

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

METRO PUBLIC HEARING
FORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016

LOCATION: Bonny Doon Elementary School
 1492 Pine Flat Road
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

REPORTED BY: William T. McBride, CSR #2667

1 Santa Cruz, California

2 Friday, May 13, 2016

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4 MR. LEN HARTKEMEIER: (4:36 p.m.)

5 Len Hartkemeier, and I am mainly here about the
6 41 and 42 bus lines. I use the 41 regularly, and I
7 think as much service has to be maintained as can be.
8 The principle information I want to deliver in this
9 testimony is that the 3:30 in the afternoon run, 41, is
10 virtually always full, oftentimes, five or six bicycles,
11 UC Santa Cruz students, high school students going home,
12 teachers from the Bay View Elementary, a whole
13 collection of retired and business people.

14 So I think it's a very important run to be able
15 to return people and not have to wait until the end of
16 the afternoon.

17 I would love to see the second bus in the
18 morning be maintained, but I know that its occupancy is
19 not high. So I think it would be good to keep those 41
20 and 42 buses as good ways of breaking up one's day and
21 not having to stay the entire day in Santa Cruz.

22 The other thing I wanted to say is there are a
23 number of people, both Santa Cruz students and teachers,
24 who only have one or two classes a day and would like to
25 be able to get home and not kill an entire day. So they

1 would like to see a midday run, 12:30 or 1:00, something
2 like that, that allowed them to get home after they had
3 done their classes or a little bit of shopping and not
4 have to wait until 3:30.

5 That's about all I have to say.

6 (End of comments.)

7 WENDELL COTTON: (4:38 p.m.) I'm Wendell
8 Cotton, and I haven't ridden the bus for a couple of
9 years now, but there were times when I would take the
10 bus down in the morning, 41, to take -- the Palo Alto VA
11 maintains a bus line for veterans that probably
12 originates somewhere, but one of the stops is the
13 Veterans Memorial Building or right across the street
14 from it, about 9:40 in the morning. I can make that
15 okay. But on the way home, it stops again in the
16 afternoon to where if I try to get to the Metro station
17 to catch the 41, I miss it by seconds. And it was very
18 frustrating, because I was literally jogging to get to
19 the Metro station from down where the Veterans Memorial
20 Building is, and I'm sure there is enough veterans
21 around that would appreciate being able to make a Metro
22 bus connection. And then if you miss it, then you have
23 to wait for the second bus. That may not be a problem
24 here in the future, but that would be my -- that is my
25 main concern is if I wanted to take the bus over to Palo

1 Alto VA, I would have to wait rather than catching the
2 bus that is immediately leaving, and there doesn't seem
3 to be any coordination there. Maybe if, you know, if it
4 stayed just five minutes later, I would have been able
5 to catch the bus and do it without running and, you
6 know.

7 So that's my major point and comment. I think
8 with the proposed changes that might not be an issue
9 anymore. But if they still maintained two lines or two
10 41 lines in the afternoon, that would be a concern with
11 me.

12 (End of comments.)

13 MR. JOEL KUBBY: (5:18 p.m.) Joel Kubby. So
14 I'm here to discuss the proposed service reduction. I
15 ride the 41, and I've been riding it since 2008, and I
16 commute to UC Santa Cruz, so I take the 8:30 a.m. run,
17 and I come home on the 5:30 p.m. run. Both of those are
18 planned to be cut. So they are going to change the 41
19 down to one trip a day at 5:50 a.m.

20 So what I'd like to know is how they came up
21 with those times, because they wouldn't work for me, and
22 they also wouldn't work for the Santa Cruz High School
23 students. The Santa Cruz High School students get out,
24 the fourth period class at 3:15 p.m., and they are
25 proposing that they take the 2:30 p.m. 42 bus. They

1 don't go in to school until 8:00 a.m. and the 5:50 -- if
2 they took the 5:50 a.m. bus to get into school, they
3 will be waiting an hour before class.

4 So my proposal is to average the times. So
5 right now, 41 -- I'd like to keep the service, in
6 general, but that is probably not going to happen. So
7 they have got a bus leaving at 5:50 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.,
8 so basically six and eight, so I'd say make that one
9 leave at seven and then you have got one leaving in the
10 afternoon at 3:30 and 5:30, so make that one 4:30.

11 So average the two times and keep the service,
12 instead of one trip, two trips. So then the high school
13 students would be able to take it and the middle school
14 students, they also -- middle school starts at 8:00 a.m.
15 The Mission people, their's start at 8:00 a.m. So they
16 are going to wait around an hour for class to start if
17 they take the 5:50 bus. So their proposals don't work
18 for me and I don't think they make sense to the people
19 who they say they are trying to serve, Bonny Doon and
20 Santa Cruz High School.

21 That's my comment. Oh -- and let's see. I
22 think I would like to see the CEO of the Metro work on
23 fundraising, rather than cutting his way to a balanced
24 budget, I would like to see him go out and solicit
25 funds. The mission of the Santa Cruz Metro is personal

1 mobility and sustainability. They have not received any
2 funding for either of those two causes. I went online
3 and searched for funding for those causes and there is
4 all sorts of California funding for personal mobility
5 and sustainability.

6 So I would like to see the CEO of the Metro go
7 out and raise funding for the mission of the Santa Cruz
8 Metro.

9 (End of comments.)

10 MS. LAURA PARKS: (5:23 p.m.) So I'm Laura and
11 I'm Joel's mate, and he just talked, and Joel is a
12 faculty member at UCSC, he failed to mention that. So
13 that is pretty important. He goes in five days a week.
14 There is a bicycle/bus commuter in the interest of
15 sustainability. We'd like to keep that up. What is
16 going to happen, either he will need to take his car all
17 the time or we'll have to figure out a way to get -- in
18 the morning, I could drive him to work every morning and
19 then he could take the bus home maybe -- oh, you can't
20 do that with the current plan. Never mind. I would
21 have to take him to work and pick him up, too. So it's
22 going to affect my lifestyle, too. And one more car on
23 the road and there are a lot of accidents. Yeah. We
24 don't need more cars. Okay.

25 (End of comments.)

1 MS. SINGNE COE: (5:37 p.m.) Singne Coe is my
2 name, and I live in Bonny Doon. I was thinking that if
3 we had maybe just one route, but it made a circle to
4 Davenport, up to Bonny Doon and down to Santa Cruz, that
5 would eliminate the need for two up-and-back type
6 routes. So if, say in the morning, the bus could pick
7 up school kids, went to Davenport, then up to Bonny
8 Doon, up to Pine Flat or Empire Grade and down the
9 mountain, that would just be one back-and-forth bus trip
10 and maybe that would allow for more bus trips of that
11 nature. So instead of up and back twice, circle routes.
12 So perhaps that way there could be a later run in the
13 morning to not only -- there could be a run in the early
14 morning to pick up students for school that would make a
15 circle. Then there would be another run that would be
16 possible a little later in the morning for people who go
17 to work or need to go do errands downtown or something
18 like that at a later hour. So that would allow two
19 trips in the morning instead of one. Then maybe even if
20 the route were always that circle route, maybe that
21 would allow even for a further route, for the same cost
22 that is projected on the schedule.

23 (End of comments.)

24 MS. DEBORAH SMITH: (6:42 p.m.) Deborah Smith,
25 and I want an evening commute ride home. The 5:30 bus

1 is what I take now, Number 41, and an 8:30 replacement
2 would be too late to hang out for three and a half hours
3 after work, so I would like something closer to
4 6:00 p.m., 6:30.

5 That's it.

6 (End of comments.)

7 MS. MICAELA MUSSELL: (6:55) The main thing I
8 want is the 5:30 bus, because when I go to school and
9 when I'm coming back, a lot of my classes tend to end
10 around 2:30 or 3:00 and I can't get back to the Metro in
11 time for the 3:30 bus, which is being proposed for like
12 the only one. Other than the really late one. So if
13 the 5:30 bus is there I can at least get home, not like
14 at 9:30 or 10:00, or really, really late, because the
15 only bus in the morning would be at about 8:00 or 8:30,
16 so that would be like a 13-hour day, which I would
17 prefer not to have to be in town for an extra four
18 hours, if possible. So the 5:30 bus is the main thing
19 that I really want to have back or to have added later
20 at some point.

21 Other than that, I think the morning bus they
22 are imposing is fine. Even though I'm used to another
23 bus being later, I understand that they have to cut
24 things and I can still take the earlier bus, so the main
25 thing I just want is the 5:30 bus to definitely happen,

1 if possible. And that's about it.

2 (End of comments.)

3 MS. RACHEL GOODMAN: (6:57) My name is Rachel
4 Goodman, and I've been living here for 22 years in Bonny
5 Doon. I have two grandchildren, one of whom you just
6 spoke to, who goes to Cabrillo, but the whole time I've
7 been in Bonny Doon since my children were in high
8 school, the first one, which has been about 10 years or
9 11, they have always taken the bus to go to school, and
10 I realize living in a rural area, we won't get the kind
11 of service city folks get, but there are working folks
12 here and when our cars break down, we are really stuck.
13 So I would like to have a 5:30 bus for the working
14 people here, I have people I know who go to work in the
15 morning and they come home at 5:00, and so it's going to
16 be a handicap for them to stay another three hours in
17 town. There have been times that I have had no car and
18 I felt very isolated here and have to wait in town for
19 hours. So the 5:30 bus would help.

20 The other comment I want to make is weekends.
21 I understand why you have to make cuts, but have any
22 more possible service on weekends will help young people
23 who do not drive. One of the biggest issues here are
24 dangerous drivers and lots of cars on the road, so
25 clearly for us, every car that does not get on the road

1 like, for example, my daughter is considering getting a
2 car because of this cut. And if she has enough service
3 she won't buy one and there is one less car and perhaps
4 one less accident on the road. It's more a plea for the
5 planet also our way of life here not being so car
6 dependent that we have no other choice. We don't have
7 horses -- some people do, but they don't ride them to
8 town. Thank you.

9 (End of comments.)

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