



**SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 12, 2015 – 8:30 AM  
SANTA CRUZ METRO ADMIN OFFICES  
110 VERNON STREET  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) was convened on Friday, June 12, 2015, at METRO's Admin Offices at 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz, California.

The Board Meeting Agenda Packet can be found online at [www.SCMTD.com](http://www.SCMTD.com) and is available for inspection at Santa Cruz METRO's Administrative offices at 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz, California.

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**SECTION I: OPEN SESSION**

**1 CALL TO ORDER at 8:33A by Vice Chair Rotkin**

**2 ROLL CALL: The following Directors were present:**

<b>Director Ed Bottorff</b>	<b>City of Capitola</b>
<b>Director Dene Bustichi, Chair</b>	<b>City of Scotts Valley</b>
<b>Director Karina Cervantez</b>	<b>City of Watsonville</b>
<b>Director Cynthia Chase</b>	<b>City of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Zach Friend</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director D. Norm Hagen</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Don Lane</b>	<b>City of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director John Leopold</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Bruce McPherson</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Director Mike Rotkin, Vice Chair</b>	<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Ex-Oficio Director Donna Blitzer</b>	<b>UC Santa Cruz</b>

The following Directors were absent:  
Director Jimmy Dutra

City of Watsonville

**STAFF PRESENT:**  
Alex Clifford, CEO  
Leslyn Syren, General Counsel

METRO EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO VOLUNTARILY INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER) WERE:

Heather Abramson, AMBAG  
Erron Alvey, METRO  
Carolyn Derwing, SEA/METRO  
Rachel Moriconi, RTC

Ernestina Saldana, COD  
April Warnock, METRO  
Daniel Zaragoza, METRO

**3 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice Chair Rotkin announced the following had been distributed at each Director's seat: Updated Board Roster, Board Officers & Appointments, and Confidential Board Address Directory.

He also announced that copies of the following were distributed to each Director with additional copies available at the sign-in table:

- Copies of the SCCRTC (Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission) presentation and back-up information with a map
- Item 12 Dump the Pump Day Correction
- Thank you letters from Leadership Santa Cruz and Sarah Schifrin

**4 COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Vice Chair Rotkin opened the floor to public comment

Hearing no public comment, Director Hagen thanked the Supervisors and the Board Members for their support and ParaCruz for their services which allow him to maintain his independence.

**5 LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS**

Vice Chair Rotkin opened the floor to public comment. Hearing none, the meeting continued to the next item.

**6 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION(S) FROM MAC**

**7 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS**

Vice Chair Rotkin referenced his earlier announcements.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**8-01 MOVED TO REGULAR AGENDA AS FIRST ITEM OF DISCUSSION:  
CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE  
EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER**

Chair Dene Bustichi requested this item move to the Regular Agenda for further discussion as the first item.

**8-02 ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF THE SANTA CRUZ METRO BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS MEETING OF MAY 22, 2015**

- 8-03 CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE CEO TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH DAY WIRELESS SYSTEMS FOR LAND MOBILE RADIO NETWORK UPGRADE THROUGH FEBRUARY 3, 2016**
- 8-04 CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT TO WINCHESTER PACIFIC BATTERIES U.S.A., INC. FOR PURCHASE, DELIVERY AND SERVICING OF HEAVY-DUTY COACH BATTERIES NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000**
- 8-05 CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE CEO TO EXECUTE A TWO-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH VISION SERVICE PLAN FOR EMPLOYEE VISION CARE SERVICES, INCREASING THE CONTRACT TOTAL BY \$290,000**
- 8-06 CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT TO DON CHAPIN COMPANY, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETION OF GREEN VALLEY ROAD BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS NOT TO EXCEED \$92,285**
- 8-07 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO PROVIDE BUS SERVICE TO THE SANTA CRUZ FOLLIES ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2015**
- 8-08 RENEWAL OF LIABILITY AND VEHICLE PHYSICAL DAMAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE WITH CALTIP FOR FY16**
- 8-09 RECEIVE AND FILE THIS ANALYSIS FOR FIXED ROUTE FLEET EARLY RELOCATION TO THE NEW JUDY K. SOUZA OPERATIONS FACILITY**

**ACTION: MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED EXCEPT FOR ITEM 8-01, WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED UNDER REGULAR AGENDA, AS REQUESTED.**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR LEOPOLD                      SECONDED: DIRECTOR LANE  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bottorff, Bustichi, Cervantez, Chase, Friend, Hagen, Lane, Leopold, McPherson and Rotkin)**

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

- 8-01 CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER**

Chair Dene Bustichi requested this item move from Consent Agenda for discussion.

Chair Bustichi provided background to the staff report, noting that the Board overall is very supportive of METRO's CEO. The past year has been a year of transition from prior procedures/processes, stressing the CEO's contribution and attention to the structural deficit issues. Chair Bustichi and other Board Members will be meeting with CEO Clifford later this month to develop goals and objectives for the coming year.

Vice Chair Rotkin opened the floor to public comment.

Carolyn Derwing, SEA President, said she is glad to see the CEO working with the Union. Many employees were surprised by the scope of the CEO's increase in salary and benefits. She asked that the Board be aware that the District requires the hard work of all of its employees to function well and, in a year, the District will be negotiating the Union contracts. She doesn't begrudge what the CEO has been given, but simply wants to ensure that the employees do not suffer when benefits and/or salaries are negotiated for next year.

Eduardo Montesino, UTU representative, said he also doesn't begrudge the request and asked that the Board remember this day as the Union anticipates a 2% COLA in a year.

**ACTION: MOTION TO ADOPT THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER AS PRESENTED.**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR BUSTICHI                      SECONDED: DIRECTOR ROTKIN**  
**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bottorff, Bustichi, Cervantez, Chase, Friend, Hagen, Lane, Leopold, McPherson and Rotkin)**

**9        CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL PISANO TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) FOR A TERM OF OFFICE ENDING JUNE 12, 2017**

Director Don Lane added commentary to Mr. Pisano's application and recommended his appointment to the MAC.

**ACTION: MOTION TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL PISANO TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) FOR A TERM OF OFFICE ENDING JUNE 12, 2017**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR LANE                      SECONDED: DIRECTOR LEOPOLD**  
**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bottorff, Bustichi, Cervantez, Chase, Friend, Hagen, Lane, Leopold, McPherson and Rotkin)**

**10      REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION'S DRAFT PASSENGER RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Erich Friedrich, Sr. Transportation Planner, introduced the topic and noted that the public comment period has been extended to 7/31/15.

CEO Clifford elaborated on the METRO Staff recommendations, requesting that the sixth bullet under the Summary section be discussed in detail after the presentation.

George Dondero, Executive Director of RTC, provided background to the high level look at parameters in the county. Their recent poll indicated 73% of voters recognize the need for alternate funding for transportation and would like more options in their daily travel. Today the RTC is asking for METRO's vision for transport, technical analysis, preferred scenario and how this option could be integrated into the bus system.

Rachel Moriconi, RTC, provided further detail to the analysis in the report. Vice Chair Rotkin asked if the ridership projections are based on current residency areas. Ms. Mariconi answered it's a combination with specifics provided on page 9 of the report. Vice Chair

Rotkin said the City didn't plan for rail use in its General Plan and/or changes to zoning. Ms. Moriconi stated some numbers are low but job growth is a possibility near transit zones.

Heather Abramson, AMBAG, noted that they have worked with Santa Cruz County on their Sustainable Plan, which contains information not currently in the General Plan. This will be updated in the next version.

Director Leopold noted the 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue station currently projects low ridership; however, in the Sustainable Santa Cruz Plan there are opportunities for development to replace the warehouses, etc. that are currently there. This could become a transit oriented mix-use development.

Vice Chair Rotkin asked if federal government decisions are based on current projections. Ms. Moriconi responded that 20 year projections are now required, which indicates additional information would be required from RTC to meet FTA requirements. The key today seems to be asking for support of new employment opportunities.

Director McPherson asked how many tracks this plan is based on. Ms. Moriconi responded it is based on 30 minute headways; there are several tracks with locations noted where they pass. This will be analyzed further as the best scheduling is finalized. The RTC is looking for an overall vision of transit and ideas to increase ridership in the county.

CEO Clifford noted his current perspective is from the bus transportation viewpoint. He provided information based on his (approximate) 12 years' rail experience to the RTC and applauded their technical document.

CEO Clifford stated he is driven to protect METRO and its funding source(s). As such, the sixth bullet under the Summary section of the staff report is asking for protection of funds for bus transit; his experience in bus and rail funding points to an annual battle between the two wherein revenues are challenged. He believes that expectations should be set at the front end for funding allocations pertaining to STA, STIC, TDA allocations and UCSC revenue. He requested the Board examine this carefully; we are particularly looking for a commitment that the RTC understands that METRO needs protection for future growth in these revenues. A policy decision at the front would save a lot of financial battling.

Vice Chair Rotkin asked Mr. Dondero if there were other multi-modal funding sources available. Mr. Dondero responded that although he didn't have specifics, based on Ms. Marcioni's input, he believes yes, we might score higher on future applications. He stressed that voter support of a new tax is higher than seen previously and agrees a sound funding plan is needed before any ballot measure is introduced in November 2016. He feels that both bus and rail services are needed in Santa Cruz County, that decisions not be restrictive and that rail service be allowed as a future development opportunity. He thanked CEO Clifford for his expertise in bus and rail and his input to the RTC.

**Ex-Officio Blitzler departed at 9:35A.**

Vice Chair Rotkin opened the floor to public comment:

Eduardo Montesino, UTU representative, concurred with CEO Clifford regarding the conflicts and/or financial constraints between the various modes of service.

Carolyn Derwing, SEA President, echoed the concerns regarding possible loss of METRO funding, noting it was needed so that we can continue to serve our community. Rail will be dependent on a bus to get from the station to the final destination.

Ernestina Saldana, COD, agreed with CEO Clifford. She likes the idea of rail, but is concerned regarding the direction it will run; i.e., running north to south without taking into account those who live outside the north-south corridor. It may be better for the public to take their cars. She asked that the working class be kept in mind while making plans.

Hearing no further public comment, Director Hagen stated he had voted for a rail transit system historically. But has three concerns today: integration, cooperation and competition. Downtown Watsonville is growing and is key to rail system function. He doesn't want to create competition between rail and bus.

Director McPherson voiced his appreciation for all of the comments. We need to address east-west transportation needs as well as north-south. It is important to address finance issues and critical to maintain what we have before adding additional options. The ballot measure must be cooperative and include the 600 miles of county roads. The rail corridor will factor into future decisions.

Director Leopold thanked everyone for today's presentation. This is an historic moment to make transportation decisions. Two years ago the General Plan highlighted sustainability. We now own this rail line. The poll shows support for multi modal transportation in Santa Cruz County. Every member of this board is either on the RTC board or an alternate. This relationship is strong. The rail study deserves further investigation; the bus system is critical and would enhance the rail line. Rail does offer the best opportunity for improved reliability in terms of transportation times. Having said that, however, he doesn't support a motion regarding funds since he doesn't know if they can be honored on future funding. This also implies lack of trust with RTC and board members.

Chair Bustichi agreed with Director Leopold. Bus service will be required to move riders from the train stops to their end destination; e.g., Cabrillo, UCSC and within Watsonville. We need to look at how we move folks to these locations. Have we considered electric buses or a multimodal system on Highway 1 as a truly sustainable option? He asked CEO Clifford to clarify his request to the Board.

CEO Clifford clarified that his request addresses existing funding; the intent is not to say that future funding would belong solely to METRO. The funding should remain competitive.

Chair Bustichi requested staff return to the Board with a resolution they could coalesce around. He noted there is funding for a tax measure; the reality is there would be competition around a new tax ballot. METRO needs to ensure we get what we need to protect our community.

Director Lane recognizes the competition surrounding the variety of needs. It is important that METRO make a statement protecting our situation.

Director Friend believes the greatest concern is a reduction in other transportation options. We should broaden METRO's stance to an overall hold harmless statement so that no other needs would be impacted; that is, the current situation won't worsen.

Director Cervantez sees three themes: 1) Vision: Alignment of commitment from federal and state for affordable transportation options. 2) Feasibility of rail system does provide community options; greater predictability of travel time. Reality in Watsonville is long commute times and limited transit options with limited bus service. 3) Transportation equity. Her preferred scenario would clear the way to map out needed improvements to expand to Pajaro for regional connectivity and integrated system with METRO and RTC.

Director Chase recognizes the interdependence between agencies and supports the overall transportation regional direction. She would like to see language which would protect METRO and the interdependent agencies.

Director Bottorff agrees with Director Leopold. What is best for the entire county? The rail system will have a huge cost and will require bus support to the rail stations. Compromise in terms of percentages will be required when the tax measure is passed.

Vice Chair Rotkin noted that there is national interest in rail through the federal and state legislatures. Expansion of a rail system should not come at the expense of the bus. As no agency can legally bind future funding of another agency, he'd like to see a resolution that would not shrink bus funding. The funding sources METRO currently receives or is applying for should not be transferred to the rail system.

Ms. Moriconi noted that the entire study is on the RTC website along with a survey for the public. Please help get the word out. In response to Director Chase, she said approximately 50 surveys had been received to date. They anticipate receiving approximately 1000 once the link is distributed.

Mr. Dondero noted the recent poll indicates support of a half cent sales tax. Two-thirds would not support the  $\frac{3}{4}$  cent measure, however a simple majority would. He recommended we remain open to voter needs.

Vice Chair Rotkin noted that people are willing to support transportation when it is successful; it may be possible to obtain additional funding based on success.

**MOTION FOR STAFF TO WORK WITH RTC AND RETURN TO THE BOARD AT THE FIRST AUGUST BOARD MEETING WITH A CLEAR RESOLUTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION.  
Motion: DIRECTOR BUSTICHI                      SECOND: DIRECTOR LEOPOLD  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bottorff, Bustichi, Cervantez, Chase, Friend, Hagen, Lane, Leopold, McPherson and Rotkin)**

**11 ADOPTION OF TITLE VII TO THE SANTA CRUZ METRO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ADDING PROCEDURES FOR REASONABLE MODIFICATIONS/ ACCOMMODATIONS IN METRO'S ADA POLICY AND COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

April Warnock, Paratransit Superintendent, provided background to her staff report. Ciro Aguirre, COO, has been assigned as METRO's designate to respond to all customer requests for modifications.

In response to Director Leopold's ADA compliance training question, COO Aguirre responded that he, Anna Marie Gouveia and April Warnock have all received training and will continue to do so.

**ACTION: MOTION TO ACCEPT THE ADOPTION OF TITLE VII TO THE SANTA CRUZ METRO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ADDING PROCEDURES FOR REASONABLE MODIFICATIONS/ ACCOMMODATIONS IN METRO'S ADA POLICY AND COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

**MOTION: DIRECTOR BUSTICHI                      SECONDED: DIRECTOR LANE  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH 10 AYES (Directors Bottorff, Bustichi, Cervantez, Chase, Friend, Hagen, Lane, Leopold, McPherson and Rotkin)**

**12 CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION REGARDING SANTA CRUZ METRO'S SUPPORT OF AND PARTICIPATION IN THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION'S TENTH ANNUAL "DUMP THE PUMP DAY" ON JUNE 18, 2015 AND RELATED PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Maria Granados Boyce, Customer Service Supervisor, clarified that this is the 10<sup>th</sup> annual event. This is a great opportunity to educate our riders; they can text while they ride. There are a number of outreach events planned; e.g., four outreach locations/kiosks will be located throughout the county, advertisements in the Santa Cruz Sentinel, a banner on the Cabrillo overpass, radio and television announcements, etc. She noted that Board members are always welcome to participate.

Vice Chair Rotkin referred Maria to a fact sheet issued by the RTC which covers the hidden cost of auto ownership. Maria noted that there is also a link from the SCMTD website which compares bus cost to car usage including carbon emissions.

Director Leopold commended Maria for the great job she and her team did on Stand Up 4 Transportation Day and looks forward to another successful event.

**Director Friend departed at 10:25A**

**Director McPherson left room at 10:25A and returned at 10:33A**





**15 REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION**

None per District Counsel Syren.

**16 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2015 AT 9:00 AM, SANTA CRUZ CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 809 CENTER STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA**

Vice Chair Dene Rotkin announced the next meeting as above.

**17 ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Rotkin adjourned the meeting at 10:46A

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Pye  
Executive Assistant to the CEO

Pursuant to Section 54954.2(a)(1) of the Government Code of the State of California, this agenda was posted at least 72 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting at a public place freely accessible to the public 24 hours a day. The agenda packet and materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Board of Directors after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Santa Cruz METRO Administrative Office (110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz) during normal business hours. Such documents are also available on the Santa Cruz METRO website at [www.scmtd.com](http://www.scmtd.com) subject to staff's ability to post the document before the meeting.