

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

MINUTES

**Tuesday, February 14, 2006
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Downtown Santa Cruz**

Members Present: Sharon Barbour (5th District), Lisa Berkowitz (CTSA – Community Bridges), Michael Bradshaw (Social Service Provider – Disabled), Clay Klempf (Social Service Providers – Seniors), Michael Molesky (County Social Service Provider – Disabled),

Alternates Present: Sandra Coley (4th District), Steve Paulson (Metro), Lois Connell (Persons of Limited Means),

Others Present: Sharon Barbour (Private Operators), James Monroe (Private Operators), Catherine Patterson Valdez (CTSA – Lift Line),

Staff Present: Lyle Broschat, Karena Pushnik, Kim Shultz

Excused Absences: Tom Crain (Potential Transit User – Disabled), John Daugherty (SCMTD)

1. Call to Order

Chair Michael Molesky called the meeting to order at 1:42 pm.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made.

3. Oral Communications

Sandra Coley pointed out a dead link to the Paratransit Coordination Task Force Recommendations on the RTC website.

Karena announced that the Specialized Transportation Guide was in the process of being updated (update requests sent to providers), and that the production would be done at staff level.

4. Additions and Deletions

There were no additions or deletions.

5. Consent Agenda (Information Items)

(Items 5.6 {Barbour}, 5.7 {Molesky} and 5.13.4 {Bradshaw} were pulled from the Consent Agenda to be discussed.) The remainder of the consent agenda was approved unanimously (Bradshaw/Berkowitz.

- 5.1 Approved Minutes and materials distributed at the 12/13/2005 E/D TAC meeting
- 5.2 Accepted Transportation Development Act fund projections as of November 2005
- 5.3 Accepted Highlights from December 2005, and January and February 2006 RTC meetings
- 5.4 Accepted Bicycle Committee minutes from November and December 2005, and January 2006 meetings
- 5.5 Accepted approved RTIP list (news release and Attachments from 1/5/06 staff report)
- 5.6 Accept RTC action on E/D TAC recommendations for the Transportation Funding Task Force
Pulled for discussion.
- 5.7 Accept status report on City of Santa Cruz Roundabouts
Pulled for discussion.
- 5.8 Approved recommendation of membership application from Catherine Patterson Valdez for Community Bridges – Lift Line position
- 5.9 Accepted article from 1/17/06 Sentinel titled “3, 2, 1 ... City to unveil countdown crosswalks”
- 5.10 Accepted article from 1/9/06 Register-Pajaronian titled “Driver safety course helps seniors remain on the road, pocket money”
- 5.11 Accepted article from 1/5/06 Register-Pajaronian titled “Company provides options for disabled?”
- 5.12 Accepted California Transportation Foundation’s call for nominations for the 17th Annual Tranny Awards (deadline 3/1/06)
- 5.13 Accepted Agency Updates (other than items on the regular agenda)
 - 5.13.1 Volunteer Center
 - FY 05/06 Second Quarter Report
 - 5.13.2 Private Operators
 - 5.13.3 Community Bridges/Consolidated Transportation Services Agency
 - First Quarter Report for FY 05-06
 - 5.13.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
 - Paracruz Operations One Year Review 12/16/05
 - Pulled for discussion.*

- 5.13.5 Monterey Sanctuary Scenic Trail
 - Oral Report by Tom Crain on 1/18/06 meeting (*not provided*)
 - Comprehensive Report to be delivered to RTC in by April (project status, funding, planning options)
- 5.13.6 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

5.6 **Accept RTC action on E/D TAC recommendations for the Transportation Funding Task Force (pulled from Consent Agenda for discussion)**

Karena Pushnik, RTC Staff, provided an overview of the Transportation Funding Task Force objectives and suggested that E/D TAC assist in encouraging attendance at the community workshops. The first workshop of Task Force will begin in April. The actual dates will be announced soon.

Karena announced that the Regional Transportation Commission approved the E/D TAC's recommendation to augment the membership of the Transportation Funding Task Force by adding the following positions: (1) a disabled person, (2) representatives from both the Central Coast Center and the San Andreas Regional Center, (3) a representative from board of Community Bridges. The request for personal transportation reimbursement was declined by the Commission. The RTC requested that the E/D TAC designate a person to represent the disabled individual. The E/D TAC suggested the following people, all serving on the Commission on Disabilities: Charles Stone, Joe Quigg, and Michael Bush.
Action: The E/D TAC recommends that Commission on Disabilities chair Charles Stone be invited to participate on the TFTF as the person representing disabled individuals. If Charles is unavailable, Joe Quigg and/or Michael Bush were nominated. If none of them could participate, the Commission on Disabilities is requested to fill the position.

5.7 **City of Santa Cruz Roundabouts**

Concern was expressed in regard to the following:

- disabled parking near the beach
- disabled access across the railroad tracks (need for accessible path over RR)
- seeing- and hearing-disabled persons' response to the traffic circles
- night visibility

The community will likely have the opportunity to respond to a specific design proposal. An additional need is knowledge of the timeline for implementing the proposal.

Action: The E/D TAC requests that more information on the project, specifically the concerns outlined, be provided by the City of Santa Cruz Public Works staff at a future meeting.

5.13.4 **Paracruz Operations Review**

General discussion ensued about the figures included in the ParaCruz reports to the Transit District board. It was determined that increases in the service provided were due to the effects of transit strike.

Action: Pulled items accepted in consent package.

6. Taxi Regulation

Lyle Broschat, RTC staff, presented a revised taxi regulation matrix (with senior discount rate), including related documentation, to the committee and explained that he was unable to find a single example of integrated countywide taxi regulation. Lyle pointed out that regulatory inconsistencies in taxi regulation are more the norm than the exception throughout the country, and that there appear to be no models of regulatory consistency.

Some information on general user efficiency may be available through Lift Line and other services, and should be compiled for future discussion. James Monroe suggested that private operator/government relations have been primarily the result of ADA standards, and not intentional cooperation. Lyle suggested further contacts with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) to clarify the intent of their upcoming consultant study to evaluate taxi regulation in Monterey County. Suggested options for progress were: (1) Presenting matrix, concerns, proposals to RTC (2) Presenting matrix, concerns, proposals to local jurisdictions, (3) Form subcommittee of the E/D TAC or a task force or countywide taxi commission to further assess options. RTC itself would have no countywide authority in this issue, only the ability to conduct an investigation.

Relative to unmet needs, one area of study could be the needs of persons affected by mental health issues. Hope Services may be interested in taking a lead role. Included in this consideration is driver training in dealing with persons affected by mental health problems; also substance abuse, HIV, etc. Emergency room departures are another large area of concern that remains formally unaddressed—budgetary constraints on providing this service being a factor.

A need remains for countywide consistency in regulation, enforcement and fare schedules. Clay Kempf suggested that the Regional Transportation Commission be responsible for designing a model for regulatory consistency, and Karena affirmed that there was insufficient staff time available to pursue this concern further. James Monroe suggested setting aside a block of time at each meeting to address this issue in an ongoing manner.

Private operator options for improving efficiency were also discussed, specifically Global Positioning System (GPS) based single dispatch centers. Another option is the formation of private taxi associations for the purpose of giving a unified voice to operators.

Action: Motion approved to include ½ hour session per meeting for taxi issues, and also to investigate partnering with TAMC on broadening its taxi regulation study to include concerns of Santa Cruz County residents. (Kempf/Barbour).

7. Legislative Agenda

Kim Shultz, RTC staff, reviewed the draft 2006 State and Federal Legislative for issues of interest to residents of Santa Cruz County. Kim discussed negotiations currently going on at the State level on a range of proposals for transportation bond measures introduced by the

Governor and leadership of both the Assembly and Senate. The Governor's "Strategic Growth Plan", proposing \$12 billion in transportation projects, failed to include any projects in our county. Statewide concerns are broad-based, but there is growing support for not earmarking specific projects but to use the formal planning/programming process as outlined in SB 45. Such a process ensures geographical equity and local decision making through the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program to determine how to use any new transportation funds in our region. In the meantime, Assemblymember Laird and Senator Simitian representing Santa Cruz County are working on clarifying local priorities. Kim requested committee input on spending policies, as outlined in his two handouts, noting that this reappraisal of needs is an annual process.

Questions were raised regarding the allocation for paratransit, that this expenditure should be increasing as overall spending increases. Kim agreed to provide further information on allocations. Also, would there be additional funding for rail transportation? Yes, according to Karena, on a region-wide basis, though specifics are not available.

Clay Kempf asked the question about needs for disabled transportation planning. The committee was encouraged further to provide input on any aspect of transportation planning and to forward that input to the Commission. Karena added that ongoing comments could be included in any reports to the Commission.

8. Local Review Committee for Section 5310

This is a funding source allocated by need, annually reviewed. Community Bridges is applying for funding and possibly also Hope Services. The review committee scores the applications, then the E/D TAC reviews the scores, and their recommendations are submitted to the Commission, which adopts a resolution and submits to the state for scoring. Applications are due March 4th, open only to private sector applicants.

Action: Motion to approve the local review committee accepted (Connell/Barbour).

9. Committee Roster Updates

The following vacancies exist on the committee: Social Service Provider – Seniors (County), Potential Transit User – 60+ years old 3rd Sup District and 4th Sup District. Also, there will be elections for the chair and vice chair at the next meeting.

Action: Staff was directed to forward list of vacancies to relevant agencies.

10. Review Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair
- Aging Driver Issues
- Unmet Needs: Karena pointed out that the Transportation Funding Task Force would be a good forum for addressing E&D unmet needs, that the process would be ongoing, beginning in April. An outreach survey could be part of this effort, and results would be

delayed to late June. (Also, United Way sponsors a community assessment program that might be useful in addressing unmet needs.)

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 pm.

Prepared by: _____ *Lyle Broschat, SCCRTC Staff*