

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

April 8, 2005

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, April 8, 2005 at the District's Administrative Office, 370 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

In Vice Chair Rotkin's absence, Chair Keogh called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Jan Beautz (arrived after roll call)
Dene Bustichi
Stephanie Harlan
Michelle Hinkle
Mike Keogh
Emily Reilly (arrived after roll call)
Mike Rotkin (arrived after roll call)
Dale Skillicorn
Pat Spence
Mark Stone
Ex-Officio Wes Scott (arrived after roll call)

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Marcela Tavantzis

STAFF PRESENT

Frank Cheng, MetroBase Project Manager	Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager
Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager	Judy Souza, Base Superintendent
Terry Gale, IT Manager	Tom Stickel, Fleet Maintenance Manager
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel	Les White, General Manager
Steve Paulson, Paratransit Administrator	

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

Paul Marcelin-Sampson, MAC/MRU
Manny Martinez, PSA
Ian McFadden, SEA

Will Regan, VMU
Bob Yount, MAC/MASTF/E&D TAC

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Oral:

Chair Keogh reported that action was requested today on Items #5-13, #5-20, and #10.

Les White announced that the Special Meeting scheduled for today was cancelled.

Paul Marcelin-Sampson reported, on behalf of MAC, that he had a very productive discussion in Watsonville about Routes #74 and #79 with three MAC members, two Board members and the General Manager regarding restoring service to parts of Watsonville.

Written:

- a. SCCRTC Bicycle Committee Re: Folding Bikes on Buses

Chair Keogh reported that MAC will be reviewing the correspondence from the SCCRTC this month and the Board is awaiting MAC's response.

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

Will Regan asked if this Item could be delayed until more Directors arrived.

DIRECTOR REILLY ARRIVED

Chair Keogh agreed to postpone this Item until Vice Chair Rotkin arrived.

4. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

5-1. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 11 AND 25, 2005

No questions or comments.

5-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS

No questions or comments.

5-3. ACCEPT AND FILE FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2005 RIDERSHIP REPORT

Page 1 of the March Ridership Report will be included in the April 22, 2005 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

5-4. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: DENY THE CLAIM OF LISA MUIRHEAD, CLAIM #05-0010

No questions or comments.

5-5. ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) AGENDA FOR APRIL 20, 2005 AND MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2005

No questions or comments.

5-6. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2005 AND CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET TRANSFERS

Will be included in the April 22, 2005 Board Packet.

5-7. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2005

February Report will be included in the April 22, 2005 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

5-8. ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2005

Les White said that complaints received will be included in this report beginning next month.

5-9. ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE UPDATE

Will be included in the April 22, 2005 Board Packet.

5-10. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT

Director Reilly asked about her previous request for information regarding the use of alternative concrete. Mark Dorfman replied that Staff would get information for a report to the Board.

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTOR SCOTT ARRIVED

VICE CHAIR ROTKIN ARRIVED AND PRESIDED OVER THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING

5-11. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES REFLECTING VOTING RESULTS FROM APPOINTEES TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR THE MARCH 2005 MEETINGS

No questions or comments.

5-12. CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH NATIONWIDE AUCTION SYSTEMS FOR DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

No questions or comments.

5-13. CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH MISSION LINEN FOR UNIFORM AND LAUNDRY SERVICES

Tom Stickel reported that this is a renewal of the current contract with Mission Linen that expires on April 20, 2005.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR SKILICORN

Authorize the General Manager to execute an amendment to the contract with Mission Linen & Uniform Service to extend the term of the contract for one (1) additional year.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Tavantzis being absent.

Regarding Item #5-10, Director Reilly clarified that she would like RNL to know that the Board would like a presentation on the use of alternative concrete in the MetroBase project and that she didn't intend for Staff to have to do the report.

5-14. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH VEHICLE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT, INC. FOR BUS ENGINE FILTERS

Will be included in the April 22, 2005 Board Packet.

5-15. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR MODIFICATION OF BUS SHELTERS

Will be included in the April 22, 2005 Board Packet.

5-16. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS AT 115 DUBOIS STREET

Will be included in the April 22, 2005 Board Packet.

5-17. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AMENDING FY 04-05 BUDGET

Summary:

Elisabeth Ross reported that as a result of required adjustments to operating expenses, the operating budget is recommended to be decreased by a net \$102,500 for a new total of \$33,062,678 in operating expenses. The two changes in operating revenues are an increase in interest income and transfer of \$108,000 of the FTA operating assistance advance to the capital budget for one-time ParaCruz costs. Updating the capital improvement program results in a net increase of \$178,300 for five new projects. The revised capital improvement program totals \$18,693,032.

5-18. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR DISPOSAL OF THREE (3) 1985 SEDANS AND ONE 1989 PICK-UP TRUCK

No questions or comments.

5-19. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE ASSESSMENTS FOR COOPERATIVE RETAIL MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Summary:

Mark Dorfman reported that this is an annual assessment that funds the City of Santa Cruz Downtown Host Program. Mr. Dorfman clarified that although public agencies are exempt from paying taxes, this assessment is used to enhance downtown safety and security and improve public perceptions of the area in addition to keeping the sidewalks clean. METRO also owns property in Watsonville and will be requested to pay an assessment within a month or so for that property as well.

5-20. RECONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR BUS STOP LOCATED AT SOQUEL AND FRONT STREETS

Summary:

Margaret Gallagher reported that she had spoken to Ceil Cirillo earlier this week who had suggested that Friend, Friend & Friend wants the License Agreement as presented by them in Attachment “B”.

Discussion:

Les White reported that the stop has been moved 20 feet south of the entrance to Trader Joe’s, but it is still located in the sidewalk. Mr. White said that the Board’s options are to enter into this License Agreement, put a pad down and move the shelter off the sidewalk towards Long’s so it’s out of the right-of-way, or leave it where it is in the right-of-way and have no agreement.

Chair Keogh expressed concern regarding the City allowing the stop to be returned to the public right-of-way after the 5-year License Agreement expires if the property owner exercises their right to have the stop removed from their property.

Director Spence pointed out that “Municipal” still needed to be changed to “Metropolitan” in the agreement. Ms. Gallagher responded that she would make those corrections. Director Spence also commented that there should be adequate ADA clearance from the shelter to the curb in the event it has to be moved back into the sidewalk.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR REILLY SECOND: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

Approve the License Agreement for the Bus Stop located at Soquel and Front Streets, as set forth in Attachment “B”, with the corrections made changing “Municipal” to “Metropolitan”.

Les White clarified that moving this stop away from the curb and towards Long’s would not affect the Talking Bus system. Terry Gale announced that the Talking Bus system now falls under the IT Department since Bryant Baehr’s departure from METRO.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Tavantzis being absent.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS

This presentation will take place at the April 22, 2005 Board Meeting.

7. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING SPONSORSHIP OF LEADERSHIP SANTA CRUZ COUNTY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE EDUCATION ON TRANSPORTATION ISSUES, SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Will be included in the April 22, 2005 Board Packet.

8. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICES OF DENNIS NORTON AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

No questions or comments.

9. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SHUTTLE SERVICE RECEIVED FROM THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE

Will be included in the April 22, 2005 Board Packet.

10. CONSIDERATION OF SERVICE REVISIONS FOR SUMMER 2005

Mark Dorfman reported that Staff is proposing minor adjustments for Summer 2005 service including enhancing connections with inter-county and regional service, standardizing timepoints, adding service to Pajaro Valley High School and modifying on-time performance.

The approximate annual cost for these modifications is \$2,900.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR REILLY SECOND: DIRECTOR SKILLICORN

Approve proposed service modifications for Summer 2005.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Tavantzis being absent.

11. CONSIDERATION OF CALL STOP AUDIT REPORT

Will be included in the April 22, 2005 Board Packet.

ITEM #3 WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER AT THIS TIME

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

Will Regan, Manny Martinez and Ian McFadden stated to the Board that it is SEIU's desire to have a new contract in place by July 1, 2005. The SEIU bargaining team is concerned that only ½ hour per week has been allotted for negotiations and that on the 2nd day of negotiations, Ellen Aldridge, the District's Negotiator, mentioned "impasse". Ian McFadden reported that this expression was very disturbing and construed by the Union as "bad-faith bargaining."

DIRECTOR BEAUTZ ARRIVED

Vice Chair Rotkin replied that the Board is not planning on or hoping to come to an impasse.

Ex-Officio Director Scott announced that a one-day UC shuttle driver strike is anticipated on Thursday April 14th and advised that METRO operators should not cross the picket lines. UC will be bringing in additional buses from private companies to pick up passengers at the main entrance.

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

Margaret Gallagher reported that the Board would be discussing Labor Negotiations with their Labor Negotiator, and discussing one case of Anticipated Litigation with their Legal Counsel.

13. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

None.

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chair Rotkin adjourned to Closed Session at 9:31 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 10:36 a.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

14. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

Margaret Gallagher had nothing to report at this time.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Vice Chair Rotkin adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS
Administrative Services Coordinator