

AGENDA: February 3, 2005

TO: Regional Transportation Commission/Rail Trail Authority
FROM: Pat Dellin, Interim Executive Director
RE: Paratransit Coordination Task Force

RECOMMENDATION

The Paratransit Coordination Task Force and staff recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Approve the Paratransit Coordination Task Force's request to hold one more meeting (Attachment 1);
 2. Request that Task Force members from the Regional Transportation Commission and Metropolitan Transit Board attend the last meeting to assist with finalizing recommendations; and;
 3. Send thank you letters signed by the RTC chair to Task Force attendees.
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BACKGROUND

The Paratransit Coordination Task Force was formed following a public hearing held in February 2004 by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) to solicit community input about paratransit issues. The hearing was attended by over 100 people.

In April of this year, the RTC approved the composition of the 24-member task force; the goals/issues; and a schedule for the work plan. The Task Force commenced in May and was to continue for seven to eight months. Approved goals for the Task Force are:

1. The system will use funding as efficiently and effectively as possible.
2. The system will strive to maximize customer service and satisfaction.
3. Legal mandates shall be observed.

DISCUSSION

Two items necessitate holding one more Task Force meeting. First the group agreed not to meet in July. Second, the transition of the local Americans with Disabilities Act-mandated paratransit -- from a contracted service to service provided in-house by the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District -- has been a major addition to the Task Force agendas lengthening the meeting discussions and necessitating extra meetings to finalize the recommendations.

At the January Task Force meeting, attendees requested that members representing the Regional

Transportation Commission and the Metropolitan Transit Board attend the last meeting to assist in the development of the final Task Force recommendations.

SUMMARY

The Paratransit Coordination Task Force, formed as a short term committee, requests an additional meeting in February to finalize their recommendations. Members of the Regional Transportation Commission and Metropolitan Transit Board are requested to attend the final meeting to finalize the Task Force's recommendations.

Attachment 1: Letter from the Paratransit Coordination Task Force

Prepared by: Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner

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