

# SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

July 8, 2005

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, July 8, 2005 at the District's Administrative Office, 370 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

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

## SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

### 1. ROLL CALL:

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT

Dene Bustichi (arrived after roll call)  
Michelle Hinkle  
Mike Keogh  
Emily Reilly (arrived after roll call)  
Mike Rotkin  
Dale Skillicorn  
Pat Spence  
Mark Stone

#### DIRECTORS ABSENT

Jan Beautz  
Stephanie Harlan  
Marcela Tavantzis  
Ex-Officio Wes Scott

#### STAFF PRESENT

Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager  
Steve Paulson, Paratransit Administrator  
Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager

Tom Stickel, Maintenance Manager  
Les White, General Manager

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

Glenn Bartz, SEIU  
Frank Bauer, PSA  
Carolyn Bowers, UTU  
Cheryl Brondstatter, PSA  
Ken Brown, SEIU  
Carolyn Derwing, UTU  
Francisco Estrada, UTU  
Brent Fouse, SEIU  
Mark Hansen, SEIU  
Maria Hernandez, SEIU  
Vickie Hernandez, SEIU  
Tony Herrera, UTU  
Tom Hiltner, SEIU

Sandra Lipperd, UTU  
Paul Marcelin-Sampson, MAC Chair/MRU  
Steven Marcus, UTU  
Manny Martinez, PSA  
Ian McFadden, SEA  
Bonnie Morr, UTU  
John Perez, PSA  
Karena Pushnik, SCCRTC  
Will Regan, VMU  
Mark Saunders, UTU  
Peter Scott, Sierra Club  
Dan Stevenson, UTU  
James Taylor, UTU

Jim Hobbs, SEIU Retiree  
Gary Klemz, SEIU Field Representative  
Armand Levesque, UTU

Doug Vest, UTU  
Bob Yount, MAC/MASTF/E&D TAC/BSAC

Vice Chair Rotkin announced that Director Beautz has missed several recent meetings due to illness.

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

### Written:

- |    |                             |     |                            |
|----|-----------------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| a. | Jonah Rae Whiteagle         | Re: | Paratransit Service Area   |
| b. | Dan Stevenson, Bus Operator | Re: | Communication to the Board |
| c. | Ian McFadden                | Re: | Communication to the Board |

Vice Chair Rotkin said that he would write a response to Dan Stevenson for the Board to review and asked Staff to draft a response to Mr. Whiteagle.

### Oral:

Paul Marcelin-Sampson, Metro Riders Union, commented regarding the ParaCruz budget, that the service has been greatly improved and is so much more efficient over the last provider and continues to improve.

## **3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS**

Bonnie Morr, UTU, introduced Tony Herrera as the new Vice Chair for the negotiating team and Carolyn Derwing, Interim Vice Chair, who will also be part of the negotiating team. Ms. Morr also reported that the soles of her shoes had dissolved, which she believes may have been due to something in the bus yard that she stepped in. Ms. Morr left her shoes and asked that this be looked into.

### **DIRECTOR REILLY ARRIVED**

Cheryl Brondstatter, PSA, commented that other transit agencies have given raises despite their budget deficits and urged the Board to do the same.

Bonnie Morr introduced bus operator Carolyn Bowers and relayed that Ms. Bowers takes home less pay now due to health insurance costs than she did in her previous job.

### **DIRECTOR BUSTICHI ARRIVED**

Ms. Bowers commented that the paycheck she received yesterday was a lot less than the previous one had been and that it was hard to make ends meet.

Jim Hobbs, President of SEIU, Local 415 Retirees, commented that he is grateful and appreciative of the excellent retirement benefits he receives and urged the Board to continue to provide for future retirees.

Ian McFadden, SEA, distributed a handout outlining items SEIU is for and against, which is attached to the file copy of these minutes. Mr. McFadden commented that the SEIU bargaining team feels it has not had the opportunity to address the Board with its concerns like management has and that it perceives the management team is bargaining in bad faith due to not discussing any items other than economic issues and the issues management wants to discuss.

Will Regan, VMU, commented that he feels that the management team has engaged only in “surface bargaining” and reminded Vice Chair Rotkin about the Board thanking SEIU last year for agreeing to a contract extension with no raises. Mr. Regan expressed concern that MetroBase is taking precedence over employees and urged the Board to be fair and reasonable and to reevaluate its priorities in order to retain experienced workers and attract new ones.

Manny Martinez, PSA, commented that the Board had confidence in its employees to provide excellence in providing paratransit service when it was brought in-house and urged the Board to take care of METRO’s employees now.

Ken Brown, SEIU, also urged the Board to take care of the employees, and commented that they have given up raises and done everything the Board has asked of them.

Carolyn Derwing, UTU, urged the Board to offer fair wages and a good health plan to keep and attract good workers.

Mark Saunders, UTU, commented that his paychecks are going backwards, saying that he worked overtime last year at 56 hours per week and brought home \$2700, but the last time he was able to work 2 double-overtime days he brought home only \$2300. Mr. Saunders said that he does not want to work longer days for less pay.

Tom Hiltner, SEIU, commented that his paycheck yesterday was \$130 less than it was last July, and \$260 less than it was in July 2003. Mr. Hiltner said he has had to cut back on his personal expenses while the cost of living has remained the same and expressed concern that his paychecks will decrease every year under the contract that management is proposing and urged the Board to look at its priorities and see where the money is going.

John Mellon, VMU, commented that a new employee had expressed concern recently regarding the proposed 2-tier retirement system. Mr. Mellon said that he feels the management team is engaging in “bad-faith, surface bargaining” and urged the Board to have respect for the employees.

Francisco Estrada, UTU, urged the Board to show respect to employees in order to continue to have professional service provided by employees.

Glenn Bartz, SEIU, said he was part of the bargaining team and urged the Board to redirect the management team because the workers need incentive to get METRO through hard times and are very unified that they cannot afford and are not going to accept management’s offer.

Bonnie Morr reported that UTU mediation is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup> with no dates provided by management to meet before that time. Ms. Morr also said that UTU's attorney had not yet received a letter stating the time of the financial update meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>, and that she agreed with Ian McFadden's statement that management is unwilling to discuss many issues, and that UTU feels that no real bargaining has taken place. Ms. Morr urged the Board to support the employees and asked for a response to the attorney regarding the time of the meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Vice Chair Rotkin reported that Elisabeth Ross had spoken with UTU's attorney regarding the meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>, which will be at 11:00 a.m. and apologized for any miscommunication.

Gary Klemz, SEIU, commented that there is a mutually agreed upon SEIU contract extension through midnight of July 6<sup>th</sup> with mediation scheduled for the following week. Mr. Klemz stated that the last bargaining session was scheduled for 3 hours, but that SEIU's entire economic package was rejected after only 45 minutes, which is leading to impasse and a strike if the same thing happens in mediation.

Dan Stevenson, UTU, commented that Items #11, #12 and #13 on the Board's May 27<sup>th</sup> Agenda were regarding authorization for additional revenue, although he could not find other instances of these types of issues over the last year and a half and asked why the Board had waited until May of this year to consider seriously looking for new sources of revenue for the District.

Vice Chair Rotkin thanked everyone for their comments.

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

None.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **5-1. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 10 AND JUNE 24, 2005 AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2005**

The June 24<sup>th</sup> Minutes will be included in the July 22, 2005 Board Packet.  
No questions or comments.

#### **5-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2005**

No questions or comments.

#### **5-3. ACCEPT AND FILE JUNE 2005 RIDERSHIP REPORT**

The June Ridership Report will be included in the July 22, 2005 Board Packet.  
No questions or comments.

**5-4. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: None**

No questions or comments.

**5-5. ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) AGENDA FOR JULY 21, 2005 AND DRAFT MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2005**

Paul Marcelin-Sampson, MAC Chair, reported that there had been no MAC meeting in June due to lack of a quorum and suggested that the Board may want to look into how MAC members are appointed due to attendance issues.

**5-6. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR MAY 2005 AND CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET TRANSFERS**

Will be included in the July 22, 2005 Board Packet.  
No questions or comments.

**5-7. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR MAY 2005**

Will be included in the July 22, 2005 Board Packet.  
No questions or comments.

**5-8. ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2005**

Steve Paulson commented that efficiency is continuing to improve and Les White added that METRO is far exceeding the expected 70% of directly provided service with other providers performing only 7 – 8% of the service.

**5-9. ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2005**

Vice Chair Rotkin commented that the slight decrease in ridership was primarily due to a strike at UCSC and the fact that people are finding other ways to get to campus.

Paul Marcelin-Sampson commented that staff trips have decreased over the last few years and the elimination of free passes will cause continued decrease.

There was a discussion about UC service issues, the solutions proposed by METRO that UC staff refused to implement, and the impact of the City parking permit program on UC routes.

**5-10. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT**

Les White reported that the construction contract is planned to be awarded in August with construction to begin in September.

**5-11. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES REFLECTING VOTING RESULTS FROM APPOINTEES TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR THE JUNE 2005 MEETINGS**

Will be included in the August Board Packet.

**5-12. CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL OF LIABILITY AND PHYSICAL DAMAGE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR FY 05-06**

No questions or comments.

**5-13. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR 3-POSITION BICYCLE CARRIERS**

Will be included in the July 22, 2005 Board Packet.

No questions or comments.

**5-14. ACCEPT AND FILE CALL STOP AUDIT REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL, MAY AND JUNE 2005**

Will be included in the July 22, 2005 Board Packet.

No questions or comments.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**6. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS: None**

No Employee Anniversaries for the month of June 2005.

**7. CONSIDERATION OF SERVICE REVISIONS FOR FALL 2005**

**Summary:**

Ian McFadden reported that the proposed modifications include improving UCSC service, modifying Highway 17 service to improve connections to AMTRAK, Caltrain and VTA, and modifying departures in Watsonville to improve connections. Les White explained that the hourly reimbursement rate for the Highway 17 service increased 3% and that a meeting is planned for July 19<sup>th</sup> with the partner agencies to review the proposed modifications, with a report back to the Board on July 22<sup>nd</sup> on the outcome of that meeting.

**Discussion:**

Peter Scott spoke in support of the proposed Route 40 afternoon trip being moved an hour later.

Paul Marcelin-Sampson commented that he was happy to see his suggestions implemented on Routes 68 and 12, that he feels the Route 35 modifications should be reviewed by ParaCruz,

that he believes there should be incentive for UC students and staff to take and teach classes outside of the prime time window, and mentioned missed Highway 17 connections.

Les White clarified that pages 7.E1 – 7.E10 was information Mr. Marcelin-Sampson provided and that the shaded areas are trips with missed connections.

**8. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING AN ANNUAL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PARTICIPATION RATE FOR FEDERALLY-FUNDED PROCUREMENTS IN FY 2006**

Will be included in the July 22, 2005 Board Packet.  
No questions or comments.

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

Vice Chair Rotkin reported that the Board would be discussing SEIU and UTU Labor Negotiations with their Labor Negotiator.

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

Paul Marcelin-Sampson stated that the Board has the responsibility to provide public service and should guarantee security to all workers. Mr. Marcelin-Sampson also stated that past pay increases have been too large which lead to lay-offs and urged the Board to tie all future raises to the CPI.

Chair Keogh thanked everyone for their informative, non-repetitive comments made today.

**SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION**

Vice Chair Rotkin adjourned to Closed Session at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 12:07 p.m.

**SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

**11. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Vice Chair Rotkin had nothing to report at this time.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Vice Chair Rotkin adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS  
Administrative Services Coordinator