

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

April 14, 2000

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, April 14, 2000 at the District Administrative Office, 370 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Acting Chairperson Gabriel called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Sheryl Ainsworth
Bruce Arthur
Tim Fitzmaurice
Bruce Gabriel
Michelle Hinkle
Mike Keogh

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Jeff Almquist (arrived at 8:40 a.m.)
Jan Beautz
Katherine Beiers
Kenneth Burch (arrived at 8:40 a.m.)
Oscar Rios (arrived at 8:40 a.m.)
Mike Rotkin (arrived at 8:42 a.m.)

STAFF PRESENT

Bryant Baehr, Operations Manager
Kim Chin, Planning & Marketing Manager
Terry Gale, IT Manager
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel

David Konno, Facilities Maint. Manager
Lloyd Longnecker, Buyer
Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager
Tom Stickel, Fleet Maint. Manager
Leslie R. White, General Manager

EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Richard Anderson, Westside Resident
Neal Bailey, SEIU
Scott Bugental, Lift Line
Jeff LeBlanc, MASTF
Manny Martinez, PSA
John Mellon, VMU

Ian McFadden, UTU
Cam Pierce, Bus Rider
Marion Taylor, League of Women Voters
Candace Ward, UCSC
Linda Wilshusen, SCCRTC

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Laura Martin RE: MetroBase
- b. Linda Wilshusen RE: Bus Evaluation
- c. Cam Pierce RE: Bus to Mt. Madonna

Mr. Richard Anderson, resident of 320 Wanzer Street on the Westside of Santa Cruz and a member of the Citizens for Better Planning Group, spoke to the Board regarding his opposition to the MetroBase project being located on the Westside. Mr. Anderson read a letter from Will

Hagen which was published in the newspaper on April 5th. Mr. Anderson asked what the Board has done, if anything, in response to Westside residents' concerns on this issue. Acting Chairperson Gabriel informed Mr. Anderson that no action could be taken during Oral Communications.

Ms. Cam Pierce spoke regarding her letter which requested bus service to the Mt. Madonna Conference Center at least once or twice a week.

Ms. Katherine Anderson, Westside resident and member of the Citizens for Better Planning, voiced her opposition to the MetroBase project being located on the Westside of Santa Cruz.

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

Ian McFadden, UTU President, reported that the United Transportation Union is attempting to have a representative named to the Board of the Transportation Commission in hopes of increasing responsiveness from the Santa Cruz Public Works Dept. Two items in particular need further addressing: left turn lanes on Laurel Street, and the bike lane on Beach Street which would inhibit the Beach Street Shuttle. Mr. McFadden also discussed the service review budget of \$150,000 and the \$300,000 in excess TDA funds from the Transportation Commission. Director Rotkin, responding as a member of the City Council, stated that the bike lane issue might be revisited by the City Council in light of the conflict with the Beach Street Shuttle.

DIRECTOR GABRIEL OFFICIALLY TURNED THE MEETING OVER TO VICE CHAIRPERSON ROTKIN.

VICE CHAIRPERSON ROTKIN WELCOMED DIRECTOR AINSWORTH TO THE BOARD.

4. METRO USERS GROUP (MUG) COMMUNICATIONS

None

5. METRO ACCESSIBLE SERVICES TRANSIT FORUM (MASTF) COMMUNICATIONS

None

6. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Review Consent Agenda Items 7-1 through 7-14

ITEM 7-10 WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

7-10. CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL OF EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY INSURANCE

Summary:

Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager, reported that this item is to renew Employment Practices Liability Insurance and that the current carrier did not wish to renew with the District due to changes in their structure. Staff recommends that the contract be issued to an underwriter of Lloyd's of London who offers coverage at a lower rate than the District paid last year. In order to avoid interrupting continuous coverage, staff is requesting that action be taken at this meeting.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR ARTHUR

A Motion was made to approve Staff's recommendation.

The Motion passed with Directors Beautz and Beiers absent.

7-1. APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF 3/10/00, REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF 3/17/00, AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES OF 3/29/00

No comments or questions.

7-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARY APPROVED CLAIMS

No comments or questions.

7-3. ACCEPT AND FILE PASSENGER LIFT REPORT FOR MARCH 2000

No comments or questions.

7-4. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: Deny the Claim of : Shannon McCord. Reject the Claim as Untimely Filed and Deny the Application to File a Late Claim of: Coral Brune. Approve the Claim of: Farmer's Insurance in the amount of \$467.59 and reject it as to the balance

Discussion:

Director Rotkin requested that the Claim of Shannon McCord be added to the Closed Session agenda for discussion at the April 21, 2000 meeting.

7-5. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF MASTF COMMITTEE MEETING OF 3/16/00

No comments or questions.

7-6. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF MUG COMMITTEE MEETING OF 3/15/00

No questions or comments.

7-7. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2000 AND APPROVE BUDGET TRANSFERS

Discussion:

Les White updated the Board on the Transportation Commission's Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) meeting held on April 13, 2000. The District requested \$2.8M in STP/CMAQ (Surface Transportation Program/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvements) funds. It was the Commission's staff recommendation to allocate \$1.4M to the District for bus replacement. Linda Wilshusen reported that only twenty-five (25%) percent of the STP/CMAQ program funds are included in the MTIS (Major Transportation Improvement Study) funding program of \$260M. This will go before the Transportation Commission in May. Ms. Wilshusen also reported that there will be additional TDA funds coming out of the surplus at the end of the year which can be allocated to the capital reserve, not just to operations. Mr. White reported that the District has 66 buses that need replacing but the funding to replace only 23.

7-8. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

Discussion:

Linda Wilshusen reported that there are concerns at the Transportation Commission regarding the indicators on this report and asked that an analysis be performed on the cost of service and subsidy of service, which have both increased significantly. Mr. White reported that this service is in transition and there will be changes in the funding share with VTA. Staff will bring this item back before the Board in May for a more complete discussion on the Highway 17 service.

Ian McFadden stated UTU's plans to approach the Board with a list of possible projects on which to spend TDA funds. These projects might include weekend service on Highway 17 and bringing Highway 17 service down to the Metro Center during the week.

7-9. ACCEPT AND FILE STATUS REPORT ON ADA PARATRANSIT PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY

Summary:

Kim Chin reported that a response from bidders on the ADA Recertification of Ridership is expected on April 28, 2000. After the MUG and MASTF groups have had input. This item will be brought back before the Board at their June meeting.

7-11. REPORT ON AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES SENSITIVITY TRAINING

Discussion:

Bryant Baehr provided a synopsis of training for new bus operators in his staff report. The next group of 8 - 10 new operators will begin work on July 11, 2000. Director Gabriel requested a summary of how to improve sensitivity training for new drivers. Mr. Baehr confirmed that a report would be produced in September, after the completion of training on August 31st, identifying ideas for improvement.

7-12. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) GUIDELINES

Summary:

Margaret Gallagher reported that the District is adopting CEQA guidelines in the California Code of Regulations to use as its guidelines. It is a requirement that every public agency adopt guidelines in accordance with CEQA, irrespective of lead agency status.

7-13. ACCEPT AND FILE BILINGUAL SCHEDULE INFORMATION AT BUS STOPS

Summary:

This item is for information only but will be on the April 21st agenda as an action item at Director Fitzmaurice's request. Cost information will be supplied within the Staff Report to be included in the Add-On Packet.

7-14. ACCEPT AND FILE STATUS REPORT - ROUTE 1W - UNIVERSITY/WALNUT

Summary:

David Konno reported that the Route 1/Walnut information was omitted from the bus stop schedule. Since this is a school term route, this information will be included when University stickers are reposted in September. This information is correct in the *Headways* but not translated onto the bus stop signs. Director Fitzmaurice also mentioned that the bus stop signs are posted too high.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR DIRECTOR BART CAVALLARO

9. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

10. CONSIDERATION OF STATUS REPORT ON FINANCING OF SUMMER BEACH SHUTTLE

Discussion:

Director Rotkin suggested the Transit District compose a letter to the City of Santa Cruz raising concerns about the conflict of the beach shuttle and the bicycle lane. The cost of the shuttle has risen due to unanticipated labor costs plus an additional tripper bus has been added to keep these buses on time. The Boardwalk is assisting with outreach, printed advertising, and coupons. The Chamber of Commerce is not interested in funding this shuttle. Staff is approaching the Downtown Business Association for financial participation.

11. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF SHERYL AINSWORTH TO SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Summary:

This would appoint Sheryl Ainsworth as the representative to the Transportation Commission.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

The Motion passed unanimously with Directors Beautz and Beiers absent.

DIRECTORS BURCH AND FITZMAURICE DEPARTED THE MEETING AT 9:45 A.M.

12. PRESENTATION OF HIGHWAY 17 TRANSPORTATION STUDY DRAFT FINAL REPORT

Summary:

Bryant Baehr reported that there are grammatical changes being made to the Highway 17 Transportation Study Draft Final. Staff will receive an electronic version from the Transportation Commission by the end of this week, hopefully. The consultants will be present at the April 21st meeting to answer any questions the Board may have.

13. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT AB2766 GRANT APPLICATION TO THE AIR DISTRICT FOR CNG FACILITIES

Discussion:

Director Rotkin asked if the Harvey West location has a CNG line like that at the Westside location. Les White will report back at a future date with this information.

14. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO DONATE RIDES FOR SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM

Summary:

Les White reported that this is a program that the Transit District has done in the past. The program will conclude on July 30, 2000 and bus passes are donated to the students who successfully complete the program. Bryant Baehr stated that Staff would work with program coordinators to provide the specific number of passes needed. Director Almquist suggested that part of the reading program should include how to read the *Headways*. Mr. Baehr will discuss this with program coordinator Lauren Suhd.

15. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF BID FOR BUS STOP BICYCLE SECUREMENT EQUIPMENT FUNDED BY MONTEREY BAY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Summary:

David Konno reported that this project consists of improving 35 bus stops with bike securement equipment. This project is 100% funded by the Air District. Staff is recommending awarding the contract to Hannan Specialties, Inc. of Carmichael, California, in the amount of \$17,763.84.

Discussion:

Mr. Konno stated that there is a sticker on the back of each combination bench/bike securement fixture with instructions on how to attach the bikes. Mr. Konno is working with the Marketing Dept. to publish a Release on the bike bench program.

16. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR FURNISHING OF UNIFORMS, FLAT GOODS, AND LAUNDRY SERVICES.

Summary:

In the future, this type of item would be presented on the Consent Agenda. Tom Stickel, Manager of Fleet Maintenance, introduced Lloyd Longnecker who is the District's new Buyer.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Vice-Chairperson Rotkin adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DALE CARR
Administrative Services Coordinator