



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes – Draft

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

**Regional Transportation Commission Office
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

1 Call to order 1:29 pm

2. Introductions

Members Present:

Kirk Ance, CTSA Lifeline-Community Bridges
Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA
Debbi Brooks, Social Service Provider - Persons
Of Limited Means
John Daugherty, Metro Transit
Veronica Elsea, 3rd District
Sally French, Social Services Provider- Disabled
Donald Hagen, 4th District
Clay Kempf, Social Service Provider for Seniors
Michael Molesky, Social Service Provider
Disabled

Alternates Present:

Brent Gifford, 1st District
Donna Patters, Volunteer Center-Watsonville
Patty Talbott, Seniors Council
April Warnock, SCMTD

Excused Absences:

Patti Lou Shevlin, 1st District

Unexcused Absences:

Others Present:

Angela Aitken, SCMTD
Ciro Aguirre, SCMTD
Kari Beuerman, County Human Services
Ramon Cancino, Community Bridges
Alex Clifford, SCMTD
Erich Freidrich, SCMTD
Eduardo Montesino, UTU Local 0023
Daniel Zawagoza, SCMTD

RTC Staff Present:

Grace Blakeslee
Cathy Judd
Karena Pushnik
Rachel Moriconi

3. Oral Communications

- Dedication for the Arana Gulch Multiuse Trail occurred January 14, 2015. E&D TAC support for the Arana Gulch Multiuse Trail was mentioned during the dedication
- Information about public meetings regarding possible changes to the Santa Cruz Metro ParaCruz

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda

- Correct the minutes from the January 6, 2015 meeting for Theresia Rogerson's representation from CTSA to CTSC
- Revise minutes pertaining to Item 13-Review Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Construction Safety Guidelines to include information about interacting with pedestrians living with disabilities during construction, and expected release of related Caltrans training videos.

CONSENT AGENDA

Action: The motion (Daugherty/Elsea) - - to approve Consent Agenda Item 5 – January 6, 2015 minutes with the following revisions; Theresia Rogerson, CTSC and not CTSA and inclusion of information about interacting with pedestrians living with disabilities during construction, and expected release of related Caltrans training videos - - carries.

Ayes: Lisa Berkowitz, Debbi Brooks, John Daugherty, Veronica Elsea, Sally French, Brent Gifford, Donald Hagen, Clay Kempf, Michael Molesky

Nays: None

Abstain: Kirk Ance

Action: The motion (Kempf/Elsea) to approve the Consent agenda, Items 6-11 - - carries.

Ayes: Lisa Berkowitz, Debbi Brooks, John Daugherty, Veronica Elsea, Sally French, Brent Gifford, Donald Hagen, Clay Kempf, Michael Molesky

Nays: None

Abstain: Kirk Ance

5. Approved minutes from January 6, 2015 meeting
6. Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report
7. Received RTC Meeting Highlights
8. Received Annual Calendar of E&D TAC Items
9. Received Information Items - None
10. Receive Agency TDA Reports
 - a. Volunteer Center – 1st Quarter FY 14/15
 - b. Community Bridges – None
 - c. Santa Cruz Metro - None
11. Received Agency Updates
 - a. Volunteer Center - None
 - b. Community Bridges - None
 - c. Santa Cruz Metro ParaCruz Report for October & November

REGULAR AGENDA

12. Metro Structural Deficit – Paratransit Presentation

Metro staff provided a presentation regarding the Santa Cruz Metro structural deficit. The focus of the presentation pertained to operating efficiencies, premium rides, and fare structure options to allow Metro to reduce their deficit over the next several years with detailed information about possible ParaCruz and Highway 17 program changes. Metro staff asked E&D TAC members to provide comment on the possible program changes before February 27, 2015 Metro Board meeting. Metro is seeking public input through a number of public workshops at several sites throughout the county.

Action: The motion (Kempf/Brooks) - - to send a letter to the Santa Cruz Metro recommending the following: paratransit service reductions and fare increases be considered last, not first, as a way to reduce structural deficit due to the impact on Santa Cruz County's most vulnerable populations and on other support services; all potential operation efficiencies be considered before proposing service changes; cost of living be considered in evaluating transportation costs and comparison of service costs to peers; and schedule public meetings during day light hours at locations and at times convenient to targeted population - - carries.

Ayes: Kirk Ance, Lisa Berkowitz, Debbi Brooks, Veronica Elsea, Sally French, Brent Gifford, Donald Hagen, Clay Kempf, Michael Molesky

Nays: None

Abstain: John Daugherty

13. Review 2015 Preliminary Draft Unmet Needs

Grace Blakeslee, Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the Preliminary Draft Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs List. RTC staff recommends that the high, medium, and low definitions be amended to address service deficiencies as well regional transportation plan goals. Ms. Blakeslee also recommended identifying specific strategies for addressing unmet needs. Members recommended the following revisions to the Preliminary Draft Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs List:

- Item 1 – Removal of strategy related to improvements to sidewalks adjacent to homes.
- Items 14 and 55 – Remove from the list
- Item 9 – Include language to ensure that where technology is utilized to address unmet needs that technology be accessible to all users
- Item 18 – Move to high priority and include in the Strategy column that CTSA prioritize adequate portion of budget to fund taxi scrip services
- Item 18, 19 & 20 –Move to high priority

Members recommended adding IHSS and Seniors Commission to the Unmet Transit Needs Outreach List.

14. Identify Priority Pedestrian Projects

Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner informed members that there are several grant opportunities for pedestrian projects, including the State's Active Transportation Program, ongoing local Transportation Development Act claims and access to transit programs. Given that available state, federal, and local funding is insufficient to fund all of the transportation projects needed to maintain and improve the transportation system, staff recommends that the E&D TAC members identify and inform staff of priority pedestrian projects throughout the region. Ms. Moriconi reviewed pedestrian projects previously discussed by the Committee and requested that members contact RTC staff to communicate additional pedestrian projects of interest to members. Members recommended that input on pedestrian projects be sought from members of the public at the May 2015 Open Streets Event.

15. Review AMBAG Public Participation Plan

Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner provided an overview of the federally required Monterey Bay Area Public Participation Plan (PPP). The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) is required by federal regulations to prepare and maintain a public participation plan for the tri-county region. The E&D TAC is encouraged to provide feedback on the full Public Participation Plan, the RTC public participation activities, as well as suggest other strategies to engage the community. Members recommend a range of public hearing/meeting times and locations and augmenting the stakeholder list with agencies serving disadvantaged communities.

16. Review Member Recruitment Strategies

Grace Blakeslee, Transportation Planner, discussed proposed recruitment strategies to fill vacant member and alternate positions on the Committee. Proposed strategies include running newspaper ads and radio announcements, distribution of flyers to partner agencies and posting information about member recruitment on partner agency websites. Members recommended clarifying that representatives of programs serving seniors and individuals living with disabilities should also be included in the recruitment effort. Members also recommended that outreach efforts be combined with outreach conducted by the community organizations and partner agencies, including the Volunteer Center.

17. Receive Pedestrian Safety Workgroup Update

Veronica Elsea, Chair of the Pedestrian Safety Workgroup, informed members that the Pedestrian/Motorists brochures have been distributed and they have received positive feedback about the information provided on the brochures. The Pedestrian Safety Work Group Committee recently did a radio spot on KSCO to increase awareness about the brochure. The Pedestrian Safety Work Group Committee is planning presentations during comment periods at upcoming city council meetings and with the County Board of Supervisors meeting. The next regular meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Work Group is February 17th at 11:00 am.

18. Notice Chair and Vice Chair Election at April Meeting

Grace Blakeslee, RTC Transportation Planner, informed members that there will be Committee chair and vice chair elections at the April 2015 E&D TAC meeting. As noted in the bylaws, the term is one year and elections take place annually on the first meeting following the March RTC meeting. Members are encouraged to forward nominations, including self nomination, to the RTC staff prior to the April meeting.

19. Adjourn 4:07 pm

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Judd, RTC Staff