

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

November 10, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, November 10, 2006 at the District's Administrative Office, 370 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Chair Rotkin called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Marcela Tavantzis
Ex-Officio Wes Scott

STAFF PRESENT

Ciro Aguirre, Operations Manager
Frank Cheng, MetroBase Project Manager
Mary Ferrick, Base Superintendent
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

Norm Hagen, MAC
Sandra Lipperd, UTU
Ian McFadden, SEA

Paul Marcelin-Sampson, MAC
Jerry Simpson, Transit User
Bob Yount, MAC

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Written:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a. | David G. Eselius | Re: Diesel vs. CNG |
| b. | Jan van Boeschoten | Re: 1211 River Street |
| c. | Taqueria El Torito | Re: Watsonville Transit Center Lease |

Chair Rotkin stated that Written Communications #2b and #2c would be referred to the next Closed Session.

Oral:

Bob Yount, MAC, reported that he missed the last MAC meeting because it took him five weeks to recover from exposure to cigarette smoke downtown Santa Cruz six weeks ago. Mr. Yount also reported that he was resigning from E&D TAC because he feels his time there is not effective.

Paul Marcelin-Sampson stated that it is apparent by David Eselius' letter that he does not understand the alternative fuel path and agreements METRO has made with CARB. Mr. Marcelin-Sampson suggested that METRO should communicate to the public the progress being made regarding the path METRO is taking. Mr. Marcelin-Sampson also suggested that the Board reconsider how much effort METRO should invest in the TFTF now that several transit funding related ballot measures have passed.

DIRECTOR BEAUTZ ARRIVED

Jerry Simpson, Transit User, reported that he feels that customer complaints are routinely discarded because he had made a recent complaint, another complaint nine years ago, and another 15-page complaint twenty-four years ago, and none were handled to his satisfaction. Mr. Simpson stated that he feels there is no mechanism of accountability in METRO's complaint handling process because the people who sit in this room (Board members and Staff) do not have to ride the bus.

Direction: Chair Rotkin requested a Staff Report on the process METRO uses to handle complaints.

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

None.

4. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

5-1. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10 & 27, 2006

Will be included in the November 17, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

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

No questions or comments.

5-3. ACCEPT AND FILE OCTOBER 2006 RIDERSHIP REPORT

Page 1 of the Ridership Report will be included in the November 17, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

**5-4. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: DENY THE CLAIM OF ESTHER HERNANDEZ, CLAIM #06-0030; (ACTION REQUESTED AT THE NOVEMBER 10, 2006 BOARD MEETING ON CLAIM #06-0030)
DENY THE CLAIM OF CSAA (SUBRO. CHAVEZ), CLAIM #06-0032;
DENY THE CLAIM OF ALAN R. TROTTER, CLAIM #06-0034;
DENY THE CLAIM OF BRUCE L. PRATHER, CLAIM #06-0035**

Summary:

Margaret Gallagher asked that the Board deny the claim of Esther Hernandez, Claim #06-0030, who claims that a METRO bus hit her car and caused moderate damage. The bus operator has been interviewed in this matter and has denied liability.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR REILLY SECOND: DIRECTOR SPENCE

Deny the claim of Esther Hernandez, Claim #06-0030

Motion passed unanimously with Director Tavantzis being absent.

5-5. ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2006. (No Minutes – no September meeting due to lack of quorum)

No questions or comments.

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

Will be included in the November 17, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

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

Will be included in the November 17, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

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

No questions or comments.

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

Will be included in the November 17, 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 SEPTEMBER 2006 MEETING(S)

Discussion:

Director Reilly asked if METRO has a position on the use of “Jake Brakes” on Hwy 17 and if their use affects METRO at all. Sandra Lipperd, UTU, replied that it does not impact METRO’s service but bus operators feel it is safer for trucks to use Jake Brakes on Hwy 17.

5-11. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT

Summary:

Frank Cheng reported that because measure 1B passed, METRO has instructed RNL to repackage the Operations Facility component of the MetroBase project. Ian McFadden, SEA, asked what RNL would be charging METRO for this, in light of the last repackage, which was very expensive. Frank Cheng replied that the amount is unknown right now, but that there would be a cost because RNL has to go through every single detail of the specifications again.

5-12. ACCEPT AND FILE NOTIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION REGARDING CLAIM OF SCOTT TAKEHANA

No questions or comments.

5-13. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH SHAW/YODER FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

No questions or comments.

5-14. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH FOLGER GRAPHICS FOR PRINTING OF HEADWAYS

Discussion:

Director Spence suggested that more cross streets on the Route 35 map be added, as requested at a previous meeting and also requested that a section be added to *Headways* regarding guaranteed back-up service in the event the someone can't board because the priority seating areas are occupied.

Ciro Aguirre responded that it would be too late to make those modifications to this edition, but the requested changes could be considered for the next one. Steve Paulson clarified that current policy is for a bus operator to call in if someone can't board because the priority seating areas are full and, if the next bus to the same destination were more than 30 minutes away, ParaCruz would be dispatched, although the guaranteed back-up service currently in *Headways* refers only to lift failures.

Les White stated that he feels METRO should resume quarterly printing of *Headways* so that corrections or modifications can be made every three months rather than six. Paul Marcelin-Sampson stated that he recommends against changes to the priority seating policy and related information in *Headways* until MAC has had an opportunity to discuss the implications in depth.

Norm Hagen added that he had two recent experiences on a bus when the priority seating areas were occupied and the bus operators handled it very well each time.

5-15. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH CLASSIC GRAPHICS FOR VEHICLE BODY REPAIR AND PAINTING SERVICES

No questions or comments.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS

This presentation will take place at the November 17, 2006 Board meeting.

7. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION ADDING TWO SIGNERS TO THE COMERICA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT FOR THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION TRUST FUND

Summary:

Elisabeth Ross reported that Octagon Risk Services has been acquired by Sedgwick Claims Management Services and that Sedgwick is requesting that two signers be added to the account as a result of the acquisition.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR STONE SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY

Adopt Resolution adding two signers to the Comerica deposit account for the Workers' Compensation Trust Fund

Motion passed by unanimous affirmative voice vote in lieu of a roll call vote with Director Tavantzis being absent.

8. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF PLANNING INTERN CLASS SPECIFICATION

Summary:

Robyn Slater reported that Caltrans awarded a grant to AMBAG to provide funds to METRO, MST and TAMC to hire three Planning Interns. Each intern will work part-time at each of the three agencies for approximately 4 months and then rotate.

Discussion:

There was a discussion about advertising the positions. Chair Rotkin offered to post them at UCSC and Paul Marcelin-Sampson offered to post them on iridethebus.org.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR STONE SECOND: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

Approve a new Class Specification for a Planning Intern position

Motion passed unanimously with Director Tavantzis being absent.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT: NOTIFICATION OF MEETING LOCATION FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2006 – WATSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 250 MAIN STREET, WATSONVILLE

Chair Rotkin announced that the November 17, 2006 Board meeting would be held in Watsonville and noted that it was scheduled one week earlier than normal due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

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

Margaret Gallagher reported that the Board would have a conference with its Legal Counsel regarding one case of existing litigation.

11. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

None.

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Chair Rotkin adjourned to Closed Session at 9:40 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 9:48 a.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

12. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Rotkin adjourned the meeting at 9:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS
Administrative Services Coordinator