D TAC reviewed the taxi ordinances. Richard Camperud noted that he has unsuccessfully been trying to submit an application to operate cabs within the City of Santa Cruz. Currently he can bring people into Santa Cruz, but can't pick up people without a change in the ordinance and accompanying taxi permit. Members suggested ways to submit the application.

Clay Kempf noted that differences in fare and service provision uniformity throughout the county are confusing for customers. There are no taxi regulations in the unincorporated areas of the county. For example, a new company recently began operating two taxis in the San Lorenzo Valley. Mr. Kempf highlighted language in the City of Santa Cruz ordinance stating that "The numerical limitation on taxicab licenses prescribed in this section shall not apply to licenses for wheelchair-accessible taxicabs."

Action: *This item will continue to be discussed at the next E/D TAC meeting. A representative from the City of Santa Cruz could be invited to the meeting to provide information about the permit process.*

7. E-Bike Program

Tom Crain described the program at Ecology Action featuring rebates for electric bikes including those customized to accommodate physical challenges. A new brochure was distributed featuring Jack O'Neill ([Attachment 1](#)). Electric bikes cost between \$550 and \$1000 and there is a \$375 rebate available. Mr. Crain noted that the main problem is outreach and asked the E/D TAC for assistance with ideas. The committee generated the following list of avenues for outreach:

- Masonic Park
- Hornsnyders Pharmacy
- Housing Authority/Section 8
- Senior Centers
- Monthly Foster Grandparents meeting
- Grey Bears
- LynnCare (sp?) Oxygen in Watsonville
- Senior Employment
- Service Club presentations
- Dominican Rehabilitation Center
- Adam Tomaszewski
- Simkins Swim Center
- TV/Community TV public service announcement (UCSC student intern project?)
- Central Coast Center for Independent Living
- Grand Round (monthly doctor meeting at hospitals)
- RTC's E/D distribution list

Richard volunteered that he may be able to entice fellow business owners to help sponsor the provision of customized electric bikes for people who would really use them.

Tom Crain's phone is 684-2252 and his email address is tcrain@cruzio.com

9. ADA Paratransit Service Update (oral report) *This item was taken out of order.*

Link Spooner from Community Bridges (CB) highlighted information from the Transition Memo (page 5-50) and noted that this is a huge transition for the Community Bridges transportation program. CB and the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (Metro) have been working diligently to provide seamless service through the transfer date of November 1. After the transition, CB will have a total of eleven drivers and will broker with Courtesy Cab for trips more easily provided by a private operator. CB is very actively seeking a dispatcher. For the last two weeks of October, CB phone attendants will let clients know that service will be transitioned to

Metro and provide the new phone number for future calls.

8. Transit and Paratransit Needs

Karena Pushnik asked the committee to help identify potential projects related to the approved list of Unmet Needs. The attached list shows solution ideas for the General and Paratransit Unmet Needs (Attachment 2). The committee did not discuss the Transit Unmet Needs.

Action: Potential projects identified by the E/D TAC will be made available in funding discussions. In addition, both John Daugherty and Michael Molesky will find out the number of bus passes made available through assistance programs.

9. Planning Partnership Grants

This item was deleted.

10. Review Agenda Items for Next and Future Meeting

- **Metro info on pedestrian amenities near bus stops, bus stop improvements, costs**
- **City of Santa Cruz Pedestrian Improvement Plan**
- **Taxi Issues (ordinance, availability, licensing)**
- **Taxi Scrip**
- **Tom Crain E/D TAC application**
- **ParaCruz transition update**

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Prepared by: Karena Pushnik, SCCRTC Staff

Attachments:

1. Electric Bike Rebate Program Brochure
2. Unmet Needs with action and/or project ideas

Attachment 1
Draft Unmet Paratransit/Transit Needs
October 2004

Final
with E/D TAC ideas

*The following unmet paratransit/transit needs have been identified by the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E/D TAC), the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (Metro) and its two advisory committees, the Metro Advisory Committee (MAC) and the Metro Accessible Services Transit Forum (MASTF). The source is indicated. **Needs are not in priority order.** Proposed actions/ideas for the general and paratransit categories were generated by the E/D TAC:*

General

- Expanded publicity necessary about existing specialized transportation services including ADA paratransit, non-ADA paratransit, Medi-Cal rides and mobility training for people to use regular fixed route buses. (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: 1) Create a Mobility Management Center to centralize information, training, etc about transportation options. Ideas for the lead group include: AMBAG Mobility Council, Independent Living Centers, Area Agency on Aging, Consolidated Transportation Services Agency. 2) Hold a day-long forum/retreat to disseminate information about specialized transportation options to various entities.

- Lack of paratransit and accessible transit connections with neighboring counties — including Monterey (Pajaro), San Benito, Santa Clara and other points north. (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: 1) Work with the tri-county Mobility Council (assuming that the AMBAG grant application is successful) to determine regional needs and solutions

- Shortage of transportation services for low-income children and their families, including a lack of transportation for people transitioning from welfare to work. (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: 1) Continue to promote bus passes and improvements to the transit system that benefit low income individuals.

- Shortage of projected funding to the Transit District for fixed route and ADA Paratransit to meet the needs of the senior and disabled population expected to increase over the next 15 to 30 years. (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: 1) Consider additional funding as needs become known.

- Lack of safe travel paths between senior and/or disabled living areas and bus stops (examples: Capitola Road and side streets, trailer park at Antionelli, Pleasant Care facility,). (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: 1) Send survey to living facilities asking them to identify travel path solution ideas, 2) Seek Metro's input on travel path priorities near bus facilities 3) Forward project ideas to local jurisdictions.

Paratransit/Specialized Transportation

- Shortage of programs and operating funds for 'same day' medical trips on paratransit. (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: **1)** Gather more specific information about needs **2)** Consider reevaluating existing programs that could cover this need (e.g. Taxi Scrip, TDA funded Medical rides, Medi-Cal rides) **3)** Evaluate whether technology could enable this “dial-a-ride” type service **4)** Consider additional funding, if available

- Shortage of programs and operating funds for ‘same day’ non-medical trips (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: **1)** Gather more specific information about needs **2)** Consider reevaluating existing programs that could cover this need (e.g. Taxi Scrip), **3)** Evaluate whether technology could enable this “dial-a-ride” type service, **4)** Consider additional funding, if available

- Shortage of volunteer drivers in Santa Cruz County including for the Volunteer Center Transportation Program and the American Red Cross out-of-county medical ride program, particularly in south county. (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: **1)** Continue to support outreach efforts for volunteer drivers.

- Shortage of affordable special care trips and gurney vehicles for medically fragile individuals and those needing “bed to bed” transportation. (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: **1)** Consider if additional funding becomes available

- Current shortage of specialized transportation rides throughout the community due to funding constraints. (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: **1)** Support self-help opportunities for funding

- Shortage of projected funding for ADA and non-ADA Paratransit to meet the needs of the senior population expected to increase over the next 15 to 30 years. (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: **1)** Support self-help opportunities for funding

- Lack of specialized transportation for areas outside the ADA Paratransit service area (E/D TAC, MASTF)

IDEAS: **1)** Support self-help opportunities for funding

- Shortage of availability of Taxi Scrip. (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: **1)** Reevaluate the program to determine whether it could be more equitable for those truly in need or more efficient with resources.

- Additional transportation needed for the Watsonville Senior Center. (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: **1)** Request higher level of support for program from local jurisdiction (City of Watsonville) to replace service to approximately 20 people cut from transportation to the center, **2)** Seek volunteer drivers, **3)** Pursue options with private operators (Courtesy Cab).

- Additional transportation needed for the Live Oak Senior Center (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: **1)** Seek support to restore meal/transportation back to 5 days/week (currently cut to 2 days per week).

- Additional transportation needed for the Highlands Senior Center (E/D TAC)

- Need for coordinated and seamless-to-the-public system of specialized transportation with central information point. (E/D TAC)

IDEAS: **1)** Create a Mobility Management Center to centralize information, training, etc about transportation options. Ideas for the lead group include: AMBAG Mobility Council, Independent Living Centers, Area Agency on Aging, Consolidated Transportation Services Agency.

- Need for the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency to acquire an improved operations and maintenance facility. (E/D TAC)

Ideas: **1)** Will be reevaluated after the ADA transition is complete.

- Ongoing attempts should be made to provide ADA Paratransit certification at group facilities. (E/D TAC)

Ideas: **1)** Currently underway by Metro

Transit

- Need to prioritize bus shelter replacement based on high usage by seniors and people with disabilities. (E/D TAC)
- Continued need for transit to unserved housing areas in south county (examples: Stonecreek Apartments in downtown Watsonville and the San Andreas Migrant Labor Camp). (E/D TAC)
- 15-minute frequencies and expanded window of service on Highway 17/Amtrak service (Metro, MAC)
- Extension of Highway 17/Amtrak service to UCSC at key times (Metro)
- 30-minute peak frequencies on collector and arterial routes (Metro, MAC)

- Bi-directional service on local Watsonville routes (Metro, MAC)
- Expanded service to new residential and commercial areas in Watsonville (Metro)
- Service to new Watsonville High School (Metro, MAC)
- Increased frequency of service to Scotts Valley High School (Metro)
- Expanded service/increased frequency of service for UCSC (Metro, MAC)
- East/West Express service to UCSC and Cabrillo (Metro, MAC)
- Express service between Cabrillo-Aptos campus and Cabrillo-Watsonville campus (Metro)
- Minimum frequency standard of 60 minutes (Metro)
- Express service between San Lorenzo Valley and both UCSC and Cabrillo (Metro, MAC)
- Holiday service on all holidays (Metro, MASTF)
- Expanded service between UCSC and Westside University activity centers such as Long Marine Lab, Wrigley building offices, Texas Instruments building offices (Metro)
- Expanded window of service on major collector and arterial service (Metro, MAC)
- Service from Santa Cruz County to Los Gatos (MAC)
- “Bona Fide” express service connecting the four transit centers in Santa Cruz County together (MAC)
- Service to Independent Square in Watsonville (MAC)
- Service to the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville (MAC)
- Service from the UC Inn to UCSC (MAC)
- Expanded evening and late night service on major fixed routes to improve service accessibility (MAC)
- Expanded bicycle capacity and access on the fixed route system (MAC)
- Reduce the cash fare while preserving the pass charges so that the average fare using a pass is a higher percentage of the cash fare than currently exists (MAC)
- Establish a means-tested low income fare (MAC)
- Restoration of lost fixed route service (Metro, MASTF)

- Upgrading head-signs on buses so that all head-signs are of the same level of legibility as those most recently purchased (MASTF)
- Bus stops and bus routing in front of all senior and disabled trip generators (MASTF)
- More ADA compliant bus stop improvements, including benches, shelters, and lighting (MASTF)
- Braille and raised numbers on bus signage at bus stops indicating which bus routes are being offered at each stop (MASTF)
- Expansion of Highway 17/AMTRAK Service to Watsonville (Metro)
- Bus Rapid Transit Service (Metro)
- Express routes throughout the service area (Metro)
- Direct service to Santa Cruz on Portola (Metro)
- Fare free service to students under the age of 13 (Metro)
- Increased peak hour frequencies on routes between Watsonville and Mid-County (Metro)
- Increased service frequencies throughout the system (Metro)

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