

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

June 8, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, June 8, 2007 at the District's Administrative Office, 370 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

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

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Jan Beautz
Donald Hagen
Michelle Hinkle
Kirby Nicol
Emily Reilly
Mike Rotkin (arrived after roll call)
Dale Skillicorn
Pat Spence
Mark Stone
Marcela Tavantzis

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Dene Bustichi
Ex-Officio Donna Blitzer

STAFF PRESENT

Ciro Aguirre, Operations Manager
Angela Aitken, Finance Manager
Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel

Mary Ferrick, Base Superintendent
Steve Paulson, Paratransit Administrator
Robyn Slater, Human Resources Manager
Tom Stickel, Maintenance Manager

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

Bonnie Morr, UTU
Karena Pushnik, SCCRTC
Ivan Rusch, Transit User

Barbara Stocker, ParaCruz User
James Taylor, UTU

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Written:

a. Barbara Stocker

Re: ParaCruz Service

Oral:

Barbara Stocker, ParaCruz User, stated that she was concerned about ParaCruz service in the San Lorenzo area ending for the summer on June 14, 2007 because it is tied to school-term fixed route service. Ms. Stocker requested that the service continue through the summer so she can continue using it to get to her medical appointments.

DIRECTOR ROTKIN ARRIVED

Director Stone clarified that last month the Board had agreed to continue the service until the Board considers this issue at its June 22, 2007 meeting. Director Stone requested that staff follow up with affected customers regarding Board action on this issue and also provide them with information on alternative transportation options.

Ivan Rusch, Transit User, “lauded” Bus Operator #459 for his terrific rapport with the passengers and also requested that METRO staff meet with him at a bus at METRO Center to discuss his recommendations regarding decreasing the difficulty of loading bicycles into the middle and inside slots of the triple bike racks. Ciro Aguirre and Tom Stickel offered to meet with him.

Director Reilly suggested sending a card to Les White’s wife.

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

None.

4. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

Mark Dorfman reported that a Special Meeting regarding the property and tenants at 110 Vernon Street had been scheduled for today and will follow the Regular meeting. Margaret Gallagher distributed a draft letter for Item #9 on today’s Regular Agenda, which is attached to the file copy of these minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

No questions or comments.

5-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2007

No questions or comments.

**5-3. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS:
DENY THE CLAIM OF ANGELITA ARREDONTO, CLAIM #07-0020**

Margaret Gallagher requested that this item be deleted from the Agenda.

5-4. ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) AGENDA FOR JUNE 20, 2007 (Minutes not approved yet)

No questions or comments.

5-5. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH 2007

No questions or comments.

5-6. ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2007

No questions or comments.

5-7. ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE UPDATE FOR MONTH OF APRIL 2007

No questions or comments.

5-8. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT

No questions or comments.

5-9. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH ALLIANT INSURANCE SERVICES FOR LICENSED BROKER SERVICES FOR EXCESS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE AND CONTINUING PARTICIPATION IN THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC ENTITY INSURANCE AUTHORITY JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO ACCESS EXCESS WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

No questions or comments.

5-10. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR JANUARY 2007

No questions or comments.

5-11. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2007 AND RECEIPT OF FY 06-07 BUDGET TRANSFERS

No questions or comments.

5-12. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR MARCH 2007 AND RECEIPT OF FY 06-07 BUDGET TRANSFERS

No questions or comments.

5-13. ACCEPT AND FILE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PLAN STATISTICAL INFORMATION

No questions or comments.

5-14. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF ONE 1980 SERVICE TRUCK

No questions or comments.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. CONSIDERATION OF MODIFICATIONS TO METRO'S PARACRUZ ELIGIBILITY AND APPEALS PROCESS REGULATION TO INCLUDE AN AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR PARATRANSIT PLAN MODIFICATIONS, CONFORM THE REGULATION WITH THE ACTUAL PRACTICES, SUBSTITUTE MAC, INSTEAD OF MASTF, AS AN APPOINTING AUTHORITY TO THE APPEALS PANEL AND OTHER CHANGES

No questions or comments.

8. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO REQUEST CONSENT FROM THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ TO FILE AN EMINENT DOMAIN ACTION FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 425 FRONT STREET, SANTA CRUZ CALIFORNIA, FOR THE EXPANSION AND RENOVATION OF PACIFIC STATION

Summary:

Margaret Gallagher reported that METRO is in the process of negotiating a real estate agreement with the owners of 425 Front Street to purchase the property. One of the funding sources is a grant from the State of California which is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2007, unless a Purchase Sales Agreement has been executed or an Eminent Domain action has been filed.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR SPENCE

Authorize the General Manager to issue the attached letter (Attachment "A") to the Santa Cruz City Council, which requests consent to file an Eminent Domain Action for the property located at 425 Front Street in Santa Cruz, CA

Motion passed unanimously with Director Bustichi being absent.

9. CONSIDERATION OF SANTA CRUZ METRO'S COMMENTS TO THE ACCESS BOARD'S PROPOSED DRAFT REVISIONS TO THE ADA ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR BUSES & VANS (36 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS PART 1192)

Summary:

Margaret Gallagher reported that the Access Board has issued proposed modifications to the ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Transportation Vehicles. Ms. Gallagher explained that it is important for METRO to participate in the review of the proposed modifications and provide comments by the deadline of June 11th because any implemented modification would have an affect on METRO's operating fleet.

Discussion:

There was a discussion on each of the following six proposed responses with the Board fully supporting each comment:

- 1) Revisions to the guidelines must specifically apply prospectively only;
- 2) The definition of "common wheelchair" should not be eliminated from the guidelines;
- 3) The wheelchair maneuvering space in a vehicle should not be modified;
- 4) The wheelchair securement location length should not be modified from 48" to 60"
- 5) The ramp angle allowed from the ground should not be reduces from 1:4 to 1:8; and
- 6) The P.A. system should not be deleted in favor of requiring automated stop announcement system.

In conclusion, METRO feels that more discussion, research, and study is needed prior to the implementation of any modification to the guidelines.

Bonnie Morr stated that she agrees that it is important that METRO be involved in the comment process now because once recommendations reach the congressional level, it is too late to have any input.

Karena Pushnik offered to add this issue to E&D TAC's agenda so the committee could submit a letter supporting METRO's position during the next phase of commenting on the proposed modifications. Ms. Gallagher thanked her and added that this item was on MAC's agenda as well.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY

Authorize the Board Chair to file comments to the Access Board on its Proposed Draft Revisions to the ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buses and Vans. Direct staff to work with the disabled community and MAC to encourage that letters be submitted to the Access Board supporting METRO's position during the next phase of commenting on the proposed modifications

Motion passed unanimously with Director Bustichi being absent.

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

Margaret Gallagher reported that the Board would have a conference with its Real Property Negotiator regarding properties located at 110 Vernon Street, 1211 River Street, and 1217 River Street and that the Board would have a conference with its Legal Counsel regarding the Workers Compensation case of Johnny Charvarria.

11. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

None.

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chair Beautz adjourned to the Special Meeting at 9:50 a.m. followed by Closed Session and reconvened to Open Session at 10:20 a.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

12. 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 Beautz adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS

Administrative Services Coordinator