

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

MINUTES - Draft

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Downtown Santa Cruz

Members Present: Hal Anjo (Social Service Provider-Seniors/Seniors Council), Sharon Barbour (5th District), Lisa Berkowitz (CTSA-Community Bridges), Debbi Brooks (Social Service Provider), John Daugherty (Metro), Veronica Elsea (3rd District), Sally French (Social Service Provider- Disabled/Hope Services), Bella Hughes (2nd District), Clay Kempf (Seniors Council), Catherine Patterson Valdez (Community Bridges)

Alternates Present: Sandra Coley (4th District- Alternate), April Warnock (Metro ParaCruz)

Others Present: Ciro Aguirre (Metro), Charlie Dickson (Citizen), Peg Gallagher (Metro), Jennifer Ramirez (CCCIL)Cheryl Schmitt (City of Santa Cruz),

Staff Present: Cory Caletti, Cathy Judd, Karena Pushnik,

Excused Absences: Donnella Bloebaum (Potential Transit User - 60+), Tom Crain (Potential Transit User - Disabled), Michael Molesky (Social Service Provider - Disabled),

1. Call to Order

Chair John Daugherty called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made.

3. Oral Communications

Veronica introduced her new guide dog, Tai.

Catherine announced that she has taken the Caltrans Transportation Planning Academy and received her certification.

Charlie Dickson shared a handout regarding wheelchair accessibility at Arana Gulch and asked members to support and endorse the Arana Gulch project. This project will be added to the June E&D TAC agenda.

Clay mentioned that state budget cuts will reduce the reimbursement rate to adult day health care centers from \$160/day to \$76/day and if it goes forward it could cause Elderday to close their doors. Clay supplied a fact sheet regarding this topic and said that those who wished to offer support could contact him and he would put them in touch with the Elderday program. This topic will be added to the June E&D TAC agenda.

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4. Additions and Deletions

There were none.

5. Consent Agenda

Action: The motion (Kempf/Elsea), to accept the consent agenda was approved.

- 5.1 Approved Minutes from February 10, 2009 meeting with one amendment
- 5.2 Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report as of March 2009
- 5.3 Received RTC Highlights from February – March 09
- 5.4 Received Shirley Forsythe resignation (by phone) and transfer Bella Hughes from Alternate to Member position representing the 2nd Supervisorial District
- 5.5 Accepted letter from the Santa Cruz Metro transit District to Mr. Jauregui with copy to E/D TAC dated 3/31/09
- 5.6 Accepted Support Letter for City of Santa Cruz' Safe Routes to School Grant Application
- 5.7 Received 3rd Cycle FFY 2007 Project List Awards for the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (Section 5316) and New Freedom (Section 5317) Grants
- 5.8 Received Call for Projects for FFY 2009 Federal transit Administration grant programs (Sections 5310 – 5317)
- 5.9 Accepted other updates (the following articles related to specialized transportation will be circulated at meeting and are also available on line)
 - City on Hill: <http://cityonhillpress.com/article.php?id=1600>
 - Mass Transit article on Paratransit:
[http://www.masstransitmag.com/web/online/TopTransit-News/Paratransit-Services-Get-Thrown-a-Curve/3\\$8329](http://www.masstransitmag.com/web/online/TopTransit-News/Paratransit-Services-Get-Thrown-a-Curve/3$8329)
 - Meg Powell: http://santacruzsentinel.com/obituaries/ci_11947117
- 5.10 Received Agency Updates (other than items on the regular agenda)
 - 5.10.1 Volunteer Center
 - FY 2008-09 First Quarter Report
 - 5.10.2 Private Operators
 - 5.10.3 Community Bridges/CTSA
 - MORE/WTP (oral report)
 - Veterans Transp. Grant from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation (oral report)
 - 5.10.4 Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
 - ParaCruz Operations Status Report: February – March 09
 - 5.10.5 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

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6. Approve City of Santa Cruz TDA Claim – Cheryl Schmidt, City of Santa Cruz

Karena provided an overview of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding and the TDA funding available for the local jurisdictions, and explained the E&D TAC's oversight role for these funds. She noted that, since the funds are derived from sales tax revenues, they fluctuate depending on the economy.

Cheryl Schmitt provided background for claims and encouraged members to let her know when they have accessibility issues. The project would include upgrading the pedestrian crossing at Ocean Street and Leonard Street near the County Government Building, and discussed the features that would be installed to help pedestrians cross in safety.

Members raised questions about features that would help sight impaired pedestrians and if this crossing had serious accidents that prompted action. Cheryl stated that the crossing does not meet the state's requirements for a traffic signal, explaining that warrants are a series of data that earn points. Cheryl mentioned that Ocean Street will be repaved and at that time the improvements will be made at Leonard Street. Another part of the claim included approval to return excess TDA funds to the City's account for a project that did not use all the funds available.

Action: The motion (Elsea/Kempf), to approve the City of Santa Cruz TDA claim passes.

7. Approve TDA Claim for the Volunteer Center – Debbi Brooks.

Debbi Brooks provided an overview of the transportation program offered by the Volunteer Center. Debbi informed members that there has been a big increase in the number of volunteers at the center in response to the president's call to action, but there are still some unmet needs in south county.

Action: The motion (Kempf/Patterson-Valdez), to approve the Volunteer Centers TDA claim passes.

8. Approve TDA Claim for Community Bridges – Catherine Patterson Valdez

Catherine Patterson Valdez provided information regarding Community Bridges programs available citing:

- If the New Freedom grant money is delayed, rides to dialysis will be impacted
- They are looking at coordinating dispatch with the Red Cross
- Program capacity for Elderday needs to be expanded for wheelchair users
- If TDA funding is reduced due to decreases in sales tax revenues, the programs they administer will be cut across the board
- They are no longer providing ISSP/homeless rides
- Currently there is no waiting list for taxi scrip

Additionally, a request was made to include information regarding the Elder Economic Security Index in the June packet and a request was made to include a comparison on table 3 in next years *Operation Plan Service of Units* to include last years total ride numbers.

Action: The motion (Elsea/Barbour), to approve the Community Bridges TDA claim passes with Lisa Berkowitz and Catherine Patterson Valdez abstaining.

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9. Approve Transportation Development ACT (TDA) Claim for Metro

Ciro Aguirre provided a summary of Metro services and he requested that the TDA claim be approved for capital and operating funding. He said that they do not intend to cut services or implement layoffs. Members asked if there were any plans for fare or pass fee increases and April Warnock said that none were expected to happen through 2009.

Karena requested that ride projections be included in the next claim for fixed route and Paratransit.

Action: *The motion (Kempf/Barbour), to approve the Metro TDA claim passes with John Daugherty abstaining.*

10. Review Metro's Short Range Transit Plan – Peggy Gallagher, Metro

Peggy Gallagher presented an overview and history of Metro's Short Range Transit Plan. There had been a proposal in the plan for a trunk and feeder system but the board did not like the proposal due to the significant cost for Metro. The board eliminated this option from the Short Range Transit Plan and the vote by the board to adopt the final Short Range Transit Plan was deferred until a public outreach plan could be put together. At the April 24, 2009 board meeting the public comment will commence and the public comment will run from April 27 through May 27, 2009 board meeting.

Veronica mentioned she will be doing the beta test on Metro's new website.

Karena noted that an update to the Short Range Transit Plan in time to be included in the 2012 Regional Transportation Plan would be helpful and Peggy mentioned that she would bring that question back to Metro and get back to her with the response.

11. Review Metro Policy Changes: Service Animals on Fixed Route and Paratransit, Bicycles on Fixed Routes – Peggy Gallagher, Metro

Peggy Gallagher provided a review of Metro's policy regarding service animals on fixed routes and paratransit, and bicycles on fixed routes. There is some [debate](#) regarding the definition of a service animal. Members asked questions about where service animals should be on the bus so they do not inhibit movement or safety. [One member](#) suggested that bus rules regarding bicycles be made available at bicycle shops.

Deleted: controversy

Deleted: Lisa

12. Economic Stimulus (Round Two) and RSTP Project – Karena Pushnik

Karena supplied an update regarding Federal Stimulus funds. She mentioned that the total amount of funding coming to the RTC increased from \$6.5M to \$12.1M. The RTC has issued a second call for projects and applications need to be submitted by local jurisdictions by May 5, 2009 and that money has to be in construction in 2010.

The topic of bus shelters was suggested especially in the San Lorenzo Valley.

Action: *The motion (Anjo/Barbour) that the E&D TAC recommends to Metro to include the acquisition and installation of bus shelters in their list of projects carries with John Daugherty abstaining.*

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Catherine discussed the Mobility Management Center project and the features available as part of that project. This project would make it possible for individuals to access one call center for the local community for all their mobility needs similar to what is happening at present with 211 for the United Way.

Action: *The motion (Barbour/Hughes) that the E&D TAC recommends that Community Bridges submit a grant application for the second round of federal stimulus money for a mobility management center carries with Catherine Patterson Valdez and Lisa Berkowitz abstaining .*

Clay suggested a project to supplement transportation to senior meal sites.

Action: *The motion (Kempf/Coley) to include a special project to transport seniors to congregate nutrition sites carries with Lisa Berkowitz abstaining.*

13. Pedestrian Safety Working Group Update (oral) – Veronica Elsea

Veronica stated that the Pedestrian Safety Work Group has received surveys from all jurisdictions except Cabrillo College. The surveys were reviewed at their last regular meeting. She said that during the ITAC meeting to be held on April 23, 2009 the group will return to those jurisdictions and discuss the results of the survey. From there the information will be used to work with the local jurisdictions. Goals stated included:

- Promote pedestrian access report
- Reinforce private property owner responsibility
- Make people aware of unsafe pedestrian conditions that exist

14. Interactive Web Pedestrian Access Report – Karena Pushnik

Karena made members aware of the Pedestrian Access Report supplied in the packet. She informed them how the process works for reporting issues and that reports are then given to the jurisdictions in which those issues have been reported to be taken care of. She mentioned that there is a similar hazard report for bicycle facilities. Karena mentioned that the SCCRTC is in the process of updating its website and it is working on making these forms interactive on the website. She encouraged attendees to email her with suggestions and ideas.

15. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

In April of each year a new chair and vice chair is elected for the E&D TAC. John Daugherty was nominated for Chair and Tom Crain was nominated for Vice Chair. Both nominations were accepted by the members.

Items for next meeting:

1. Peggy Gallagher will bring back Metro policies discussed
2. Arana Gulch
3. Follow-up for Elderday if necessary
4. Elder Economic Security Index
5. Information item on ride projections from Metro for fixed routes and ParaCruz

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6. Invite Tom Hicks to discuss the Mobility Management Center
7. Local jurisdiction survey results
8. Catherines project (I could not understand what she said due to background noise)

16. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 3:43 pm

Prepared by: Cathy Judd, SCCRTC Staff

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