

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

April 21, 2000

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, April 21, 2000 at the City Hall Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, California.

Chairperson Beautz called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Sheryl Ainsworth
Jeff Almquist
Jan Beautz
Kenneth Burch
Tim Fitzmaurice
Bruce Gabriel
Mike Keogh
Oscar Rios

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Bruce Arthur
Katherine Beiers
Michelle Hinkle
Mike Rotkin

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Dorfman, Asst. General Manager
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel
Leslie R. White, General Manager

2. REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

District Counsel Gallagher reported that the Closed Session Minutes of March 17 and March 30, 2000 would be considered for approval. There will also be a conference with Legal Council regarding the liability claim of Shannon McCord.

3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

None

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Chairperson Beautz adjourned to Closed Session at 8:37 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 9:03 a.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Sheryl Ainsworth
Jeff Almquist
Jan Beautz
Ken Burch

Tim Fitzmaurice
Bruce Gabriel
Mike Keogh
Oscar Rios

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Bruce Arthur
Katherine Beiers

Michelle Hinkle
Mike Rotkin

STAFF PRESENT

Bryant Baehr, Operations Manager
Kim Chin, Planning & Marketing Manager
Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager
Marilyn Fenn, Asst. Finance Mgr.
Linda Fry, Service Planning Supervisor
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel
Terry Gale, IT Manager

Tom Hiltner, Grants/Legislative Analyst
David Konno, Facilities Maint. Manager
Lloyd Longnecker, Buyer
Judy Souza, Base Superintendent
Tom Stickel, Fleet Maint. Manager
Leslie R. White, General Manager

OTHER ATTENDEES

Richard Anderson, Westside Resident
Scott Bugental, Lift Line
Bart Cavallaro
Jeff LeBlanc, MASTF
Ian McFadden, UTU President

Debbie Hale, SCCRTC
Patti Korba, SEA President
Manny Martinez, PSA Chairperson
John Mellon, VMU President
Cam Pierce, Bus Rider
Candace Ward, UCSC

1. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION - District Counsel

Counsel Gallagher reported that the Board authorized settlement of the liability tort claim of Shannon McCord. Item 7.4. Denial of the Shannon McCord claim was deleted from the regular agenda. The Closed Session Minutes of March 17 and March 30, 2000 were approved.

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Laura Martin RE: MetroBase
- b. Linda Wilshusen RE: Bus Evaluation
- c. Cam Pierce RE: Bus to Mt. Madonna
Ms. Pierce asked what the next step in this process is and if she would receive notification of the decision once this has been discussed with the Service Review Committee. Les White assured her that she would be notified of the decision.
- d. Elise MacGregor RE: MetroBase
- e. Doug Deitch on the Monterey Bay Conservatory owns a building on 501 Mission Street and is the designer of the intersection at Mission and King Street. Mr. Deitch distributed a 1992 document showing access to UCSC and stated that due to the conflicts arising from the proposed MetroBase site on the Westside, consideration should be given to creating another access to UCSC for buses only. Mr. Deitch also stated that the Board should consider agricultural land for the MetroBase location. A copy of the Eastern Access Route Alternatives is attached hereto and made a part of the Minutes.
- f. Richard Anderson, Westside resident, stated his opposition to the proposed MetroBase site on the Westside of Santa Cruz and informed the Board that a lawsuit has been filed.

- g. Lorna Torkas, Westside resident, requested that the Board reconsider locating MetroBase on the Westside, mostly due to the already congested corridor. She asked that the Board consider the Harvey West site for MetroBase since there would be a savings of \$400,000 on the purchase price.
- h. Jeff LeBlanc stated that it is not known if the District would run into any legal obstacles at the Harvey West site.
- i. Rosemary Davidson stated that she opposes the Westside site for MetroBase due to the many negative aspects associated with this site. She asked that the Board move forward in a positive manner and decentralize.
- j. Kathy Pearson stated that thousands of signatures have been collected in opposition to the Westside site for MetroBase and encouraged the Board to look for another site.
- k. Elizabeth Burton stated that those in opposition to the Westside site for MetroBase are not working against the District, but for the District. She further stated that we all want the same thing but that the Westside is not the proper location. She is particularly concerned with the schools and environmental impacts.
- l. Lynn Robinson stated that the Westside site does not seem to be a logical location as it is on the edge of the county. She further stated that although this may be an ideal location for the District, it is not ideal for the residents of the Westside.

LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

None

3. METRO USERS GROUP (MUG) COMMUNICATIONS

Director Gabriel stated that there was extensive discussion on MetroBase and its location at the 4/19/00 MUG meeting. This discussion will be documented in the MUG minutes.

4. METRO ACCESSIBLE SERVICES TRANSIT FORUM (MASTF) COMMUNICATIONS

None

5. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

SECTION III

ADD TO ITEM #2

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- d. Elise MacGregor RE: MetroBase

CONSENT AGENDA:

DELETE FROM ITEM #7-1.

MINUTES FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING OF MARCH 29, 2000
(Minutes will be delayed until the May meeting)

REPLACE ITEM 7-4

CLAIM OF: FARMER'S INSURANCE
(Replace Tort Claim)

- DELETE ITEM 7-10** CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL OF EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY INSURANCE
(Approved at April 14, 2000 Board Meeting)
- MOVE ITEM 7-13** ACCEPT AND FILE BILINGUAL SCHEDULE INFORMATION AT BUS STOPS
(Moved to Regular Agenda)
- ADD TO ITEM 7-14** STATUS REPORT - ROUTE 1W - UNIVERSITY/WALNUT
(Staff Report Attached)

REGULAR AGENDA:

- DELETE ITEM #11** CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF SHERYL AINSWORTH TO SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
(Approved at April 14, 2000 Board Meeting)
- ADD ITEM #18** CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF TORT CLAIM SETTLEMENT FOR DAMAGES TO PARATRANSIT VAN
(Staff Report Attached)
- ADD ITEM #19** ACCEPT AND FILE BILINGUAL SCHEDULE INFORMATION AT BUS STOPS
(Item moved from Consent Agenda - Staff Report Attached)
- ADD ITEM #20** CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF IFB 99-24 FOR PRINTING OF *HEADWAYS*
Presented by: Kim Chin, Planning & Marketing Manager
(Staff Report Attached, Attachment A will be distributed at Board Meeting)
- ADD ITEM #21** CONSIDERATION OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 2178 (McPherson)
(Staff Report Attached)

CONSENT AGENDA

Review Consent Agenda Items 7-1 through 7-14

- 7-1. **APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF 3/10/00, REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF 3/17/00, AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES OF 3/29/00**
Public Hearing Minutes will be delayed until the May meeting
- 7-2. **ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARY APPROVED CLAIMS**
- 7-3. **ACCEPT AND FILE PASSENGER LIFT REPORT FOR MARCH 2000**

- 7-4. **CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: Deny the Claim of: Shannon McCord. Reject the Claim as Untimely Filed and Deny the Application to File a Late Claim of: Coral Brune. Approve the Claim of: Farmer's Insurance in the amount of \$1,192.02 and reject it as to the balance.**
- 7-5. **ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF MASTF COMMITTEE MEETING OF 3/16/00**
- 7-6. **ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF MUG COMMITTEE MEETING OF 3/15/00**
- 7-7. **ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2000 AND APPROVE BUDGET TRANSFERS**
- 7-8. **ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY**
- 7-9. **ACCEPT AND FILE STATUS REPORT ON ADA PARATRANSIT PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY**
- 7-10. **DELETED**
- 7-11. **REPORT ON AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES SENSITIVITY TRAINING**
- 7-12. **CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) GUIDELINES**
- 7-13. **THIS ITEM HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE REGULAR AGENDA AS ITEM NO. 19**
- 7-14. **ACCEPT AND FILE STATUS REPORT - ROUTE 1W - UNIVERSITY/WALNUT**

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR RIOS SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

A Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda.

The Motion passed with Directors Arthur, Beiers, Hinkle and Rotkin absent.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR DIRECTOR BART CAVALLARO

Summary:

Director Beautz presented Bart Cavallaro with a plaque commemorating his 19 years on the Transit District Board of Directors. Mr. Cavallaro also received a lifetime bus pass for both he and his wife.

Discussion:

Numerous members of the audience conveyed their appreciation to Mr. Cavallaro for his years of dedicated service to transportation issues. Among those who spoke were: Jeff LeBlanc, MASTF Chair, and Debbie Hale, SCCRTC, who informed the Board of the May 4th Transportation Awards Ceremony at the Capitola City Hall at which time Mr. Cavallaro will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

A Motion was made to pass the Resolution of Appreciation for Bart Cavallaro.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Directors - Ainsworth, Almquist, Beutz, Fitzmaurice, Gabriel, Keogh, Rios

NOES: Directors - None

ABSTAIN: Directors - None

ABSENT: Directors - Arthur, Beiers, Hinkle, Rotkin

9. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

Summary:

Mark Dorfman reported that this is an annual disposal of fixed assets. Staff will work through Ecology Action.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE

A Motion was made to authorize the disposal of assets.

The Motion passed with Directors Arthur, Beiers, Hinkle and Rotkin absent.

10. CONSIDERATION OF STATUS REPORT ON FINANCING OF SUMMER BEACH SHUTTLE

Summary:

Mark Dorfman reported that there is a shortfall of \$6,400 in the financing of the beach shuttle. The Regional Transportation Commission will not finance this shuttle and suggested it be funded in the regular budget. The Boardwalk will not utilize a coupon approach as they did last year and have contributed \$725 to the shuttle this year.

Discussion:

Ridership figures from last year on the beach shuttle were 25,363, which Ian McFadden reported were the 4th or 5th highest ridership figures in the life of the shuttle. The Boardwalk's comment for not participating at a higher level was that they have ample parking for their customers. Staff will continue to look at the existing budget and talk with participants regarding the shortfall of funds. Director Fitzmaurice stated that he is willing to talk with the City Council and Boardwalk about the need for additional funds.

DIRECTOR GABRIEL LEFT THE MEETING AT 9:58 A.M.

Les White and Debbie Hale discussed utilizing \$5,000 from the 80% of the excess TDA funds which would be distributed to the District at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Cavallaro suggested that Staff approach the Seaside Company once again since having two avenues to get customers to the Boardwalk would benefit them. Ian McFadden added that the Beach Shuttle would now go as far as Cooper Street, thereby benefiting downtown merchants, who should also share in the funding of this project.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR RIOS

A Motion was made to direct Staff to send letters to the partners in this venture to consider increasing the amount of their appropriation with special direction to the Regional Transportation Commission that the Board would like to see the Commission involved in this. Staff should also send letters to the Downtown Association informing them of the impact this shuttle will have in linking downtown to the beach. Staff will report back to the Board at next month's meeting.

AYES: Ainsworth, Beautz, Fitzmaurice, Keogh, Rios
NOES: Almquist
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Arthur, Beiers, Hinkle, Rotkin, Gabriel

The Motion passed with Directors Arthur, Beiers, Hinkle, Rotkin and Gabriel absent.

DIRECTOR KEOGH LEFT THE MEETING AT 10:04 A.M.

11. **DELETED**

12. **PRESENTATION OF HIGHWAY 17 TRANSPORTATION STUDY DRAFT FINAL REPORT**

Summary:

Mark Dorfman reported that in 1995 the District was awarded a \$30,000 grant by the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District to be applied towards a Highway 17 Transportation Improvement Study. VTA and the District both contributed \$10,000 towards this \$50,000 report which would study the Highway 17 corridor between Santa Cruz and San Jose. Bill Cisco, CCS Planning and Engineering, and Jeffrey Tumblin from Nelson Nygaard presented the study which encompasses the area from Bear Creek Road to the Highway 1 interchange. The presentation included an overview of the study process and results of how to continue the express bus service, optimize it, expand it and improve the Highway operations and safety along the study corridor. A packet of information was distributed which was used in this presentation. Said information is attached hereto and made a part of the Minutes.

DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE LEFT THE MEETING AT 10:07 A.M.

DIRECTOR KEOGH RETURNED TO THE MEETING AT 10:09 A.M.

DIRECTOR BURCH LEFT THE MEETING AT 10:09 A.M.

DIRECTORS FITZMAURICE AND BURCH RETURNED TO THE MEETING AT 10:12 A.M.

DIRECTOR GABRIEL RETURNED TO THE MEETING AT 10:16 A.M.

Mr. Tumblin reported that on the Highway 85 corridor, transit service could be expanded to the Apple Corporation area. From a marketing aspect, Mr. Tumblin stated that it is important that the Highway 17 service have a clearly identifiable brand. He further stated that there is potential for improving the general public's informational materials since the *Headways* is not easy to understand.

DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE LEFT THE MEETING AT 10:20 A.M. AND RETURNED AT 10:24 A.M.

Discussion:

Bart Cavallaro expressed concern that this study doesn't go far enough. Debbie Hale asked that the study be viewed as a jumping off point and not a "be all and end all" for what the plans are for this corridor.

Mr. White stated that valuable information would be to state the end destinations and denote where the interchange would be between VTA and the District buses, in addition to connections with CalTrain. Les White reported that Staff needs to move forward in the establishment of a connection between VTA and SCMTD Board Members to discuss Highway 17 issues, implementation of service to Metro Center and a Los Gatos stop. The key issues become the collection and dispersal net on the District's side, as well as on VTA's side of the hill. Over the next 12 months, these discussions need to take place frequently. Additionally, Mr. White stated that strategies need to be looked at for additional equipment, additional park & ride capacity, and financing arrangements on both sides. A Task Force would be crafted to facilitate discussions between the VTA Board, the District Board and CalTrans. Board to board contact is essential.

Director Keogh asked that the Task Force also consider expanding development of the Coyote Valley, North Monterey County and South Santa Cruz County in terms of housing demand to the south into San Jose. Ian McFadden asked about service to the airport and requested that Union Reps be involved in these discussions as well.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

A Motion was made to accept the Highway 17 Transportation Improvement Study Final Report with the understanding that there are outstanding issues that need to be pursued as a result of this preliminary study. Staff was given direction to return to the May Board meeting with a report on how to proceed in bringing the two Boards together.

The Motion passed with Directors Arthur, Beiers, Hinkle and Rotkin absent.

ITEM #19 WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

19. ACCEPT AND FILE BILINGUAL SCHEDULE INFORMATION AT BUS STOPS

Summary:

David Konno reported that he is costing out providing bi-lingual information at the bus stops. He is concerned, however, that changing the bus stop schedules to include bi-lingual information would be a complete redesign of the sticker. If the design of the face of the sign were affected, ADA would mandate that the sticker be redesigned. Installing a duplicate, bi-lingual route schedule would include 786 person hours of labor and \$23,144 in materials to re-do the stickers. Staff is recommending that as the current route schedules are reviewed, bi-lingual information is incorporated where possible; and as the new routes are designed, Staff install them on the bus stops to avoid duplicate signage situations.

Director Fitzmaurice suggested that Staff move forward with making the signs ADA compliant and make the bus stop signs bi-lingual in a timely fashion. Director Beutz asked that Staff consider this with other items of the budget if this project will be in next year's budget.

Jeff LeBlanc reported that the issue of making signs more readable has gone through BSAC, MUG and MASTF. The current bus signs violate the City's sign ordinance in regard to height requirements and the City may have to amend its Ordinance. Director Fitzmaurice suggested that Staff consult with City Staff about what issues this change will raise.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR RIOS

A Motion was made to consider this under Capital Projects for re-design of the bus signs to meet ADA compliance and to be bi-lingual in Spanish.

The Motion passed with Directors Arthur, Beiers, Hinkle and Rotkin absent.

Additional direction was given to Staff that a letter be written to the City Attorney regarding the potential modification to the Sign Ordinance. Mr. White interjected that all jurisdictions should be contacted in this regard.

13. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT AB2766 GRANT APPLICATION TO THE AIR DISTRICT FOR CNG FACILITIES

Summary:

Staff is requesting authorization to submit an application for \$200,000 to the Air District for CNG facilities.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR RIOS

A Motion was made to authorize Staff to submit an application to the Air District for \$200,000 for CNG facilities.

The Motion passed with Directors Arthur, Beiers, Hinkle and Rotkin absent.

14. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO DONATE RIDES FOR SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM

Summary:

Staff is requesting authorization for the General Manager to work with the Santa Cruz Public Libraries to donate rides for the 2000 Summer Reading Adventure.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST

A Motion was made to authorize the General Manager to work with the Santa Cruz Public Libraries regarding the 2000 Summer Reading Adventure.

The Motion passed with Directors Arthur, Beiers, Hinkle and Rotkin absent.

15. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF BID FOR BUS STOP BICYCLE SECUREMENT EQUIPMENT FUNDED BY MONTEREY BAY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Summary:

Staff is requesting that the bid be awarded to Hannan Specialties for bus stop bicycle securement equipment funded by the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control Board.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR RIOS

A Motion was made to authorize the General Manager to execute Contract 99-15 for bus stop bicycle securement equipment with Hannan Specialties of Carmichael, CA.

The Motion passed with Directors Arthur, Beiers, Hinkle and Rotkin absent.

16. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR FURNISHING OF UNIFORMS, FLAT GOODS, AND LAUNDRY SERVICES

Summary:

Staff is recommending that the Board authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Mission Linen Supply for furnishing of uniforms, flat goods and laundry services.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR GABRIEL SECOND: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST

A Motion was made to contract with Mission Linen for furnishing of uniforms, flat goods and laundry services.

The Motion passed with Directors Arthur, Beiers, Hinkle and Rotkin absent.

17. UPDATE AND REVIEW OF EMERGENCY BUS RADIO PROCUREMENT OF APRIL 14, 2000

Summary:

Bryant Baehr reported that 56 radios have been received. Installation begins on Saturday, April 22, 2000. Installation is scheduled to be completed in 2 1/2 weeks.

18. CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF TORT CLAIM SETTLEMENT FOR DAMAGES TO PARATRANSIT VAN

Summary:

Staff is requesting approval of proposed tort settlement in the amount of \$14,542.20 for leased paratransit van, which was totaled in a recent vehicular accident.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR AINSWORTH

The Motion passed with Directors Arthur, Beiers, Hinkle and Rotkin absent.

20. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF IFB 99-24 FOR PRINTING OF HEADWAYS

Summary:

Staff is requesting that the Board authorize the General Manager to execute a contract for printing of the *Headways* with Pizazz Printing.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR GABRIEL SECOND: DIRECTOR RIOS

The Motion passed with Directors Arthur, Beiers, Hinkle and Rotkin absent.

21. CONSIDERATION OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 2178 (McPherson)

Summary:

Les White reported that the letter to Senator McPherson from our Chairperson Beautz would outline that SB2178 does not adequately address the lack of accessibility of parallel service operated by the Greyhound Corporation for people with disabilities.

Discussion:

Debbie Hale added that the Transportation Commission has additional amendments so that more people could access the AmTrak bus services because the Greyhound service does not service them. Bicyclists are not allowed to bring bikes onto the Greyhound bus service, Senator McPherson is adding the disabled passengers. The Transportation Commission would also like to shorten window around the Greyhound bus service to one hour instead of two hours, and

also, ensure that there is a bicyclist representative and a Transportation Commission representative on the task force. Lastly, provide an exemption for the Boardwalk. A copy of this letter is attached hereto and made a part of the Minutes.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

A Motion was made to authorize the Chair to send a letter supporting SB2178 to appropriate individuals in the California State Legislature. This letter will also support the additional amendments suggested by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission.

The Motion passed with Directors Arthur, Beiers, Hinkle and Rotkin absent.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairperson Beautz adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DALE CARR
Administrative Services Coordinator