

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

MINUTES

**Tuesday, April 12, 2005 ~ 1:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Downtown Santa Cruz**

Members Present: Lisa Berkowitz (CTSA – Community Bridges), Michael Bradshaw (Social Service Provider – Disabled), Lois Connell (Persons of Limited Means), Tom Crain (Potential Transit User – Disabled), Michael Molesky (County Social Service Provider – Disabled), Robert Pesce (1st District), Adam Tomaszewski (2nd District), Bob Yount (MASTF)

Alternates Present: Steve Paulson (SCMTD), James Monroe (Yellow Cab), Camille Pierce (Potential Transit User – Disabled)

Others Present: Sharon Barbour (MASTF, 5th District, Yellow Cab), Robyn Brown (Yellow Cab), Peter Heylin (Potential Transit User – 60+), Sam Storey (CTSA – Lift Line), Jesse Valdez (Courtesy Cab)

Staff Present: Karena Pushnik, Kim Schultz, Tegan Speiser

Excused Absences: John Daugherty (Metro), Clay Kempf (Social Service Provider – Seniors), Link Spooner (CTSA – Lift Line)

1. Call to Order

Chair Michael Molesky called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made.

3. Oral Communications

Michael Bradshaw reported that he had received a complaint from a customer who received a ride to dialysis using ParaCruz, but could not make a same day ride request when their stint clogged and he needed to be transported to a different location. Discussion on this item was deferred until the Metro or Community Bridges items.

Karena Pushnik circulated two flyers that may be of interest to the E/D TAC. One was for a community forum held by In Home Health Services at Simkins Swim Center in April and the other for the Senior's Council Annual Meetings in May.

Michael Bradshaw announced that the Central Coast Center for Independent Living has a full time job opening for someone who is bilingual. The pay is \$12 per hour and interested individuals should contact him directly.

4. Additions and Deletions

There were none; however the following additional pages relating to items on the agenda were distributed:

- ParaCruz Operating Statistics for January 2005 ([Attachment 1](#))
- Revised cover letter from Community Bridges for TDA claim ([Attachment 2](#))
- Memo from Clay Kempf regarding Community Bridges TDA claim ([Attachment 3](#))
- Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail map ([Attachment 4](#))
- Highway 1 Widening map showing proposed ped/bike bridges ([Attachment 5](#))

5. Consent Agenda (Yount/Daugherty - unanimous)

- 5.1 Approved Minutes and materials distributed at the March 8, 2005 E/D TAC meeting
- 5.2 Accepted Transportation Development Act fund projections as of March 2005
- 5.3 Accepted Highlights from March 2005 RTC meetings
- 5.4 Approved Section 5310 Local Review Committee Scores
- 5.5 Accepted Paratransit Coordination Task Force Recommendations and RTC Staff Report for discussion at May E/D TAC meeting
- 5.6 Accepted 3/29/05 Correspondence from Caltrans regarding Safe Routes To School Program grants
- 5.7 California Pedestrian Advisory Committee's recommendation to increase pedestrian crossing times (This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda)
- 5.8 Accepted Flyer for May 14 Senior Health Fair at Sutter Maternity-Surgery Center
- 5.9 Accepted Article from 3/1/05 Register-Pajaronian titled Senior Centers across the U.S. look for ways to increase attendance
- 5.10 Accepted Agency Updates (other than items on the regular agenda)
 - 5.8.1 Volunteer Center
 - 5.8.2 Private Operators

- 5.8.3 Community Bridges/Consolidated Transportation Services Agency
- 5.8.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (Metro)
- Annual Report and Overview Budget
- 5.8.5 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

5.7 California Pedestrian Advisory Committee’s recommendation to increase pedestrian crossing times *(This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda)*

The E/D TAC discussed the advantages of reducing the pedestrian crossing time and confirmed that it was within their role to comment on accessible pedestrian issues.

Actions:

- ***(Bradshaw/Yount – unanimous) The E/D TAC will send letters to the California Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the California Traffic Control Devices Committee, County Commission on Disabilities, and all local jurisdiction public works departments supporting plans to increase the time for pedestrians to cross at signalized intersections by reducing the walking rate from 4 feet per second to 2.8 feet per second as a way to assist in the provision of universal access for all people.***
- ***(Bradshaw/Berkowitz – unanimous) The E/D TAC accepts this information item.***

6. ParaCruz No Show Policy – Margaret Gallagher and Steve Paulson, Metro

Ms. Gallagher provided an overview of the proposed changes to the ParaCruz No Show Policy highlighting the rationale behind the amendments including the Federal Transit Authority’s Office of Civil Rights to encourage policies to take into account the total number of trips taken by a customer.

The Chair thanked Metro staff for bringing this item to the E/D TAC for input. Suggested amendments from the committee included:

- Take a template of the proposed changes out to a senior center to give it a “real people test” on potential client groups
- Consider including the costs of missed trips under question # 2 so people have a better idea of how missed trips impact the program as a whole
- Consider instructing clients to request the schedule name and document the time/date of cancellation calls
- Consider coordinating with Lift Line so that clients are less confused about different policies related to different rides
- Specify the suspension period (15 days)
- Highlight (bold) the information in the last line of question #5 regarding return trips as a potential second “no show.”
- Consider a sample chart for question #7 that shows low/medium/high client use and the 15% “no shows” suspension point
- Consider defining what conditions are within and beyond the client’s control

- Define who sits on the appeals panel
- Single free reward ride for no “no shows” is a great idea

Ms. Gallagher requested to return to the May E/D TAC for more discussion about the option of paying for “no show” trips to avoid suspension.

7. Community Bridges Report

7.1 TDA Claim

Sam Storey noted that the replacement page for the Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim was just to correct a typo in the fiscal year. Mr. Storey proceeded to review the claim highlighting proposed changes for the next fiscal year. Although the claim has been submitted to the City of Santa Cruz, who acts as the claimant for Community Bridges, changes can still be made to the language of the exhibits. Suggested amendments to the exhibits include:

- Add in all the rides provided by Community Bridges and highlight those funded with TDA funds (including, but not limited to: Stroke Center, Medically Fragile (Dominican)).
- Show matching dollars to highlight that various funding sources coordinate to provide the rides
- Add a line showing the units of service currently provided to highlight changes proposed this fiscal year.
- Consider requesting more funding from the City of Watsonville, so that TDA funds are not used to backfill their funding deficiencies.
- Show three budget years so that at least one actual year is included

These revisions will be brought back to the May E/D TAC meeting along with the Volunteer Center TDA claim.

7.2 TDA Programs: Taxi Scrip and Medical Voucher (oral)

Sam Storey reported that the E/D TAC subcommittee consisting of chair Michael Molesky, Clay Kempf and Karena Pushnik met to discuss changes to these programs. Mr. Storey asked that the E/D TAC approve their recommendations. Sam noted that Community Bridges would attempt to encourage Medical Voucher clients to become eligible for Medi-Cal to decrease the TDA funds used for these rides.

Michael Bradshaw requested that the Metro, Community Bridges and the dialysis centers develop a Memorandum of Understanding to deal with same day changes. He noted that there were very few of these rides, but they were an unmet need.

Action was postponed to the next meeting when written materials will be provided with the meeting packet.

7.3 Update on Service Plans without ElderDay Services (oral)

Sam Storey reported that Elderday/Salude Para La Gente continues to contract for transportation services with Tri-County Transportation Services, but they have agreed to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for these services. This topic will be discussed by the Community Bridges Board on Tues 4/19/05. Community Bridges will request that the RFP include benefits and living wages for workers, as is required for agencies that receive county funds.

Tri-County Transportation will be invited to the next E/D TAC.

8. Sanctuary Scenic Trail

Tegan Speiser provided the historical context for the Sanctuary Scenic Trail efforts. She concluded by discussing the federal funds secured by Congressman Sam Farr and the formation of a Sanctuary Trail Steering Committee to develop a master plan to coordinate the efforts of both counties. A draft of the Long Range Interpretive Plan was forwarded to the E/D TAC with the packet. Discussion included the following:

- The Circle Trail may have relevant background information about trails ringing the Monterey Bay
- Would a trail within the rail right of way negatively impact freight or passenger operations?
- Should a senior/disabled representative be on the RTC's bike committee?
- Should the Steering Committee include someone representing accessible transportation?
- Should the Long Range Interpretive Plan include concepts of universal accessibility in the alignment principals?

Actions:

- ***(Yount/Bradshaw – unanimous) The E/D TAC will send a letter to the RTC recommending that they request the Association for Monterey Bay Area Governments to add a seat to its Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Steering Committee to ensure that a Santa Cruz County perspective on access issues is included in the discussions.***
- ***(Bradshaw/Yount – unanimous) The E/D TAC recommends that the Draft Long Range Interpretive Plan for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail be amended to include universal access language in its alignment principals.***

9. Identification of Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossings

Kim Shultz provided an overview of the Highway 1 Widening/HOV Lanes project and the plan for three separate pedestrian and bicycle crossings. He noted that all the street crossings and interchanges will be upgraded to provide improved bicycle and sidewalk facilities. A stakeholder group is meeting to discuss the location of the three bike/ped crossings. Volunteers were solicited.

A subcommittee of composed of Bob Yount, Camille Pierce, Michael Molesky and staff, Karena Pushnik was formed and will perform a site visit before the evening stakeholder meeting. One subcommittee member will attend the stakeholder meeting.

10. Review applications received and roster

Karena Pushnik reviewed the four applications received, two for alternate positions and two for member positions.

Action: (Bradshaw/Yount – unanimous): The E/D TAC approved the following recommendations for member/alternate positions:

- **Peter Heylin for the member position representing Potential Transit Users 60+**
- **Sharon Barbour for the member position representing the Fifth District**
- **Sam Storey for the alternate position representing Lift Line at the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency**
- **Jeff LeBlanc for the alternate position representing the Metro Accessible Transit Services Forum**

11. Committee Chair/Vice Chair

Two nominations were submitted, Michael Molesky and John Daugherty.

Actions:

- **(Yount/Pesce – unanimous) The E/D TAC approved Michael Molesky to serve another term as chair.**
- **(Bradshaw/Yount – unanimous) The E/D TAC approved John Daugherty to serve another term as vice chair.**

12. Review Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- TDA claims for both the Volunteer Center and Community Bridges
- Revisions to TDA-funded rides: Taxi Scrip and Medical Voucher
- Veterans Parking Issues
- ParaCruz “No Show” buy out options
- Paratransit Coordination Task Force Recommendations – process for reviewing
- Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail representatives
- Update on Highway 1 pedestrian/bicycle crossings
- Group Photo

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 pm.

Prepared by: Karena Pushnik, SCCRTC Staff

Attachments:

- 1. ParaCruz Operating Statistics for January 2005**
- 2. Revised cover letter from Community Bridges for TDA claim**
- 3. Memo from Clay Kempf regarding Community Bridges TDA claim**
- 4. Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail map**
- 5. Highway 1 Widening map showing proposed ped/bike bridges**

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