

# SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

**Minutes- Board of Directors**

**July 20, 2001**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, July 20, 2001 at the City Hall Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, California.

Vice-Chairperson Reilly called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

## **SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION**

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

#### **DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Jan Beautz  
Tim Fitzmaurice  
Bruce Gabriel  
Michelle Hinkle  
Mike Keogh  
Christopher Krohn  
Rafael Lopez  
Dennis Norton  
Emily Reilly

#### **DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Sheryl Ainsworth  
Jeff Almquist

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Bryant Baehr, Operations Manager  
Kim Chin, Planning & Marketing Manager  
Mark Dorfman, Asst. General Manager  
Marilyn Fenn, Asst. Finance Manager  
Linda Fry, Service Planning Supervisor  
Terry Gale, IT Manager  
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel

David Konno, Fac. Maint. Manager  
Ian McFadden, Transit Planner  
Jeff North, UTU Svc. Review Comm. Chair  
Kathy O'Mara, Schedule Analyst  
Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager  
Tom Stickel, Fleet Maintenance Manager  
Leslie R. White, General Manager

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

Sharon Barbour, MUG	Patti Korba, SEA
Wally Brondstatter, UTU	Debra Lane, MASTF
Scott Bugental, Senior Council	John Mellon, VMU
Lynn Everett-Lee, Multisystems	Patti Monahan, Multisystems
Mary Ferrick, PSA	Bonnie Morr, UTU
Mark Hartunian, Lift Line	Patricia Spence, MASTF
Don Hubbard, Harvey West Area Assn.	Candace Ward, UCSC

Vice Chairperson Reilly introduced the Spanish language interpreter who informed the audience that this service is available for the Oral Communication portion of the meeting and for any other items on the agenda. This interpreter will be present at each Board meeting held on the third Friday of the month.

Vice Chairperson Reilly further explained that, going forward, the Board of Director meetings held on the third Friday of each month would be broadcast live by Community Television of Santa Cruz.

## **2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

### Oral Communications:

Ms. Rita Gentry, bus operator, submitted a letter to the Board regarding an incident which occurred on June 24, 2001, and asked that this matter be dealt with swiftly to ensure this type of incident does not happen again.

Mark Hartunian of Community Bridges quoted total rides for 99/00 as 103,074 vs. this year's Lift Line rides totaling 101,541 which reflects an decrease of 1,533 rides from last year. Turndowns recognized from January to June 2001 totaled 19 vs. a total of 400 in October 2000.

Director Lopez stated that both he and Director Almquist are on the committee "Success by Six". It was suggested to Directors Lopez and Almquist to investigate how to make METRO more accessible to families, i.e. use and storage of baby strollers; and group family passes. Director Lopez directed Staff to bring back a report at a future meeting outlining the composition of the METRO Board of Directors with regard to the census.

### Written Communications:

- a. Tracy Kellerman RE: MetroBase at Harvey West
- b. Jan Davis-Hadley RE: Bikes on Buses
- c. **Robert H. Trempert** **RE: Beachfest Santa Cruz**

Director Krohn asked what communication had taken place between METRO staff and the Beachfest organizers. Les White reported that METRO and City staff would work with the organizers to review their transportation plan and report back to the Board in August. Mr. White reiterated that additional service on pre-existing bus lines is being requested to alleviate traffic during this event.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR KROHN**

**Direct Staff to contact City staff and Beachfest organizers to work with them on this event.**

**Motion passed unanimously with Directors Ainsworth and Almquist absent.**

**VICE CHAIRPERSON REILLY STATED THAT ITEM #21 WOULD BE TAKEN OUT OF ORDER AFTER ITEM #8. ITEM #9 WOULD BE MOVED TO THE END OF THE AGENDA.**

**3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS**

Wally Brondstatter stated that UTU has entered into a tentative labor agreement with Lift Line. Members of Lift Line ratified the labor agreement as of July 18<sup>th</sup> and the labor agreement will go before the Board of Community Bridges on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. This agreement would bring the living wage to all members of the Lift Line organization.

Diana Dunn of SEIU thanked the members of SEIU for completing contract negotiations.

**4. METRO USERS GROUP (MUG) COMMUNICATIONS**

Sharon Barbour of MUG read the following motions which were made at the MUG meeting of July 18<sup>th</sup>:

- a. MUG supports Staff's recommendation to use the name "METRO ParaCruz" for the Paratransit program.
- b. MUG supports Staff's recommendation to acknowledge the efforts of the working group who helped develop and refine the Paratransit Rider's/Customer's Guide.
- c. MUG recognizes and appreciates Cabrillo's efforts to encourage bus usership and encourages further effort in this direction.

**5. METRO ACCESSIBLE SERVICES TRANSIT FORUM (MASTF) COMMUNICATIONS**

Debra Lane of MASTF read the following motions which were made at the MASTF meeting of July 19<sup>th</sup>:

- a. MASTF expresses concern about the possible elimination of (Route 60) bus service along Old San Jose Road. Elimination of bus service also affects the use of paratransit in that area.
- b. MASTF recommends that bus service to and from Pleasant Care be expanded on weekdays and weekends.
- c. MASTF requests involvement in discussion of changes to the paratransit service area. Note: Discussion of the 3/4 mile to 1 1/2 mile paratransit service corridor prompted this motion.

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

Vice Chairperson Reilly reported that there are two add-on packets for this meeting as follows:

**SECTION I**

**ADD TO ITEM #2**

**ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

- c. Robert H. Trempert RE: Beachfest Santa Cruz  
(Add written communication)

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
**ADD TO ITEM #7-3**

ACCEPT AND FILE PASSENGER LIFT REPORT FOR JUNE 2001  
(Add Staff Report)

**REGULAR AGENDA:**  
**ADD TO ITEM #8**

EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS  
(Add Revised Employee Recognition List)

**ADD TO ITEM #14**

CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH WATERLEAF INTERIORS, INC. TO PROVIDE FOR A FINANCIAL IMPACT REVIEW AND REPORT FOR THE METROBASE PROJECT  
(Add Staff Report)

**ADD TO ITEM #21**

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR BUS OPERATOR DENNIS BALDWIN  
(Add Resolution)

**CONSENT AGENDA:**  
**ADD TO ITEM #7-4**

CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: Victoria Balsa  
(Replace Page 7-4.3)

**REGULAR AGENDA:**  
**ADD TO ITEM #10**

CONSIDERATION OF SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE FALL BIDS  
(Add letter from Leah H. Sterle regarding Route #60.  
Add letter and petition from Lisa LeBlanc regarding Route #60)

**ADD TO ITEM #12**

CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE AREAS SERVED BY ADA PARATRANSIT  
(Add Attachment E)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 7-1. **APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF 6/8/01 & 6/15/01 AND SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF 5/23/01**
- 7-2. **ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS**
- 7-3. **ACCEPT AND FILE PASSENGER LIFT REPORT FOR JUNE 2001**
- 7-4. **CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: Deny the claims of: Victoria Balsa; Ronald F. Chinitz; Sheri Cooper**
- 7-5. **ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF MASTF COMMITTEE MEETING OF 6/14/01**
- 7-6. **ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF MUG COMMITTEE MEETING OF 6/13/01**
- 7-7. **ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR MAY 2001, APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS**

- 7-8. ACCEPT AND FILE STATUS REPORT ON ADA PARATRANSIT PROGRAM FOR MAY 2001
- 7-9. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR MAY 2001
- 7-10. ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE STATUS REPORT
- 7-11. ACCEPT AND FILE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SECRETARY/GENERAL MANAGER AND/OR FINANCE MANAGER TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY NOVA INFORMATION SYSTEMS, INC., FOR MERCHANT BANK CARD SERVICES
- 7-12. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF DISPOSITION OF PARATRANSIT VEHICLES AND VEHICLE #902
- 7-13. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL DBE PARTICIPATION RATE OF 15% FOR FEDERALLY-FUNDED PROCUREMENTS IN FY 2002
- 7-14. CONSIDERATION OF CHANGE OF USE FOR FLORA BELLA FROM CHILDREN'S CLOTHING STORE TO EXPRESSO/GOURMET COFFEE OUTLET
- 7-15. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT FOR PARATRANSIT SERVICE BETWEEN SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT AND FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES INC. TO PROVIDE FOR A NAME CHANGE FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES, INC. TO "COMMUNITY BRIDGES" AS A RESULT OF A CORPORATE NAME CHANGE
- 7-16. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF CABRILLO COLLEGE TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN AND AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A BUS PASS PROGRAM AGREEMENT  
(Moved to Consent Agenda at 7/13/01 Board Meeting. Staff Report retained original numbering as Item #13)
- 7-17. MOVED TO REGULAR AGENDA AS ITEM #14
- 7-18. CONSIDERATION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION'S (APTA) PARTNERSHIP FOR TOMORROW  
(Moved to Consent Agenda at 7/13/01 Board Meeting. Staff Report retained original numbering as Item #16)
- 7-19. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM THE RUDOLPH F. MONTE FOUNDATION FOR FIREWORK FUNDRAISER  
(Moved to Consent Agenda at 7/13/01 Board Meeting. Staff Report retained original numbering as Item #18)
- 7-20. MOVED TO REGULAR AGENDA AS ITEM #19
- 7-21. CONSIDERATION OF STATUS REPORT ON METRO SECURITY CONTRACT  
(Moved to Consent Agenda at 7/13/01 Board Meeting. Staff Report retained original numbering as Item #20)

Don Hubbard of the Harvey West Area Association requested that Item #7-17 be moved to the regular agenda for discussion. This item will become Item #14 on the regular agenda for discussion purposes.

Ali Gharahgozloo requested that Item #7-20 be moved to the regular agenda for discussion. This item will become Item #19 on the regular agenda for discussion purposes.

Director Krohn requested that Item #7-1 be moved to the regular agenda to discuss items in the Minutes.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY**

**Approve the Consent Agenda.**

Director Krohn inquired as to why the City could not obtain a trolley to operate this summer. He referred to literature from a vendor in Oregon who stated that they could deliver a trolley here within 7-10 days. Margaret Gallagher informed Director Krohn that since this is not a change to the Minutes, the Board would need to direct staff to return with an update on this issue. Director Krohn further asked if the issue of bio-diesel has been addressed with the people who brought this up and was informed by Mr. White that communication continues with those interested parties.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR KROHN SECOND: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE**

**Approve Item #7-1 as part of the Consent Agenda.**

**Motion passed unanimously with Directors Ainsworth and Almquist absent.**

**Vice Chairperson Reilly agreed to take Items 14 and 19 at this time.**

**14. CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH WATERLEAF INTERIORS, INC. TO PROVIDE FOR A FINANCIAL IMPACT REVIEW AND REPORT FOR THE METROBASE PROJECT**

**Discussion:**

Don Hubbard, representative of the Harvey West Area Association, expressed concerns regarding the feasibility analysis that is to be conducted on Alternatives 1, 3, 4, and 5. He asked for clarification as to which alternatives would be studied. Mr. Hubbard also asked for clarification on the number of buses to be used in the economic impact analysis. Several more sections of the proposal to WaterLeaf were cited as needing further clarification.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR NORTON**

**Direct either Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson to write a letter to Mr. Hubbard, based on Staff information, that explains the exclusion of Phase 2 and 3 at Harvey West.**

**Motion passed unanimously with Directors Ainsworth and Almquist absent.**

Mr. White added that alternatives in the EIR would be examined as part of the financial review. He further added that Staff would meet with Mr. Hubbard to address his concerns. The Scope of Work contains five (5) public meetings for the consultant to gather information from the public.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY**

**Authorize the General Manager to amend the contract with WaterLeaf Architecture and Interiors for the preparation of a Financial Feasibility and Impact Report for the proposed MetroBase project.**

Les White reported that Staff met with Dick Wilson and Ceil Cirillo who wanted the following points included in the Scope of Work:

- 1) Loss of business goodwill for businesses.
- 2) How Harvey West Area Business Park would look with the current operation of mixed uses, and how it would look with MetroBase operating there.
- 3) Timeline.

**Motion passed unanimously with Directors Ainsworth and Almquist absent.**

**19. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO CONSTRUCT ONE KIOSK AT THE WATSONVILLE TRANSIT CENTER**

**Summary:**

Ali Gharahgozloo, currently a tenant, dba Transmart, is requesting an additional lease to open a Chinese restaurant. He referred to a petition which was signed in support of this venture. Ms. Gallagher is requesting that the Board deny this request as it may take business away from other tenants who are not currently as successful as Staff would like them to be at the Watsonville Transit Center. The area where Mr. Gharahgozloo is requesting this kiosk is currently being used to store bicycles.

**Discussion:**

Vice Chairperson Reilly inquired as to when Cabrillo's Watsonville campus would be open. Manual Osorio, Vice President of Student Services at Cabrillo College, reported that enrollment would begin this fall with an anticipated 500 students. Director Lopez added that the Watsonville campus would ultimately have 5,000 students and that it would be best to consider Mr. Gharahgozloo's request at a later date when there would be a better estimation of traffic through the transit center. The cost of construction of this kiosk would be approximately \$2,300. Mr. Gharahgozloo requested that he pay back these costs as part of his base rent charge over the term of the lease.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR LOPEZ SECOND: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ**

**Deny the request to construct one kiosk at the Watsonville Transit Center. Direct Staff to contact Mr. Gharahgozloo in approximately one year to invite him to reapply for the kiosk space. Direct Staff to obtain costs of installing grease traps, etc. in anticipation of increased traffic in the transit center.**

**Motion passed unanimously with Directors Ainsworth and Almquist absent.**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**8. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS**

The Board of Directors formally recognized the following employees for their years of service.

TEN YEARS

Bonnie Wilson, Administrative Secretary/Supervisor

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Andres Polanco, Bus Operator

**ITEM #21 WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER**

**21. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR BUS OPERATOR DENNIS BALDWIN**

**Summary:**

Vice Chairperson Reilly read the Resolution of Appreciation for Bus Operator Dennis Baldwin and his efforts to ensure the safety of his passengers during a recent police action. Mr. Baldwin received a standing ovation from the Board and audience.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY**

**Approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Bus Operator Dennis Baldwin.**

**AYES:** Directors - Beutz, Fitzmaurice, Gabriel, Hinkle, Keogh, Krohn, Lopez, Norton, Reilly

**NOES:** Directors - None

**ABSTAIN:** Directors - None

**ABSENT:** Directors - Ainsworth, Almquist

**Motion passed unanimously with Directors Ainsworth and Almquist absent**

**10. CONSIDERATION OF SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE FALL BIDS**

**Summary:**

Kim Chin acknowledged Ian McFadden, Linda Fry, and the Service Planning and Review Committee for their input into this process. The three main objectives for service improvements for the Fall of 2001 are: 1) Enhance service to UCSC; 2) Expand service on cross county routes between Watsonville and Santa Cruz; and, 3) Improve cross county and local service for mid-



county residents in Capitola and La Selva Beach, including routes to encourage Soquel High School and New Brighton Middle School students to utilize METRO. Mr. Chin added that these improvements/changes consume funding of \$300,000 for service improvements over the next 24 months. Future changes will be taken from existing service. Procedural changes have taken place to further include the MUG and MASTF committees in the service improvement/changes process. These procedural changes will be effective with the Winter 2001 service changes.

**Discussion:**

Ian McFadden went into detail regarding the service improvements on the UCSC campus, cross county service improvements and improved service to mid-county. These changes include the elimination of Routes 51 and 60. There was concern expressed by MASTF that with the elimination of Route 60, the paratransit service would also be eliminated. The paratransit service area issue will be discussed during Agenda Item #12. Route 51 consists mostly of Soquel High School students who would now board the new Route 58 for transportation to school.

Director Lopez inquired about bus service on holidays as his constituents require transportation to and from work on holidays. Kim Chin reported that in the next 60-90 days, METRO Staff would meet with staff from the City of Watsonville regarding service needs for the present and future. A "demand" survey will also be conducted with the ridership in Watsonville to determine their service needs. Director Lopez will compile petitions for service that he had received in the past for discussion at the joint meeting.

Director Beautz expressed concern over the elimination of Route 60 when a 100-acre park had just been established in this area. There was also discussion regarding "life line" service in the Route 60 area and working with the Transportation Commission to find TDA funds for this route.

**THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS OPENED UP AT 11:02 A.M.**

Jeff North reviewed the stops made on Route 60 and stated that the ridership is abysmal. He reported that Route 63 is an improvement for residents of the Pleasant Care facility. The unmet service needs need to be updated and prioritized and, possibly, consider holiday-level service. Mr. North urged the Board to approve the submitted changes/improvements for Fall 2001.

Sharon Barbour expressed concern regarding the paratransit route being affected by the elimination of Route 60. Ms. Barbour suggested using a smaller bus on the Route 60 thereby eliminating the difficulty in turning at certain spots. She also stated that the recommended service changes would preclude many service improvements in Watsonville over the next two years and suggested that Staff address the intra-Watsonville area.

Debra Lane spoke on behalf of the MASTF members who are concerned about the need for service in the area of the Pleasant Care facility. She stated that the majority of these residents have only \$25-\$30 per month of disposable income. Another concern is the limited wheelchair securement areas and that the bus only stops once an hour. Ms. Lane asked the Board to consider MASTF's motion to expand service to the Pleasant Care area and on weekends as well. It was stated that the District's policy is that if the wheelchair securement areas are full

and the next bus is one hour away, the bus operator should call for a pickup. This policy goes above and beyond the ADA requirements.

Scott Bugental, Chair of E&D TAC, reported that the committee has not reviewed these service changes yet. Speaking on behalf of himself only, Mr. Bugental was concerned about the Route 59 loop that is being eliminated. This loop serves the Jade Street Seniors Center and with the elimination of the loop, would cause many seniors to have to arrange a paratransit ride from the bus stop to the Seniors Center. Lastly, Mr. Bugental suggested that life line service be kept on the Route 60. Not all passengers on that route would qualify for ADA service. He also shares Ms. Lane's concerns about service to the Pleasant Care facility.

Patricia Spence of MASTF stated that Old San Jose Road was defined as an area of exemption to the 3/4 mile policy. She added that with service being cut, the District is potentially redefining the service areas for ADA paratransit. Ms. Spence spoke of Pleasant Care and how the business community could develop a program for each business to adopt a resident of Pleasant Care and fund the ADA qualified resident in the amount of \$20 per month to use the paratransit service.

Aleta Johnson spoke on behalf of her 85-year old mother who lives on Old San Jose Road. Lift Line service has been implemented in the last three years. She encouraged the Board not to take away service that people have had and suggested that a smaller bus be used for those in need. The area of Route 60 is growing and Ms. Johnson implored the Board to look for an exemption to all areas that are desperate for service so that residents can continue their lifestyle. She urged the Board not to eliminate Route 60.

**THE PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 11:18 A.M.**

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL**

**Approve the proposed service improvements for Fall 2001.**

**ACTION:  
AMENDMENT TO MOTION: DIRECTOR NORTON SECOND: DIRECTOR KROHN**

**Keep Route 60 in place in place until a reasonable alternative is found.**

Les White explained that the cost of retaining Route 60 would be \$40,000 per year and funds would need to be found. Director Beautz asked how long it would take to look at a different type of system for this route. Mr. White recommended that Route 60 be sustained through December 2001 for a cost of \$10,000.

**At this point, Mr. White recommended to the Board that Items 9, 11, 12, 15 and 17 be moved to the August agenda.**

**ACTION: AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT:  
MOTION: DIRECTOR NORTON SECOND: DIRECTOR KROHN**

**Continue Route 60 service with a budget allocation of \$10,000 until a minimum of December. Prior to November, Staff is directed to submit a proposal to review alternatives in funding or routing to make up for this deficiency.**

**The Motion passed unanimously with Directors Ainsworth and Almquist absent. The Amendment to the Amendment to the Motion passed with Director Lopez voting "no".**

**ITEMS 9, 11, 12, 15 AND 17 WILL BE CARRIED OVER TO THE AUGUST AGENDA.**

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

Margaret Gallagher reported that there would be a discussion with the Real Property Negotiator regarding a request by McDonalds for a reduction in rent and terms of payment. There will also be a conference with legal counsel regarding the possibility of initiating litigation in two separate matters.

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

None

**SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION**

Vice Chairperson Reilly adjourned to Closed Session at 11:33 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 12:35 p.m.

**SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

**23. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Margaret Gallagher stated that the Board of Director authorized the filing of litigation in one matter and that in the other matter, because written agreements had to be prepared and approved by the other parties, that reporting these matters would be at a subsequent Board Meeting.

**ADJOURN**

Vice-Chair Reilly adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DALE CARR  
Administrative Services Coordinator