

# SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

February 12, 2010

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, February 12, 2010 at the District's Administrative Office located at 110 Vernon Street in Santa Cruz, California.

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

## **SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION**

### **1. ROLL CALL:**

#### **DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Ron Graves  
Donald Hagen  
Michelle Hinkle  
John Leopold  
Ellen Pirie  
Lynn Robinson  
Mike Rotkin

#### **DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Dene Bustichi  
Emilio Martinez  
Mark Stone  
Marcela Tavantzis  
Ex-Officio Donna Blitzer

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Ciro Aguirre, Operations Manager  
Angela Aitken, Finance Manager / Acting AGM  
Pat Aviles, Asst Human Resources Manager  
Frank Cheng, MB Project Manager  
Bob Cotter, Maintenance Manager  
Mary Ferrick, Fixed Route Superintendent

Terry Gale, IT Manager  
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel  
Debbie Kinslow, Asst Finance Manager  
Robyn Slater, Human Resources Manager  
April Warnock, Paratransit Superintendent  
Les White, General Manager

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

John Daugherty, SEA  
Eduardo Montesino, UTU

Bonnie Morr, UTU  
Richard Snow, Campaign for Sensible Transp

### **2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Written:

None.

Oral:

None.

**3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**4. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS**

Angela Aitken distributed two documents for Item #6, which are attached to the file copy of these minutes.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

5-1. None

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**6. DISCUSSION OF THE STATUS OF THE PROJECTED FY10 BUDGET AND PROJECTED FRAMEWORK FOR FY11 & FY12 OPERATING BUDGETS INCLUDING POTENTIAL BUDGET BALANCING OPTIONS**

**Summary:**

Les White reported that the majority leadership in both the State Senate and Assembly would like to have a “budget fix” as part of the Prop 58 forty-five day budget balancing session that will give them carryover funds to go into the FY11 budget to deal with the larger state budget deficit.

Mr. White stated that this directly affects METRO as the FY11 State Budget that the governor has proposed will completely abolish the sales tax on gasoline, which is the financing mechanism for Prop 42, which provides 40% to the local cities and counties for local streets and roads, 40% to the regional transportation planning agencies like the SCCRTC for STIP projects, and 20% going to the Public Transportation Account for the State Transit Assistance (STA) Program – those funds would be eliminated.

Mr. White explained that the “official” reason this is being proposed is that if the gas tax is replaced with fixed gallonage excise tax, that could happen with a majority vote of the State Legislature rather than a two thirds vote because it is replacing a tax with a tax and is revenue neutral. However, the “real” reason is that excise taxes on gasoline are not covered under the jurisdiction of the Third District Appellate Court and can be diverted to the state’s General Fund.

Angela Aitken referred to the documents distributed at today’s meeting, which are attached to the file copy of these minutes, and explained in more detail how the loss of state funding would directly impact METRO, including the elimination of several jobs, Fixed Route and ParaCruz service reductions, fare increases, and the suspension of all capital projects.

7. **ORAL ANNOUNCEMENT: NOTIFICATION OF MEETING LOCATION FOR FEBRUARY 26, 2010 – WATSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 275 MAIN STREET, WATSONVILLE**

Vice Chair Robinson announced that the February 26, 2010 Board Meeting would be held at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Watsonville.

8. **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 the workers compensation claim of Rita Gentry.

9. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION**

Vice Chair Robinson adjourned to Closed Session at 10:22 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 10:31 a.m.

**SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

10. **REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Vice Chair Robinson stated that there was no reportable action taken in Closed Session.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Vice Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS  
Administrative Services Coordinator