

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

June 9, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, June 9, 2006 at the District's Administrative Office, 370 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Vice Chair Tavantzis called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Jan Beautz (arrived after roll call)
Michelle Hinkle
Kirby Nicol
Emily Reilly (arrived after roll call)
Mike Rotkin
Dale Skillicorn
Pat Spence
Mark Stone
Marcela Tavantzis

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Dene Bustichi
Mike Keogh
Ex-Officio Wes Scott

STAFF PRESENT

Ciro Agguire, Operations Manager
Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel
Steve Paulson, Paratransit Administrator

Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager
Robyn Slater, Human Resources Manager
Tom Stickel, Maintenance Manager
Les White, General Manager

EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO VOLUNTARILY INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT

Mark Anderson, Capitola Resident
Carolyn Derwing, UTU
George Dondero, SCCRTC
Sandra Lipperd, UTU
Paul Marcelin-Sampson, MAC

Emery Ross, Mgmt Retiree
Paul Schraeder, Mgmt Retiree
Gloria Sushereba, ParaCruz User
Bob Yount, MAC

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Written:

- | | | | |
|----|--------------|-----|-----------------|
| a. | Ken Holstein | Re: | Aptos Bus Stop |
| b. | Jane Simpson | Re: | Soquel Bus Stop |

Oral:

Vice Chair Tavantzis reported that Item #5-16 and Item #14 were identified for action today.

Les White reported that Staff would bring a recommendation to the Board at a later date for the removal of the bus stop referred to in Item #2-a because it is 821 feet from one fully-accessible stop and 862 feet from another fully-accessible stop in front of the Aptos Library.

Mr. White introduced Ciro Aguirre as METRO's new Operations Manager.

Tom Stickel reported that METRO Staff had contacted the County regarding the bus stop referred to in Item #2-b, and learned that sidewalks are part of the Ocean Chevrolet development.

DIRECTOR REILLY ARRIVED

Emery Ross, Management Retiree, stated that he and Paul Schraeder, also a Management Retiree, would be attending every Board meeting until the retiree medical benefit issue was resolved. Mr. Ross said they are willing to work with Staff, but want to see action and requested to meet with Staff prior to the next Board meeting.

Paul Schraeder, Management Retiree, stated that none of his concerns have been directly addressed that he presented to the Board on April 28, 2006 regarding the changes to the retiree medical benefits. Mr. Schraeder offered the following three ideas: 1) The District should continue to provide supplemental payments to retirees to offset medical premiums, as authorized by the Board on October 27, 2000, and continue to issue 1099's each year to the retirees who receive the supplement payments. 2) The District may be in violation of the Brown Act for discussing this non-unionized management issue in direct association with union labor negotiations in Closed Session. 3) Mr. Schraeder requested that the Board treat the retiree's concerns with a higher level of urgency on this issue.

Paul Marcelin-Sampson reported he had attended the last TFTF meeting on Wednesday, which was held in Santa Cruz and had approximately 80 attendees, and that there was nothing new to report.

Mark Anderson, resident of 702 Rosedale Avenue in Capitola, along with a co-owner of the property, requested that a bus stop bench located on their property at the corner of Rosedale and Bay be relocated. They reported that METRO had initially told them the bench would be removed, but then they were told it could not be removed because it would impact the paratransit service area. They questioned who had the authority to install it on private property and what could be done to ameliorate the situation.

Les White and Tom Stickel distributed to the Board a route map and photographs of the stop, which are attached to the file copy of these Minutes. Mr. White said that Staff would return to the Board with a recommendation.

Gloria Shushereba, ParaCruz User, said she knew of three bus stops, which she did not specify, that she feels should be looked at for safety reasons. Ms. Sushereba then read a letter she wrote to Steve Paulson, which is attached to the file copy of these Minutes, in response to his letter of May 4, 2006.

DIRECTOR BEAUTZ ARRIVED

Ms. Sushereba's main concern is that she believes ParaCruz has some illogical rules written in stone and that she feels she should be able to change her mobility device according to the weather.

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

None.

4. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

A Staff Report for Item #14 was distributed at today's meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

5-1. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 14 & 28 AND MAY 12 & 26, 2006

Minutes will be included in the June 23, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

5-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2006

Discussion:

Director Nicol questioned the amount of check #18660 to Dillingham Ticket Co. Mark Dorfman replied that it was for the serialized supply of day passes for each bus and that the cost was competitive. Director Nicol also questioned the amount of check #18750 to Harris & Associates and check #18830 to RNL Design. Mark Dorfman responded that these are the MetroBase Construction Management Firm and the Architectural Firm, respectively. Elisabeth Ross offered to pull these invoices for Director Nicol to review.

5-3. ACCEPT AND FILE MAY 2006 RIDERSHIP REPORT

Pages 1 & 4 of the Ridership Report will be included in the June 23, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

5-4. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: None

5-5. ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) AGENDA FOR JUNE 21, 2006

Discussion:

Vice Chair Tavantzis asked why METRO's Smoking Policy continued to appear on the MAC Agendas. Bob Yount, MAC Chair, responded that MAC would spend quite awhile talking about it.

5-6. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR MARCH 2006 AND APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS

Will be included in the June 23, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

5-7. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR MARCH 2006

Will be included in the June 23, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

5-8. ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2006

Discussion:

Vice Chair Tavantzis commented on the increase in ridership. Steve Paulson explained that it is directly related to the Cabrillo College Stroke Center being in session.

5-9. ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE UPDATE FOR MONTH OF APRIL 2006

Will be included in the June 23, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

5-10. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES REFLECTING VOTING RESULTS FROM APPOINTEES TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR THE MAY 2006 MEETING

Vice Chair Tavantzis apologized for being unable to attend this meeting.

5-11. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT

Chair Rotkin stated that he had not received a single call regarding the pile driving phase.

5-12. ACCEPT AND FILE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STATUS OF METRO'S WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM ONE YEAR AFTER METRO'S TRANSITION TO ITS CURRENT THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR

Will be included in the June 23, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

5-13. CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL OF PROPERTY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR FY 06-07

No questions or comments

5-14. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH CECY INSURANCE SERVICES REPRESENTING STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY FOR EMPLOYEE LIFE & ACCIDENTAL DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE

No questions or comments.

5-15. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIRMING A CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDER FOR ARNTZ BUILDERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$821.69

Director Nicol pointed out a typo in the dollar amount on page #5-15.2, which should be \$821.69 rather than \$891.69.

5-16. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF NAOMI GUNTHER TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) BY DIRECTOR ROTKIN TO FILL VACANCY OF JEFF LE BLANC

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR SKILLICORN

Approve appointment of Naomi Gunther to the METRO Advisory Committee (MAC) as the appointment of Chair Rotkin

Motion passed unanimously with Directors Bustichi and Keogh being absent.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS

This presentation will take place at the June 23, 2006 Board meeting.

7. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING FY 06-07 AND FY 07-08 FINAL BUDGET

Summary:

Elisabeth Ross reported that, as she has stated previously would be the case, the final budget has been updated to reflect year-to-date trends and that expense adjustments have been made after being reviewed as a result of the input received at the public hearing and the budget workshop with the union representatives which were both held in May.

Discussion:

Carolyn Derwing, UTU, requested another meeting with Ms. Ross, who agreed, to review and discuss this final budget because of the many changes from the budget that the union reviewed at the workshop on May 22nd.

George Dondero, SCCRTC, asked how METRO arrived at the Supplemental TDA Allocation figure on page #7.b2. Ms. Ross explained that it is an estimate based on prior years' experiences. Mr. Dondero stated that the RTC has discretion in this area. Les White agreed, but indicated that the TDA surplus issue has a lot of history. Mr. Dondero stated that he understood, but was clarifying the options of the RTC.

8. CONSIDERATION OF RESPONSIVE COMMENTS TO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S (DOT) NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING DATED FEBRUARY 27, 2006 RE REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON OTHER ISSUES

Summary:

Margaret Gallagher reported that on February 27, 2006, the Department of Transportation (DOT), issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) regarding reasonable modification and other issues and is seeking comments regarding its proposal. In April 2006, the METRO Board adopted a letter of comment regarding the "reasonable modification" section of the NPRM. METRO Staff recommends that the Board and the public provide input on the remaining issues section of the NPRM.

Staff gave a PowerPoint presentation and recommended responding to a minimum of two of the eight issues, as several do not directly apply to METRO. Specifically, Staff recommends that for Item #6 METRO urge the DOT to retain the current "common wheelchair" definition regarding the size and weight and require that this definition be passed on to wheelchair users; and for Item #8 that METRO request that a study be performed on the issue of how missed or denied trips should be counted.

Discussion:

The Board concurred with Staff recommendations and after discussing the issues that do not directly apply to METRO, the Board agreed that METRO should issue a general statement at the beginning, without responding to each item individually, indicating that as a public transit provider METRO supports all forms of public transportation to be fully accessible.

9. **CONSIDERATION OF RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PARATRANSIT COORDINATION TASK FORCE**

Will be included in the June 23, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

10. **CONSIDERATION OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE PARACRUZ CUSTOMER GUIDE**

Will be included in the June 23, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

11. **CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR SCHEDULE OPTIMIZATION AND TRAINING IN HASTUS 2006**

Will be included in the June 23, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

12. **CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF AN OPERATING BUDGET FRAMEWORK FOR FY 2007 – FY 2011**

Will be included in the June 23, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

13. **CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF A MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS PLAN FOR FY 2007 – FY 2011**

Will be included in the June 23, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

14. **CONSIDERATION OF DETOUR OPTIONS FOR HIGH STREET CLOSURE DUE TO CONSTRUCTION**

Summary:

Mark Dorfman gave a PowerPoint presentation and reported that High Street is scheduled to be closed from June 19 through October 27, 2006. This project necessitates the need to reduce High Street to one-way traffic westbound only from June 19 through September 15, 2006, with UCSC going back into session the following week.

Staff has determined that the best detour option is to operate a one-way loop up to UCSC, returning on Bay Street to Mission Street inbound with some modification if there is heavy congestion at Bay and Mission in the afternoon.

Staff also requested that the Board authorize letters to be sent to every Public Works department of the cities and county, as well as to Cabrillo and UCSC, requesting that METRO be involved

earlier in the construction planning process going forward so that METRO can fully evaluate options for routing detours.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR STONE

Approve the detour plan necessitated by the westbound High Street closure; Authorize letters be sent to every Public Works department of the cities and county, as well as to Cabrillo and UCSC, requesting that METRO be involved earlier in the construction planning process going forward so that METRO can fully evaluate options for routing detours

Motion passed unanimously with Directors Bustichi and Keogh being absent.

15. REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION: District Counsel

Margaret Gallagher reported that that the Board would have a conference with its Labor Negotiators regarding SEIU, Local 415, and UTU, Local 23, ParaCruz Division; that Item #2 on today's Closed Session Agenda had been deleted; and that the Board would be conducting a Public Employee Performance Evaluation of the District Counsel.

16. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

None.

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chair Tavantzis adjourned to Closed Session at 10:28 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 11:06 a.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

17. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

Chair Rotkin reported that the Board took no reportable action in Closed Session.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Vice Chair Tavantzis adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS
Administrative Services Coordinator