

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

November 19, 2004

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, November 19, 2004 at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 250 Main Street, Watsonville, CA.

Chair Reilly called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Mike Rotkin

STAFF PRESENT

Bryant Baehr, Operations Manager
Frank Cheng, MetroBase Project Manager
Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel

Steve Paulson, ParaCruz Administrator
Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager
Judy Souza, Base Superintendent
Tom Stickel, Fleet Maintenance Manager

EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO VOLUNTARILY INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT

Dennis Baldwin, Bus Operator
Mario Espinoza, Bus Operator
Paul Marcelin-Sampson, Metro Riders Union
Mary Miller, Bus Operator
Bonnie Morr, UTU

Ascencion Sanchez, Bus Operator
Linda Wilshusen, SCCRTC
Amy Weiss, Spanish Interpreter
Bob Yount, MAC/MASTF/E&D TAC

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Written:

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|-----|-------------------------|
| a. | Mariann Soulek | Re: | Recent Bus Service Cuts |
| b. | Sue Wilson | Re: | Recent Bus Service Cuts |

c. Caroline Bliss-Isberg
d. Keith Barnard

Re: Stroke Center
Re: Recent Bus Service Cuts

Oral:

Bob Yount, speaking for Jeff Le Blanc, announced that yesterday MASTF had elected Sharon Barbour as Chair, Jeff Le Blanc as Vice Chair, and Bob Yount as the MASTF representative to E & D TAC for 2005. After next month's anniversary party, MASTF will be taking a 1-year hiatus, at the call of the Chair, with the next scheduled meeting in November 2005. MASTF also passed a motion recommending to the Board that if a Paratransit Advisory Committee is constructed that 51% of the membership be disabled and 30% be Paratransit users.

Paul Marcelin-Sampson asked for clarification on when public comment is taken for the consent agenda. Chair Reilly responded that she would ask for comment when she got to that item.

Director Ainsworth announced that this would be her last METRO meeting and wished the District well.

Director Norton reiterated his suggestion to have the District provide direct service from Upper and Lower Capitola Village and Live Oak to the downtown METRO Center.

DIRECTOR SCOTT ARRIVED AT THIS TIME

Vice Chair Keogh reported that he had attended the Paratransit Task Force meeting on Wednesday and recommended that attendance by METRO Staff be limited to one individual.

Director Skillicorn said on behalf of the City of Watsonville, that they enjoy having METRO meet in Watsonville.

Director Spence thanked Caroline Bliss-Isberg for her letter and encouraged Board members to read their *Transit California* magazines.

Direction by Chair Reilly: Staff to respond to written communications on today's agenda regarding recent service cuts and Director Norton's request and have them reviewed at the Service Planning meeting next month.

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

Bonnie Morr thanked Director Ainsworth for her dedication and work over the years. Ms. Morr then relayed an incident that happened last Saturday regarding an off-duty bus operator trying to break up a fight he saw as he was walking home, resulting in getting beaten up himself. His injuries required stitches and UTU requested "trauma pay" for him, which is 3 days of paid leave for employees involved in an assault or serious accident on the job. Ms. Morr reported that Management denied the request due to the incident being "outside the course and scope of his job".

Ms. Morr then cited another incident where a different bus operator was awarded a Resolution of Appreciation and recognized as a "hero" by the Board for helping a young man who had been shot at by pulling him into a bus and driving the bus away.

Ms. Morr asked for clear direction from the Board regarding what message they want to send to employees regarding the scope of their work who find themselves in similar incidents.

Direction by Chair Reilly: Staff to agendize in the proper way, probably for Closed Session.

4. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Reilly announced that a Special Meeting of the Board would be held at 10:00 a.m. or immediately after the regular meeting.

SECTION I:
OPEN SESSION:

CONSENT AGENDA:

- ADD TO ITEM #2** ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION
(Add 2-d, written communication)
- REPLACE ITEM #5-1** APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8 AND OCTOBER 22, 2004
(Replace original pages 5-1.17 and 5-1.23 with REVISED pages)
- ADD TO ITEM #5-3** ACCEPT AND FILE OCTOBER 2004 RIDERSHIP REPORT
(Insert Page 1 of the Ridership Report)
- INSERT ITEM #5-6** ACCEPT AND FILE THE MASTF COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2004 AND THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2004
(Insert Agenda and Minutes)
- INSERT ITEM #5-9** ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2004
(Insert Report)
- INSERT ITEM #5-11** ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT
(Insert Staff Report)
- DELETE ITEM #5-13** INTRODUCTION OF EMPLOYEE WITH 30-YEAR EMPLOYMENT ANNIVERSARY WHO WAS ABSENT FROM THE OCTOBER 22, 2004 BOARD MEETING
(Action taken at the November 12, 2004 Board Meeting)
- ADD ITEM #5-16** **CONSIDERATION OF RESULTS FROM VTA HIGHWAY 17 WEEKEND SURVEY**
(Insert Staff Report)
- ADD ITEM #5-17** **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDED STA CLAIM FOR FY2005**
(Insert Staff Report)

REGULAR AGENDA:

- DELETE ITEM #8** CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE
(Staff recommends deferring to December due to ongoing negotiations)

- INSERT ITEM #9** CONSIDERATION OF PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT
(Insert Staff Report)
- REPLACE ITEM #13** CONSIDERATION OF A **RESOLUTION** OF APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION FOR THE SERVICES OF LINDA WILSHUSEN AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
(Insert REVISED Resolution)
- ADD ITEM #16** CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING CONTRACT WITH TRISTAR FOR THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS
(Insert Staff Report)

CONSENT AGENDA

- 5-1. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8 AND OCTOBER 22, 2004
- 5-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS
- 5-3. ACCEPT AND FILE OCTOBER 2004 RIDERSHIP REPORT
- 5-4. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: None
- 5-5. ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2004 AND MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2004
- 5-6. ACCEPT AND FILE THE MASTF COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2004 AND THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2004
- 5-7. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2004 AND APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS
- 5-8. ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ STATUS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2004
- 5-9. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2004
- 5-10. ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE UPDATE
- 5-11. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT
- 5-12. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES REFLECTING VOTING RESULTS FROM APPOINTEES TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
- 5-13. DELETED: (Action taken at the November 12, 2004 Board Meeting)
- 5-14. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2004 (Moved to Consent Agenda at the October 12, 2004 Board Meeting. Retained original numbering as Item #10)
- 5-15. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ FOR SHUTTLE SERVICE FOR 2005 EVENTS (Moved to Consent Agenda at the October 12, 2004 Board Meeting. Retained original numbering as Item #14)
- 5-16. CONSIDERATION OF RESULTS FROM VTA HIGHWAY 17 WEEKEND SURVEY
- 5-17. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDED STA CLAIM FOR FY2005

Regarding Item #5-5, Paul Marcelin-Sampson said the Board should receive the MAC Action Memo next week of motions made at the November 17, 2004 meeting. He asked the Board to consider the comments on page 5-16.a5, his sample Hwy 17 Saturday schedule and additional information he provided which had been distributed to the Board just before today's meeting and are attached to these minutes.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR TAVANTZIS SECOND: DIRECTOR TAVANTZIS

Approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion passed by unanimously affirmative voice vote in lieu of a roll call vote with Director Rotkin being absent.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS

The following employees were awarded longevity certificates for their years of service:

TWENTY YEARS

Dennis R. Baldwin, Bus Operator
Mario R. Espinoza, Bus Operator
Mary E. Miller, Bus Operator
Ascencion G. Sanchez, Bus Operator

7. CONSIDERATION OF RECEIPT OF REPORT REGARDING THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION'S PARATRANSIT COORDINATION TASK FORCE (PCTF) AND FINAL MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2004

Director Spence did not attend the last meeting but clarified that the handouts mentioned on page #7.2 were available if the Board wanted them and on page #7.6 it was noted that some Task Force members think numbers are better than percentages when projecting future ridership projections.

Vice Chair Keogh restated that Staff attendance should be limited to one person and reported that he did attend the last meeting and that the work should be completed in January. Most likely the Task Force will recommend an oversight committee be formed to monitor the ParaCruz service the District provides.

Paul Marcelin-Sampson clarified that acting Chair Schiffrin stated that the senior population in Santa Cruz in 1950 was 50%, when it actually was 15%. Mr. Marcelin-Sampson hopes the minutes will be modified to reflect the attitude of dismissal.

Paul also reported a motion had passed recommending that the District provide same day service for urgent medical trips.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR AINSWORTH SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY

Accept the report of the Paratransit Coordination Task Force and final minutes of the October 20, 2004 meeting.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Rotkin being absent.

8. **CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE**

Item was deferred to the December Board Meeting.

9. **CONSIDERATION OF PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT**

Bryant Baehr gave a PowerPoint presentation and said the first few days were a bit hectic as expected, but towards the end of the first week things smoothed out. Mr. Baehr reported that he, Steve Paulson and District Counsel are working on revising the “no-show” policy to bring to the Board for consideration in December or January. Mr. Baehr also reported that District Counsel has developed a policy to accommodate larger wheelchairs on a first come basis; the Stroke Center arrangement is working out well; and that more outreach materials will be distributed regarding the “ready-window” and shared rides. In January, there will be a more comprehensive Staff Report giving the Board the opportunity to see which types of reports are available and determine what information should be included in the monthly Staff Reports.

Director Spence added that ParaCruz continues to run smoother each day and the employees are very dedicated.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR SKILLICORN SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY

Accept the ParaCruz Operations Status Report.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Rotkin being absent.

CHAIR REILLY TOOK ITEM #13 OUT OF ORDER AT THIS TIME

13. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION FOR THE SERVICES OF LINDA WILSHUSEN AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

Linda Wilshusen was presented with a Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition for her years of service as the Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY

Move approval of a Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition for the services of Linda Wilshusen as the Executive Director of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission.

Motion passed by unanimously affirmative voice vote in lieu of a roll call vote with Director Rotkin being absent.

11. **CONSIDERATION OF STATUS OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND THE IMPACT ON MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS AT METRO**

Summary:

Mark Dorfman reported that the TEA-21 Act expired on September 30, 2003 and was extended through May 31, 2005. Depending on which new proposed version passes, one has approximately \$6 million for METRO and the other has approximately \$16 million. If a Reauthorization Bill is not enacted in 2005, it could not happen until 2009. This directly affects the MetroBase Project, and the District may have to look at phasing the project if the funding is not available.

Bonnie Morr added that UTU's National Legislative Director has also been pushing to make this happen.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY

Accept report on the status of Federal Legislation and the impact on METRO Capital Projects.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Rotkin being absent.

12. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO POSTHUMOUSLY REDEDICATE THE SCOTTS VALLEY PARK AND RIDE CENTER AS THE BART CAVALLARO TRANSIT CENTER IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT**

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY

Move approval of a Resolution to Posthumously Rededicate the Scotts Valley Park and Ride Center at the Bart Cavallaro Transit Center in recognition of his service on the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District.

Motion passed by unanimously affirmative voice vote in lieu of a roll call vote with Director Rotkin being absent.

Mark Dorfman reported the rededication ceremony would probably happen in March and that the Cavallaro family would be attending.

16. **CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING CONTRACT WITH TRISTAR FOR THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS**

Tom Stickel reported that this is a simple 2-month extension to allow for time to evaluate proposals received for a new contract.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ SECOND: DIRECTOR HINKLE

Authorize the General Manager to execute an extension of the contract with Tristar Risk Management through February 28, 2005.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Rotkin being absent.

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

Chair Reilly reported that all items on the Regular Closed Session Agenda would be deferred to the December Board Meeting due to Les White's absence today.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Reilly adjourned to a Special Meeting of the Board at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS
Administrative Services Coordinator