



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Draft Minutes

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

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

1 Call to Order

2. Introductions

Members Present:

Kirk Ance, CTSA, Community Bridges, LiftLine
Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA
John Daugherty, Metro Transit
Veronica Elsea, 3rd District
Clay Kempf, Social Service Provider for Seniors
Cara Lamb, Potential Transit User

Alternates Present:

Brent Gifford, 1st District
Charlie Levine, 3rd District
Donna Patters, Volunteer Center

RTC Staff Present:

Cathy Judd
Karena Pushnik

Excused Absences:

Sally French, Social Services Provider- Disabled
Patti Lou Shevlin, 1st District

Unexcused Absences:

Debbi Brooks, Social Service Provider - Persons
Of Limited Means
Michael Molesky, Social Service Provider
Disabled

Others Present:

Pam Arnsberger, 2nd District

3. Oral Communications

- Santa Cruz County Budget Hearings to be held June 15th at 7:30 at City of Watsonville Council Chambers and on June 16th at the County Board of Supervisors Chambers. Members were encouraged to participate in the discussion about funding for social services to seniors and people with disabilities.
- The Seniors Council is conducting a Senior Needs Assessment for people over 60 living in Santa Cruz or San Benito Counties. The survey is available online at seniorscouncil.org. Hard copies of the survey are available through the Seniors Council.
- Metro offers personalized Accessible Services to help clients use the bus and ParaCruz. The current Metro Headways including large print version was made available.

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda - None

CONSENT AGENDA

Action: The motion (Daugherty/Kempf) - - to approve the consent agenda with an amendment to note Kirk Ance as an excused absence for the April 14, 2015 E&D TAC meeting - - carries.

Ayes: Lisa Berkowitz, John Daugherty, Veronica Elsea, Clay Kempf, Cara Lamb

Nays: None

Abstain: Kirk Ance

5. Approved minutes from April 14, 2015 meeting
6. Received E&D TAC letter supporting City of Scotts Valley Town Center 'Active Transportation Program' grant application
7. Received E&D TAC letter supporting City of Santa Cruz Branciforte Creek 'Active Transportation Program' grant application
8. Received Final Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs
9. Received FY13/14 FTA 5310 Grant Award Information
10. Received resignation from Norm Hagen
11. Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report
12. Received RTC Meeting Highlights
13. Received Information Item
14. Received Agency Updates
 - a. Volunteer Center
 - b. Community Bridges
 - i. 2nd Quarter FY 14/15 TDA Report
 - c. Santa Cruz Metro
 - i. ParaCruz Report
 - ii. SCMTD Board Items

REGULAR AGENDA

15. Receive Committee Recruitment Results and Make Recommendation – Karena Pushnik, Senior RTC Planner, discussed the recent recruitment outreach for members to serve on the E&D TAC. The goal is to have a full committee with social service providers and representatives from the community, and to fill all member positions. Cara Lamb a new member to the E&D TAC and Pam Arnsberger a new applicant introduced themselves and shared information about their interest in serving on the E&D TAC. The committee also considered Greta Kleiner's application (included in the packet). She was unable to attend the meeting.

The 4th and 5th districts are still without representation.

Action: The motion (Berkowitz/Ance) -- to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve applicant Pam Arnsberger as District 2 representative – carries.

Ayes: Lisa Berkowitz, John Daugherty, Veronica Elsea, Clay Kempf, Cara Lamb, Kirk Ance
Nays: None
Abstain: None

Action: The motion (Kempf/Gifford) -- to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve applicant Greta Kleiner as Potential Transit User Disabled -- carries.

Ayes: Lisa Berkowitz, John Daugherty, Veronica Elsea, Clay Kempf, Cara Lamb, Kirk Ance
Nays: None
Abstain: None

16. Receive Metro Update and Ad Hoc Committee Status – John Daugherty, Metro, discussed Metro’s premium fares for Paratransit services, and the Accessible Services Coordinator position for mobility training. At Metro’s board meeting on April 10 the board approved an increase to the Highway 17 Express fare and related passes for that service. The new fare takes effect on September 10 and will increase from \$5.00 with \$2.50 discounted fare, to \$7.00 with \$3.50 discounted fare.

On April 10 and finalized on May 22, the Metro board also approved an increase to the paratransit fee to re-align service with Metro fixed route service. The fare will be \$4.00 per ride with an additional \$2.00 for additional rides or transfers. A will call return trip will be \$8.00 per one-way trip and re-dispatching a paratransit vehicle will be \$16 per one-way trip. On May 22 Metro decided to continue to run paratransit in Lompico and South Felton for the summer which will be premium fare service. Cuts for the Accessible Service Coordinator position will be considered at a later date along with other possible cuts. Savings from reductions will be used to partially offset \$75,000 of Board approved system wide ADA bus stop and facilities assessment mandated by law. A public hearing is set for June 26 to hear comments on Metro’s FY2015/16 and 2016/17 operating budget, and the FY2015/16 capital budget.

Discussion by the committee included:

- Concerns about seniors and people with disabilities being unaware of changes, not having funds to pay for increased fares, and becoming stranded and vulnerable.
- The rationale of cuts to service for seniors and people with disabilities happening before other service cuts and until the entire system is examined holistically.
- The cost impact of increased fares for bus and ParaCruz services to low-income riders. Some suggested that Metro consider instituting a fare coupon book for low income riders channeled into non-peak periods and research options used in other areas.

Action: The motion (Berkowitz/Kempf) – to recommend that E&D TAC send a letter to Metro Board requesting that the following be considered – passed with John Daugherty abstaining:

1. Develop a comprehensive education and outreach plan which informs ParaCruz users of the changes which take effect in September, 2015. Suggested avenues for reaching affected persons could include: in-person meetings; on-hold phone messages at ParaCruz; reminders and information provided by dispatchers at the time of booking rides; mailings; literature and notices placed in Paratransit vehicles; information on Metro's web site; public service announcements on local media; notice sent to long-term care facilities, senior facilities; any agencies which refer clients to Metro's services.

2. Develop an emergency funding plan to cover ParaCruz riders who may be caught unable to pay for a return trip at the premium fare rate. This could include a scholarship fund, grace periods or other ways of obtaining waivers.

3. Make the date that approved changes to ParaCruz service take effect after the education and emergency funding plans have been fully created and implemented. E&D TAC also requests copies of these plans when they are finalized.

4. Request that Metro not cut services to seniors and those with disabilities unless such cuts are done holistically as part of a restructuring of the entire system. This includes services to seniors and those with disabilities such as the availability of an accessible services coordinator.

Ayes: Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Clay Kempf, Cara Lamb, Kirk Ance

Nays: None

Abstain: John Daugherty

17. Receive Passenger Rail Feasibility Study – Draft Report – Karena Pushnik, Senior RTC Planner, provided an overview of findings from the Passenger Rail Feasibility Study Draft Report. This high-level study focuses on public rail transit options within the most populated sections of the county and looks toward meeting the transportation needs of all ages and abilities into the future. The study includes cost, ridership, and funding options for a range of transit service scenarios. All are encouraged to review the draft report posted online and available at public libraries. Comments may be submitted online via survey, email or comment form available on the RTC website, <http://www.sccrtc.org/projects/rail/passenger-rail/>. Members and attendees are encouraged to assist with outreach and submit written comments by the July 31, 2015 deadline for consideration during development of the final report and recommendations.
18. Receive Pedestrian Safety Workgroup Update – Veronica Elsea – Pedestrian Safety Workgroup Chair – gave an update on the Pedestrian Safety Workgroup. She mentioned that the Committee met with both the Community Traffic Safety Coalition and the South County Bike Work Group, and received good feedback. She requested attendee's help to distribute the *What Pedestrians and Motorists Want Each Other to Know* brochure. Ms. Elsea mentioned that the work group has room for one more member and the next meeting for Pedestrian Safety Work Group is June 22 at 1:30 pm in the RTC Conference room.
19. Adjourn 3:37 pm

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Judd, RTC Staff