

# SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

**Minutes- Board of Directors**

**May 23, 2008**

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, May 23, 2008 at the Capitola City Council Chambers, 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA.

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

## **SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION**

### **1. ROLL CALL:**

#### **DIRECTORS PRESENT**

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

#### **DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Ex-Officio Donna Blitzer

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Ciro Aguirre, Operations Manager  
Angela Aitken, Finance Manager  
Frank Cheng, MetroBase Project Manager  
Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager  
Mary Ferrick, Fixed Route Superintendent

Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel  
Debbie Kinslow, Asst Finance Manager  
Robyn Slater, Human Resources Manager  
Tom Stickel, Maintenance Manager  
April Warnock, Paratransit Superintendent

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

Sandra Lipperd, UTU  
Eduardo Montesino, UTU  
Bonnie Morr, UTU  
Karena Pushnik, SCCRTC

Will Regan, VMU  
Randy Swart, Retiree  
Amy Weiss, Spanish Interpreter

### **2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Written:

None.

Oral:

None.

**3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS**

Bonnie Morr, UTU, commended METRO – specifically Ciro Aguirre, April Warnock and the Fixed Route and Paratransit Operators for their extra efforts in response to the emergency situation caused by the fire and evacuation in Corralitos yesterday.

Ms. Morr also thanked the Board for supporting the Senior Dinner and invited everyone to attend the event at the Market Street Senior Center tomorrow.

**DIRECTOR BUSTICHI ARRIVED**

**4. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Beautz orally corrected a typo on page #2 of today's agenda. In the title for Item #13, the word "Facilities" should be "Fleet".

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 5-1. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2008
- 5-2. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR MARCH 2008
- 5-3. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS:  
DENY THE CLAIM OF JOSE AVALOS SOSA, CLAIM #08-0014
- 5-4. ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) AGENDA FOR MAY 21, 2008 AND MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2008
- 5-5. ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2008
- 5-6. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE PROJECT STATUS REPORT
- 5-7. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF REVISED FY 2009 TDA CLAIM
- 5-8. ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2008
- 5-9. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES REFLECTING VOTING RESULTS FOR APPOINTEES TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR THE APRIL 2008 MEETING(S)
- 5-10. ACCEPT AND FILE MARCH 2008 RIDERSHIP REPORT
- 5-11. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR JANUARY 2008

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY**

**Approve the Consent Agenda.**

**Motion passed unanimously with all Directors present.**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**6. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS:**

The following employees were presented with longevity awards for their years of service:

**TWENTY YEARS**

Glenn P. Nabor, Bus Operator  
Richard E. Prudden, Bus Operator

**7. PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDERATION OF FY09 & FY10 DRAFT FINAL BUDGET**

**Summary:**

Angela Aitken reported that this is a new two-year budget for FY 09 & FY 10. The estimated \$500,000 for the ParaCruz dialysis trips and funding for the three additional Fixed Route Bus Operator positions are not yet included in this budget.

Ms. Aitken outlined the major Operating Revenue and Expense assumptions and proposed balancing actions.

**CHAIR BEAUTZ OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 9:18 A.M.**

There were no public comments.

**CHAIR BEAUTZ CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 9:18 A.M.**

**Discussion:**

Director Tavantzis expressed concern about not funding the Assistant General Manager position beyond the first 6 months of FY 09 because it will burn out the remaining managers.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR SKILLICORN**

**Direct Staff to report back to the Board in the next few months on a work transition plan to redistribute the Assistant General Manager's duties and then to report back to the Board six months after the implementation of the position being vacant to discuss how it is working out**

**Motion passed unanimously with all Directors present.**

**Discussion:**

Director Tavantzis expressed concern about the \$1million 14% increase in Bus Operator pay from FY 09 to FY 10. Mark Dorfman responded that it is due to the fact that METRO has been significantly understaffed this year and that positions are being added to bring us to full staffing

levels. If the initial budgeted amount for this year is used for comparison, the increase is actually not that high.

Chair Beautz requested an analysis in the form of a chart or worksheet that clearly explains this issue.

8. **CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION ISSUES BEING CONSIDERED BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION AUTHORIZATION TASK FORCE REGARDING FEDERAL TRANSIT FUNDING**

Mark Dorfman reported that this was an informational item and no action was necessary.

9. **CONSIDERATION OF DROPPED SERVICE ANALYSIS REPORT**

**Summary:**

Ciro Aguirre reported that in April the Board directed staff to investigate and provide a report on dropped service caused by the unavailability of operators to perform service. The absence data reviewed by staff for the months of January, February and March 2008 revealed that unexpected operator absences were significantly higher on payday Fridays and holidays. The data also revealed that no service was dropped due to mandated Vehicle Transit Training. On average out of 3,500 pull-outs per month the average number of unavailable operators was 760, or 25%, which tends to be standard for the industry.

In addition, staff has determined that three additional operators are needed to fulfill labor needs. A class of six trainees is scheduled to be in service on May 21, 2008. These new operators will replace retirees and includes the three additional positions.

**Discussion:**

There was a discussion about the utilization of overtime versus hiring additional operators.

10. **CONSIDERATION OF METRO PARACRUZ ALLIANCE/DIALYSIS TRANSITIONAL REPORT**

**Summary:**

April Warnock reported on the recent cessation of MediCal funding for dialysis trips as of May 2<sup>nd</sup> that had been provided on a no-fare basis for several years through the Central Coast Alliance for Health. Of approximately 84 dialysis persons, 20 are not eligible for ParaCruz, 21 were already using ParaCruz, another 21 transitioned to ParaCruz and there are approximately 18 more whom are currently eligible but not using ParaCruz to and from dialysis as of Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ms. Warnock reported that METRO worked quickly with Community Bridges to make determinations regarding the types of rides that these people were eligible for and made sure that they all continued to be transported to and from dialysis during the transition period. METRO and Community Bridges are still working collaboratively through this difficult time.

This transition has greatly impacted ParaCruz operations by adding 121 new trips per week so far at an average cost of \$30.00 per ride. If all 60 persons transition to ParaCruz for dialysis rides, the yearly cost to ParaCruz is projected to be approximately \$500,000.00 just for dialysis rides.

**Discussion:**

Mark Dorfman reported that this is a very serious issue for METRO and that Les White and the General Manager from Monterey Salinas Transit (MST) recently met with the Alliance Director to talk about this issue because it is a staggering amount for MST as well.

Karena Pushnik, SCCRTC, commended METRO Staff and Community Bridges on dealing with this crisis on such short notice.

**11. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION PROPOSING MODIFICATIONS TO METRO'S BYLAWS FOR PURPOSES OF CLARITY AND TO DOCUMENT CURRENT METRO PRACTICES**

Margaret Gallagher reported that generally, on an annual basis, the Board reviews its Bylaws to determine if any modifications are warranted and that there were no substantive changes but that the modifications simply reflect current practice and clarify the language.

**Discussion:**

Director Tavantzis requested that all instances of the word “the” that immediately precede “METRO” in several places be removed throughout the document for consistency.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BUSTICHI SECOND: DIRECTOR ROTKIN**

**Adopt Resolution modifying METRO'S Bylaws as set forth in Attachment “A” and remove all instances of the word “the” that immediately precede “METRO” throughout the document for consistency**

**Motion passed unanimously with all Directors present.**

**12. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICES OF JOSEPH A. FLOREZ AS BUS OPERATOR FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT**

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR TAVANTZIS SECOND: DIRECTOR BUSTICHI**

**Adopt Resolution of Appreciation for the services of Joseph A. Florez as Bus Operator for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District**

**Motion passed unanimously with all Directors present.**

13. **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICES OF RANDY K. SWART AS FLEET MAINTENANCE LEAD MECHANIC FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT**

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR TAVANTZIS SECOND: DIRECTOR BUSTICHI**

**Adopt Resolution of Appreciation for the services of Randy K. Swart as Fleet Maintenance Lead Mechanic for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District**

**Motion passed unanimously with all Directors present.**

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

Margaret Gallagher reported the Board would have a conference with its Labor Negotiators regarding UTU, Local 23, Fixed Route, and a conference with its Legal Counsel regarding Potential Litigation regarding the potential case of Dolly Lanagan v. Santa Cruz METRO.

15. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Beautz adjourned to Closed Session at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 11:15 a.m.

**SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

16. **REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

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

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chair Beautz adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS  
Administrative Services Coordinator