

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

*MINUTES*

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

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Members Present: Sharon Barbour (5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District), Lisa Berkowitz (CTSA – Community Bridges), Michael Bradshaw (Social Service Provider – Disabled), Lois Connell (Social Service Provider – Persons of Limited Means), Tom Crain (Potential Transit User – Disabled), John Daugherty (SCMTD), Peter Heylin (Potential Transit User – 60+), Michael Molesky (County Social Service Provider – Disabled), Robert Pesce (1<sup>st</sup> District), Bob Yount (MASTF)

Alternates Present: Scott Bugental (1<sup>st</sup> District), Sandra Coley (4<sup>th</sup> District), Jeff Le Blanc (MASTF), James Monroe (Yellow Cab), Steve Paulson (SCMTD), Camille Pierce (Potential Transit User – Disabled), Sam Storey (CTSA – Lift Line)

Others Present: Catherine Patterson Valdez (CTSA – Lift Line), Cheryl Schmidt (City of Santa Cruz)

Staff Present: Luis Mendez, Karena Pushnik, Kim Shultz

Excused Absences: Clay Kempf (Social Service Provider – Seniors), Adam Tomaszewski (2nd District),

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Introductions**

Introductions were made.

**3. Oral Communications**

Bob Yount announced that the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's Bus Stop Advisory Committee is searching for funding for bus stop improvements.

John Daugherty announced that July 26<sup>th</sup> will be the fifteenth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Camille Pierce requested that the RTC's Bike Committee minutes be included in the agenda packets when available.

Luis Mendez announced that staff has been working with MTC to obtain proposals to add TTYs to the call boxes. Some proposals have been received and consultant interviews will be held on Thursday. Staff expects that a consultant will be selected soon and the work will begin shortly thereafter.

Karena Pushnik announced that John Daugherty would lead a "Ride the Bus with Us" field trip for the Watsonville Chapter of the Senior Circle. John added that he regularly provides these types of workshops for groups learning to use the bus.

#### **4. Additions and Deletions**

There were none.

#### **5. Consent Agenda**

**(Items 5.8 and 5.18 were pulled by Scott Bugental to be discussed. The remainder of Consent Agenda was unanimously approved: Daugherty/Barbour)**

- 5.1 Approved Minutes and materials distributed at the May 10, 2005 E/D TAC meeting
- 5.2 Accepted Transportation Development Act fund projections as of June 2005
- 5.3 Accepted Highlights from June 2005 RTC meeting
- 5.4 Accepted draft letter from the E/D TAC, ITAC and CTSC to the Board of Realtors regarding disclosure about sidewalk responsibilities (final letter, if available, will be distributed at the meeting) **(The final letter was not available for distribution at the meeting.)**
- 5.5 Accepted letter from the City of Santa Cruz to the E/D TAC dated 5/9/05 regarding the timing of pedestrian signals
- 5.6 Accepted memo from the RTC Acting Executive Director to Congressman Sam Farr re: Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail – Implementation Activities in Santa Cruz County
- 5.7 Accepted Veterans Services Van Parking info
- 5.8 Letter from the RTC to AMBAG dated 5/10/05 regarding the creation of a duplicative regional Elderly & Disabled Transportation Committee **(Pulled for discussion)**
- 5.9 Accepted information about the grant application for Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District's AB 26766 funds from Community Bridges for the 'Green Wheels' Senior Mealsite Hybrid vehicle program

- 5.10 Accepted letter dated 6/10/05 from Mission Pedestrian to County Public Works regarding lack of sidewalks near Dominican Hospital
- 5.11 Accepted article from 6/20/05 Register-Pajaronian titled Elderday facility to provide boost for Pajaro Valley seniors; Watsonville residents set to transfer from Santa Cruz site
- 5.12 Accepted article from 6/05 Register-Pajaronian titled Getting good grades: Work begins on 74-unit Pajaro Vista senior development
- 5.13 Accepted article from 6/23/05 Register-Pajaronian titled Emu, bulls, camels, oh my: Man uses animals to help build confidence in disabled kids
- 5.14 Accepted article from the Sentinel/Wall Street Journal titled How to Take Away a Parent's Car Keys
- 5.15 Accepted Mobility Connection Nov-Dec 04 newsletter article titled Boomers: The Mobility Challenge for the Graying Populace
- 5.16 Accepted Winter 2004-05 Community Transportation Magazine focusing on Medical Transportation (available for review at meeting)
- 5.17 Accepted website of the month:  
[http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/conf/reports/cp\\_27.pdf](http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/conf/reports/cp_27.pdf) (report and table of contents enclosed)
- 5.18 Accepted Agency Updates (other than items on the regular agenda)
  - 5.18.1 Volunteer Center
    - FY 03/04 Annual Report
    - FY 04/05 Second Quarter Report
    - FY 04/05 Third Quarter Report
  - 5.18.2 Private Operators
  - 5.18.3 Community Bridges/Consolidated Transportation Services Agency
    - Second Quarter Report for FY 04/05
  - 5.18.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (**Pulled for discussion**)
    - ParaCruz Operations Status Report 6/24/05
    - ParaCruz Analysis (Attachment H of Item 7 on 6/24/05 Metro Agenda)
  - 5.18.5 Monterey Sanctuary Scenic Trail
  - 5.18.6 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

**5.8 Letter from the RTC to AMBAG dated 5/10/05 regarding the creation of a duplicative regional Elderly & Disabled Transportation Committee**

Scott Bugental requested more information about this item and why it did not come before the E/D TAC for consideration. Staff responded that the proposal came forward during the time when the Paratransit Coordination Task Force was involved in intensive discussions and the regional effort

was seen as a needless strain on staff and resources. Members requested that, when timing allows, relevant items be reviewed by the E/D TAC.

#### **5.18.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District: ParaCruz Operations Status Report and ParaCruz Analysis)**

Scott Bugental asked why the statistics don't show improvement in the ADA paratransit service. An updated status report with an additional month of data was distributed. Steve Paulson responded that the Metro is still learning and has decided to make changes slowly. Steve noted that comparing previous to current statistics may be misleading because the amount of service provided by private operators has changed and previously taxi revenue hours began from the moment a client entered the vehicle, not from the time the vehicle was dispatched.

Scott Bugental suggested that trip time be added to the monthly ParaCruz statistics. Steve Paulson noted that the ADA standards relate to comparable bus travel time. John Daugherty solicited help identifying ways to improve the system.

Sam Storey voiced his objection to the calculation of the projected cost comparisons to Community Bridges service stating that the FY 2003-04 amounts plus 15% each year don't total the amounts shown.

Bob Yount provided estimated cost savings resulting from Metro's use of the larger Goshen vehicles for ADA ParaCruz trips. He estimates that \$20,000 would be saved annually. Steve Paulson announced that of the Metro's Goshen vehicles have been retrofit to accommodate 4 rather than 2 wheelchairs.

Scott Bugental expressed concern that the Comparison of ADA Paratransit Requirements vs. Metro ParaCruz Policies and Practices chart does not show the pros and cons of the current policies, but rather only shows the cost implications. For many people with dementia or sight impairments, the difference between door-to-door and curb-to-curb service would be monumental. One lawsuit could wipe out any cost savings. Steve Paulson provided the context of the board request for this information. The board accepted the information presented without comment or action. Steve further noted that the process for any changes to the ParaCruz policies and practices would be amendments to the Customer Guide and would go to MASTF, MAC and the E/D TAC before action by the board.

*Action (Daugherty/Connell – unanimous): The E/D TAC accepted items 5.8 and 5.18.4.*

#### **6. Paratransit Coordination Task Force Recommendations and RTC Staff Report (continued from May meeting)**

Karena Pushnik provided a historical overview of the Short and Long Term Recommendations noting that the E/D TAC is being asked to review only those where the potential implementing entity is the RTC or the E/D TAC. The attached pages show E/D TAC input (Attachment 1).

#### **7. 2004 Annual Report**

Karena Pushnik reviewed the Annual Report and requested input on the list of Unmet Needs.

***Action (Pesce/Barbour – unanimous): The E/D TAC accepted the Annual Report and Unmet Needs and forwards them to the RTC for their consideration.***

## **8. Rail Right of Way Acquisition Update**

Luis Mendez provided an overview of the status of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition Project. Questions included: when more information will be available about the structures assessment and hazardous materials assessment; what types of rail services were being considered; whether staff knew about any legal action on the rail issues; costs/funding sources for acquisition activities; and costs to replace the Manresa trestle.

***Action: Staff will include the current financial plan in the next E/D TAC packet.***

## **9. Draft Memo from Nolte Associates to the RTC dated 6/21/05 regarding the Summary of the Selection Process for Bicycle/Pedestrian Crossings over Highway 1**

Kim Shultz thanked members Michael Molesky and Bob Yount for assessing potential Highway 1 crossings and attending the community stakeholder meeting. A final version of the memo was distributed. Members were concerned that crossings be designed to ensure that there is adequate width so that two wheelchairs can pass, that sight distances on the ramps and crossings are adequate and that designs be accessible friendly, not just ADA compliant.

***Action (Barbour/Pesce – unanimous): The E/D TAC approved the pedestrian/bicycle crossing memo with the addition that pedestrian and bicycle facilities leading to and from the crossings meet standards for safe and accessible travel for all potential users.***

## **10. Pedestrian Countdown Crossing Signals (Pedestrian/Auto Conflicts)**

Karena Pushnik noted that the countdown signals are one crossing method being adopted by cities like Sacramento and San Francisco. It was noted that audible signals are controversial and that the Doran Center for the Blind should be involved in discussions. In Mexico, traffic signals show a green light, then green with a yellow flashing light, then yellow, then red. This system reduces autos running red lights. It was requested that this be an ongoing agenda item.

## **11. Review Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- Continue with Short/Long Term Recommendations
- Information item in Sentinel newspaper regarding increased number of pedestrian incidents

## **12. Group Photo**

This item was deferred to the next meeting (earlier on the agenda).

## **13. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 pm.

*Prepared by: Karena Pushnik, SCCRTC Staff*

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