

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

MINUTES - Draft

**Tuesday, October 10, 2006
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Downtown Santa Cruz**

Members Present: Sharon Barbour (5th District), Lois Connell (Persons of Limited Means), Tom Crain (Potential Transit User), John Daugherty (SCMTD), Clay Kempf (Social Service Providers – Seniors), Robert Pesce (1st District), Adam Tomaszewski (2nd District), Catherine Patterson Valdez (CTSA – Lift Line)

Alternates Present: Sandra Coley (4th District), Steve Paulson (SCMTD)

Others Present: Debbie Bulger (Mission Pedestrian), Virginia Butz (Guest)

Staff Present: Lyle Broschat, Karena Pushnik

Excused Absences: Lisa Berkowitz (CTSA-Community Bridges), Richard Camperud (Courtesy Cab), James Monroe (Yellow Cab)

1. Call to Order

Chair John Daugherty called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made.

3. Oral Communications

Debbie Bulger, member of Mission Pedestrian and the CalPed advisory task force, presented CalPed's proposal to revise the existing traffic collision reporting form used by the State of California and the CHP (Form 555). She noted that the current form ignored important information about traffic collisions, notably mobility-impairment and roadway attribute data that might contribute to increased collision potential. The existing and proposed forms were submitted for study and comment by E/D TAC.

Next meeting: The current and proposed new form will be included in the next E/D TAC packet with the specific request that the Committee (1) Review and comment on the proposed form changes, and (2) Submit a letter to support these proposed changes, as a way to track this data and advocate for safety improvements.

Virginia Butz, an electric wheelchair user, spoke about sidewalk accessibility issues. She requested that E/D TAC include in future meetings the topic of legalizing wheelchair use of bicycle lanes when sidewalks are obstructed or non-existent.

Karena Pushnik briefly discussed the Cabrillo College Occupational Needs Assessment, a survey to gauge interest/need for a skills certificate specializing in aging.

4. Additions and Deletions

The taxi item (Item 6) was postponed to the next meeting. Karena announced that Item 9 (M.O.R.E. Grant) had been added to the revised agenda, posted 72 hours before the meeting.

5. Consent Agenda

Item 5.8, the ParaCruz Guide Update, was pulled from the Consent Agenda to be discussed. Karena updated the Committee on the RTC autonomy effort (5.10.6) and the Monterey Sanctuary Scenic Trail, with initial planning to begin early next year. The remainder of the consent agenda was approved unanimously (Kempf/Tomaszewski).

- 5.1 Approved Minutes and materials distributed at the August 8, 2006 E/D TAC meeting
- 5.2 Accepted Transportation Development Act fund projections as of September 06 for FY 2006-07
- 5.3 Accepted Highlights from August and September RTC meetings
- 5.4 Accepted 7/6/06 Good Times “Community in Action” page
- 5.5 Accepted 9/16/06 Santa Cruz Sentinel article titled “Trouble Getting to the Fair”
- 5.6 Accepted 8/28/06 Santa Cruz Sentinel article titled “Metro adds bus service for first time in years”
- 5.7 Accepted 7/30/06 Santa Cruz Sentinel photo regarding Community Bridges hybrid van
- 5.8 ParaCruz Customer’s Guide Update (*pulled from consent agenda for discussion*)
- 5.9 Accepted Draft 2008-09 Work Plan from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s Elderly & Disabled Advisory Committee
- 5.10 Accepted Agency Updates (other than items on the regular agenda)
 - 5.10.1 Volunteer Center
 - Fourth Quarter and Final FY 2005-06 Reports
 - 5.10.2 Private Operators
 - 5.10.3 Community Bridges/Consolidated Transportation Services Agency

- 5.10.4 - Final FY 2005-06 Ride Statistics
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
- 5.10.5 - ParaCruz Operations Status Reports for September 06
Monterey Sanctuary Scenic Trail
- 5.10.6 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

5.8 ParaCruz Customer's Guide Update (*pulled from consent agenda for discussion*)

Steve Paulson (Metro) explained that previous Metro policy had allowed ParaCruz reservations for up to 14 days in advance, but that the high rate of cancellations had generated a proposed new policy of accepting reservations for only up to 3 days in advance. The question was raised as to whether E/D TAC would have further input into this recent policy change, and Steve responded that the policy was no longer up for review, since it had already gone to the Metro Board.

Tom Crain brought up the issue of availability of handicapped-accessible taxis during late night hours. Sharon Barbour, Yellow Cab employee, explained that these taxis should be available at all hours.

Action: *Include the issue of 24-hour taxi availability in next discussion of Taxi issues.*

Further discussion included clarification of wait time for ParaCruz pickups, and Steve explained that drivers were instructed to allow five minutes after arriving at customer residence for the customers to reach the vehicle.

Additional discussion about the Customer Guide generated concerns about the readability of the printed guide, and Steve informed the Committee that the standard font size was 14 point.

Action: *Motion (Crain/Coley, with Daugherty abstaining) to recommend that the Customer Guide be published in an easily read 14-point format.*

6. Taxi Work Plan (*postponed to next agenda*)

7. Refinement of Unmet Needs List for the Transportation Funding Task Force Efforts

Karena Pushnik described how members of the E/D TAC responded to a request from Fred Keeley (TFTF Convener) to meet and discuss prioritization of unmet needs related to the recent activities of the Task Force. Karena described the process that resulted in an Unmet Needs matrix, which was then presented to Fred Keeley. This input was further simplified to suggest the creation of a Mobility Management Center to provide a coordination point for the range of unmet needs and a way to direct clients to the most cost-effective transportation option.

Concerns were expressed by E/D TAC members that projected costs for this program were underestimated, and also that public safety issues were not addressed in this process. Karena added that funding for such a program would probably not be in place until 2009.

Action: *A motion was made (Daugherty/Connell), and passed unanimously, to approve the elements and purposes, as described in the phone center, kiosk, training and*

publicity/outreach components on the mobility management center matrix, and to direct the subcommittee to review and revise cost estimates.

8. Transit Lift/Ramp Procedures

John Daugherty discussed the official Metro policy of making transit lifts and “kneeling” buses available to mobility-impaired users. He stated that operators are instructed to provide these services if they perceive a need, but that if the operator fails to assist the user then it is the right of the user to request this special service.

9. M.O.R.E Grant Application by Community Bridges

Catherine Valdez (Community Bridges) discussed her grant proposal for Caltrans Environmental Justice Funds to develop the Mobility OutReach and Education (M.O.R.E.) Project, to assist the mobility needs of seniors, disabled, and low-income in meeting their transportation needs. This funding cycle refers to the period 2007-08, which could be extended into future years. Specifically this program would identify mobility needs from the perspective of establishing mobility centers, in response to the lack of input provided from the extensive outreach effort of the Transportation Funding Task Force.

Catherine requested a formal letter of support from the E/D TAC in the submission of this grant proposal.

Action: A motion was made (Connell/Pesce, with Valdez abstaining), and passed unanimously, to approve the submission of a letter of support to Caltrans for the M.O.R.E. grant proposal.

10. Accessible Meeting Locations

Karena provided some background on the resignation of one Transportation Funding Task Force member (Pat Spence), who cited the reason for her resignation as being related to accessibility problems of various meeting places used by the Task Force.

It was suggested that the official responsibility for insuring that public meeting places be ADA accessible would normally fall to the County Commission on Disabilities, but that this Commission was now understaffed. It was also suggested that Gail Pelerin (County Elections Department) be contacted in this regard, since all voting locations are required to be ADA compliant.

Action: Staff will contact Gail Pelerin to get a list of elections sites that are ADA accessible.

11. Brown Act Review

Karena noted that the county counsel reminded staff that emails between committee members could be construed as a violation of the Brown Act.

12. Review Agenda Items for Future Meetings

The December E/D TAC packet will include: Taxi Work Plan, including discussion on the availability of taxi service to seniors and disabled on a 24-hour basis; Traffic Collision Reporting Forms; Copy of support letter for Lift Line grant proposal.

13. Adjourn Regular Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Prepared by: _____ Lyle Broschat, SCCRTC Staff