

# SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

October 10, 2003

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, October 10, 2003 at the District's Administrative Office, 370 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Vice Chairperson Keogh called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

## SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

### 1. ROLL CALL:

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT

Sheryl Ainsworth (arrived after roll call)  
Jan Beautz (arrived after roll call)  
Michelle Hinkle  
Mike Keogh  
Ana Ventura Phares  
Emily Reilly  
Mike Rotkin (arrived after roll call)  
Marcela Tavantzis  
Ex-Officio Wes Scott  
Pat Spence

#### DIRECTORS ABSENT

Jeff Almquist  
Dennis Norton

#### STAFF PRESENT

Bryant Baehr, Operations Manager	Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager
Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager	Judy Souza, Base Superintendent
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel	Tom Stickel, Fleet Maint. Manager
Steve Paulson, Paratransit Administrator	Les White, General Manager

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

April Axton, Lift Line	Manny Martinez, PSA
Sharon Barbour, MASTF	Bonnie Morr, UTU
Heather Boerner, <i>Sentinel</i>	Will Regan, VMU
Jenna Glasky, SEA	Jim Taylor, UTU
Sid Goldstein, <i>Transit Access Report</i>	Linda Wilshusen, SCCRTC
Gary Klemz, SEIU	Leslie Wright, MASTF
Jeff LeBlanc, Rider	Robert Yount, MASTF
R. Paul Marcelin-Sampson, Metro Riders Union	

**2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

- a. Brad Neily, Californians for Disability Rights RE: MASTF
- b. Jeff LeBlanc, Bus Rider RE: MASTF

**3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS**

Bonnie Morr expressed concerns regarding a lack of response to her request to have a committee formed regarding the Deferred Compensation Plan and emergency withdrawals, and the status of repairs on mirrors and windows on the buses, and certain University bus stops that are shared with UCSC. Ex Officio Director Scott asked for the latter concerns to be sent to him in writing.

**DIRECTOR AINSWORTH ARRIVED.**

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

Pages 8b.23a through 8b.23d were distributed to the Board to be inserted into their binders. These inserts will be available to the public at the October 24, 2003 Board meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**5-1. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2003**

No questions or comments.

**5-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS**

Director Tavantzis asked about a large expenditure and was informed it was for fireproof file cabinets, and that these were included in the approved capital budget.

**5-3. ACCEPT AND FILE SEPTEMBER 2003 RIDERSHIP REPORT  
PAGE 1 OF THE RIDERSHIP REPORT WILL BE PRESENTED FOR  
CONSIDERATION AT THE OCTOBER 24, 2003 BOARD MEETING**

No questions or comments.

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

**5-5. ACCEPT AND FILE AGENDA FOR THE MASTF COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
OCTOBER 16, 2003 AND THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2003 MEETING  
DOCUMENTATION WILL BE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE  
OCTOBER 24, 2003 BOARD MEETING**

No questions or comments.

**5-6. ACCEPT AND FILE AGENDA FOR THE MUG COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2003 AND THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2003 MEETING**

No questions or comments.

**5-7. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2003**

No questions or comments.

**5-8. ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ STATUS REPORT FOR JULY 2003**

No questions or comments.

**5-9. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2003**

It was noted that there was a significant decline in ridership in August, which is due to San Jose University being out of session for the summer and job losses. Also, service on this route was reduced due to the services changes made in June.

**DIRECTOR BEAUTZ ARRIVED.**

**5-10. ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE UPDATE**

No questions or comments.

**5-11. ACCEPT AND FILE CALL STOP AUDIT REPORT**

Bryant Baehr reported that this call stop audit report shows the impact of the talking bus system.

**DIRECTOR ROTKIN ARRIVED.**

According to Bryant Baehr, 2,418 stops were audited. 2,305 stops were announced properly, 113 stops were not called properly and 28 of these were programming errors. Mr. Baehr is researching why the balance of stops were not called properly. The auditors gave METRO a 96.5% rating minus the one-time programming errors. Mr. Baehr is looking into how to deal with complaints that the open-door announcements are disturbing to occupants living near a bus stop. Bonnie Morr requested a “meet and confer” regarding the policy approved by the Board as it concerns discipline of bus operators when stops are not called out.

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

**Direct union personnel to bring “meet and confer” concerns initially to the General Manager before coming to the Board.**

**Motion passed unanimously with Directors Almquist and Norton being absent.**

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 6. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS

This presentation will take place at the October 24, 2003 Board Meeting

### 7. CONSIDERATION OF REVISING THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

#### Summary:

Les White stated that the central issue is whether the Board wants an advisory committee whose bylaws and appointments they control.

#### Discussion:

Sharon Barbour read a statement asking the Board to preserve the current MASTF structure. Director Rotkin requested that the items mentioned in the Summary of Issues of the staff report be given to the Board for the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Concerns were expressed regarding the number of participants and the quorum in the proposed Metro Advisory Committee (MAC) bylaws. Director Spence offered several suggestions as to the proposed MAC bylaws. Director Ainsworth asked for an analysis of what benefits would be lost if the proposed Metro Advisory Committee were smaller. Paul Marcelin-Sampson questioned MASTF's claim of being an independent group when they are supplied with a budget and staff support.

### 8. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING BYLAWS TO SCHEDULE THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUALLY IN OCTOBER INCLUDING THOSE MEETINGS SCHEDULED WITHIN FIVE CALENDAR DAYS OF RECOGNIZED SANTA CRUZ METRO HOLIDAYS (THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY) **ACTION IS REQUIRED AT THE OCTOBER 10, 2003 BOARD MEETING**

#### Summary:

Margaret Gallagher explained that the change to the bylaws include changing "calendar" days to "working" days and publishing the schedule in October for the upcoming year.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR HINKLE**

**Amend the bylaws as outlined by Ms. Gallagher.**

**Motion passed unanimously with Directors Almquist and Norton being absent.**

9. **CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT FOR EMPLOYEE DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE**  
**DOCUMENTATION WILL BE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE OCTOBER 24, 2003 BOARD MEETING**

Tom Stickel explained that this item is currently being discussed with the unions.

10. **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE FORMATION AGREEMENT FOR THE HIGHWAY 1 WIDENING/HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE (HOV) HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY (HCA)/JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY (JPA)**  
**DOCUMENTATION WILL BE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE OCTOBER 24, 2003 BOARD MEETING**

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Vice Chairperson Keogh adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Dale Carr  
Administrative Services Coordinator