

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

MINUTES - Draft

**Tuesday, December 12, 2006
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Downtown Santa Cruz**

Members Present: Lisa Berkowitz (CTSA-Community Bridges), Richard Camperud (Courtesy Cab), Tom Crain (Potential Transit User), John Daugherty (SCMTD), Clay Kempf (Social Service Providers – Seniors), Robert Pesce (1st District),

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

Others Present: Ciro Aguirre (SCMTD), Debbie Bulger (Mission Pedestrian), Hazael Estalilla (Yellow Cab, SCT), Tom Reef (Senior Companions), Jack Sohriakoff (County PW)

Staff Present: Lyle Broschat, Cory Caletti, Karena Pushnik, Kim Shultz

Excused Absences: Lois Connell (Persons of Limited Means), Adam Tomaszewski (2nd District)

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Tom Crain called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made.

3. Oral Communications

Tom Reef (Senior Companions) described community efforts to reconnect direct METRO bus service to the Gault Street area, where La Posada and other senior housing units are located, as well as Dominican Rehabilitation Services. The current bus routes along Soquel Avenue and Water Street require up to a quarter mile walk for this population of seniors and disabled to reach a bus stop. Mr. Reef has a petition with 100 signatures that will be presented at the upcoming METRO board meeting on December 15th, and he requests endorsement of this petition by E/D TAC.

Action: Because the issue was going before the METRO Board in three days and therefore deemed timely, a motion (Kempf/Berkowitz) to add this topic as item 9.1 to current agenda was approved unanimously.

Debbie Bulger spoke about her research into new curb ramps within the City of Santa Cruz, as the result of new paving projects funded by Measure H. She discovered, through city public works staff, that new curb ramps would be installed only when new asphalt applications exceeded one inch in thickness.

Karena Pushnik added that the newest version of the Specialized Transportation Guide would be published soon, and that updates to the printed version would be made on the website version.

4. Additions and Deletions

Items 8 and 9 would be reversed in sequence because of staff time restrictions.

5. Consent Agenda

Motion (Berkowitz/Pesce) to accept consent agenda passed unanimously.

- 5.1 Approved Minutes and materials distributed at the October 10, 2006 E/D TAC meeting
- 5.2 Accepted Transportation Development Act fund projections as of November 06 for FY 2006-07
- 5.3 Accepted Revised RTC Budget including revised TDA amounts
- 5.4 Accepted Highlights from October and November RTC meetings
- 5.5 Accepted Letter from E/D TAC to the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District requesting that the ParaCruz Guide be printed in 14 point, easy to read font
- 5.6 Accepted Letter from the E/D TAC to Community Bridges supporting their application for a Caltrans Environmental Justice/Context Sensitive grant
- 5.7 Accepted Mobility Management Center information forwarded to the Transportation Funding Task Force
- 5.8 Accepted FY Section 5310 ~ six-month delay for next funding cycle
- 5.9 Accepted Utility Undergrounding information on Mission Street
- 5.10 Accepted Bus Stop Information from SCMTD
- 5.11 Accepted Articles in Summer 2006 Community Transportation magazine – “Building Better Public Transportation and a Healthier Vermont” and “Mountain Line: Innovatively Connecting West Virginians w/ Health Care”

- 5.12 Accepted Agency Updates (other than items on the regular agenda)
 - 5.12.1 Volunteer Center
 - First Quarter FY 2006-07 Report
 - 5.12.2 Private Operators
 - 5.12.3 Community Bridges/Consolidated Transp. Services Agency
 - 5.12.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
 - Final FY 2005-06 Ride Statistics
 - ParaCruz Operations Status Reports from Nov 06
 - 5.12.5 Monterey Sanctuary Scenic Trail
 - 5.12.6 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

6. Taxi Issues – Lyle Broschat

Lyle Broschat provided an overview on the recent history of E/D TAC concern over the inconsistencies in countywide taxi regulation, and the consequences to elderly and disabled users of this service. He also brought to the attention of E/D TAC the list (Attachment 2) of possible actions, related to taxi service, that had evolved in the course of discussion over many previous meetings. It was suggested to E/D TAC that one option would be to prioritize the list of possible actions, or, lacking resources, defer action to a later time.

Richard Camperud explained that the formation of a taxi association was highly unlikely, and Clay Kempf stated that it was important to continue to support the requirements (in two jurisdictions) for ADA accessible cab service, as well as to continue to work for uniformity in taxi regulation. Lisa Berkowitz added that the apparent inconsistencies in countywide regulation were a strong matter of concern for E/D TAC members, and that the Commission should be made aware of these inconsistencies.

Action: A motion was made (Kempf/Daugherty) to present to the Commission a description of the regulatory conflicts in the various local jurisdictions' taxi ordinances, with the request that the Commission forward notification of the inconsistencies directly to the local jurisdictions explaining the difficulties they cause for seniors and people with disabilities. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Revisions to Traffic Collision Form 555 – Lyle Broschat/Debbie Bulger

Lyle Broschat explained that CalPed, a voluntary group, was working with the California Highway Patrol and Metropolitan Transportation Commission to revise the traffic collision reporting form that is used by most California law enforcement agencies to document the details of traffic accidents. Unfortunately, the existing Form 555 fails to list a number of objective categories, specifically indicating mobility-impaired victims and bicycle users, among other issues. The failure to record these factors objectively in this form means that the statewide database on traffic collisions does not include a variety of important factors for correlating accident statistics. This inadequacy, in turn, can mean that infrastructural problems that contribute especially to accidents involving bicyclists and mobility-impaired persons may be overlooked by public safety and public works officials who are unable to easily access these statistics.

The proposed revisions to Form 555 seek to remedy this oversight. Debbie Bulger added that the proposed revisions are still being discussed at state level, and the final proposal would be submitted for CHP internal review.

Action: *The E/D TAC was asked to direct any comments or additions to the proposed revisions to dfbulger@cruzio.com.*

8. Wheelchairs in Bike Lanes – Lyle Broschat

Lyle Broschat explained that the question had surfaced at a previous meeting as to the legality of pedestrians/wheelchair-users accessing bicycle lanes in certain circumstances. California Vehicle Code states that this group can only access bicycle lanes when the sidewalk is either non-existent or inadequate.

Debbie Bulger pointed out that sidewalks in the Santa Cruz area are frequently inadequate or non-existent, and citizens need to bring specific examples to the attention of local public works departments. Karena Pushnik added that a subcommittee of the E/D TAC had once been formed to address the issue of inadequate sidewalks, and that some of these functions had been adopted by the Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC). She suggested that the issue is complicated by the fact that the responsibility for sidewalks lies with adjacent private property owners and that there are no local plans or tools for motivating jurisdictions to address this issue, nor is there existing funding. Sandra Coley added that the Pedestrian Access Form has been available to the public for some time now.

Action: *The E/D TAC agreed to include in the next agenda (February 13th) the issue of pedestrian accessibility, and to invite Corrine Hyland, from the CTSC, to participate in the discussions.*

9. Legislative Agenda – Kim Shultz

Kim Shultz explained the annual process of state and federal legislative review, and how this review is intended to provide guidance on transportation issues over the coming year. Mr. Shultz pointed out that he had noted, in Attachment 1, specific issues related to the elderly and disabled population.

Input from E/D TAC was solicited, with the deadline for input being two weeks prior to the January 11th Regional Transportation Commission Board meeting. Mr. Schultz encouraged E/D TAC to continue its activism in bringing elderly and disabled transportation issues into public view.

Also, there have been unexpected shortages in revenue from the federal gas tax source, resulting in funding cutbacks to transportation improvement projects. Clay Kempf expressed a concern about the stated intent in the State Legislative Agenda to maintain current levels of funding for elderly and disabled transportation, indicating that the word, “maintain” should be changed to “increase.” He further suggested that transportation and housing are among the most important legislative issues for the population of elderly and disabled.

Action: *Mr. Shultz will revise the Legislative Agenda based on the discussions, and encourage further comments to be mailed to kshultz@scrtc.org.*

9.1. Request for Reinstatement of Direct Local Bus Route service to the La Posada Neighborhood

Clay Kempf described the current situation with bus routing near the La Posada neighborhood, explaining that, following the discontinuation of route #65 (Gault Street), seniors and disabled residents of La Posada and adjacent housing were forced to walk as much as a quarter mile to reach a bus stop. He explained that the discontinuation of the old route and consequent disuse of the Gault Street bus stop imposed a burden on local residents that could only be met with added dependence on ParaCruz service, and suggested that METRO consider changing route #66 to include Gault Street.

The METRO representatives assured E/D TAC that they were aware of transit problems in this neighborhood, and that these problems would be addressed at the coming Board meeting. John Daugherty explained the concept of “interlining,” where bus routes form an interrelated network and changes in one part can mandate changes in another part. Other routes are available to this neighborhood, though the #66 route is most heavily used.

Action: *Motion (Kempf/Berkowitz) to send a letter to METRO encouraging reinstatement of direct bus service to the La Posada neighborhood passed unanimously (Daugherty abstaining).*

10. E/D TAC Appointments and Roster – Karena Pushnik

Karena Pushnik discussed the various vacancies needing to be filled on E/D TAC, including an application from Virginia Butz for the vacant position representing Potential Transit User. An additional item to be addressed was to amend the E/D TAC bylaws to reflect METRO’s replacement of the position representing the now defunct Metro Accessible Transit Services Forum (MASTF) with the Metro Advisory Committee (MAC). E/D TAC bylaws now include a representative from MASTF as a member of this committee. Clay Kempf noted that the bylaws used to require any changes to be approved by both the RTC and Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) boards.

Sandra Coley added that she would support the addition of a Spanish-speaking, bi-cultural representative to the vacant District 4 member position on the E/D TAC.

Action: *Motion (Daugherty/Kempf) to recommend that the RTC appoint Virginia Butz to the vacant position of Potential Transit User (60+) passed unanimously.*

Action: *Motion (Daugherty/Coley) to request that the RTC board amend the bylaws to replace MASTF with MAC on the E/D TAC roster and solicit a representative from this committee passed unanimously.*

11. Article 8 Claim from the County of Santa Cruz -- Karena Pushnik/Jack Sohriakoff

Jack Sohriakoff described the two project requests for Transportation Development Account (TDA) funds as a complete sidewalk and bike lane installation on Calabasas Road, fronting Calabasas School, and sidewalk, bike lane, and bus turnout construction on State Park Drive, adjacent to the state park entrance. Upon approval, both projects would likely begin by 2008. E/D TAC input is required for all pedestrian projects implemented by local jurisdictions using TDA funding.

Action: Motion (Daugherty/Coley) to recommend that the RTC approve the two TDA funded projects was approved unanimously.

12. Review Agenda Items for Next Meetings

Agenda items are requested at least two weeks in advance of each E/D TAC meeting.

13. Adjourn Regular Meeting

Prepared by: _____ Lyle Broschat, SCCRTC Staff