

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

September 15, 2000

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, September 15, 2000 at the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Room 525, Santa Cruz, California.

Chairperson Beautz called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Sheryl Ainsworth
Jeff Almquist
Bruce Arthur
Jan Beautz
Katherine Beiers
Tim Fitzmaurice
Bruce Gabriel
Michelle Hinkle
Mike Keogh
Mike Rotkin

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Oscar Rios (arrived at 8:49 a.m.)
Ex Officio Director Ken Burch

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Dorfman, Asst. General Manager
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel
Leslie R. White, General Manager

2. REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Chairperson Beautz indicated that Closed Session would be held immediately following the end of the Regular Board Meeting.

STAFF PRESENT

Bryant Baehr, Operations Manager
Paul Chandley, Human Resource Manager
Kim Chin, Planning & Marketing Manager
Terry Gale, IT Manager
Mike Goodell, Sr. Admin. Data Admin

David Konno, Facilities Maint. Manager
LeAna Olson, Human Resource Analyst
Judy Souza, Base Superintendent
Tom Stickel, Fleet Maintenance Manager

EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT

John Aspesi	Nora Hochman
Sharon Barbour	Patti Korba, SEA
Glenn Bartz	Jeff LeBlanc
Michael Boyd	Laura Mangini
Jennifer Bragar	Manny Martinez, PSA
Wally Brondstatter	Ian McFadden, UTU
Bart Cavallaro	Gillian McGlaze, UTU
Pedro Cervantes	John Mellon, VMU
Shelton Crutch	Bonnie Morr, UTU
John Daugherty	Rick Perez
Connie Day	Will Regan
Shelley Day	Val Rodriguez
Spence Erickson, PG&E	Bob Scott
Jeff Foster, Duffy & Associates	Celia Scott
Linda Garbez	Wendi Stark
Mark Hansen	Jon Styner, WaterLeaf
Tom Hiltner	Tom Whittaker, WaterLeaf
Jim Hobbs	

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Carol Manson – Written Communication dated 9/1/00
RE: Notification of Board Meeting Involving MetroBase Issues in the Harvey West Industrial Park Area.
- b. Michael Paul, Goodwill Industries – Written Communications
Dated 9/5/00 RE: MetroBase Facility in the Harvey West Industrial Park Area

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

None.

4. METRO USERS GROUP (MUG) COMMUNICATIONS

Director Gabriel stated that the Metro Users Group did not have a quorum, therefore no meeting was held.

5. METRO ACCESSIBLE SERVICES TRANSIT FORUM (MASTF) COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

ADD TO ITEM #2

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

- b. Carol Manson – Written Communication dated 9/1/00
RE: Notification of Board Meeting Involving MetroBase Issues
in the Harvey West Industrial Park Area.
- c. Michael Paul, Goodwill Industries – Written Communications
Dated 9/5/00 RE: MetroBase Facility in the Harvey West
Industrial Park Area

CONSENT AGENDA:

ADD TO ITEM #7-3

ACCEPT AND FILE PASSENGER LIFT REPORT FOR AUGUST
2000
(Add Usage Report)

ADD TO ITEM #7-8

ACCEPT AND FILE STATUS REPORT ON ADA PARATRANSIT
PROGRAM FOR JULY 2000
(Add Status Report)

ADD TO ITEM #7-9

ACCEPT AND FILE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT,
FOURTH QUARTER 1999/00
(Add Performance Report)

ADD TO ITEM #7-10

ACCEPT AND FILE QUARTERLY RIDERSHIP REPORT, FOURTH
QUARTER 1999/00
(Add Ridership Report)

REGULAR AGENDA:

DELETE ITEM #9

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS OF SURVEY CONDUCTED ON
BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS FOR IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION

ADD TO ITEM #10a.

CONSIDERATION OF REAFFIRMING METROBASE AS A
DISTRICT PROJECT WITH SPECIFIC GOALS SUBJECT TO
DISTRICT SELECTION OF PREFERRED SITE AND COMPLETION
OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)
PROCESS
(Add staff report)

ADD TO ITEM #10b.

REVIEW AND ACCEPT PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSTRAINTS ANALYSIS OF HARVEY WEST SITES A (HW-A)
AND B (HW-B) FOR THE PROPOSED METROBASE
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY
(Add staff report)

- ADD TO ITEM #10c.** RECONSIDERATION OF SELECTION OF PREFERRED SITE FOR METROBASE
(Add staff report)
- ADD TO ITEM #10d.** CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH CEQAPROCESS ON THE PREFERRED SITE FOR METROBASE
(Add staff report)
- DELETE ITEM #19** ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD MEETING LOCATION FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2000 MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

REVIEW CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 7-1 THROUGH 7-11

- 7-1. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF 8/11/00 AND 8/18/00.
- 7-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARY APPROVED CLAIMS
- 7-3. ACCEPT AND FILE PASSENGER LIFT REPORT FOR AUGUST 2000
- 7-4. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: DENY THE CLAIM OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION (AAA)
- 7-5. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF MASTF COMMITTEE MEETING OF 8/17/00
- 7-6. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF MUG COMMITTEE MEETING OF 8/16/00
- 7-7. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR JULY 2000
- 7-8. ACCEPT AND FILE STATUS REPORT ON ADA PARATRANSIT PROGRAM FOR JULY 2000
- 7-9. ACCEPT AND FILE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER 1999/00
- 7-10. ACCEPT AND FILE QUARTERLY RIDERSHIP REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER 1999/00

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

Approve Consent Agenda.

The Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARY AWARDS

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

FIFTEEN YEARS

Manual Martinez
Terri Gorino
Andrew Harris
Andrew Hill
Daryl Juan

TWENTY YEARS

Ricardo Perez
Tom Stickel
Glenn Bartz
Fred Logiudice

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Lawrence Cramblett

9. DELETED

10a. CONSIDERATION OF REAFFIRMING METROBASE AS A DISTRICT PROJECT WITH SPECIFIC GOALS SUBJECT TO DISTRICT SELECTION OF PREFERRED SITE AND COMPLETION OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PROCESS

Summary:

Margaret Gallagher stated that due to the length of time that has transpired since the inception of the idea to build a consolidated operating facility it is appropriate to review the goals and objectives of the MetroBase project. They are:

- 1) increase operational efficiencies, staff productivity and staff communications through consolidation of facilities and the decreasing of deadheading time;
- 2) realize savings from ownership and consolidation of facilities;
- 3) provide adequate facilities for Transit District employees to enable them to perform their duties and responsibilities;

- 4) construct adequate facilities so that Transit District can support the Major Transportation Investment Study investment strategies for the region, thereby expanding bus service; and
- 5) construct a fueling facility to support the entire fleet and the Board adopted CNG policy for bus purchases and to ensure compliance with the new California Air Resources Board regulations.

Changes that have taken place are: The Board recently made decisions on fueling and the Major Transportation Investment Study (MTIS) was adopted by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, which has an impact on the Transit District's needs. Performance audits were conducted in 1992 and 1994. The auditors found inefficiencies due to numerous locations and inadequate facilities for the workload of District staff. In 1995, the Gannet Fleming report had the same findings.

10b. REVIEW AND ACCEPT PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS ANALYSIS OF HARVEY WEST SITES A (HW-A) AND B (HW-B) FOR THE PROPOSED METROBASE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Summary:

Les White stated that on June 16, 2000, the Board of Directors instructed staff to contract with Denise Duffy & Associates to conduct a Preliminary Environmental Constraints Analysis on two sites in the Harvey West area that had emerged based upon a revised criteria developed by the Board of Directors. The purpose of this analysis was to determine whether or not any fatal flaws would be identified on either of the sites, which would remove them from further consideration at this time. On August 20, 2000, Denise Duffy & Associates presented the Preliminary Environmental Constraints Analysis Report to the District. The environmental analysis report identified issues, which would be required to be addressed should the District proceed with either of the Harvey West sites. The report also indicated that there are currently no identified fatal environmental flaws which would prohibit either site from being utilized should the Board choose to proceed.

10c. RECONSIDERATION OF SELECTION OF PREFERRED SITE FOR METROBASE

Les White stated that staff is recommending for the purposes of commencing action on an environmental impact report and the beginning a scoping process, that the Board designate as its preferred site, Harvey West Site A. Harvey West Site A would be constructed in three phases. Phase One consists of property owned by the Hinshaws, Goodwill Industries and the Pinn Bros. and would consume all the necessary structures. These sites would be developed into a 125 to 130 bus operating base. The environmental impact report will also look at the properties which are in Phase Two and Phase Three, bounded by Post and Pioneer streets. These two phases will expand the facility to 175 to 200 bus capacity as identified in the MTIS. Customer service and the passenger boarding functions would remain at the transit centers throughout the County.

10d. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH CEQA PROCESS ON THE PREFERRED SITE FOR METROBASE

Margaret Gallagher stated that if the Board selects a preferred site today, it would be appropriate to authorize the commencement of the Environmental Impact process at this time. An environmental impact report costing \$115,000 to \$175,000 would take one to two years, during which time several public meetings would be held for input. The District would need to comply with the CEQA process and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), both of which would run concurrently. Once the Environmental Impact report process starts, there will be an initial study and then a scoping process. The public will be notified of the scoping meeting at which time alternatives for this project will be put forth. Next month the Board will be presented a timetable for the processing of the environmental impact report.

At Director Beiers' request, District Counsel explained the scoping process. Celia Scott added that CEQA does not require a public hearing on the scope of the environmental impact report, but most agencies feel this is the appropriate thing to do. Any issue that is raised during the scoping process must be dealt with in the environmental impact report that follows.

CHAIRPERSON BEAUTZ OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING

PRABHU ATRE stated that he opposes MetroBase in Harvey West. He lives and works in Harvey West and is concerned regarding the noise, traffic, animals and environmental issues that MetroBase would bring to the area.

KRISTI BITTNER, a Westside resident, supports an upgrade to the bus facilities. However, Ms. Bittner opposes the Westside location for MetroBase and is concerned about the many businesses being affected in Harvey West Site A. The Gannett Fleming Study states that a closed in, clustered or nearby multi-site solution could be operational at a similar cost. She would like to see that included as an alternative that needs to be studied.

MARY POWER-HALL stated that she is a resident of the Harvey West Site A, Phase Three. Her family has owned a house there for over 20 years. She is concerned about her home and the two income properties she owns in this area. She is further concerned about noise during the construction of Phase One. She agrees that a multi-location is a really good alternative that could mitigate the impact on areas that are already crowded.

BARBIE SCHALLER stated that she is a member of the Seniors Commission and is representing members of the Seniors Commission. She reports regularly to the Seniors Commission on transportation. Ms. Schaller expressed to the Board her concern about handicapped seniors if this project does not proceed.

JIM MACKENZIE, a Westside resident, adamantly opposes locating the MetroBase on the Westside. He supports locating the MetroBase in Harvey West because all of the facilities and operations to be consolidated in the MetroBase are already located there. In addition, Mr. MacKenzie cited the center of service and freeway access as positive aspects of the Harvey West location. He is in favor of a CNG fleet and feels Harvey West will provide a centrally

located CNG fueling infrastructure that could be used by other public agencies, which would add to the District's revenue source.

LES WHITE stated there was a question of whether or not the EIR would look at impacts on adjoining sites. In the event an EIR is implemented, it will look at the impacts to adjoining properties. There was another question with regard to the cost of the project. When property that is currently in use is being considered, there are much higher acquisition costs and relocation obligations and implications as far as developing that property. A cost analysis will be prepared on the preferred site. The District will also look at cluster operation as an option during the EIR.

MIMI CAHALEN, a Westside resident, is opposed to the Westside location for MetroBase. She supports Phase One in the Harvey West area but would like the District to find an alternative site for Phases Two and Three. Ms. Cahalen is concerned with the environmental, financial and traffic issues as they affect the quality of life in Santa Cruz. She is in support of finding a safe, clean and appropriate place, but not on the Westside. She felt that having multiple locations would not affect the people that actually live on the edges of the solutions.

SUSAN KELLY supports public transportation and supports an efficient bus system for disabled and low-income people. However, she is opposed to the Westside location, due to Mission Street, the environment, noise, emissions and schools in the area. She is in favor of a decentralized base and removing the Westside completely from consideration.

JACK ANDERSON, a Westside resident, urged the Board to completely drop consideration of the Westside site for MetroBase. The impact of the MetroBase in any one area, even Harvey West, may be too much for one area. He asked the Board to consider more than one site for MetroBase.

CATHY PUCHANELLI appreciates the contact she has had with WaterLeaf, Mark Dorfman and Les White. She is a resident of the Harvey West area and is concerned about noise as her home is in close proximity to Phase One. She will be attending the scoping meetings and she is not convinced that you can mitigate the amount of noise that comes out of this project. She urged the Board to keep the Westside and other options open throughout the County, mid-county included, and not just focus on an EIR on Phase One. She urged the Board to begin with Phase Two and Three rather than Phase One.

STAN WEIR stated that the information he has read is biased. In the report, they do a good job of photographs showing old houses that would be torn down, but it does not give any idea of the huge industrial buildings that would have to be torn down that have been built within the last 10 years. He is further concerned about the cost of tearing down existing buildings and that the taxpayer will have to pay for this. He is against the gutting of prime industrial area of the city which supplies jobs.

LES WHITE stated that certain buildings which are in Phase One would not be torn down but would be remodeled. The Goodwill and Pinn Brothers buildings would be demolished.

PAM HALL is concerned about noise from buses leaving the yard at 4:00 a.m. and returning in the evening. She is further concerned about property values and the quality of life. His question is, if it does not get to Phase Three and he ends up living next to the bus depot, but does not come under eminent domain, do the neighbors need to file a lawsuit or simply petition to have properties bought. What options do neighbors have who are not in Phase Three but live across the street?

RICHARD ANDERSEN stated that he is a resident of Santa Cruz and he supports the people who have spoken against the Westside MetroBase. He urged the Board to consider a split MetroBase process dividing the responsibility between the South County and North County is a good idea. He is also concerned about Auto Land advertising on the buses, which is contradictory to getting people out of their cars to use the bus. He wants this to be addressed.

LORI QUICK, a Westside resident, is in favor of removing the Westside location from consideration. She speaks for countless neighbors who could not be here today because they are working and who feel exactly the same way.

LINDA GARBEZ, a Transit District employee and 20-year resident of Santa Cruz, urged the Board to move forward with this project. She is concerned with the current, deplorable working conditions of certain District employees.

MICHAEL BOYD, a Transit District employee and 20-year resident of Santa Cruz, also urged the Board to approve Harvey West Site A as the primary location for MetroBase. Mr. Boyd is concerned with the working conditions of the maintenance and repair facilities.

LES WHITE stated that staff will ask Gannett Fleming, Inc. to work on the site development analysis and financial analysis, along with the impact on adjoining properties, especially on a phased approach. The District needs to develop a strategy that can be brought back to the Board for consideration as a part of the planning and EIR process. The options available to the District need to be looked at.

DIRECTOR ROTKIN asked Mr. White if he can give an example of a similar situation that other transit agencies have done in buying people's property. Mr. White discussed the Portland, Oregon, transit district and how they worked with the neighbors to mitigate noise issues.

DIRECTOR GABRIEL asked what the purpose of the EIR that is being proposed today?

LES WHITE stated that the purpose of this EIR is multiple. It will look at all the environmental impacts that would occur with regard to the Harvey West Site A, if designated by the Board as the preferred site. It will examine whether or not there are other alternatives, a full range of feasible alternatives in the event that the Harvey West Site A fails. The alternatives are examined for their impacts; for example, air, noise, light, traffic impact, wildlife impacts, are there any endangered species, implications both wildlife and animal life. This is not just the site itself, but the adjoining properties. The purpose is to bring back to the Board the best information available regarding what the impacts are on the sites, the preferred site, the alternatives and for the Board to make a determination then on the mitigation measures and also to look at all the

financial implications to see whether or not this project actually ends up being something we go forward with.

PATRICIA KORBA, President of SEA, stated that she is here today on behalf of SEA to support the project and also to commend Mark Dorfman and Les White who have worked long hours on this project. She is concerned with the working conditions for the mechanics and feels that in order to maintain the new service that has been implemented in the last year, a consolidated facility is needed.

THOM ONAN, employee of the Central Coast Center for Independent Living and also a member of MASTF, did not speak about either site specifically, but that the County would be negatively impacted if MetroBase were not built. He urged the Board to move forward.

SHARON BARBOUR stated that a lot of people have been talking about negative impacts in their neighborhood of having a consolidated facility. She lives behind a mechanics shop and stated the noise is not bad. Ms. Barbour is concerned with the number of buses that will be out of commission in 2003 due to emissions standards. She is also concerned that without MetroBase, there will be no fueling capability for the CNG buses the District will acquire. She asked that the Board make the best choice for the majority of people, not just those who will be impacted by the facility.

LINDA WILSHUSEN, Executive Director of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, stated that the Regional Transportation Commission is responsible for allocating discretionary State and Federal funds to local jurisdictions as well as to the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District. It is also responsible for long range planning and a variety of transportation programs and services. The Regional Transportation Commission staff strongly supports the Metro staff recommendation to designate the Harvey West Site A, as the preferred site for MetroBase. It is time to make a decision and move forward, because the State and Federal funds, which the Regional Transportation Commission has allocated toward MetroBase, have time limits on them. On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission and its staff, we would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Metro employees over the past 10 years who have managed to keep the aging bus fleet maintained and on the roads serving the people of this community.

JAN SHADLE stated that she opposes the Harvey West location. Ms. Shadel's concerns are increased traffic, and exiting the area in an emergency situation. She asked that the Board consider other options. She is not opposed to MetroBase, but is concerned with traffic issues.

LES WHITE stated that the issue with traffic, which relates primarily with the Highway 1/9 intersection, would be a part of the EIR traffic analysis. By moving shuttling and testing functions to an internal location, traffic would be taken off the streets. Currently, 103 buses are fueled at Devco fuel outlet and go through the Encinal/River Street interchange and back. An internal site would keep all the buses off city streets throughout the fueling, cleaning, and servicing process.

Chairperson Beautz stated that several people chose not to speak, but indicated their opposition:

Annabelle Stearns
Michelle Telega
Marie Telega

Marie Caselli
Virginia Caselli
June Melville

TOM PHALEN, an employee of Plantronics, spoke regarding Plantronics' presence in this area, the number of people they employ and their plans to continue hiring additional people. In speaking with District Staff, Mr. Phalen was surprised that there are already 103 buses in the area as he hasn't seen more than just a few. Option B would entail Plantronics losing part of their property. Mr. Phalen sees no major impact from MetroBase in this area due to different working hours. He asked that the Board consider everyone in the park. He urged the Board to consider Plantronics' contribution to the community. Plantronics' staff is looking forward to the EIR phase that they can review.

DON HUBBARD, Chairman of the Harvey West Area Association stated that all the businesses, homeowners, the two schools and mental health facility will be impacted by this project. Mr. Hubbard's concerns are that deadhead miles are more important than jobs and homes, and the City's tax base. He asked that the Harvey West Park area be removed from the list of potential sites, and stated that there has to be a better solution than ripping up what little industrial land is left in the City of Santa Cruz.

FIONA COGAN, a Santa Cruz resident, thanked the Board for accepting feedback and looking at the best alternative for the MetroBase, namely Harvey West. Ms. Cogan feels the Westside site should be dropped from consideration for the project. She suggested that the Board move ahead with the EIR to include Harvey West. She further requested that the Board look very closely at satellite locations in South County.

JEFF LEBLANC stated that many people oppose the MetroBase in one location or another. He further stated that all the opponents to this project have ignored what the impact would be on Santa Cruz socially, economically and politically if this MetroBase project is not built in order to sustain our transit system. We need a feasible and affordable alternative to the individual automobile. Our bus system is the only solution now available.

JOHN DAUGHERTY spoke on behalf of himself and those who rely on public transit. Mr. Daugherty stated that this is not a quality of life issue, it is a life issue. Having cerebral palsy, he stated that he can look ahead and see his life would be dramatically impacted if there were no MetroBase built. He referred to the Year 2003 when buses would be pulled out of service and reiterated that if Metro service were cut, the paratransit service would be cut as well, which would affect 7,000 registrants, the majority of whom are seniors. The transit dependent need MetroBase. Mr. Daugherty urged the Board to move ahead with this project.

DEBRA LANE, who has over 30 years experience in dealing with the disability rights movement, is convinced that without a consolidated facility like MetroBase, the bus system will fail. For the thousands of people who rely on this service, it will be catastrophic. Ms. Lane urged the Board to choose a site to build MetroBase.

BONNIE MORR stated that we need to get started on this MetroBase project, citing that the Harvey West area is an industrial area that has housed several aspects of the Transit District for numerous years. Ms. Morr urged the Board to take the steps necessary to move forward with this project. The community deserves a decent bus system and Transit District workers deserve a fair and clean place to work.

CAROL MANSON stated that she sits on the Board of the Harvey West Area Association, and represents many of the owners, businesses and residents. She is also the property owner of Phase Two, which is one of the buildings that houses 200 employees. Ms. Manson's concerns are that the Board works within their budget through the eminent domain process and where the current tenants will relocate. She also asked how eminent domain would deal with tenant leases.

LES WHITE stated that with regard to eminent domain, the lease would stand in the same level of stature whether it is owner-occupied or tenant occupied. The District would work with the companies to find them an alternate location and assist them in making that relocation. Utilizing eminent domain is a very expensive proposition. However, part of that cost is offset by the fact that much of the infrastructure is in place, such as sewer, water lines and electrical services.

MARK PRIMACK commended the Board in considering alternate sites, namely Live Oak and Aptos. He pointed out that an environmental review in Harvey West would be very thorough, but is concerned that this review may be meaningless if the Transit District constitutes grounds for overriding concern. He stated that the Board should consider a two-story structure for parking buses.

ARNIE LEFF, one of the City Council candidates, is supporting the Harvey West site. He stated that the very lives of our older adults and disabled are dependent on an improved bus system. Mr. Leff urged the Board to make the decision today to select Harvey West Site A as the preferred site.

MANNY MARTINEZ, President of PSA, and transit employee recalled the opposition to Costco and the traffic concerns with that project, and stated that it has been a positive contribution to the City. Mr. Martinez sympathizes with the businesses and residents of Harvey West that would be displaced, but sees the growing need for mass transit in this community on a daily basis. In his estimation the District is not able to meet those demands, unless there is a MetroBase built quickly. He urges the Board to make the necessary steps that are needed to designate the Harvey West location as the primary site and allow the District to move forward.

CONNIE DAY stated that she is disappointed with the negative statements regarding MetroBase. She feels MetroBase is a priority. She supports the Harvey West location for MetroBase.

JOHN MELLON, President of VMU, is representing the mechanics and the Parts Department who are responsible for keeping the buses on the road. It is a tough job and they have been doing it for a long time under bad conditions. During his 15 years, the District has gone through an earthquake, repaired buses in a condemned building and out of a tent, had two moves and

now are in another situation where, hopefully, they will move into a new MetroBase. Make the tough decisions, move ahead with all possible speed.

BART CAVALLARO is a Santa Cruz resident, and spoke of the problems with the Transit District facilities since the 1989 earthquake. Mr. Cavallaro stated that Metro service has never been better than it is today and he described the service cutbacks in the early 90's which affected the disabled community, members of the general public, and those who depend on the Transit District. He cited the awards that the District received on its performance and safety, and the good work that the mechanics do. He reiterated the need for the environmental impact report process to begin today with the Board's decision.

CARMEL BABICH asked that the Westside location be removed from consideration. Her concern is the noise from bus travel, increased traffic, maintenance, and from the fans that will remove the exhaust from the internal testing facilities. She stated that Phase One in the Harvey West area seems logical, but is concerned about Phase Two and Phase Three displacing people from their homes.

PETER COOK, a Westside resident and owner of 3 houses in the same area, asked that the Lipton site be dropped from the EIR. Regarding the Harvey West site, his concerns are displacing businesses and forcing people to commute over the hill, which would increase traffic. He feels the District should pay more than fair market value for these displaced homes and businesses. He asked that the Board look at other sites which make more sense, such as the Skyview property, before going forward with the Harvey West proposition and to drop the Lipton site from consideration.

MICHAEL SCHMIDT, CEO for Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce, stated he shares the concerns of the Harvey West Area Association when businesses and homes are displaced. He stated that the vast majority of Chamber members are against MetroBase in Harvey West. His concerns are traffic congestion at the Highway 1/9 interchange. He encouraged the Board to do the EIR, look at all possible alternatives, run the financials, and tell the community why Harvey West is the best site.

IAN MCFADDEN, Chairman UTU, Local 23, stated that he is here on behalf of union members and for the working people who ride the bus every day. He spoke of the promise of a new facility for five years, of employees working in under-ventilated spaces and poor conditions, and of the employees' feeling of being taken for granted by the public, especially after the public discourse over the past few months. Mr. McFadden spoke of neighborhood opposition to installing bus stops on Western Drive to encourage workers and students at UCSC to commute by bus. This plan has been discontinued due to that opposition. He asked how many times is the District going to go through these hearings.

PETER SCOTT stated that he is in favor of the Harvey West Site A as it seems like a sensible site. He toured the Harvey West site a few weeks ago with the General Manager and Assistant General Manager and feels it makes a lot of sense.

CHAIRPERSON BEAUTZ stated that several people chose not to speak. They are:

KATHERINE ANDERSON requested that the Westside location be deemed unfeasible.
KATHY CANE & DEBBIE CASSEL are opposed to the Harvey West site.
HOWARD LITTLE AND EARNEL ZAMORA support the Harvey West site.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR ALMQUIST

Approve the following motions:

- 10a. That the Board Reaffirm the MetroBase as a District Project with the Specific Goals set forth by the staff Subject to District Selection of Preferred Site and Dependent Upon the Completion of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Process;**
- 10b. That the Board accept the Denise Duffy & Associates Preliminary Environmental Constraints Analysis Report, Site A in Harvey West Park as a basis for making other decisions;**
- 10c. That the Board specifically designate Site A in Harvey West as the Preferred Site for further environmental analysis; and**
- 10d. That the Board authorize the beginning of the CEQA process on this preferred site and the various alternatives that will come out through this process. And further, include setting up a Public Scoping meeting to allow members of the public and other agencies to comment on what they believe should be contained in the full environmental review on this project.**

DIRECTOR ARTHUR declined to speak since Santa Cruz is not his city.

DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE acknowledged everyone's concern over what occurs in their neighborhoods and the community, and is aware that Phase Two and Three will be more problematic than Phase One. He stated that he would go into this process keeping in mind the possibility of clustering, or putting facilities in other areas. The Harvey West site looks very positive to him and he hopes to move forward assertively to make it happen as soon as possible or it will have devastating consequences on the community. He supports this motion.

DIRECTOR BEIERS stated that she is prepared to support the motion. She acknowledged that it would be a long process, with public hearings, and the ability to make some difference in terms of the public process. Director Beiers cited two issues as being critical for her: the quality of the buildings when MetroBase goes on-line; and the surrounding neighborhoods. The project needs to be something that the District can be architecturally proud of. Director Beiers referred to a statement made that this area needs businesses with employees. She clarified that the Transit District is a business and has employees that are appreciated and respected. The Board needs to do something for these employees and give them good working conditions. She hopes that this motion is unanimous and the process can move forward.

DIRECTOR RIOS stated that when the Board supported the Westside location, it was thought to be the right decision, until neighbors got upset. He further stated that all the reasons that were

given in opposition had nothing to do with putting a MetroBase there. It had to do more with the living standards. At the suggestion that the project should be put in the South County, Director Rios stated that Watsonville is overpopulated, and although goals have been doubled in Watsonville, the area hasn't grown geographically. Buses traveling from Watsonville to Santa Cruz in the mornings are full and more buses are needed. He is open to looking at other areas. He definitely is not open for MetroBase to come to Watsonville. Director Rios supports the motion, but with hesitation.

DIRECTOR ROKIN supports the motion and thinks it is important to look at other alternatives. Failure to move forward with this project will not only inhibit improvements to the system, but the transit system will see an actual decline. The rules of air pollution in the State will actually force the District off the streets and certainly take buses out of service. MetroBase is the key to transit service expansion which will make it viable for people to get out of their cars and take the buses. Director Rotkin is looking forward to an environmental review process that will effectively examine the alternatives. He stated that he hopes that people will not use the environmental review process to stall the project. He hopes that people look at this process as an opportunity to make this a good project wherever it ends up. The community needs a transit system that actually meets people's transportation needs.

DIRECTOR ALMQUIST stated that the District has gone through some difficult hearings and that this is an opportunity for community building. The very first decision made about this project, was the hiring of the architects. He indicated that an important reason for choosing WaterLeaf was looking at the other projects they designed. Equally, if not more important in the minds of the most of the Board members was that they laid out in details for us, the process they typically used to gather community input to make good projects. He is excited with the possibility of working with the business community in Harvey West to come up with the project that meets the communities needs, in particular, long-term neighbors like Plantronics and with other property owners. He is convinced that regardless of where we end up in the environmental report that the project we build, will be built and be a good project.

DIRECTOR AINSWORTH stated that she supports this motion for all the reasons that have been stated before. She is looking forward to the scoping process, because a lot of the comments made today are appropriate to that discussion. There are a lot of valid concerns that came out today, creative ideas on looking at cluster approaches, and concerns with Phase Two and Phase Three which she shares.

DIRECTOR GABRIEL stated that he was involved when the District cut service in 1990, then there was the FEMA situation. He stated that the District then hired Les White who started to build service. The District then took over the Highway 17 Express service and it improved. He cited the problems of putting more buses on the street when there was no place to park them. Director Gabriel agreed that the Board must move forward. Now is the time to make a decision. He agrees with Director Rotkin's comment that this is a historic moment and supports the motion 100%.

DIRECTOR HINKLE stated that she supports the motion. What we are looking for is to have a consolidated site so that in another 10 or 15 years we don't have to come back and say we need more room. She has lived in Santa Cruz County all of her life and she has seen all the

changes with the earthquake and floods. She recently moved to Watsonville and rides the crowded buses every day. Director Hinkle stated that if MetroBase is not built, she won't be able to get around town or even from Watsonville to Santa Cruz.

CHAIRPERSON BEAUTZ stated that she supports the motion. She appreciates everyone for a good public hearing. Everybody who spoke, regardless of their opinion, was very articulate and courteous to one another. She also expressed appreciation to the employees who work under difficult circumstances. She also thanked the management team and the consultants who have done an excellent job in presenting information.

The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: MOTION: Director Rotkin SECOND: Director Gabriel

That the Transit District Board Chair write to the City of Santa Cruz asking for a Resolution of Consent for Eminent Domain Authority for Phase One contingent upon CEQA compliance of a final project selected by the Transit District.

The motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR ROTKIN explained the motion he made. The Transit District is not able to exercise condemnation powers unless they have authority granted by the local agency where the site is located. Condemnation powers cannot be granted for a situation where you have not completed an environmental review process. The EIR may take up to a year to complete. It is reasonable at this point to ask the Santa Cruz City Council for the tools needed to proceed with this project in the event the environmental review process is successful.

DIRECTORS ARTHUR AND RIOS DEPARTED THE MEETING AT 12:20 P.M.

11. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT #00-03 FOR RECONSTRUCTION/REPAIR OF TERMITE AND DRY ROT DAMAGE AT METRO CENTER

Summary:

Staff is recommending that the Board authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Paul Markowitz for reconstruction and repairs of termite and dry-rot damage to Metro Center.

Discussion:

Tom Stickel informed the Board that repair work will be done on the second story and will require some shoring. Director Keogh asked who identified this problem. Tom Stickel reported that Bowman & Williams Engineering looked at this project and recommended the repair.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR BEIERS

Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Paul Markowitz for reconstruction/repair of termite and dry-rot damage to Metro Center.

The Motion passed unanimously with Directors Arthur and Rios absent.

12. CONSIDERATION OF SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH GANNETT FLEMING

Summary:

Mark Dorfman reported that based on the action taken earlier, staff is recommending that we enter into a contract with Gannett Fleming who did the original study, in order to provide information for the EIR process. Gannett Fleming has made a proposal to upgrade the report for \$16,541. District staff is recommending the Sole Source Procurement as it will be much more cost effective for to update the study than to bring in a new firm.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

Approve recommendation to enter in contract with Gannett Fleming, Inc. in accordance with the Sole Source Procurement to update the report in an amount not to exceed \$16,541.

The Motion passed unanimously with Directors Arthur and Rios absent.

13. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SHUTTLE SERVICE FOR 2000 FIREWORKS FUNDRAISER FOR SCHOOL BY RUDOLPH F. MONTE FOUNDATION

Summary:

Mark Dorfman reported that this is a request for shuttle service that the District provided last year for the Rudolph F. Monte fundraiser. The Monte Foundation has applied for funds from the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC). Staff is recommending that the Board approve the service as long as funding is secured from the SCCRTC.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR GABRIEL SECOND: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

Approve the request for shuttle service for the 2000 Fireworks Fundraiser by the Rudolph F. Monte Foundation subject to funding being received from the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission.

The Motion passed unanimously with Directors Arthur and Rios absent.

14. CONSIDERATION OF BUS FLEET IMPROVEMENT/REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Summary:

Les White stated that 69 of the buses the District currently owns were manufactured prior to 1990, and by January 1, 2003, must be able to operate and meet the emissions guidelines

issued by the California Air Resources Board. The Board has designated that future bus purchases shall identify compressed natural gas as a propulsion source for operation. To repower/retrofit a portion of the fleet will take approximately two years and for new equipment there is typically a 24-month delivery time. Staff is recommending that the Board authorize the issuance of bid documents for the procurement of 8 expansion buses and 27 replacement buses. Additionally, that District staff issue bid documents for contract to repower/retrofit 42 buses.

Discussion:

Director Rotkin stated that he wanted to assure the public that he has looked this over very carefully, as we need to keep service on the streets. He felt that the Board should adopt the strategy laid out by staff for the purchase of new buses and for the replacement and repowering of other buses.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR FITZMAURICE

Approve staff's recommendation for the purchase of new buses and for the replacement and repowering of other buses.

The motion passed unanimously with Directors Arthur and Rios absent.

15. CONSIDERATION OF PRIORITIES FOR TRANSIT SERVICE DEFAULT

Summary:

Staff is requesting guidance from the Board as to the establishment of priorities when the District is unable to provide the required buses to meet transit service requirements.

Discussion:

Mark Dorfman stated that some of the buses are past 12 years of age and well over a million miles. In the last three years, the District has added service on a regular basis. One of the major additions was the absorption of the Highway 17 service. As the buses are getting older, the District has to maintain a larger spare requirement.

In Attachment D of the staff report is a list of priorities for service curtailment. Priority One gives the District the ability to curtail up to 4 buses, which is the supplemental service referred to as Oaties, at UCSC. These are not shown in Headways, but do serve a great purpose especially at the beginning of school. Priority Level Two would eliminate 3 buses, which is Route 70 service to Cabrillo. There is one bus that would not be available until 9:42 a.m. and that would result in a Route 36 trip being dropped also. Priority Level Three would be Route 81, dropping that service to two buses, however, there might be other buses that could fill that need. Priority Level Four entails elimination of 3 buses for School Term Service to UCSC. Staff is requesting that the Board provide priorities to be followed where there are insufficient buses to make pullouts.

Director Fitzmaurice asked if Priority Level I would be the first to curtail service.

Les White stated that if the District defaults on service, Staff would elect to default in a way that has the least negative impact on the riders.

Director Rotkin emphasized this is not an issue only for the students at UCSC. This relates to traffic on the Westside and shouldn't be implemented during the Mission Street improvements, High Street improvements whereby people are forced back into their cars. Director Rotkin felt that Priorities One and Two should be reversed.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

Approve the reversal of Priority One and Priority Two. That Priority Level One become Priority Level Two and Priority Level Two become Priority Level One and then Priority Level Three and Priority Level Four remain in the same order.

Wes Scott, Director of Parking & Transportation, UCSC, stated that there has not been a service level increase in five years at UCSC. Santa Cruz Metro has done a great job getting students to and from the campus. He stated that cutting service to the University is not a way to go with Mission Street construction and High Street closures. He stated that they have a need for as much as 10% increase this year for bus service at the University. They have withheld parking from residential freshmen and sophomores. Students need to learn to use the bus service to get on and off the campus. It is essential to keep the level of service as high as possible.

Ian McFadden stated that with the Mission Street widening heading down between Bay and Laurel streets, it would be better to run more express service with the first stop at Mission and Bay streets. The University has asked for more Lower Bay service. Since the Oaties are not scheduled in Headways, it would be more appropriate to default on that service than on service that is printed in the schedule. There have been serious overloads in Watsonville in the a.m. and it was possible to convert much of that Route 70 service into four times an hour Route 71 service in the morning. There are currently four times an hour Route 71's running from Watsonville. If that service is cut, service is being cut from the Route 71's as well as Route 70.

Director Keogh stated he would not support reversing the priorities based on the published route issue. He does not want the Oaties cut, but that is the first place we ought to look in an absolute crunch situation.

Director Rotkin stated that every choice is a bad one, i.e to have the bus not come even though it is in the schedule; or to look in the schedule and have the bus go by full and leave you behind. In the point of view of the passengers and their sense of reliance on the system, it makes absolutely no difference which of those two things occur.

Chairperson Beautz stated that until the MetroBase project is straightened out, no one should be requesting more service. Service has been extended and that may be part of what has happened, however, it becomes very clear that Staff cannot keep expanding the system in the situation the District is currently in.

Director Hinkle stated that she has had experiences with the Route 91's and 69W's in which she doesn't know if she will get a seat in the morning. In the afternoon she goes down to Metro Center to ensure she get a seat. Anywhere else on the line seats may not be available, as the bus is full when it leaves Metro Center.

Sharon Barbour suggested taking one bus from each of the four levels to alleviate the impact on any one level.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

Director Rotkin withdrew his earlier motion. Direct staff, if necessary, to make curtailment decisions based on the four priorities:

- 1) **make their own judgement about what will have the least impact on the system within these four priorities; and**
- 2) **the priority being, to take one bus out of each priority starting with Priority Level 2, Priority Level 1, Priority Level 3 and Priority Level 4.**

The motion passed unanimously with Director Keogh abstaining and Directors Arthur and Rios absent.

16. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO INVESTIGATE AVAILABILITY OF USED TRANSIT BUSES

Summary:

Staff has recommended that they be authorized to investigate the availability of up to ten used buses for lease or purchase. Estimated cost to purchase used buses would be about \$5,000 per bus plus expenses such tires and delivery. Lease prices would be negotiated and brought back to the Board.

Discussion:

John Mellon, VMU, stated he wanted to thank the Board for considering adding two more positions and adding more new buses that are desperately needed. Maintenance will try their best to keep the buses running.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR BEIERS

Authorize staff to investigate availability of up to 10 buses for lease or purchase.

The motion passed unanimously with Directors Arthur and Rios absent.

17. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROGRAM OF PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL AND EXECUTION OF AN FTA GRANT FOR URBANIZED AREA FORMULA FUNDS FOR FY 2000 AND FY 2001

Summary:

Staff is requesting that the Board adopt the Resolution approving the Program of Projects and authorize the grant application and execution for FTA Urbanized Area Formula Funds for FY 2000 and FY 2001.

Discussion:

Mark Dorfman reported that this is a routine project asking for operating assistance for FY 2000-2001. Based on previous action, the District is asking for funds that would pay for some of the engine rebuild/repower program. The District is maximizing as much as they can of the Federal grants which are 80/20 and the remaining from budget reserves.

CHAIRPERSON BEAUTZ OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING

No comments or questions from the public.

CHAIRPERSON BEAUTZ CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR GABRIEL

Approve adoption of a Resolution approving the Program of Project and authorizing the Grant Application and Execution for FTA Urbanized Area Formula Funds for FY 2000 and FY 2001.

The motion passed with Directors Arthur and Rios absent.

18. RATIFICATION OF INCREASED TRANSIT SERVICE TO COUNTY FAIR

Summary:

Staff is recommending that the Board authorize the General Manager to add additional weekday service to the Santa Cruz County Fair.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR BEIERS

Authorize the General Manager to add additional weekday service to the Santa Cruz County Fair.

The motion passed unanimously with Directors Arthur and Rios absent.

19. DELETED

There being no further business, Chairperson Beautz adjourned to a Closed Session. Thereafter the meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

DEBBIE GUERRERO
Acting Administrative Services Coordinator