

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

December 15, 2000

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, December 15, 2000 at the City Hall Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, California.

Chairperson Beautz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Sheryl Ainsworth
Jeff Almquist
Bruce Arthur
Jan Beautz
Ken Burch (Ex Officio)
Tim Fitzmaurice
Bruce Gabriel
Michelle Hinkle
Mike Keogh

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Bryant Baehr, Operations Manager	Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel
Paul Chandley, Human Resource Manager	Leslie R. White, General Manager
Mark Dorfman, Asst. General Manager	

2. SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR NEW DIRECTORS

The Honorable Harry Brauer, Associate Justice, Retired, performed the swearing in ceremony for Director Christopher Krohn and Director Emily Reilly. Directors Krohn and Reilly expressed their sentiments about serving on the Transit District Board and both are looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

3. REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Margaret Gallagher reported that there will be a conference with Labor Negotiator Paul Chandley regarding the employee organization, United Transportation Union (UTU).

4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

None

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Chairperson Beautz adjourned to Closed Session at 8:35 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 9:15 a.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

STAFF PRESENT

Bryant Baehr, Operations Manager	Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel
Paul Chandley, Human Resource Manager	Mike Goodell, Sr. Database Administrator
Mark Dorfman, Asst. General Manager	Tom Hiltner, Grants/Legislative Analyst
Marilyn Fenn, Asst. Finance Manager	David Konno, Facilities Maint. Manager
Linda Fry, Service Planning Supervisor	Tom Stickel, Fleet Maintenance Manager
Terry Gale, IT Manager	Leslie R. White, General Manager

EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT

Sharon Barbour, MUG	Ian McFadden, UTU
Jim Bosso, S.C. Transportation	John Mellon, VMU
Wally Brondstatter, UTU	Bonnie Morr, UTU
Bart Cavallaro	Carolyn O'Donnell, TMA
Kasandra Fox, MASTF	Oscar Rios
Mark Hartunian, Food & Nutrition Services	Mike Rotkin
Patti Korba, SEA	Sam Storey, Food & Nutrition Services
Jeff LeBlanc, BSAC	Marion Taylor, League of Women Voters
Manny Martinez, PSA	Linda Wilshusen, SCCRTC

5. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

Margaret Gallagher stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

6. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Linda Wilshusen, Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission
RE: Year 2001 Appointments to the Commission

b. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

None

c. METRO USERS GROUP (MUG) COMMUNICATIONS

Sharon Barbour reported that the issue of Cabrillo College was discussed at the recent MUG meeting.

- d. METRO ACCESSIBLE SERVICES TRANSIT FORUM (MASTF)
COMMUNICATIONS

Kasandra Fox, MASTF Chairperson, displayed the new "I love my Metro Transit" buttons which will be handed out to transit passengers and the Board of Directors.

7. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

SECTION III

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

ADD TO ITEM #6 Written Communication from Linda Wilshusen of the Santa Cruz
County Regional Transportation Commission
RE: Year 2001 Appointments to the Commission

CONSENT AGENDA:

ADD TO ITEM #8-3 PASSENGER LIFT REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2000
(Add Staff Report)

ADD TO ITEM #8-4 CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: DENY THE CLAIM OF
MATHEW CRAIG SMITH
(Add Claim)

ADD TO ITEM #8-10 ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ
SERVICE STATUS REPORT
(Add Staff Report)

DELETE ITEM #8-15 CONSIDERATION OF ONE-YEAR LEASE OF WATSONVILLE
TRANSIT CENTER KIOSK TO LUCY MALDONADO FOR A ONE-
CHAIR BEAUTY SALON
(Action Taken at 12/8/00 Board Meeting)

REGULAR AGENDA:

ADD TO ITEM #14 CONSIDERATION OF CABRILLO COLLEGE TRANSPORTATION
STUDY STATUS REPORT WITH TIMELINES & OPTIONS FOR
BOARD INPUT
(Add Staff Report)

ADD TO ITEM #15 a. CONSIDERATION OF UPDATED BUS FLEET PLAN
(Staff Report to be distributed at Board Meeting of 12/15/00)

b. STATUS REPORT WITH REGARD TO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB) CONCERNING REVIEW OF URBAN TRANSIT BUS FLEET RULE TO REDUCE HARMFUL ENGINE AND FUEL AIR EMISSIONS FOR URBAN TRANSIT BUSES
(Staff Report to be distributed at Board Meeting of 12/15/00)

ADD TO ITEM #17 CONSIDERATION OF EXTENDING THE PARATRANSIT CONTRACT WITH FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES FOR ONE YEAR WITH CPI ADJUSTMENT OF 4% AND OTHER TERMS
(Add Board-requested information: Taxicab Subcontracts)

ADD TO ITEM #21 CONSIDERATION OF AWARD TO REPOWER UP TO 42 DIESEL ENGINE ASSEMBLIES
(Add Staff Report)

CONSENT AGENDA

- 8-1. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF 11/10/00 AND 11/17/00
- 8-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARY APPROVED CLAIMS
- 8-3. PASSENGER LIFT REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2000
- 8-4. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: DENY THE CLAIM OF: ALLIED INSURANCE (SUBRO. THOMAS CONWAY); MATHEW CRAIG SMITH
- 8-5. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF MASTF COMMITTEE MEETING OF 11/16/00
- 8-6. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF MUG COMMITTEE MEETING OF 11/15/00
- 8-7. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORTS FOR OCTOBER 2000, APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS
- 8-8. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2000
- 8-9. ACCEPT AND FILE STATUS REPORT ON ADA STATUS REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2000
- 8-10. ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE STATUS REPORT
- 8-11. CONSIDERATION OF DENTAL INSURANCE CONTRACT RENEWAL
- 8-12. CONSIDERATION OF 2001 BOARD MEETING DATES AND CHANGE IN LOCATION FROM JULY TO OCTOBER DUE TO CONSTRUCTION
- 8-13. ACCEPT AND FILE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT, FIRST QUARTER 2000/01
- 8-14. ACCEPT AND FILE QUARTERLY RIDERSHIP REPORT, FIRST QUARTER 2000/01

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

Approve Consent Agenda.

Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR DIRECTOR KATHERINE BEIERS

Summary:

Chairperson Beautz talked about Director Beiers' nine years of service and her dedication to transit issues. Ms. Beiers was unable to attend the meeting but will be honored with a commemorative plaque and a lifetime bus pass. Several Directors and members of the audience spoke of Katherine Beiers' term of office and her commitment to alternate transportation in Santa Cruz County.

10. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR DIRECTOR OSCAR RIOS

Summary:

Chairperson Beautz presented Director Rios with a plaque of appreciation for his eleven years of service on the transit Board of Directors. She spoke of his determination to always remember South County and its transit needs. Oscar Rios also received his lifetime bus pass.

Discussion:

Mr. Rios expressed his gratitude to the Board, District Staff and attendees to the Board meetings. He spoke of how transit touches everyone's lives and how a commitment to transportation is the future. Several Directors and members of the audience spoke of the passion with which each of these outgoing Directors conducted themselves in regards to alternate transportation in the County.

11. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR DIRECTOR MIKE ROTKIN

Summary:

Chairperson Beautz presented Director Rotkin with a plaque of appreciation for his eighteen years of service on the transit Board and also with a lifetime bus pass. Mike Rotkin was commended for his efforts during the FEMA event and for his continued support of alternate transportation.

Discussion:

Mr. Rotkin stated that there is nothing he enjoyed more than his time on the Transit Board. He added that it was a pleasure working with all members of the Board and felt that the bus operators in Santa Cruz County are more public service oriented than anywhere else. Several Directors, members of the audience and labor union representatives expressed their appreciation for Mr. Rotkin's efforts over his eighteen years of service.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST

Approve the Resolutions of Appreciation for the services of Directors Beiers, Rios and Rotkin as members of the Board of Directors.

Resolutions passed unanimously.

12. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS FOR 00-01 BUS STOP IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Summary:

David Konno reported that the Bus Stop Advisory Committee (BSAC) is requesting additional capital funds for the Bus Stop Improvement Program for this fiscal year. An analysis of the system showed that 46 bus stops are non-ADA compliant. Of these 46 bus stops, 31 of them require new shelter installations. BSAC is also requesting funds for two demonstration programs: 1) a bus signalization program, 2) solar powered security lighting at ten rural bus stops.

Discussion:

Les White added that \$140,000 had been allocated in the budget for bus stop improvements. There is a \$300,000 reserve fund from which BSAC was instructed to develop programs. Of this \$300,000 reserve, BSAC is requesting \$248,500 to support the above-mentioned projects. The original allocation of \$140,000 plus the additional request for \$248,000 would bring the total funding amount for bus stop improvements to \$388,500.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR HINKLE

Approve request for additional \$248,500 for bus stop improvements for FY 00-01.

Motion passed unanimously

13. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION REVISING FY 00-01 BUDGET

Summary:

Les White reported that this resolution would revise the current budget with an increase to operating expenses of \$838,000 and additional revenue from TDA in the amount of \$763,109. The capital improvement program would be updated to recognize the acquisition of 20 used buses from Foothill Transit and the associated costs to bring them up to revenue service.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AT THE MEETING.

14. CONSIDERATION OF CABRILLO COLLEGE TRANSPORTATION STUDY STATUS REPORT WITH TIMELINES & OPTIONS FOR BOARD INPUT

Summary:

Mark Dorfman reported that there was a meeting of the Transportation Management Planning Committee held at Cabrillo. This task force includes members of the Transportation Management Association, the Transit District, and the Transportation Commission. A survey of students and the faculty and staff has been completed. Preliminary results of this survey will, hopefully, be given at the next meeting of the Planning Committee at which time Michael Moss, Facility Planner, will advise of all projects coming on line. Cabrillo is willing to look at the implications of their actions and how they can encourage alternative transportation.

Discussion:

District Staff stressed to Cabrillo representatives that someone needs to be responsible for parking at the college. Carolyn O'Donnell of TMA will also work with Cabrillo staff on this issue. Director Fitzmaurice suggested that Cabrillo be informed that the District would change their past structure and passes would only cover trips to and from campus. He asked that the issue of satellite campuses be included in the conversation as well. Sharon Barbour of MUG suggested that a student bus pass program be implemented that would allow the students a discount on their bus pass. This would be an alternative to only offering rides to and from the campus since some students are in the San Lorenzo Valley area and there is no direct route to Cabrillo.

Jeff LeBlanc of BSAC discussed the Board of Governor students at Cabrillo who are low income and receive a free bus pass. Cabrillo is looking at ways to cut expenses for the Board of Governor's program and elimination of the bus pass would be one way to reduce expenses.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE

Approve continued staff participation on the Study Task Force at Cabrillo College and prepare comments for the Board at the appropriate times during the study and public input process.

Motion passed unanimously

15. a. CONSIDERATION OF UPDATED BUS FLEET PLAN

- b. STATUS REPORT WITH REGARD TO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB) CONCERNING REVIEW OF URBAN TRANSIT BUS FLEET RULE TO REDUCE HARMFUL ENGINE AND FUEL AIR EMISSIONS FOR URBAN TRANSIT BUSES**

Summary:

Mark Dorfman requested that this item be deferred until the January Board meeting. Mr. Dorfman reported that staff has been working with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to pursue the convertible diesel process. Robert Nguyen and other CARB staff are in favor of this approach. The Executive Director of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD) also indicated his support. It was further explained that future Moyer funds are eligible to use for bus purchases if the District is on the alternative fuel path. If the District is on the diesel path, there will be no further funds available.

16. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR FURNISHING REVENUE AND NON-REVENUE VEHICLE TIRES

Summary:

Staff recommends awarding the tire contract to Dixon and Son Inc.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR KEOGH SECOND: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST

Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Dixon and Sons for the purchase of revenue and non-revenue tires.

Motion passed unanimously

17. CONSIDERATION OF EXTENDING THE PARATRANSIT CONTRACT WITH FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES FOR ONE YEAR WITH CPI ADJUSTMENT OF 4% AND OTHER TERMS

Summary:

Margaret Gallagher reported that language has been worked out on all issues except the written certification monthly report from the contractor to ensure that ADA mandates are being met. Ms. Gallagher will meet with Sam Storey on these language issues.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

Direct Staff to extend the existing contract with Food and Nutrition Services under the same terms and conditions for one month to allow service to continue.

Director Almquist asked that staff report back at the January Board meeting whether it would be feasible to eliminate the requirement that a certain number of trips be allocated to the taxi fleet and that Food and Nutrition would retain a percentage of the savings realized by doing that.

Les White reported that Task 14 which is specific recommendations would be brought before the Board in January as well. Ian McFadden reported that UTU would like a chance to work with the drivers at Lift Line for a while longer. Contract negotiations will take place at the end of January or early February. Mark Hartunian recapped the recognized turndowns or denied rides

from August to the present. He also confirmed that subcontractors are getting 70% of the ADA rides.

ACTION: AMENDMENT TO MOTION:

Ask Lift Line to provide information in written report formats to Staff to alleviate any misunderstandings in the interpretive process.

Motion passed unanimously

18. CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS TO SERVE AS BOARD OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2001, TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND METRO USER GROUP CHAIRPERSON ASSIGNMENTS

Summary:

The following Directors were nominated for Board officers and Committee positions:

Board Chairperson - Directors Ainsworth, Fitzmaurice, Keogh.

Board Vice-Chairperson - Directors Almquist, Fitzmaurice, Reilly.

Transportation Commission appointees - Directors (Capitola Representative), Gabriel, Keogh, Krohn, Reilly.

Transportation Commission Alternate appointees - Directors Reilly, Hinkle, Krohn, (Watsonville Representative)

MUG Chairperson - Director Gabriel

Discussion:

Les White reported that a Watsonville representative would be appointed to the Transit Board on January 9 and sworn in on the Transit Board at the Board meeting of 1/12/01. Director Arthur reported that he will tender his resignation from the Transit District Board and will send a letter in this regard. Director Arthur anticipates that his replacement will be appointed by the Capitola City Council prior to the next Transit District Board meeting.

19. CONSIDERATION OF RETURN OF GRANT TO THE BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT FOR FUNDS FOR HIGHWAY 17 CNG REPLACEMENT BUSES

Summary:

Mark Dorfman reported that grant funds are being returned to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for CNG replacement buses. The return of these funds is due to the District's inability to utilize them in the required timeframe since, at this time, there is no facility at which to fuel CNG buses.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: FITZMAURICE

Approve the return of Bay Area Air Quality Management District grant unsigned.

Motion passed unanimously

20. CONSIDERATION OF REMOVAL OF REDUCED FARE RESTRICTIONS ON THE HIGHWAY 17 EXPRESS FOR SENIORS AND DISABLED RIDERS

Summary:

Bryant Baehr stated that staff is requesting permission to remove the restrictions of senior and disabled passes on the Highway 17 Express.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST

Remove the reduced fare restrictions on the Highway 17 Express for seniors and the disabled riders.

Motion passed unanimously

21. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD TO REPOWER UP TO 42 DIESEL ENGINES ASSEMBLIES

Summary:

Tom Stickel reported that in order to keep a portion of the fleet legal to operate, engines need to be brought up to the current year model to buy some time to keep service on the road. Specifically, 1984 Gilligs, High Flier Coaches and 1989 New Flyer 40' Highway 17 coaches need to have their engines repowered. Two responses were received to the District's Invitation to Bid. Staff recommends that Complete Coach Works of Riverside, California, be awarded the contract. If less than 25 engines are repowered, there will be an adjustment to the price quoted by Complete Coach Works.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST SECOND: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE

Motion passed unanimously.

Director Fitzmaurice and several other Directors expressed their appreciation to Ex-Officio Director Ken Burch for his commitment to the Board and to the needs of his constituency at UCSC. Ex-Officio Director Burch submitted his resignation. He also recommended that the position of Ex-Officio be allowed into Closed Session and be compensated for Board meeting attendance. This will be agendized at a later Board meeting for a full discussion.

Suggestions were given for Highway 17 Express Bus options: restrooms, cup holders, arm rests, power cords for laptop computers, fold-down tables similar to those on airplanes.

Director Almquist and other Directors expressed their thanks to Director Bruce Arthur for his service on the Board.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

DALE CARR
Administrative Services Coordinator