

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

September 8, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, September 8, 2006 at the District's Administrative Office, 370 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Vice Chair Tavantzis called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Jan Beautz (arrived after roll call)
Michelle Hinkle
Mike Keogh
Emily Reilly
Mike Rotkin (arrived after roll call)
Pat Spence
Mark Stone
Marcela Tavantzis

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Dene Bustichi
Kirby Nicol
Dale Skillicorn
Ex-Officio Wes Scott

STAFF PRESENT

Ciro Agguire, Operations Manager
Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager
Mary Ferrick, Base Superintendent
Terry Gale, IT Manager
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel

Steve Paulson, Paratransit Administrator
Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager
Robyn Slater, Human Resources Manager
Tom Stickel, Maintenance Manager
Les White, General Manager

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

Carolyn Chaney, Chaney & Associates
Carolyn Derwing, UTU
Jonathan Gifford, UCSC Student
Norm Hagen, MAC

John Mellon, VMU
Sandra Lipperd, UTU
Paul Marcelin-Sampson, MAC
Bob Yount, MAC

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Written:

a. George Dondero, Exec. Dir., SCCRTC Re: Public Transit Resources

Oral:

Jonathan Gifford, UCSC Student, stated that he believes METRO joining to sue UCSC regarding proposed campus expansion is a bad idea and said that UCSC service is not adequate. Mr. Gifford stated that METRO is to provide transportation to and from campus according to the contract, with TAPS shuttles providing on-campus transportation.

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

None.

4. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

5-1. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 11 & 25, 2006

Will be included in the September 22, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

5-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2006

No questions or comments.

5-3. ACCEPT AND FILE AUGUST 2006 RIDERSHIP REPORT

Pages 1 & 4 of the Ridership Report will be included in the September 22, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

5-4. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: DENY THE CLAIM OF AMERIPRISE (NGUYEN), CLAIM #06-0017

Margaret Gallagher reported that this matter had been settled and requested that it be deleted from the Agenda.

5-5. ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2006 AND MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2006

No questions or comments.

5-6. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR MAY 2006 AND APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS

Will be included in the September 22, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

5-7. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR JUNE 2006; DESIGNATION OF EXCESS SALES TAX FUNDS; AND ADOPTION OF SCHEDULE OF RESERVE ACCOUNTS

Will be included in the September 22, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

5-8. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR JUNE 2006

No questions or comments.

5-9. ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2006

No questions or comments.

5-10. ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE UPDATE FOR MONTH OF JULY 2006

No questions or comments.

5-11. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES REFLECTING VOTING RESULTS FROM APPOINTEES TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR THE AUGUST 2006 MEETING(S)

Will be included in the September 22, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

5-12. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT

Will be included in the September 22, 2006 Board Packet.
No questions or comments.

5-13. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF ONE 1986 SERVICE TRUCK, ONE 1985 SERVICE VAN, ONE 1986 SERVICE VAN, TWO (2) 1985 PICK-UP TRUCKS, AND ASSOCIATED PARTS

No questions or comments.

5-14. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH CLAREMONT BEHAVIORAL SERVICES FOR EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

No questions or comments.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS

This presentation will take place at the September 22, 2006 Board meeting.

7. PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDERATION OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE PARATRANSIT PLAN REFERRED TO AS THE PARACRUZ CUSTOMER GUIDE

Public Hearing will take place at 9:00 a.m. at the September 22, 2006 Board meeting.

Summary:

Steve Paulson reported that this version of the modified Customer Guide included input from MAC, E&D TAC, and others and pointed out the following three modified areas of importance:

- 1) How Will-Call Returns are handled and that they are available up until 7:00 p.m.,
- 2) Advance reservations reduced from 14 days ahead of trip to 3 days,
- 3) Multiple reservations per phone call reduced from 4 round-trips to 3

DIRECTOR BEAUTZ ARRIVED

Discussion:

Director Keogh asked MAC members Paul Marcelin-Sampson and Bob Yount if MAC feels METRO is going in the right direction with the proposed modifications. They replied affirmatively.

Director Reilly suggested adding language on Page #7.a6 clarifying that ParaCruz rides must begin and end within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of a fixed route bus line.

Paul Marcelin-Sampson pointed out that up to 1,400 more rides per month are reserved than taken, as shown on Page #5-9.2 of the Paratransit Report, which is why MAC suggested reducing advance reservations from 14 to 3 days. Mr. Marcelin-Sampson stated that MAC also feels METRO is too lenient regarding appointments running late and impacting ParaCruz schedules. MAC feels there should be some kind of mechanism to track changed pick up and drop off times and some sort of penalty after a certain number of incidents.

MAC Chair Bob Yount stated that MAC members had put a lot of time and effort into making suggestions for improving the Customer Guide.

MAC Vice Chair Norm Hagen agreed and stated that he is a paratransit user and feels that many customers' expectations are unrealistic.

There was a discussion about appointments running late and how to handle them.

Direction: Vice Chair Tavantzis directed that the number of customers not ready during their "ready window" for return trips be identified on the monthly ParaCruz Status Report and, if possible, that they be separated between the ones that called or not. Vice Chair Tavantzis also

directed that the number of customer-missed rides be tracked to see if there is an improvement with the 3-day advance appointment window.

Director Hinkle suggested that the ready window be explained orally to customers during their orientation to the system.

8. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN EMERGENCY GENERATOR FOR THE ENCINAL OFFICES

Summary:

Tom Stickel reported that the current generator servicing the Encinal Street Offices no longer adequately serves the power requirements of the District's Information Technology needs in the event of a power failure or disruption.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR REILLY SECOND: DIRECTOR STONE

Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract for one each 40 KW skid-mounted enclosed gaseous engine generator set for the Encinal Street Offices with State Electric

Motion passed unanimously with Directors Bustichi, Nicol, and Skillicorn being absent.

9. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF CALPERS RESOLUTIONS TO FIX THE DISTRICT'S MEDICAL PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION RATES FOR SEIU AND UTU FIXED ROUTE

Summary:

Roby Slater reported that these two Resolutions with CalPERS will establish the maximum monthly premium contributions that METRO pays for SEIU and UTU Fixed Route and will change the fixed dollar amount to a percentage to reflect the current Labor Agreements.

DIRECTOR STONE LEFT THE MEETING

Discussion:

John Mellon, VMU, noted that the Staff Report's Recommended Action had an error listing SEIU as "Local 23" rather than "Local 415".

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR REILLY SECOND: DIRECTOR KEOGH

Adopt Resolutions to revise the District's fixed contribution rates for the Service Employees International Union, Local 415, and the United Transportation Union, Local 23, Fixed Route Division under the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) medical insurance program

Motion passed by unanimous affirmative voice vote in lieu of a roll call vote with Directors Bustichi, Nicol, Skillicorn, and Stone being absent.

10. ACCEPT REPORT ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION FROM CAROLYN CHANEY OF CHANEY & ASSOCIATES, WASHINGTON, DC

Les White introduced METRO's Federal Legislative Lobbyist, Carolyn Chaney, of Chaney & Associates, Washington DC, and prefaced her presentation by expressing his appreciation for her efforts.

DIRECTOR STONE RETURNED TO THE MEETING

Ms. Chaney gave an update on federal legislation and its effect on METRO.

CHAIR ROTKIN ARRIVED

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

Margaret Gallagher reported that that the Board would have a conference with its Legal Counsel regarding one case of existing litigation

12. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

None.

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chair Tavantzis adjourned to Closed Session at 10:26 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 11:12 a.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

13. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

Margaret Gallagher reported that the Board took no reportable action in Closed Session.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Vice Chair Tavantzis adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS
Administrative Services Coordinator