

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

January 10, 2003

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, January 10, 2003 at the District's Administrative Office, 370 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Vice-Chairperson Reilly called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Sheryl Ainsworth
Jan Beautz (arrived after roll call)
Tim Fitzmaurice (arrived after roll call)
Michelle Hinkle
Mike Keogh
Dennis Norton
Emily Reilly
Ex-Officio Wes Scott (arrived after roll call)
Pat Spence
Marcela Tavantzis

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Jeff Almquist
Ana Ventura Phares

STAFF PRESENT

Bryant Baehr, Operations Manager	Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager
John Daugherty, Accessible Svcs. Coord	Robyn Slater, Interim H.R. Manager
Mark Dorfman, Asst. General Manager	Tom Stickel, Fleet Maint. Manager
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel	Les White, General Manager

EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT

April Axton, Community Bridges	Manny Martinez, PSA
Sharon Barbour, MASTF	Bonnie Morr, UTU
Carolyn Chaney, Federal Legislative Rep.	Karena Pushnik, SCCRTC
Tom Hiltner, SEA	Will Regan, VMU
Paul Marcelin, MUG	

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. | Pam Greeninger, City of Capitola | RE: SCMTD Board Member |
| b. | Sharon Barbour, Chair, MASTF | RE: Fare Increase/Convenience Pass |

c. Scott Bugental, E/D TAC

RE: ADA/504 Grievance Procedure &
Potential Fare Alternatives

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

None.

4. METRO USERS GROUP (MUG) COMMUNICATIONS

None

5. METRO ACCESSIBLE SERVICES TRANSIT FORUM (MASTF) COMMUNICATIONS

MASTF Chair, Sharon Barbour distributed and explained a letter from MASTF to the Board of Directors regarding MASTF's election of officers and MASTF's relationship with the District. Ms. Barbour stated that currently, officers are allowed to vote at MASTF elections, but that MASTF would address this issue soon. Ms. Barbour's letter is attached to these minutes.

DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE ARRIVED

Margaret Gallagher confirmed that MASTF was subject to the Brown Act because they are an advisory group to the District and meet the criteria in the statute. Ms. Gallagher went on to say that any group that meets certain criteria set forth in the statute would be subject the Brown Act.

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTOR WES SCOTT ARRIVED

Vice-Chairperson Reilly welcomed new Ex-Officio Director Wes Scott, who introduced himself as the Director of Transportation & Parking at UCSC.

6. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

Les White stated that two recent newspaper articles regarding VTA's fares had been distributed to the Board in connection with Agenda Item #12 which are attached to these minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

7-1. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF December 13, 2002

Director Spence noted two errors in the attendance section. Michael Bradshaw should be changed from "Rider" to "CCCIL" and "Mike Edwards, Rider", is not listed.

7-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS

Mark Dorfman clarified that the third item on page five labeled "Dell Marketing - 2 Dell Computers" was actually for 2 servers.

Les White clarified that the payment to “Bustichi” was for the CNG Minor Maintenance Retrofit construction.

7-3. ACCEPT AND FILE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2002 RIDERSHIP REPORT

The December Ridership report will be presented for consideration at the January 24, 2003 Board Meeting.

No questions or comments.

7-4. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: Deny the Claims of: Henry Gamble, #02-0036 & Carolyn Gamble, #02-0037

No questions or comments.

7-5. ACCEPT AND FILE AGENDA FOR THE MASTF COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 16, 2003 AND MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2002 MEETING

No questions or comments.

7-6. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF MUG COMMITTEE MEETING OF December 18, 2002

Minutes will be presented for consideration at the January 24, 2003 Board Meeting

7-7. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2002, APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS

No questions or comments.

7-8. ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ STATUS REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2002

No questions or comments.

7-9. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2002

No questions or comments.

7-10. ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE UPDATE

Bryant Baehr stated that there were only 16 school days on November 2002 as opposed to 17 school days in November 2001, which makes it appear as a ridership decrease this year.

7-11. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT

Les White reported that the Board would receive public comments on the EIR and the District's responses at the January 24, 2003 Board meeting and that the Board would consider certifying the EIR on February 28, 2003.

7-12. CONSIDERATION OF NAME CHANGE FOR TENANT’S BUSINESS AT THE WATSONVILLE TRANSIT CENTER

No questions or comments.

7-13. CONSIDERATION OF REVISIONS OF ADA/504 POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Ms. Gallagher confirmed that modifications requested by the Board at last month’s meeting had been incorporated into the policy. Specifically, Section 3.03 encourages employees to report any non-compliance and Section 6.01 is modified to add the word “authorized” which modifies “representative” and examples are given for whom would be thought of as an authorized representative of a potential complainant.

Ms. Gallagher expressed appreciation for the efforts of Bryant Baehr and John Daugherty in developing this policy.

DIRECTOR BEAUTZ ARRIVED

Bonnie Morr inquired about employee training. Ms. Gallagher replied that Robyn Slater is currently working on a training module for the ADA/504 Policy.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. CONSIDERATION OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS TO SERVE AS BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2003, TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND METRO USERS GROUP CHAIRPERSON ASSIGNMENTS

THIS ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE JANUARY 24, 2003 BOARD MEETING

No questions or comments.

9. CONSIDERATION OF PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS
THIS PRESENTATION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE JANUARY 24, 2003 BOARD MEETING

No questions or comments.

10. UPDATE FROM CAROLYN CHANEY ON FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Carolyn Chaney introduced herself as being the District’s Federal Legislative Representative since 1995. Ms. Chaney reviewed some highlights of what is happening in Washington DC. Appropriations are currently being organized for the next congress session. This year the Transportation issue will be the TEA-21 Reauthorization, a process that is undertaken every 5-6 years. The District was successful in having a study done in the original TEA-21 five years ago, regarding a Transit High-Intensity Tier. This means any system which is under 200,000 population has only been able to get formula money through population and population density, rather than using service criteria. The study results showed that Santa Cruz scored well in every category. Les White worked very hard in the APTA process to make sure that there was recognition that there was a need for this Transit High-Intensity Tier and that funding would be

immediately available if there was any additional money in the bill. APTA approved this at their Legislative Committee meeting, so we are now in a position now to go to the hill and lobby to get this put into the TEA-21 bill. All of this is based on whether we are able to grow the program, despite the budget problems at the local, state and federal levels and the threat of war. The good news is the Authorization Bill is based mostly on Trust Fund money which is generated from gas tax, and not part of the regular budget. The Transportation Infrastructure Committee, which is the committee that usually generates a bill on the house side, is trying to grow the program and call it “user fees” instead of “gas tax.” They are talking about a \$72.5 billion program per year, which would mean that we would be able see growth in the Transit High-Intensity Tier. The transportation program may be caught dead in the water if the Administration does not want any growth and decides to cut it.

Les White reported that we requested in the APTA program that the program be initially funded in FY 2004 at \$35 million nationally and that it grow with a growth factor of the program to \$54 million nationally by 2009. That would yield to us, assuming that all the factors remain the same, approximately \$967,000 in additional formula capital money in FY 2004, which would become available October 1, 2003. It would grow incrementally over the period of the authorization to \$2.1 million in supplemental capital funding by FY 2009.

Ms. Chaney reported on the Metro Center Project. She spoke with Sam Farr’s local office yesterday and got their views. Their initial reaction was very positive and the possibility of having the administrative offices there was positive. Ms. Chaney feels there is a potential for us to go forward with this project through appropriations rather than TEA-21. The opportunity is also possible to have funding come out of the authorization bill and once they put that in the authorization bill it is earmarked and the appropriators do fund it, even though they don’t like it.

Ms. Chaney was asked if it is a problem that MetroBase funds have not been used yet.

Ms. Chaney is a little concerned because we have the MetroBase funding and staffers will ask, “Well what are you doing with MetroBase?” She is happy that the District is moving forward. Senator Feinstein’s office was very clear a couple years ago that they wanted to see progress on the MetroBase project. Ms. Chaney believes they will have the same staff and raise that question and we are going to have to deal with this issue. But the opportunity is also there if we need extra money for MetroBase, that if we have Metro Center to push, we can maybe get money for both.

Emily Reilly asked if there was anything we could do to improve our chances with the project. Ms. Chaney said the name Metro Center is confusing and it would be better if we could talk about a multi-modal mixed-use development or something shorter that describes it better.

Being able to show real progress would do it.

Les White said if the EIR is certified on February 28, when the District representatives go back to the APTA Legislative Conference in March, they can present this and be able to say we are now in the implementation phase. The next phases are Right of Way acquisition, design process and final design of phase 1 of MetroBase.

Ms. Chaney was asked if there was a difference between the TEA money going to the RTC and the TEA money for us. Ms. Chaney said these are totally different funding sources

11. **CONSIDERATION OF AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION REAUTHORIZATION PROPOSAL**

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR KEOGH SECOND: DIRECTOR TAVANTZIS

Move this item to the Consent Agenda.

Motion passed with Directors Almquist, Fitzmaurice and Phares being absent.

12. **FARE ALTERNATIVES FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION**

Summary:

Mark Dorfman and Paul Marcelin gave a presentation outlining various fare increase alternatives and potential ridership loss vs. increased revenue. Examples included a 35% increase that approximates the change in the CPI since the last fare increase, a 25% increase, a 50% increase and the possibility of additional charges for premium ADA services. In addition, information on a reduction for monthly passes was included with a \$1.50 fare level.

Vice-Chairperson Reilly directed the Board to review the Staff Report and contact Staff with any questions prior to the January 24, 2003 Board meeting.

13. **CONSIDERATION OF CHANGE ORDER TO ORION CONTRACT FOR DIESEL HIGH-FLOOR BUSES FOR HIGHWAY 17 THAT CAN BE CONVERTED TO COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG)**

WILL BE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NOVEMBER 22, 2002 BOARD MEETING

14. **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CALPERS CONTRACT TO PROVIDE SECTION 21023.5 (PUBLIC SERVICE CREDIT FOR PEACE CORPS OR AMERICAORPS: VISTA SERVICE)**

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR KEOGH SECOND: DIRECTOR TAVANTZIS

Move this item to the Consent Agenda.

Motion passed with Directors Almquist, Fitzmaurice and Phares being absent.

15. **CONSIDERATION OF REJECTION OF BUS ADVERTISING COUNTER PROPOSAL FORM PRINCETON MEDIA, INC.**

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR KEOGH SECOND: DIRECTOR TAVANTZIS

Move this item to the Consent Agenda.

Motion passed with Directors Almquist, Fitzmaurice and Phares being absent.

16. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF STUART ROSENSTEIN TO THE METRO USERS GROUP UNDET HE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY OF “TRANSIT USERS”

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR KEOGH SECOND: DIRECTOR TAVANTZIS

Move this item to the Consent Agenda.

Motion passed with Directors Almquist, Fitzmaurice and Phares being absent.

17. REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION: District Counsel

Margaret Gallagher reported that the Board would be discussing existing litigation and working with the labor negotiator regarding issues relevant to SEIU.

18. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

None

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Vice-Chairperson Reilly adjourned to Closed Session at 10:02 a.m. Chairperson Ainsworth reconvened to Open Session at 10:45 a.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

19. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

There was nothing to report at this time.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairperson Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Cindi Thomas
Administrative Secretary