

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

METRO PUBLIC MEETING

FORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

May 10, 2016

Boulder Creek Library

13390 W. Park Avenue, Boulder Creek, CA 95006

1 MARK ROMKEE: As a I explained to the gentleman
2 over there, I have a number of concerns. One, the late
3 night bus, the 17 coming over the hill, and the last 35
4 that meet in Scotts Valley, there's a five-minute
5 difference in their schedules. And they're always good
6 about holding the 35, but that's one of the areas he's
7 looking to tie up to make the system a little smoother.
8 And I just wanted to emphasize the importance to
9 disabled persons of those late night buses.

10 That last bus, I would rather it take a little
11 longer just to make sure that everybody can get home
12 safely, because I went to school in Santa Clara, over
13 the hill. So when a friend comes home to visit, we have
14 pizza night and everybody gets together, you know, 35,
15 36 years later, which is neat.

16 And by being able to get on that last bus, I
17 can put everyone from pizza to Milpitas, or Sunnyvale,
18 and Cupertino and take the 17 bus over the hill and
19 still get the 35 connection at the Cavallaro Center.
20 That's the transit stop in Scotts Valley. And that way,
21 the bus can hook up and I can get home safely.

22 And I just want to see them leave the early and
23 late buses all intact as much as possible. Especially
24 as a disabled person, the early bus is essential to my
25 nutrition. Because if I have to go to Scotts Valley to

1 afford groceries and I get on a bus at 10 o'clock in the
2 morning, it's 70 degrees, my milk isn't going to get
3 home in good shape. So I have to get on the 5:30 bus
4 and get my groceries when it's 52 degrees outside. And
5 that's very important. So those early morning buses are
6 very important to people, the disabled folks like me,
7 who do our shopping. We need to get our perishable
8 groceries home and be able to afford them.

9 I'm concerned also at the proposal to stop
10 going up Glen Arbor Road. I understand the school buses
11 will still do that, so that's good. But there are
12 people up that road who would have a three-mile walk in
13 some cases to get to a bus stop now. And I think it's a
14 seven-minute -- something like seven minutes'
15 difference. And I hate to see anybody inconvenienced to
16 that kind of a walk, especially being disabled.

17 They've already cut back on the disabled
18 paratransit and made the cost really not effective for
19 most of those of us who are on a fixed income. And so
20 it forces me to walk further and take fewer buses
21 because there aren't as many buses.

22 So I am concerned about that.

23 I am also -- had mentioned to him that the 17
24 inbound, when it goes along in Scotts Valley, there is
25 no backtrack on I believe they call it 35A. And it goes

1 up to the school, but then it doesn't come back. Yet
2 the 17 comes down that way. And I have had drivers see
3 me and recognize me and stop and pick me up, even though
4 technically they're not supposed to. And that's
5 something they could consider, combining a part of that
6 route to help those of us. Because there's Palo Alto
7 Medical Foundation Center there with primary care
8 doctors. And you get one way up and then a mile and a
9 half walk back without that bus.

10 So that would be a very helpful thing to
11 consider as far as melding routes together to help them
12 from that angle.

13 Otherwise, as far as the 35, which is my
14 primary bus, I can understand some late morning and mid
15 afternoon cuts. I would caution, though, once again,
16 for those of us who go to doctor's appointments
17 regularly -- I have to see a doctor every three months
18 for the rest of my life. And I schedule in the early
19 morning so I can get there. I'm always at least 20 to
20 40 minutes early. And because of the bus schedule --
21 and if we have less buses and I have a 10 o'clock
22 appointment, I'm realistically probably going to have to
23 be at the doctor's office an hour to an hour and a half
24 early, and I may have to spend an extra hour and hour
25 and half to Ocean and Water. But I probably would have

1 to spend extra time at the corner of Ocean and Water
2 trying to catch the 35 home as well, because they would
3 cut out part of those buses.

4 So I am concerned, as a disabled person who is
5 54. Without the school buses during school, especially
6 during the summer, when it gets hot, we don't need to be
7 sitting out in the sun. Disabled folks, those of us
8 going to doctors' appointments from taking the 35, we
9 don't need the extra time out in the sun. And there is
10 no covering on Ocean and Water for the 35 coming to
11 Boulder Creek.

12 A great deal of the bus stops here do not have
13 covering. The one in front of the bank right down here,
14 in front of Liberty Bank, does not have an awning. And
15 I know those are things that would cost even more. But
16 if you're going to cut buses down and have senior
17 citizens standing out or sitting out in the direct
18 sunlight. It's creating a case for sun stroke and other
19 things that those of us who are older can't fight off as
20 easily. So that is a concern to me.

21 I understand that some cuts need to be made,
22 but as it is, a half hour to wait for a bus is one
23 thing. It becomes a whole 'nother thing if you have to
24 wait an hour and a half. Because if you get out of an
25 appointment at 8:30 and the bus went by at 8:25 and now

1 there's no bus until the 9:25, then the 9:25 gets you
2 over there at 10:40 and you got to wait until 11:30 for
3 a bus to go home instead of 11:00. And all of a sudden
4 it's adding a half hour between the hospital and Ocean
5 and Water, and then a half hour to wait each step along
6 the way. And it really makes the trip almost
7 unbearable.

8 So I would just ask them to carefully consider
9 that.

10 The gentleman and I talked about them possibly
11 cutting out the 17 to Soquel park and ride. I think
12 that they should consider not only cutting it out but
13 selling that land and using it for better purposes. I
14 do question some of the spending cuts when it seems that
15 the disabled and the poorest people are the ones whose
16 routes are being cut. Like I said, that does concern
17 me.

18 I understand cuts like the Half Moon Bay bus,
19 which is a beautiful bus because it gives you a chance
20 to go up Highway 1. And for those of us who are
21 disabled and can't get out, that's a very nice perk.
22 And that's going to be going away. And I don't see any
23 way that that's going to stay.

24 And I really -- you know, I understand on the
25 one hand, but also understand that, you know, they broke

1 ground on a new building for office space and some
2 things like that. The Cavallaro Center has not had a
3 tenant now in one year and a half since they had the
4 little bakery and coffee shop thing there. I think a
5 better effort could be made to get a tenant in there.
6 Starbucks. Why haven't they figured out something with
7 Starbucks? Starbucks is in a lot of BART areas.
8 There's a real nice coffee there at the Diridon Station
9 across from the Shark Tank. I think a real good effort
10 could be made to get a tenant in there to -- spending
11 money, putting money into the businesses' pocket.

12 And I think maybe they need to consider avenues
13 like that as far as revenue increasing, because, you
14 know, you've got a big empty building sitting there.
15 And to any tenant that's paying anything, it would be a
16 benefit.

17 So I think there are things like that that can
18 be considered as well.

19 And I appreciate the opportunity to give you my
20 input. I would just ask, think real hard about cutting
21 out the Glen Arbor folks. It's maybe seven minutes, but
22 I think it could be made up.

23 Please leave the late night bus as late as
24 possible, especially the one that comes all the way up
25 to Boulder Creek. Because for those of us -- a pizza

1 night might not sound like a big deal, but when you're
2 disabled, you don't get out maybe but once every couple
3 of months. You really depend on something like that.
4 And to not be able to go because I wouldn't be able to
5 get a bus home would be a disappointment, to say the
6 least.

7 And like I said, as a disabled person who
8 depends on the bus, I see it a lot differently than
9 other people, because it really is a lifeline for me.

10 So I have to look at it from the standpoint of
11 bringing groceries home, from the standpoint of getting
12 to my doctors' on time, and being able to do things in a
13 way that I'm not completely worn out from a simple trip.

14 So I covered Glen Arbor, the late night weekend
15 bus connecting with the 35, and a willingness, at least
16 on my part, to run a bus as late as they can at night.
17 Because even if it has to make a couple extra turns and
18 things, just to accommodate as many people. Because
19 that 17 over the hill, it makes a big difference if you
20 want to go and visit friends. And I just hate to see it
21 cut to the point that I couldn't connect and get home to
22 Boulder Creek.

23 And I do appreciate that they hold that bus and
24 the 5 minutes scheduling between 11:25 and 11:30, when
25 the 17 shows up at the Cavallaro station, could be five

1 of those minutes that they're looking to save at some
2 point.

3 This is the perspective of a cancer survivor,
4 who has to visit the doctor every three months. This is
5 the opinion of a cancer -- colon cancer patient who has
6 to see a doctor every three months and relies on transit
7 for fresh food, for doctor availability, and for the
8 necessities of life. So I do appreciate everything they
9 do and I do count on them a lot.

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1 HEATHER CLOWSER: I have thought of this many
2 times. Rather than cutting the services -- as it is
3 now, we have two buses an hour. Rather than cutting
4 services, how about just going to one bus an hour? And
5 rather than having them go up to the country club and
6 then another one to the Mountain Store, why don't have
7 one go to the country club, back to Highway 9, make a
8 left, and go to the Mountain Store. So it's just an
9 idea that I had.

10 I don't rely on the bus totally because where I
11 live, up by Big Basin, it doesn't run very often, and I
12 can't depend on it. So I don't always use the bus, but
13 I use it whenever I can, if it's convenient. It's not
14 always convenient.

15 Like getting to the senior center for lunch,
16 there isn't a bus that stops at the senior center at
17 around noon, leaving from where I live, the country
18 club. I don't think there's one that leaves from
19 Boulder Creek that stops at the senior center at noon.
20 Maybe if they had more -- I don't know.

21 I just think it would be sad for them to cut
22 bus services, especially for the people that can't
23 afford a car or disabled, that can't drive. There's all
24 kinds of different reasons why people can't drive. Not
25 everybody wants a car.

1 KIMBERLY BACH: I'm from Boulder Creek. I ride
2 the 35 and I'm very concerned about these cuts. There's
3 already a problem trying to meet the train, because I
4 have to take the 35 to catch the 17, and then catch
5 Amtrak. It's actually impossible to catch certain
6 Amtrak routes because you can't get to the train station
7 early enough. It's already impossible. So it's going
8 to be worse, especially with the discussion of cutting
9 the early morning route on the weekend.

10 At this point, I already have to leave in the
11 dark in order to, let's say, go see my mom for Mother's
12 Day. If they do this, I'll be in a position of having
13 to stay in a motel or something overnight in order to
14 catch the 17. Because I won't be able to get there
15 early enough.

16 I'm also very disappointed that they will be
17 cutting the bus to Big Basin after such a big deal was
18 made out of that. I fear it's going to affect the
19 finances of my community. We do make money from
20 tourism, and there are tourists who were taking that bus
21 to go hike and now they won't be able to.

22 I'm also concerned, especially if we cut late
23 night trips, that we will have more drunk driving
24 accidents. Anyone who's riding the 35 late -- let's say
25 on a Thursday, because weekends up here start on

1 Thursdays because a lot of people up here work irregular
2 hours. So Thursday through Sunday, for example, late
3 night, you see a lot of inebriated people on the bus.
4 And if you cut those routes, those people will be
5 wandering in the roads or trying to drive, and that
6 concerns me a lot. I think people who are responsible
7 enough to try to take public transit when they're
8 hammered, should be encouraged.

9 I'm also concerned about discussion of making
10 cuts to the route during the afternoons on weekdays,
11 because the bus is already very impacted by the high
12 school kids. As it is now, a lot of people in this
13 community avoid getting on the bus at certain times of
14 day because the bus will be flooded by kids over at the
15 high school. And they're talking about cutting
16 afternoon routes. We won't be able to avoid that, and
17 it's already standing room only.

18 Thank you for all your hard work, because I am
19 a big fan of METRO. I know you guys work really hard.

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1 NOREEN MCCUTCHEN: Hey, I've been riding the
2 bus for 41 years. What the deal is, I reside in
3 Watsonville, and I need to be able to get to Boulder
4 Creek as I take care of a friend who that has dementia.
5 I catch the bus on Freedom Boulevard, and cutting the
6 69A will be an epic disaster for me.

7 Also, reducing the 71 will make life rough.

8 I am fighting cancer, so getting to doctor's
9 appointments will be a hardship.

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1 CHARLES L. SH-VEEV: Just I would like to have
2 the possibility of combining the 35 country club and the
3 35 Mountain Store routes explored, have that possibility
4 explored to see whether it saves money and would enable
5 you to increase frequency. That is to say, over any
6 changes you are -- in other words, reduce cuts in
7 frequency for the 35 bus.

8 So that's actually all.

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1 PATRICIA WHITE: I'm concerned -- my main
2 concern, one of my main concerns is that the bus route
3 up Big Basin and the bus route past the Mountain Store
4 and the bus route on Bear Creek is being eliminated
5 completely, possibly. And there are people that will be
6 stranded, literally. That cannot get anywhere. And I
7 would like to see at least one bus in the morning and
8 one bus going back in the afternoon for those people.
9 And that concerns me.

10 And then this is a very rural area and people
11 have trouble getting -- if they don't live in town, they
12 have trouble getting the basic laundry, groceries done.
13 And I think it's important to -- and eliminate as little
14 as possible in this area. Because Santa Cruz has dual
15 buses or ways to get places. And they also have
16 availability of grocery stores and laundromats that you
17 can walk to.

18 And up here, a lot of people live in places
19 where they can't walk to get the necessities.

20 And the 17 express is important.

21 That's my feeling.

22 And I understand it's necessary, but . . .

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1 CHRIS SCHIERMEYER: I represent the San Lorenzo
2 Valley Unified School District. And we had a few
3 concerns regarding the changes to the routes. One is
4 that the way the communication went out. We weren't
5 aware of the closure to the route going down Bear Creek
6 Road to Deerwood or the loss of the ST routes.

7 So San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District
8 is a unique district in the mountains. We don't have
9 safe routes to schools like other school districts with
10 sidewalks. So students walking in high traffic areas
11 such as Highway 9 or Bear Creek Road is a concern for
12 getting to routes.

13 We understand the need for us to have a part in
14 the cuts across the board, but we would like our routes
15 to be considered due to safety of students getting to
16 the appropriate bus stop to getting to the school
17 routes.

18 We're also concerned about when the peak times
19 are considered, so we'd hope that the county or METRO
20 would work with the school district in determining the
21 peak times for route 35, that it is around our start
22 time of school and our end time of school.

23 And then -- so we really are concerned about
24 the closure of the route to Deerwood and the walking of
25 safe routes to school, and the impact it has on our

1 students of getting to school and home from school.

2 We look forward to working with the METRO on
3 how we can resolve those issues.

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, CAMMI R. BOWEN, Certified Shorthand Reporter
in and for the State of California, hereby certify:

That said statements were taken down by me in
shorthand, and were thereafter transcribed under my
direction into typewriting; and that the foregoing is a
full, complete, and true record of said proceedings.

I further certify that I am not in any way
interested in the events of this cause, and that I am not
related to any party hereto.





CAMMI R. BOWEN, CSR 13492
5/10/2016