

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

January 19, 2001

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, January 19, 2001 at the City Hall Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, California.

Chairperson Beautz called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Sheryl Ainsworth
Jeff Almquist
Jan Beautz
Tim Fitzmaurice
Bruce Gabriel
Michelle Hinkle
Mike Keogh
Christopher Krohn
Dennis Norton
Emily Reilly

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Rafael Lopez
Ex-Officio Mike Rotkin

STAFF PRESENT

Bryant Baehr, Operations Manager
Paul Chandley, Human Resource Manager

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

2. REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION:

Margaret Gallagher reported that there would be a discussion on whether or not to initiate litigation in one potential case. Additionally, the Board will also consider providing direction to its Labor Negotiator regarding United Transportation Union (UTU) labor negotiations.

3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

None

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Chairperson Beautz adjourned to Closed Session at 8:35 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 9:20 a.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

STAFF PRESENT

Bryant Baehr, Operations Manager
Paul Chandley, Human Resource Manager
Kim Chin, Planning & Marketing Manager
Mark Dorfman, Asst. General Manager
Terry Gale, IT Manager
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel

Mike Goodell, Sr. Database Administrator
David Konno, Facilities Maint. Manager
Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager
Judy Souza, Base Superintendent
Tom Stickel, Fleet Maintenance Manager
Leslie R. White, General Manager

EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT

Jim Bosso, S. C. Transportation
Jennifer Bragar, Outreach Coordinator
Wally Brondstatter, UTU
Scott Bugental, E&D TAC
Richard Camperud, Courtesy Cab
Bart Cavallaro, Transit Rider
Mark Hartunian, Food & Nutrition Services
Patti Korba, SEA

Lynn Everett-Leigh, MultiSystems
Manny Martinez, PSA
Ian McFadden, UTU
John Mellon, VMU
Robert Scott, Engineering Consultant
Sam Storey, **Food and Nutrition**
Candace Ward, UCSC
Peggy Weaver, SEIU
Linda Wilshusen, SCCRTC

1. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

Margaret Gallagher reported that the Board decided to continue the decision regarding whether to initiate litigation to allow for further investigation. Also, Ms. Gallagher reported that on January 12, 2001 the Board authorized its labor negotiator to enter into an agreement regarding wage adjustments to bus operator salary schedules as a result of implementation of new fareboxes. Authorization was unanimously given by Directors Ainsworth, Almquist, Beautz, Hinkle, Keogh, Norton and Reilly. This matter is also on the regular agenda later this morning.

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Written:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| a. Goodwill Industries | RE: MetroBase |
| b. Kenneth Burch, UCSC | RE: Board Resignation |
| c. Scott Bugental, E&D TAC | RE: ADA Contract Svcs. Percentages |
| d. John Mellon, SEIU Local 415 | RE: Parts Personnel Petition |
| e. Bruce Arthur, Capitola City Council | RE: Board Resignation |
| f. Scott Bugental, E/D TAC | RE: Paratransit Audit |

Oral:

Barbara Grace spoke regarding hybrid technology. In light of hearing that the prices for natural gas have risen by 600%, she encouraged the Board to consider hybrid technology for part of the fleet.

Bart Cavallaro spoke regarding the Highway 17 Express bus and stated that the District is missing the opportunity to increase ridership from the San Jose State and University of Santa Clara communities. There are many evening classes where students may be reluctant to enter a parking lot at night to retrieve their vehicle. Mr. Cavallaro offered to attend a VTA meeting to inform them what is needed from riders on this side of the hill.

Director Ainsworth stated that the Scotts Valley Transit Center is overlit. Mr. White responded that the lighting at the center was prescribed by the Scotts Valley Police Dept. but that staff will meet with them to discuss minimum lighting while still maintaining safety.

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

None

4. METRO USERS GROUP (MUG) COMMUNICATIONS

MUG Chairperson Gabriel reported that there was a lengthy discussion regarding paratransit at their last meeting. There were four Motions made at the MUG meeting:

- 1) The Board should consider adding service from Homeless Shelter to Armory – 2 roundtrips per day. MUG recommends that service begins November 15, 2001 and runs through April 15, 2002.
- 2) Mug recommends the following:
 - a) That the Board continue the interactive process on the paratransit recertification.
 - b) To keep options available to non-ADA passengers while going through the Recertification process.
 - c) To support Task 14.
 - d) To support the Taxi Script Program.
- 3) MUG supports Staff recommendation for the purchase of (2) new supervisor vehicles.
- 4) Direct Metro Staff to move forward on purchasing used buses in a pro-active manner.

5. METRO ACCESSIBLE SERVICES TRANSIT FORUM (MASTF) COMMUNICATIONS

Sharon Barbour reported that there were three Motions made at the recent MASTF meeting and thanked the Board for accepting consumer input on the paratransit audit and recertification process:

- 1) Recommendation to the Board and management to participate in the Disabled Awareness Training Program as it relates to paratransit.
- 2) Recommendation to the Board and management that the District pursue acquisition of low floor model buses that have secondary lowering capability.

6. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

ADD TO ITEM #2 Written Communication from Scott Bugental, Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC)
RE: Paratransit Audit

CONSENT AGENDA:

ADD TO ITEM #7-6 ACCEPT AND FILE MUG COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF 12/13/00
(Add Minutes)

ADD TO ITEM #7-13 ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE STATUS REPORT
(Replace Staff Report)

ADD TO ITEM #7-14 CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF MIKE ROTKIN AS UCSC EX-OFFICIO
(Add Staff Report)

REGULAR AGENDA:

ADD TO ITEM #20 CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER FOR SPECIAL BUS ROUTE
(Add Staff Report)

ADD TO ITEM #21 CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT OF FARE ORDINANCE TO DELETE RESTRICTIONS ON HIGHWAY 17 FOR SENIOR AND DISABLED FARES
(Add Staff Report)

CONSENT AGENDA

- 7-1. **APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF 12/8/00 and 12/15/00**
- 7-2. **ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARY APPROVED CLAIMS**
- 7-3. **PASSENGER LIFT REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2000**
- 7-4. **CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: Deny the claim of: Lee Akamichi**
- 7-5. **ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF MASTF COMMITTEE MEETING OF 12/14/00**
- 7-6. **ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF MUG COMMITTEE MEETING OF 12/13/00**
- 7-7. **ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER 2000, APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS**
- 7-8. **CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION INCREASING PETTY CASH FUND FOR ADMINISTRATION**
- 7-9. **CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR DISPOSAL OF VEHICLE #804**
- 7-10. **CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION AMENDING FY 00-01 BUDGET**

- 7-11. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2000
- 7-12. ACCEPT AND FILE STATUS REPORT ON ADA STATUS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2000
- 7-13. ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE STATUS REPORT
- 7-14. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF MIKE ROTKIN AS UCSC EX-OFFICIO

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR AINSWORTH

Approve Consent Agenda.

The Motion passed with Director Norton abstaining on Item 7-1 and Directors Fitzmaurice and Krohn voting no on Item 7-14.

Discussion:

Director Fitzmaurice stated that he doesn't believe an open process was held to appoint the University representative to the Board. Candace Ward will inform the appropriate UCSC officials of Director Fitzmaurice's concerns and request to formalize the application process for filling the position representing the university.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 8. ELECTION OF DIRECTOR OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2001, TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ASSIGNMENTS, AND METRO USERS GROUP (MUG) CHAIRPERSON

Summary:

Nominations took place at the December 15, 2000 meeting for Board officers and Committee positions. Director Lopez was removed from the list of nominees for alternate to the Transportation Commission, because the City of Watsonville has appointed him to the Commission as its representative.

Discussion:

Bart Cavallaro, resident of Santa Cruz County, reviewed the history of the District committees and Board meetings. He stressed the fact that it is important to consider the non-elected Directors for appointment to the Transportation Commission.

Barbara Grace, representative of the Santa Cruz County Regional Group of the Sierra Club, read a letter from the Sierra Club endorsing Director Reilly as an appointee to the Transportation Commission. The Sierra Club's endorsement is due to Director Reilly's values regarding environmental protection.

Director Keogh withdrew his name for consideration as the Board Chair and stated that he supports Director Ainsworth for that position. Directors Fitzmaurice and Almquist withdrew their names from the nomination list for the Vice Chair position.

Director Fitzmaurice endorsed Directors Krohn and Reilly as appointees to the Transportation Commission. He stated that elected representatives would be a more reasonable choice in light of the Eminent Domain Authority which the District has been granted by the City for the MetroBase project. Director Almquist stated that the appointees to the Transportation Commission do not have to be elected officials. He added that there would be no representative from the 2nd District, or unincorporated Districts. Director Almquist endorsed Directors Norton, Gabriel and Keogh to the Commission. Director Reilly expressed concern about unelected officials serving on the Commission. Director Norton stated that there is a lack of representation from the 2nd District on both the District Board and Commission. He stated that he would look after the interests of the 2nd District and would like to be appointed to the Commission. Chairperson Beautz added that "elected" vs. "non-elected" Directors should not be an issue as each Director serves the public and all are equal members. She stated that it is very appropriate for any Director, whether elected or unelected, to be a member of the Commission.

The following vote took place for the position of Board Chair:

Nominee Director Ainsworth as Chair

Ayes: Directors Ainsworth, Almquist, Beautz, Gabriel, Hinkle, Keogh, Norton, Reilly
Noes: Directors Fitzmaurice and Krohn
Absent: Director Lopez
Abstain: None

Nominee Director Fitzmaurice as Chair

Ayes: Directors Fitzmaurice and Krohn
Noes: Directors Ainsworth, Almquist, Beautz, Gabriel, Hinkle, Keogh, Norton, Reilly
Absent: Director Lopez
Abstain: None

Director Ainsworth was elected Chair with the majority of votes.

Due to the withdrawal of Directors Almquist and Fitzmaurice from the list of nominees for the Vice Chair position, Director Reilly was asked by the Chair if she accepted the position of Vice Chair. Director Reilly accepted this position.

The following vote took place for the appointment of representatives to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission:

Nominee Director Norton

Ayes: Directors Ainsworth, Almquist, Beautz, Fitzmaurice, Gabriel, Hinkle, Keogh, Krohn, Norton, Reilly
Noes: None
Absent: Director Lopez
Abstain: None

Nominee Director Gabriel

Ayes: Directors Ainsworth, Almquist, Beautz, Gabriel, Hinkle, Keogh, Norton,
Noes: Directors Fitzmaurice, Krohn, Reilly
Absent: Director Lopez
Abstain: None

Nominee Director Keogh

Ayes: Directors Ainsworth, Almquist, Beautz, Gabriel, Hinkle, Keogh
Noes: Directors Fitzmaurice, Krohn, Norton, Reilly
Absent: Director Lopez
Abstain: None

Nominee Director Krohn

Ayes: Directors Fitzmaurice, Krohn, Norton, Reilly
Noes: Directors Ainsworth, Almquist, Beautz, Gabriel, Hinkle, Keogh
Absent: Director Lopez
Abstain: None

Nominee Director Reilly

Ayes: Directors Fitzmaurice, Krohn, Norton, Reilly
Noes: Directors Ainsworth, Almquist, Beautz, Gabriel, Hinkle, Keogh
Absent: Director Lopez
Abstain: None

Directors Gabriel, Keogh and Norton have been elected as District representatives to the Transportation Commission.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR NORTON

Adopt the following order for alternates to the Transportation Commission:

Director Reilly as first alternate
Director Krohn as second alternate
Director Hinkle as third alternate

The Motion passed unanimously with Director Lopez absent.

The Chair asked Director Gabriel if he accepted the position of MUG Chair since he was the only nominee for this position. Director Gabriel accepted this position.

DIRECTOR AINSWORTH ASSUMED HER POSITION AS CHAIRPERSON AT THIS POINT.

9. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS

The Board of Directors formally recognized the following employees for their years of service.

FIFTEEN YEARS

Walter Davila - Custodial Service Worker I
Ian McFadden - Bus Operator
Peter Milburn - Bus Operator
Eduardo Silva - Bus Operator
Serena Tover - Bus Operator

TWENTY YEARS

Roland Owens - Vehicle Service Technician

10. CONSIDERATION OF INCREASING THE TORT LIABILITY SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL MANAGER OR HIS/HER DESIGNEE AND DISTRICT COUNSEL TO \$10,000

Summary:

Margaret Gallagher reported that staff is requesting Board authorization for the General Manager and District Counsel to settle tort liability claims up to \$10,000. Ms. Gallagher informed the Board that Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) has staff authority to settle up to \$50,000 per claim. Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) staff has authority to settle up to \$15,000 per claim. The Board viewed the distribution of claims and was shown that the majority of claims were less than \$2,500. The next highest range in which the claims fell was the \$2,500 - \$5,000 range.

Discussion:

Ms. Gallagher stated that claim reports could be made to the Board on a quarterly basis to keep them informed.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ SECOND: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST

Approve the Resolution which authorizes the General Manager or his/her designee and District Counsel to authorize tort liability settlements up to \$10,000 and submit a claims report on a quarterly basis to the Board.

**AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE
SECOND: DIRECTOR NORTON**

Authorize settlement authority up to \$5,000.

The Amendment to the Motion did not carry.

The Original Motion passed unanimously with Director Lopez absent.

11. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY/GENERAL MANAGER AND DISTRICT COUNSEL TO ALLOW, COMPROMISE, AND/OR SETTLE ANY WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIM OR CASE FILED AGAINST THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Summary:

Les White reported that this item would change the way in which staff administers the Workers' Compensation Program. There would be tiers of review and control beyond just the Human Resources manager. Staff is recommending that any claims in excess of \$25,000 be reviewed by the Board. Any claims below \$25,000 would be reviewed internally and with the claims administrator, Firm Solutions.

Discussion:

Paul Chandley reviewed prior years' claims broken down by medical and indemnity costs. Currently, there are 17 claims in the process of the rehabilitation program. A contributor to the rising cost of Workers' Comp claims is the state law that increased the amount of wage loss replacement per week. In addition, the permanent disability weekly amount increased as well. A cost not reflected in Mr. Chandley's breakdown is the \$105,000 currently being paid to Firm Solutions as the administrator. Director Reilly inquired about the decrease in legal costs and was informed that there are two possibilities as to why this is occurring: Claims are being handled quicker through the litigation process; and, pre-trial conferences aid in decreasing legal costs. Staff is looking at implementing a district-wide health and safety committee. There have been an average of 3.4 settlements per year over the last seven years. Average annual settlement of these 3.4 claims is \$51,000. At the end of Year 2000, there were 87 open claims.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ SECOND: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE

Adopt the Resolution authorizing the Secretary/General Manager and District Counsel to allow, compromise, and/or settle any Workers' Compensation claim or case filed against the District up to \$25,000. Report claims analysis and expense to the Board at six-month intervals.

AMENDMENT: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ

Add claims over \$25,000 to the Consent Agenda for Board review.

Motion and Amendment to Motion passed unanimously with Director Lopez absent.

12. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR FURNISHING TWO STAFF VEHICLES

Summary:

Tom Stickel reported that there is a need to replace the Transit Supervisor vehicles and staff is requesting Board approval to award the contract to S&C Ford for two Ford Explorers. Mr. Stickel supplied the Board with a list of vehicle specifications included in the Invitation to Bid per the Board's request at the 1/12/01 meeting. Criteria for vehicle selection was to maximize driver space while staying inside the standard capacity. Several vehicles did not meet the criteria for hip, shoulder or head room.

Discussion:

Manny Martinez, Transit Supervisor, informed the Board that extensive research was conducted before choosing the Ford Explorers and mentioned that the Santa Cruz and Watsonville Police Departments and the County Sheriff's Dept. all utilize SUV vehicles. Tom Stickel addressed the issues of safety, specifically, the rollover problem and the type of tires. Mary Ferrick, Transit Supervisor, discussed hybrid vehicles and the interior space limitations.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR GABRIEL SECOND: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST

Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with S&C Ford for the purchase of two Ford Explorer XLTs for use by the Transit Supervisors.

Peggy Weaver, SEIU Local 415, stated that this is an ergonomics issue plus a work environment issue. Ms. Weaver is in favor of purchasing these vehicles for the Transit Supervisors. Several Directors expressed concern about public perception in purchasing SUVs for the District.

The Motion passed with Directors Krohn, Fitzmaurice and Norton voting no, and with Director Lopez absent.

DIRECTOR FIZMAURICE LEFT THE MEETING.

13. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PRINTING OF HEADWAYS

Summary:

Tom Stickel reported that the quarterly printing of *Headways* has been done under contract with Pizazz Printing. This vendor has filed for bankruptcy necessitating staff to go out to bid on this item. Four bids were received. Staff recommends awarding the bid to Southwest Offset Printing Company who was the lowest bidder.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR KEOGH

Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Southwest Offset Printing Company, Inc. for the printing of *Headways*.

Motion passed unanimously with Directors Lopez and Fitzmaurice absent.

DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE RETURNED TO THE MEETING.

14. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL CONTRACT WITH EVERGREEN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Discussion:

Staff is requesting that the Board authorize the General Manager to execute an amendment to the contract with Evergreen Environmental to extend the term of the contract for one additional year.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR KEOGH

Authorize General Manager to execute amendment to Evergreen Environmental's contract for one additional year.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Lopez absent.

15. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON PASSENGER AMENITIES FOR HIGHWAY 17 BUSES

Summary:

Bryant Baehr reported on the cost of amenities for the Highway 17 Express buses per the Board's request. For laptop plugs, seatback trays, padded armrests and cup holders the cost would be \$12,530.50 per bus, not including vendor markup. The installation of restrooms on the Highway 17 buses would be \$25,000 per vehicle. Restrooms would dictate that rear wheelchair lifts would be necessary since wheelchairs could not travel down the center aisle. The cost of the rear door lift would be \$15,000 per bus. A charging station for waste disposal would be \$10,000. An additional \$1.35 per trip based on 180,000 annual riders would be needed to offset this cost.

Discussion:

Director Norton inquired if the amenities would increase ridership. Bryant Baehr stated that the amenities would be a positive aspect for the ridership. Les White commented that when ordering new buses from the manufacturer, the amenities could be specified and the manufacturer would bid on that basis. Specifications would come back to the Board for approval.

It is the desire of the MASTF committee that the Board continue to look at low floor configurations.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR GABRIEL SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY

Direct staff to move forward to acquire manufacturer bids on buses with specified amenities in a proactive manner. Include an analysis of how often the amenities will require repair/replacement.

AMENDMENT: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY

Direct staff to discontinue looking any further at the restroom issue.

Linda Wilshusen of SCCRTC asked the Board to consider adding the cost of the amenities into the fare for the Highway 17 service.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Lopez absent.

16. PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF TASK 14 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL AUDIT (COFA) OF THE ADA PARATRANSIT CONTRACT - MULTISYSTEMS

Summary:

Kim Chin reported that the purpose of this staff report is to report the progress of the Comprehensive Operational and Financial Audit. Tasks 1 - 13 were presented at the November 17, 2000 Board Workshop meeting. Task 14 will be presented at this meeting. E&D TAC put together a sub-committee to review Task 14. Their comments will be given to the Board at the end of the presentation.

Presentation:

Lynn Everett-Leigh of MultiSystems presented Task 14 to the Board. Topics reviewed were:

- a) Project Overview
- b) Summaries and Conclusions
- c) Demand Estimates
- d) Change Issues
- e) ADA Program Management
- f) SCMTD Support Staff
- g) Costs
- h) Service Standards and Policies
- i) Service Design Factors (costs/control/customer service)
- j) Meeting the Demand
- k) Cost Structure Principles
- l) Service Structure
- m) Costs
- n) Performance Measures
- o) Incentives and Penalties
- p) Action Steps - Hire program manager, develop policies, work on new RFP.

Director Beautz and Les White both inquired about solving the double billing issue if, in fact, one exists. Mr. White added that staff would need at least one month to determine if this problem

exists and if so, the magnitude of it. Ms. Everett-Leigh reiterated that the most important steps are:

- 1) Determine exactly how FNS is operating the paratransit business.
- 2) Hire a manager and staff support to manage the paratransit program.
- 3) Begin developing policies in order to move forward on an RFP

Sam Storey of **Food and Nutrition** supports these recommendations and has been working with his staff to implement many of these changes. Mr. Storey stated that he would like to sign the contract extension and propose provisions to deal with the remaining issues at a later date, particularly the rider Bill of Rights. This Bill of Rights would be the primary instrument to be used to design and deliver the service.

Scott Bugental of E/D TAC submitted comments on the plan in writing to the Board Chair. This letter is included in the agenda packet. Ian McFadden of UTU stated that the union thinks that CTSA should be the primary provider of the paratransit service. UTU is anxious to see the recertification process begin, as they believe that there will be considerable cost savings.

Les White commented that staff would bring back a report on the issue of staffing and what can be done with the existing staff. Once the Board receives and accepts this report, staff will return to the Board with action steps.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ SECOND: DIRECTOR AINSWORTH

The Board received and approved the Paratransit Comprehensive Operational and Financial Audit and report and directed staff to pursue the recommendations outlined as priority items.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Lopez absent.

17. PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ADA RECERTIFICATION STUDY - NELSON NYGAARD

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

Continue this item to the Board workshop meeting on February 9, 2001.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Lopez absent.

ITEM 19 WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

19. CONSIDERATION OF EXTENDING THE PARATRANSIT CONTRACT WITH FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES FOR ONE YEAR WITH CPI ADJUSTMENT OF 4% AND OTHER TERMS

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

In light of the information received in Closed Session, continue the contract with Food and Nutrition Services for one month to the next regular meeting of the Board so staff can continue the investigation into the billing practices.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Lopez absent.

18. A. CONSIDERATION OF UPDATED BUS FLEET PLAN
- B. STATUS REPORT WITH REGARD TO DISCUSSION WITH THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB) CONCERNING REVIEW OF URBAN TRANSIT BUS FLEET RULE TO REDUCE HARMFUL ENGINE AND FUEL AIR EMISSIONS FOR URBAN TRANSIT BUSES
- C. CONSIDERATION OF FUEL PATH SELECTION FOR THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB)

Summary:

Mark Dorfman stated that Jack Kitowski of CARB was instructed to make the District's proposal work and to draft a letter to the District that will indicate CARB's conditions for accepting the District's proposal for buying convertible diesel buses. Staff is requesting that the Board authorize the alternative fuel path subject to CARB giving the District a favorable response and if the conditions cannot be accommodated, the District should default to a diesel path on 1/31/01 unless staff receives a letter from CARB stating that the decision can be delayed beyond the 1/31/01 deadline so that details can be worked out.

Discussion:

Director Keogh asked if the District could get an interim fueling station of adequate capacity in advance of settling the issue of the consolidated maintenance facility. Jim Larsen of PG&E responded that a temporary fueling station may be possible from several turnkey operators who are active in the marketplace in California with the understanding that they would be granted the long-term contract with the District to provide future fuel needs. Mr. Larsen posed the option of LNG as an alternative whereby the fueling facility could be established in approximately one year.

DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE LEFT THE MEETING.

Chairperson Ainsworth commented that she doesn't want to go in the LNG direction.

DIRECTOR KROHN LEFT THE MEETING.

Les White informed the Board that he has entered into discussions with Devco Oil to modify one of their mid-grade gas tanks into a green diesel distribution tank so the District could fuel at their facility on an interim basis. There would be some cost to the District.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR KEOGH SECOND: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ

Select alternative fuel path as 15-year decision contingent upon receipt of approval from CARB of convertible bus strategy by January 31, 2001. In the absence of this approval or receiving a waiver on the deadline, the District would default to the alternate fuel path.

Motion passed unanimously with Directors Fitzmaurice, Krohn and Lopez absent.

20. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER FOR SPECIAL BUS ROUTE

Summary:

Bryant Baehr reported that the District couldn't be in the charter business. The route from the homeless shelter to the National Guard Armory would need to be an open door, fixed route. The cost of this route would be \$23,048 for 86 days of operation. This amount is with no recovery of fares at all. The bus operators on this route would be on overtime pay rate.

Discussion:

Mr. Baehr stated that Mr. Cole, Executive Director of the Homeless Services Center, could probably pay the passenger fares only. In response to Director Norton's question, Mr. Baehr noted that Mr. Cole would need one week's notice prior to this route being put in place.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR NORTON SECOND: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST

Establish this route conditioned on the Homeless Services Center paying for passenger fares. Request that the Homeless Services Center approach the City and County for \$5,000 each to contribute to the cost of this service. The District will only provide this service through April 15, 2001 and will revisit the issue of continuing this route in the future.

Director Norton asked that counts be taken of the homeless riders.

Motion passed unanimously with Directors Fitzmaurice, Krohn and Lopez absent.

21. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT OF FARE ORDINANCE TO DELETE RESTRICTIONS ON HIGHWAY 17 FOR SENIOR AND DISABLED FARES

Summary:

Bryant Baehr reported that on December 15, 2000 the Board approved eliminating the fare restrictions for seniors and the disabled on the Highway 17 Express route. At that time no public hearing had been conducted for revision to the fare ordinance. The purpose of this item is to receive public input regarding the proposed fare change.

The public hearing was opened up at 12:56 p.m.

There was no public input regarding this issue.

The public hearing was closed at 12:57 p.m.

22. CONSIDERATION OF RATIFICATION OF SIDE AGREEMENT WITH UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, LOCAL 23

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR AINSWORTH SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

Approve staff's recommendation to adopt the Side Agreement regarding the new fareboxes and increases to the bus operators' wage schedules and adding that the Board wants to ensure that the Agreement applies not only to the operation of fareboxes but also that it is applicable to the TriM units and implementation of any future change to the TRiM units.

Motion passed unanimously with Directors Fitzmaurice, Krohn and Lopez absent.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairperson Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DALE CARR
Administrative Services Coordinator

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Members of the public may address the Board of Directors on a topic not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors or on the consent agenda by approaching the podium during consideration of Agenda Item #1 "Oral and Written Communications", under Section I. Presentations will be limited in time in accordance with District Resolution 69-2-1.

Members of the public may address the Board of Directors on a topic on the agenda by approaching the podium immediately after presentation of the staff report but before the Board of Directors' deliberation on the topic to be addressed. Presentations will be limited in time in accordance with District Resolution 69-2-1. When addressing the Board, the individual may, but is not required to, provide his/her name and address in an audible tone for the record.

The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Santa Cruz City Council Chambers is located in an accessible facility. If you wish to attend this meeting and require special assistance in order to participate, please contact Dale Carr at 426-6080 at least 72 hours in advance of the Board of Directors meeting.