

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

SPECIAL Open Session Minutes- Board of Directors

October 19, 2005

A SPECIAL Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Wednesday, October 19, 2005 at the Capitola City Council Chambers, 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA.

Chair Keogh called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Jan Beautz
Dene Bustichi
Stephanie Harlan
Michelle Hinkle
Mike Keogh
Emily Reilly
Mike Rotkin
Dale Skillicorn
Pat Spence
Mark Stone
Marcela Tavantzis

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Ex Officio Wes Scott

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager
Steve Paulson, Paratransit Administrator
Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager
Robyn Slater, Human Resources Manager

Judy Souza, Acting Operations Manager
Tom Stickel, Maintenance Manager
Les White, General Manager

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

Ellen Aldridge, Avery & Associates
Patty Brady
Genevieve Bookwalter, Sentinel
Thomas Hiltner, Public
Gary Klemz, SEIU Field Representative
Courtney Mogg, SEIU

Eduardo Montesino, UTU
Dave Moreau, PSA
Jeff Northon, UTU Retiree
Will Regan, VMU
Michael Steber, UTU

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

Les White reported that there would be a discussion with METRO's Labor Negotiators regarding labor negotiations with UTU.

Chair Keogh asked how many people wished to address the Board this morning and after 4 people raised their hands, allocated a total of 30 minutes for this item in order to give the Board sufficient time in Closed Session to review the proposals that are currently being negotiated and then provide any necessary direction to METRO's negotiators.

3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

Eduardo Montesino, UTU, but speaking today as a concerned parent, expressed his frustration and those of other parents over the strike. Mr. Montesino urged the Board to end the strike, have a report after Closed Session, and he told Les White to "get his facts straight" and told Mark Dorfman to "please stop messing up the numbers."

Jeff Northon, UTU Retiree, introduced himself as "The Fixer" and asked for each Board member's resignation by Thursday at noon "because I can." Mr. Northon threatened the Board saying, "If you don't tender all your reservations (sic), I'm going to go after your houses and bank accounts and it's going to be really difficult for you." Chair Keogh asked Mr. Northon to spell his last name, which he did, and said he was a resident of Los Gatos. Mr. Northon said "Your attorney might be able to explain this to you, if she were here, and if you want an explanation on this, I can have three attorneys explain it to you, ok? And that's all I'm going to say today."

Patty Brady said her husband is disabled and that she has 30 years experience of calling, settling and avoiding strikes and she accused the Board of being totally disrespectful to its negotiating team, the community and the drivers. Ms. Brady urged the Board to stop crippling the community by reaching an agreement and ending the strike.

Bonnie Morr, UTU, distributed information to the Board for consideration in Closed Session and read an official statement from UTU, which is attached to the file copy of these minutes. Ms. Morr said the District has now saved over \$500,000 that can be used to settle the strike.

Vice Chair Rotkin asked Staff for a quick, rough accounting of how much money has been saved by the strike and the short and long term impacts of the strike.

Mark Dorfman replied that that approximately \$33,500 in typical weekday expenses including bus operator pay, MediCare, CalPERS retirement, Accruals, fuel, are not being incurred. The District is incurring additional costs including security, custodial at approximately \$3,1000 per weekday because of the strike. The revenue lost each weekday due to the strike is approximately \$26,000 and includes farebox, UC and Cabrillo contracts, Hwy 17 fares, advertising and rent income. The net of these is that the District is saving about \$3,380 per weekday.

Mr. Dorfman then explained that METRO is losing about \$614 for each weekend day of no service and asked the Board to consider the long and short term impact the strike will have on ridership, stating that it is reasonable to expect a 5 – 10% decrease in ridership following a lengthy strike. As an example, METRO would lose \$687,000 if there were a 10% drop in ridership over the next twelve months, or \$343,000 if it were a 5% drop and it is expected to take up to two years to recover from the strike.

Vice Chair Rotkin asked if the drop in ridership would affect the High Intensity Transit Tier formula. Les White replied there is a potential loss of up to \$3.6 million in formula funds over the next four years if there is a change in any of the six performance indicators METRO currently meets.

Bonnie Morr reminded the Board to consider who voted to remove the “no strike agreement” because that is where the responsibility lies for the loss of funding to METRO.

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Chair Keogh adjourned to SPECIAL Closed Session at 9:22 a.m. and reconvened to SPECIAL Open Session at 11:10 a.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

4. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION IF ANY

None.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Keogh adjourned the SPECIAL meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS
Administrative Services Coordinator