

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
AMENDED BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 2015 – 9:00 AM
WATSONVILLE CITY CHAMBERS
809 CENTER STREET
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) was convened on Friday, February 27, 2015, at the Watsonville City Chambers located at 275 Main Street in Watsonville, CA.

The Board Meeting Agenda Packet can be found online at www.SCMTD.com and is available for inspection at Santa Cruz Metro's Administrative offices at 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz, California.

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SECTION I: OPEN SESSION

1 CALL TO ORDER at 9:02A by Chair Bustichi

2 ROLL CALL: The following Directors were **present**, representing quorum:

Director Ed Bottorff	City of Capitola
Director Dene Bustichi, Chair	City of Scotts Valley
Director Karina Cervantez	City of Watsonville
Director Cynthia Chase	City of Santa Cruz
Director Jimmy Dutra	City of Watsonville
Director Zach Friend	County of Santa Cruz
Director Deborah Lane	County of Santa Cruz
Director Don Lane	City of Santa Cruz
Director John Leopold	County of Santa Cruz
Director Bruce McPherson	County of Santa Cruz
Director Mike Rotkin	County of Santa Cruz
Ex-Officio Director Donna Blitzer	UC Santa Cruz

STAFF PRESENT:

Alex Clifford, CEO
Leslyn Syren, General Counsel

METRO EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO VOLUNTARILY INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER) WERE:

Heather Adamson, AMBAG	Al Pierce, METRO
Angela Aitken, METRO	Will Regan, SEIU
Erron Alvey, METRO	Suzanne Silva, METRO
Grace Blakeslee, SCCRTC	Robyn Slater, METRO
Carolyn Derwing, METRO	Chris Sullivan, METRO
Maria Granados Boyce, METRO	Aiden Tapiz
Liseth Guizar, METRO	Tony Tapiz
Thomas Hiltner, METRO	Becky Taylor, Comm. on Disabilities
Louise Keller, METRO	April Warnock, METRO
Debbie Kinslow, METRO	Daniel Zaragoza, METRO

3 ELECT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR / SCCRTC AND AD HOC PACIFIC STATION REDESIGN APPOINTEES

(Moved to Item 4 in the Open Session at the request of Chair Bustichi and consent of the Board)

Chair Bustichi read the submitted nominee slates.

Director Dutra added the following slate for Board member consideration:

- SCCRTC Representatives: Ed Bottorff, Dene Bustichi and Lynn Robinson (as public representative)
- SCCRTC Alternates: Karina Cervantez, Mike Rotkin and Deborah Lane

Director Dutra requested that each nominee provide a statement on their behalf.

Chair Bustichi relayed his past experience with the SCCRTC and appreciates the concern regarding the rail line/train expense versus use. He believes HOV lanes towards Watsonville are an important component and that the tax measure: can be supportive dependent on how it is ultimately presented. He cautioned focus towards a significant component for METRO.

Director Cervantez noted the visible disinvestment in transportation on Highway 1 during commute hours. She has pushed for alternate modes of transportation and trail development.

Director Bottorff believes in the ability to tie the pedestrian and rail trails together, citing the opening of the La Selva Bridge. An RTC and METRO partnership is essential for tax measure to improve transportation options in Santa Cruz County.; i.e., an HOV lane and alternative transportation are both needed.

Director Rotkin noted that he is on both submitted slates so will save his speech for a later time.

Director Deborah Lane spoke as a member of marginalized community. She is interested in supporting METRO and the sales tax initiative. She does not support Highway 1 widening.

ACTION: MOTION TO ACCEPT THE SCCRTC SLATE AS PRESENTED BY DIRECTOR LEOPOLD

MOTION: DIRECTOR LEOPOLD SECONDED: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

MOTION PASSED WITH 6 AYES (Directors Bottorff, Cervantez, Dutra, Deborah Lane, Don Lane, Leopold and Rotkin), OPPOSED (Directors Bustichi, Friend, Leopold and McPherson) Director Chase was absent.

Director Rotkin clarified the alternate process.

Director Leopold noted that there will be seven METRO Board members will be on RTC committee.

ACTION: MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AD HOC PACIFIC STATION REDESIGN SLATE AS PRESENTED BY CHAIR BUSTICHI WITH THE ADDITION OF DIRECTOR McPHERSON (OVERSIGHT IN LAST MEETING)

MOTION: DIRECTOR DON LANE SECONDED: CHAIR BUSTICHI

MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bustichi, Bottorff, Cervantez, Dutra, Friend, Deborah Lane, Don Lane, Leopold, McPherson, and Rotkin) Director Chase was absent.

4 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION FOR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

(Moved to Item 3 in the Open Session at the request of Chair Bustichi and consent of the Board)

Chair Bustichi requested that Agenda Item 4, Consideration of Resolutions of Appreciation for Outgoing Board Members, be moved up to Open Session Item 3. Chair Bustichi read one resolution which broadly applied to all five outgoing board members with the same effective retirement date of December 2014 and had the following comments applicable to individual Board members:

Outgoing Director Hilary Bryant served December 2010 to 2014. She was an active member, a great colleague who served the City of Santa Cruz and the entire METRO district. Her tenure as Mayor of Santa Cruz included the death of 2 police officers. Chair Bustichi thanked her for her service and dedication.

Outgoing Director Daniel Dodge served from January 2011 to December 2014. He represented Watsonville and its constituents and was involved with APTA and healthy eating options nationwide

Outgoing Director Ron Graves represented the City of Capitola and had been the longest serving commissioner on 2 separate occasions. His common sense approach was appreciated by many.

Outgoing Director Michelle Hinkle has been METRO's longest serving member. She spoke with patience and heart to ensure people who needed METRO's service had an opportunity to use it.

Outgoing Director Lynn Robinson served 2008 to 2014. She and Chair Bustichi created a bond as Mayors of Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz who were politically aligned with common interests in METRO.

ACTION: MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION FOR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS BRYANT, DODGE, GRAVES, HINKLE AND ROBINSON AS PRESENTED

MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECONDED: DIRECTOR McPHERSON

MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bustichi, Bottorff, Cervantez, Dutra, Friend, Deborah Lane, Don Lane, Leopold, McPherson, and Rotkin) Director Chase was absent.

The outgoing Board members had the following comments:

Lynn Robinson, former City of Santa Cruz Mayor, thanked the Board and the assembly. She was very impressed. She expressed particular appreciation for Directors Hinkle and Graves for their years of working together and to Chair Bustichi as Chair and Vice Chair. It was hard work but they accomplished many good things. Thank you to the METRO employees, staff and bus operators. She would be pleased to serve on the Pacific Station Ad Hoc Committee.

Outgoing Director Michelle Hinkle wished the new Board members the best of luck with the heavy lifting required in terms of board packet weight.

Outgoing Director Hilary Bryant thanked everyone for their service; appreciates it as a member of the community. It was a great honor to serve on the METRO board.

Outgoing Director Ron Graves was proud to have served many times on the METRO Board, going back to the 1989 earthquake, through 3 General Managers. The challenge remains enticing new riders to get out of their cars.

Outgoing Director Daniel Dodge expressed his thanks to the Board and staff; it has been his pleasure and honor to advocate on behalf of the ADA community. METRO service has provided him with many opportunities throughout his life.

Director Leopold expressed his appreciation to outgoing Director Graves who taught him about transit when he first joined the board; he appreciated his leadership and mentorship.

Director Rotkin added that as a new Board member, he and the others have big shoes to fill.

Chair Bustichi opened the floor for public comment.

Eduardo Montesino, representing UTU/ParaCruz Operators, thanked the outgoing board members on behalf of the METRO family for their service. He stressed there still exists a need their advocacy and partnership.

Manny Martinez, SEIU Representative, echoed Mr. Montesino's sentiments for continued Board support.

Carolyn Derwing, SEIU-SEA President, echoed the prior comments and recognizes the difficult decisions sometimes required of the Board members.

Will Regan, VMU Representative, thanked the Board of keeping the buses on the street.

Tony Tapiz, Watsonville resident, thanked former Director Hinkle for her service and METRO for sending him to Leadership Santa Cruz.

Norm Hagen, former METRO Board member, current member of the E&DTAC and MAC, thanked those he served with. As a rider, he believes in the METRO system and thanks the drivers for their courtesy.

5 SCCIC ANNUAL MEETING @ 10:00A

METRO BOARD MEETING RECESSED AT 10:02A FOR ITEM 5, SCCIC ANNUAL MEETING

METRO BOARD MEETING RECONVENED AT 10:11A

6 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Bustichi announced that Spanish language interpretation is being provided by Carlos Landaverry for any agenda item which may require his services. Mr. Landaverry approached the podium and, in English and Spanish, introduced himself and alerted attendees as to his position in the Chambers.

Chair Bustichi added that today's meeting is being broadcast by Community Television of Santa Cruz County. Today's technician is Mike Oliphant.

Chair Bustichi announced that General Counsel Syren requested pulling Item 10-02, Notice of Actions Taken in Closed Session.

Chair Bustichi highlighted the additional documentation which was available at each Board member's seat and at the rear of the room for public viewing.

7 COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- February 19, 2015 Letter from the METRO Advisory Committee (MAC) regarding Concerns About the Process of Dissolution of BSAC and METRO Staff response to MAC

Chair Bustichi opened the microphone to attendees for announcements at 10:22A. .

Veronica Elsea, MAC Chair, said that the MAC members voted at their 2/18/15 meeting to submit a letter regarding their concerns related to the dissolution of the BSAC (Bus Safety Advisory Committee). She urged the Board to read and consider carefully their input. She was concerned that the Board hadn't received adequate time to review its contents as the METRO Staff intercepted letter and withheld it to include their response in today's packet.

She added that MAC hadn't seen a response until today. In conclusion, she urged the Board to place this item on the agenda to ensure timely and fair input from public.

Felipa de Leon, Watsonville resident of Independent Square, spoke regarding the letter she received on Wednesday about the public meeting. She requested that METRO's CEO provide a presentation at Independent Square and other locations.

Becky Taylor, a member of the bus riding public, stated that decisions to cut service are personal. In fact, in 2004, she chose her residence due to its proximity to the bus line. She asked the Board to remember people like her when considering choices.

Norm Hagen, MAC member, noted that their committee currently has three open positions and asked that those be filled as quickly at the next Board meeting.

Director Deborah Lane relayed her interaction with CEO Clifford regarding the Route 68 and 6 posters, press releases and the La Posada loop and urged oversight on press releases and posters going forward. She noted that the Senior Commission would be submitting a letter to the Board next month.

Chair Bustichi stated he believed Staff took the appropriate action concerning the MAC letter and their response and that no further action is required by the board at this time.

8 LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Bustichi opened the microphone to the assembly.

Eduardo Montesino, representing UTU/ParaCruz Operators, expressed his concerns regarding the dissolving of Route 6 and relocation of the bus stop. There are safety concerns involved in the merging of Route 69. He asked that a sign be posted alerting riders as to the new bus stop location.

CONSENT AGENDA

10-01 CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS

10-02 NOTICE OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Consent Agenda Item 10-02 pulled at the request of General Counsel Syren.

10-03 ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF THE SANTA CRUZ METRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2015

Director Deborah Lane requested a change to Page 10-03A.7, 2nd paragraph: Staff to correct to read, "Director Deborah Lane ~~expressed her opinion of~~ **asked a question** regarding the powers ...".

ACTION: MOTION TO ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF THE SANTA CRUZ METRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2015 WITH THE CHANGE REQUESTED BY DIRECTOR DEBORAH LANE

MOTION: DIRECTOR DEBORAH LANE SECONDED: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bustichi, Bottorff, Cervantez, Dutra, Friend, Deborah Lane, Don Lane, Leopold, McPherson, and Rotkin) Director Chase was absent.

10-04 ACCEPT AND FILE METRO SYSTEM RIDERSHIP REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2014

10-05 ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2014

In response to Director Rotkin's observation regarding the change in "ready window" statistics on page 10-05A.1, April Warnock, Paratransit Superintendent, noted that last year's manual entries were more prone to error. Today's automatic system tracks this statistic. METRO remains committed to working toward obtaining better statistics through the new system which allows GPS tracking. Director Rotkin noted that the rides are within the "ready window" and expressed his appreciation for the commitment to more accuracy.

ACTION: MOTION TO ACCEPT AND FILE METRO PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2014

MOTION: DIRECTOR LEOPOLD SECONDED: DIRECTOR McPHERSON

MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bustichi, Bottorff, Cervantez, Dutra, Friend, Deborah Lane, Don Lane, Leopold, McPherson, and Rotkin) Director Chase was absent.

10-06 ACCEPT AND FILE STATUS REPORT OF ACTIVE GRANTS AND SUBMITTED GRANT PROPOSALS FOR FEBRUARY 2015

10-07 SPONSORSHIP OF LEADERSHIP SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Director Deborah Lane hears good things about the program but has concerns regarding the participants. She would appreciate a later discussion to permit all METRO employees the opportunity to participate.

Carolyn Derwing, SEIU-SEA President, agreed that it is a good program which should be open to employees other than management; she believes the restriction is imposed by CEO. This agenda item reads such that it would no longer appear before the Board. She believes the public should know how many and which employees are participating in Leadership Santa Cruz as well as the cost of the donated bus. She questioned why the change was being proposed.

Chair Bustichi noted that that the CEO/General Manager had been hired to make decisions on behalf of METRO staff. Board members should not be making decisions for individual staff members; doing so would be a disservice to the CEO. He agrees with the idea to keep this as a line item on the budget rather than a specific agenda item as it streamlines the process and staff time.

CEO Clifford echoed Chair Bustichi's statements. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for respecting his ability in the process noting that this process is similar to the APTA process wherein commitments against workload, etc. are carefully considered and asked the Board to continue allowing him to make this type of decision

Director Deborah Lane objected to Chair Bustichi's comments. She asked, "Is the Board becoming a ceremonial function?" She opposes allowing the CEO to make this decision and would like to see any METRO employee apply for participation.

Director Cervantez noted the importance of such opportunities for professional development.

Director Rotkin noted there is nothing which limits the decision to management participation. It is a great, well structured program. We must continue to be mindful of public budget responsibilities.

ACTION: MOTION TO ACCEPT THE STAFF REPORT AS PRESENTED REGARDING LEADERSHIP SANTA CRUZ WITH AN ANNUAL REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE CEO/GENERAL MANAGER NOTING PARTICIPATING EMPLOYEES

MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECONDED: DIRECTOR BOTTORFF

MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bustichi, Bottorff, Cervantez, Dutra, Friend, Don Lane, Leopold, McPherson, and Rotkin) and ONE NAY (Director Deborah Lane) Director Chase was absent.

10-08 CONSIDER A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE CEO AS THE AUTHORIZED AGENT TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR CAP & TRADE FUNDS

Director McPherson requested item 10.8 move to the General Agenda as Item 1 due to its importance to the Watsonville community.

Director McPherson requested a summation of the resolution. Tom Hiltner, Grant / Legislative Analyst, explained the options in further detail.

Director Dutra asked questions regarding the use of available space as appropriate for the local population. CEO Clifford explained the improvements, the addition of the customer service space and an onsite police substation. General Counsel Syren added that we are currently in the design phase for a remodel of the Watsonville Transit Center.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH AGENDA ITEMS 10-03, 10-05 and 10-07 PULLED FROM CONSENT AND MOVED TO THE REGULAR AGENDA

MOTION: DIRECTOR DEBORAH LANE SECONDED: DIRECTOR LEOPOLD

MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bustichi, Bottorff, Cervantez, Dutra, Friend, Deborah Lane, Don Lane, Leopold, McPherson, and Rotkin). Director Chase was absent.

REGULAR AGENDA

11 PARACRUZ COMMENDATIONS FOR RAMONA NANCE, PARATRANSIT OPERATOR, AND CHRIS SULLIVAN, PARATRANSIT SUPERVISOR

ACTION: MOTION TO RESCHEDULE THE PARACRUZ COMMENDATIONS FOR RAMONA NANCE, PARATRANSIT OPERATOR, AND CHRIS SULLIVAN, PARATRANSIT SUPERVISOR TO THE MARCH 27, 2015 BOARD MEETING

**MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECONDED: DIRECTORS DEBORAH AND DON LANE
MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bustichi, Bottorff, Cervantez, Dutra, Friend,
Deborah Lane, Don Lane, Leopold, McPherson, and Rotkin). Director Chase was absent.**

**12 CONSIDERATION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
SANTA CRUZ METRO AND THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ FOR PACIFIC STATION
DEVELOPMENT FACILITATION SERVICES**

Tom Hiltner, Grants/Legislative Analyst, elaborated on the modifications to the MOU for the roles in managing and developing Pacific Station, providing the history of the project and the relationship between METRO and the City of Santa Cruz.

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
SANTA CRUZ METRO AND THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ FOR PACIFIC STATION
DEVELOPMENT FACILITATION SERVICES**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR McPHERSON SECONDED: DIRECTORS ROTKIN AND DON LANE
MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bustichi, Bottorff, Cervantez, Dutra, Friend,
Deborah Lane, Don Lane, Leopold, McPherson, and Rotkin). Director Chase was absent.**

13 CEO TO GIVE ORAL REPORT

Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager, asked to consolidate his oral report with Item 14.

**14 CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON FARE
AND SERVICE RESTRUCTURING OF HIGHWAY 17 EXPRESS & PARATRANSIT**

Maria Granados Boyce, Customer Service Supervisor, April Warnock, Paratransit Superintendent, and CEO Clifford outlined METRO's participation in the public meetings around the subject, noting where and when materials were distributed, outstanding Staff contributions and efforts, etc. A system-wide restructure is overdue but it's a long process and may occur in the future. A line item in the budget will be brought forward with the FY16 & FY17 budget.

Director Rotkin referred to a District study of the routes undertaken in the early 2000s. CEO Clifford responded that he would look for this referenced document.

General Counsel Syren provided Federal regulation clarification regarding ParaCruz fare restructuring at Director Deborah Lane's request.

In response to Board member questions, CEO Clifford highlighted the final slide which summarizes all of the proposals and asked for approval to move forward with an April 10, 2015 public hearing at the Santa Cruz City Chambers.

Chair Bustichi reminded the Board that the only decision today was to set a public hearing.

**ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON
FARE AND SERVICE RESTRUCTURING OF HIGHWAY 17 EXPRESS AND
PARATRANSIT**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECONDED: DIRECTOR DON LANE
MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bustichi, Bottorff, Cervantez, Dutra, Friend,
Deborah Lane, Don Lane, Leopold, McPherson, and Rotkin). Director Chase was absent.**

Discussion among the Directors continued with requests for morning and evening hearings in South County and in Santa Cruz.

Chair Bustichi opened the floor to public comment:

Norm Hagen believes that change is necessary. ParaCruz has been a gift of the county to everyone. He does, however, take exception to the idea of not providing service when the buses don't run; using the MAC meetings which end at 8:00P as an example. He is concerned for elderly women's safety and would like to see an option for those outside the service area. Director Rotkin and Mr. Hagen to continue this discussion after the meeting.

Becky Taylor, member of Commission on Disabilities, said that the Commission is opposed to holding any public hearings on any change in service, access routes and Paratransit at any location that is not easily accessible to persons with disabilities. She thanked the Board for moving the public hearing to the City of Santa Cruz Chambers.

Eduardo Montesino, representing UTU/ParaCruz Operators, said that the public didn't fully understand the first option. He encouraged staff to double-check Title VI requirements.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARINGS ON FARE AND SERVICE RESTRUCTURING OF HIGHWAY 17 EXPRESS AND PARATRANSIT ON APRIL 10, 2015 AT 9:00A IN THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ CHAMBERS AND TO CONTINUE THE HEARING AT 6:30P IN THE WATSONVILLE CITY CHAMBERS (IF AVAILABLE). THE APRIL 24, 2015 BOARD MEETING WILL BE CANCELLED.

MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECONDED: DIRECTORS DON & DEBORAH LANE MOTION PASSED WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bustichi, Bottorff, Cervantez, Dutra, Friend, Deborah Lane, Don Lane, Leopold, McPherson, and Rotkin). Director Chase was absent.

15 REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION
None per Leslyn Syren, District Counsel

16 Chair Bustichi announced the next meeting is Friday, March 13, 2015 AT 8:30 AM, Santa Cruz Metro Admin Offices, 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz

17 ADJOURNMENT
Chair Bustichi adjourned at 11:32A

Pursuant to Section 54954.2(a)(1) of the Government Code of the State of California, this agenda was posted at least 72 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting at a public place freely accessible to the public 24 hours a day. The agenda packet and materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Board of Directors after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Santa Cruz METRO Administrative Office (110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz) during normal business hours. Such documents are also available on the Santa Cruz METRO website at www.scmtd.com subject to staff's ability to post the document before the meeting.