

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

METRO PUBLIC MEETING

FORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

May 12, 2016

Simpkins Family Swim Center

979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

1 MICHELE SAUCEDO: Good afternoon. I'm talking  
2 about the 20, 71, and 69A.

3 The 71 and 69A, the buses that go by hospitals,  
4 should not be discontinued. This is my opinion.

5 Now, the housing authority is located on  
6 Mission Street extension, bus number 20. A bunch of us  
7 are on housing and social security. Please do not take  
8 away our buses. This is our only way of transportation.

9 Please ride our buses.

10 Thank you.

11 Also, the 69A goes to Watsonville.

12 My neurologist could jeopardize my life.

13 Thank you.

14 Any bus that goes by the hospital should not be  
15 discontinued, and 69A is one of them. But it goes to my  
16 doctor. I have to take the 69W to go Watsonville, where  
17 my neurologist is.

18 Now, from what the bus driver was telling me,  
19 they got some funding this morning. It just came in.  
20 They're not going to cut it out, they're just going to  
21 cut it down. So I can work around that.

22 I'm not going to get behind the wheel of a car  
23 when I have seizures. So I'm not going to do that.

24 Some -- a lot of these board members that make  
25 six figures a year, sometimes they don't realize what

1 little people go through. And if they would ride the  
2 buses and listen the them, because the bus drivers hear  
3 enough of it, I'm sure they might learn something. But  
4 they don't care. That's the feeling I'm getting. They  
5 don't care.

6 And I feel sorry for the 30 or 40 bus drivers  
7 in jeopardy of losing their job. And they have  
8 responsibilities like everyone else: Family, put food  
9 on the table, pay rent, this and that, PG&E. You know,  
10 our PG&E goes up.

11 And the thing about raising the minimum wage,  
12 well, guess what? They'll probably raise the bus fare,  
13 too. Well, I guess that happens. But it's sometimes  
14 you just can't win for losing.

15 Maybe they can combine the 20.

16 The housing authority is a block north of that  
17 going towards Frisco. It's way out there, I think, on  
18 that same street where the marine lab is. I can't  
19 remember the name of that street. But that's where the  
20 20 goes. And the housing authority is out there. And a  
21 bunch of people that are on social security are on  
22 housing authority. And if the housing authority doesn't  
23 send us an envelope so we can mail our papers in, then  
24 we have to go out there. So maybe they could combine  
25 the 20 with something else? Or with something.

1 CHRISTIE MCCULLEN: I am a faculty member of  
2 Cabrillo College. And we recently passed this  
3 initiative there to give them, METRO, around a fifth of  
4 the money they need to close their budget loop. And  
5 the -- so all these students are going to now have a  
6 free bus pass, essentially. And we want to make sure  
7 that the routes that serve Cabrillo are not cut and not  
8 reduced as much as they are proposed to be reduced.

9 So, for instance, like the 69W is a big  
10 Cabrillo one, between Watsonville and Cabrillo. And  
11 they want to change the service to every 60 minutes  
12 instead of every 30 minutes. And if our students -- so  
13 there are several bus routes that the students coming  
14 from Watsonville will be taking: 71, 91, or 69W. So if  
15 there's already -- they're cutting -- proposing cuts to  
16 71 in half and 91 altogether, and so that's going to  
17 make more students go to the 69W. Going to make more  
18 crowding on that bus. And then if students miss a bus  
19 by 30 minutes, then they will miss 30 minutes of class,  
20 essentially.

21 We're worried that our enrollment is going to  
22 go down because of this and that we're going to have a  
23 lot of students drop if they continually have problems  
24 getting to campus. So that's a big concern for us.

25 So that's the 69W, 71, 91 issue.

1           There's a couple more that serve Cabrillo.

2           Well, we're particularly concerned about  
3 reductions of different routes creating crowding on the  
4 routes that are going to Cabrillo, and then our students  
5 aren't going to be able to get to campus, or get to  
6 campus on time. So our enrollment will drop as a  
7 result, or students wouldn't be able to get their  
8 money's worth.

9           The other thing is, we feel that now that we  
10 have passed an initiative and worked really hard to pass  
11 an initiative on a campus that would close a fifth of  
12 the budget gap for METRO, that they should consider  
13 catering to students in that regard.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1           MATT DAVIS: The 91X, I take that to go to  
2           Cabrillo. That will be -- if that's cut, that will  
3           impact me somewhat.

4           The 69W would be another option for that, but  
5           that only runs every hour. And it doesn't go -- goes  
6           down by Capitola Road and takes a lot longer to get to  
7           Cabrillo on the bus.

8           Yeah. That's all.

9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1           SACHA DEFOY: I just wanted to say that the bus  
2 service is one of the reasons I moved into this county.  
3 And I depend on the 69, the 66, and the 68 on a regular  
4 basis. And I'd really appreciate if their frequency  
5 stayed as much the same as they could.

6           I also want a bus that comes back over to this  
7 area late at night, maybe between 8:30 and 10:00 p.m.

8           If they could try to put the 68 back during the  
9 days, that would be really helpful.

10           I want them to have a good plan for passing  
11 wheelchairs and other riders when the bus is full.

12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1 ERNESTINA SALDANA: What I want to say is that  
2 I live at 951 30th Avenue, and I live -- that's between  
3 Brommer and Portola Street.

4 I take the 68 to go to my acupuncture sessions  
5 paid for by Medi-Cal, and I use it once a week.  
6 Generally, I have to be there by 9:00 a.m. and I get out  
7 by 11:30 or so. So METRO's proposal is limiting my  
8 ability so I can take full advantage of that benefit.

9 I go to different meetings in Watsonville and  
10 in Santa Cruz, to East Santa Cruz and West Santa Cruz,  
11 all the way to Fern Street. Sometimes I have to go to  
12 housing authority offices because I do have an  
13 affordable apartment. And I have to take the other  
14 buses. I have to transfer to other buses.

15 So one of the problems I have is when I have to  
16 go to West Santa Cruz, if I have to transfer to another  
17 bus, generally it's the 10. And so if the hours of  
18 service will be reduced, I understand that the reduction  
19 will be -- or the bus will run every two hours or every  
20 other hour, and then the bus will be at full capacity.

21 So what will happen if the bus is already full?  
22 And it's happened to me before. Will the driver ask  
23 passengers to get off the bus? Or will the driver tell  
24 me to wait for another bus, which may take another two  
25 hours?



1           And when I go to Watsonville, I take the 69A.  
2       Because from my house, it takes me straight to  
3       Watsonville. It stops at the mall, and then we go  
4       straight to Watsonville. That saves me a lot of time.

5           My son lives in Watsonville and he takes the  
6       91X, and then the 35 so that he can get to work in  
7       Scotts Valley. And with this proposal, both routes will  
8       disappear.

9           So our only choice is to buy a very inexpensive  
10      car. If you know of one, I'll appreciate it.

11          I go to doctor's appointments. I have to go to  
12      Frederick Street to Dominican rehab. I have an  
13      orthopedic doctor very close to Dominican Hospital. I  
14      also have another physician at Palo Alto Medical  
15      Foundation. I have my therapy on Frederick Street, and  
16      to come to -- my orthopedist is the one that looks at my  
17      wheelchair, my wrist splints, looks at everything,  
18      thumb. So I have to go full circle with all the buses  
19      because I cannot take just one bus.

20          The fact that they have said that ParaCruz will  
21      not be restricted or limited, that doesn't benefit me  
22      that much. Because that -- in fact, that increases my  
23      monetary expense by \$4 per trip.

24  
25

1                   GARY PETERSON: I live in Live Oak and I depend  
2 on the 69 route a lot, and the 71 and the 4, all of  
3 which I hear are going to be gutted. So I -- I really  
4 want to put my hope the 69 gets saved because that's a  
5 main route for me, both going to downtown Santa Cruz and  
6 the mall.

7                   I think that's about all I have to say, but  
8 that is my hope.

9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1                   CATHERYN CVALHEIM: I just want to say, for the  
2 same routes, because I work with Gary, he also depends  
3 on it to get to doctors' appointments, and various  
4 doctors' appointments and meetings. So that's kind  
5 of -- I feel like it's kind of crucial for his  
6 well-being.

7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1           JANE GALLAGHER: I take 13 of the bus routes on  
2 a regular basis. The 54, 55, 56 routes into Seacliff  
3 and Rio Del Mar area is a daily commute route for work.  
4 I would like to see, if they do the route that they're  
5 thinking of doing at 8:30, 1:30, and 5:30 out of the  
6 Capitola Mall, if it could be 11:30 so people who work a  
7 half day or can get an eight-hour shift, and a 2:30 --

8           Buses leaving the Capitola Mall, one suggested  
9 time is 8:30, 1:30, and 5:30 leaving the mall. If that  
10 1:30 could either be changed to an 11:30 or an 11:30  
11 added, it enables people who work half a day to go in  
12 for the afternoon shift in the evening. Or people who  
13 go to appointments, to come back before 6 o'clock.

14 Primary.

15           Secondary, the 91 bus matching up with the 69,  
16 the 54, 55, 56, and Cabrillo, those buses all come in  
17 within two or three minutes of each other. And the 91  
18 leaves or the 69 leaves or the 54 leaves without being  
19 able to pick up passengers. So if they could all stay  
20 and wait there, maybe three to five minutes, and  
21 communicate better, it would be an easy transfer and  
22 we'd have less unhappy riders.

23           Ultimately, I would like to see an extra hour  
24 in the morning, maybe a 7:15 bus heading through that  
25 area between Cabrillo and Watsonville on the Seacliff

1 route, and a 6:30 bus leaving Capitola Mall. That would  
2 expand the routes to include more commuters to the  
3 Capitola Mall and to downtown Santa Cruz routes.

4           Also, if the 55, 56, and 54, as they go  
5 northbound out of the end of their route, if they could  
6 take Soquel Drive instead of Highway 1, would increase  
7 ridership to the grocery stores, to the restaurants, to  
8 the other buildings, to the new Aptos Village complex,  
9 and to the community center at the corner of -- across  
10 from Safeway, where the Aptos Blue residential  
11 neighborhood has just been built for low income housing.

12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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  
5/13/2016