

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

February 22, 2008

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, February 22, 2008 at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 250 Main Street, Watsonville, CA.

Chair Beautz called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

SECTION I: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Jan Beautz
Dene Bustichi
Donald Hagen
Kirby Nicol
Emily Reilly
Mike Rotkin
Dale Skillicorn
Pat Spence
Mark Stone
Marcela Tavantzis

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Michelle Hinkle
Ex-Officio Donna Blitzer

STAFF PRESENT

Ciro Aguirre, Operations Manager
Angela Aitken, Finance Manager
Wally Brondstatter, Acting Paratransit Super.
Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager
Mary Ferrick, Fixed Route Superintendent

Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel
Debbie Kinslow, Asst Finance Manager
Robyn Slater, Human Resources Manager
Tom Stickel, Maintenance Manager
Les White, General Manager

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

Isaac Holly, Sr. Systems Administrator
John Laird, Assemblymember
Ian McFadden, Transit Planner
Pat Piras, ADA Consultant

Stacy Patyk, Seacliff Drive Resident
Amy Weiss, Spanish Interpreter
Bob Yount, MAC

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Written:

None.

Oral:

Newly elected Chair Beautz commended Director Tavantzis on the great job she did as the previous Board Chair.

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

None.

4. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ITEM #11 WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

11. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER JOHN LAIRD FOR INTRODUCING AND OBTAINING ENACTMENT OF AB 1492 AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YIELD TO BUS PROGRAM FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT AND THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Chair Beautz presented Assemblymember Laird with a Resolution of Appreciation plaque and thanked him for his efforts regarding the Yield to Bus Program. Assemblymember Laird spoke about AB 1492, thanked METRO, and requested that METRO be vigilant of the State Budget transit funds.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR TAVANTZIS SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY

Adopt Resolution of Appreciation for the assistance of Assemblymember John Laird for introducing and obtaining enactment of AB 1492 authorizing the implementation of the Yield to Bus Program for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

Motion passed unanimously with Director Hinkle being absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 5-1. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2008**
- 5-2. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2007**
- 5-3. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS:
DENY THE CLAIM OF STEPHEN SULLIVAN, CLAIM #08-0004;
DENY THE CLAIM OF JAMES W. TAYLOR, CLAIM #087-0006**
- 5-4. ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2008 AND MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2007**
- 5-5. ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2007**
- 5-6. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE PROJECT STATUS REPORT**

- 5-7. **CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH TELEPATH CORPORATION FOR RADIO MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES**
- 5-8. **CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE LAW OFFICES OF MARIE F. SANG FOR LEGAL SERVICES IN THE AREA OF WORKER’S COMPENSATION**
- 5-9. **CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF ONE HASLER POSTAGE MAILING MACHINE**
- 5-10. **APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11 & 25, 2008, SPECIAL MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2008, AND REVISED SPECIAL MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2007**
- 5-11. **ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2007**
- 5-12. **ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES REFLECTING VOTING RESULTS FROM APPOINTEES TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR THE JANUARY 2008 MEETING(S)**
- 5-13. **ACCEPT AND FILE DECEMBER 2007 RIDERSHIP REPORT**
- 5-14. **CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH SANTA CRUZ SEASIDE COMPANY FOR THE PROVISION OF LATE NIGHT SERVICE**
- 5-15. **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF REVISED FY08 CAPITAL BUDGET**
- 5-16. **ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2007**

Regarding Item #5-7 Director Spence reiterated her previous request that Staff Reports for contract renewals include the dollar amount.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR REILLY SECOND: DIRECTOR BUSTICHI

Approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Hinkle being absent.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS:

The following employee longevity awards were continued to the March Board Meeting:

TEN YEARS

Carolyn Derwing, Schedule Analyst
Juan I. Flores, Bus Operator
Michael I. Miller, Bus Operator
Jose G. Polanco, Bus Operator

TWENTY YEARS

Pete N. Legorreta, Transit Supervisor

7. PUBLIC HEARING CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A PROGRAM OF PROJECTS FOR FTA URBAN AND RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE AND ADOPTING A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION AND EXECUTION OF A GRANT FOR FTA RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE FOR FY 2008

Summary:

Mark Dorfman reported that today's public hearing is required by the federal process on an annual basis in order for METRO to apply for and receive FTA Urban and Rural Funding Assistance. Mr. Dorfman explained that this is probably the last time METRO would do this because METRO would be incorporated into the AMBAG process and AMBAG would hold the public hearings going forward.

CHAIR BEAUTZ OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 9:24 A.M.

There were no public comments.

CHAIR BEAUTZ OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 9:24 A.M.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR REILLY SECOND: DIRECTOR SKILLICORN

Adopt the Program of Projects for FY 2008 Federal Funding Assistance. Adopt Resolution authorizing applications to Caltrans and FTA for FY 2008 federal funds

Motion passed unanimously with Director Hinkle being absent.

8. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICES OF LINDA J. CLAYTON AS PAYROLL SPECIALIST FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR SPENCE SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY

Adopt Resolution of Appreciation for the services of Linda J. Clayton as Payroll Specialist for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Motion passed unanimously with Director Hinkle being absent.

9. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF CONGRESSMAN SAM FARR IN OBTAINING THE INCLUSION OF FUNDS FOR THE PACIFIC STATION REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE FY 2008 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS LEGISLATION FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Summary:

Les White reported that both Congressman Farr and Congresswoman Eshoo have routinely been leaders in achieving federal funding commitments for the Pacific Station Redevelopment Project.

Mr. White will be hand delivering the Resolution of Appreciation plaques to Congressman Farr and Congresswoman Eshoo when he meets with them in Washington DC in March.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR TAVANTZIS SECOND: DIRECTOR BUSTICHI

Adopt Resolution of Appreciation for the leadership of Congressman Sam Farr in obtaining the inclusion of funds for the Pacific Station Redevelopment Project in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Legislation for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Motion passed unanimously with Director Hinkle being absent.

Les White added that METRO wanted to recognize these two individuals for their efforts because the Pacific Station Redevelopment Project was in both of their top 5 projects.

10. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF CONGRESSWOMAN ANNA ESHOO IN OBTAINING THE INCLUSION OF FUNDS FOR THE PACIFIC STATION REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE FY 2008 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS LEGISLATION FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR HAGEN SECOND: DIRECTOR BUSTICHI

Adopt Resolution of Appreciation for the leadership of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo in obtaining the inclusion of funds for the Pacific Station Redevelopment Project in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Legislation for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Motion passed unanimously with Director Hinkle being absent.

12. CONSIDERATION OF RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR RIDERSHIP DATA AND OPTIONS OF USING SMALLER VEHICLES OR RE-ROUTING ROUTES #54 & #55

Summary:

Ian McFadden reported that this information had been previously presented to the Board in November, and requested again in response to the ongoing request by Seacliff Drive residents that METRO discontinue service on this road or use smaller vehicles. METRO currently operates 35-foot buses on this route and has served this area for 35 years with a steady ridership. METRO staff does not recommend using a vehicle smaller than the current size or discontinuing or re-routing this service unless the County takes action to close the road to local traffic.

Discussion:

Stacy Patyk, representing several Seacliff Drive residents, reiterated her previous concern regarding heavy vehicles damaging that road and the homes on it. Ms. Patyk reported that the County has no funds to repair the road.

Les White explained that the vehicle size must accommodate the ridership capacity of all route segments it serves and that the life expectancy of the smaller vehicles is much shorter than the 15 years of a full size bus.

Mr. White added that METRO staff has been in contact with the County regarding this issue and if the County were to implement a weight limitation on this road, it would be applied uniformly to all vehicles including garbage trucks, delivery trucks, school buses, etc., and of course METRO would comply if that were the case. This item was informational only with no action taken.

13. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1217 RIVER STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$1,237,500.00 PLUS FEES AND AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO CONCLUDE THE ACQUISITION

Summary:

Les White reported on the history of METRO's acquisition of properties located at 1211 and 1217 River Street which have both been identified as being highly desirable as property that can be used for the expansion of the Maintenance Building as part of Phase II of the MetroBase Project.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR NICOL SECOND: DIRECTOR SPENCE

Adopt Resolution authorizing the purchase of property located at 1217 River Street, Santa Cruz, California for the amount of \$1,237,500.00 plus fees and authorizing the General Manager or his designee to execute documents necessary to conclude the acquisition

Motion passed unanimously with Director Hinkle being absent.

14. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC FOR GAS AND ELECTRIC SERVICES FOR THE MAINTENANCE BUILDING COMPONENT OF THE METROBASE PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,387.15

Summary:

Les White reported that this is service for the new Maintenance Building which METRO anticipates occupying this fall.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR REILLY SECOND: DIRECTOR BUSTICHI

Authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with Pacific Gas & Electric for gas and electric services for the Maintenance Building component of the MetroBase Project in the amount of \$25,387.15

Motion passed unanimously with Director Hinkle being absent.

15. CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH ARNTZ BUILDERS, INC. EXTENDING THE CONTRACT EXPIRATION DATE FOR THE METROBASE SERVICE BUILDING TO APRIL 30, 2008, WHILE MAINTAINING THE CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATE OF JANUARY 9, 2007

Summary:

Les White reported that this extension allows METRO to continue paying invoices while all of the punch-list items are completed. Arntz has stated that the facility will be completely functional and ready to occupy by the end of next week.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR HAGEN SECOND: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ

Authorize an amendment to the contract with Arntz Builders, Inc. extending the contract expiration date for the MetroBase Service Building to April 30, 2008, while maintaining the construction completion date of January 9, 2007

Motion passed unanimously with Director Hinkle being absent.

16. CONSIDERATION OF RECEIPT OF REPORT ON EVALUATION OF DISTRICT'S ADA/504 PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES BY PAT PIRAS CONSULTING

Summary:

Mark Dorfman reported that in July 2005, the District entered into a contract with Pat Piras Consulting for ADA/504 review of METRO's programs, activities and services to determine whether they are accessible to disabled individuals as required by Administrative Regulation AR-1002. This report also serves as an update to the Transition Plan that is required of public entities under Title II of the ADA.

Pat Piras gave a presentation outlining her findings and concluded that METRO is doing a very good job. Among the recommendations identified in the report were: METRO's website should be updated, the "ADA Coordinator" should be more clearly identified, Job Descriptions for Fixed Route and Paratransit Operators should include minimum qualifications required to assist passengers in mobility devices, more information should be available on how to obtain large print or Braille *Headways*, entry floor mats should be affixed to the floor, tenant lease contracts should include language regarding accessibility requirements, passenger facility signage should be kept up-to-date, and there should be equivalent Braille indications wherever permanent rooms and spaces are designated by signs.

Although outside of the scope of the report, it was noted that METRO's bus stop signage was not fully in compliance with the ADAAG requirement that the route numbers have a minimum height of three inches. Staff is currently implementing this recommendation.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR STONE SECOND: DIRECTOR NICOL

Accept the report from Pat Piras Consulting on the Evaluation of the District's ADA/504 Programs and Activities. Direct staff to report back to the Board on the progress of METRO's response to the recommendations contained in the report.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Hinkle being absent.

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

Margaret Gallagher reported that the Board would have a conference with its Labor Negotiators regarding UTU, Local 23, Fixed Route; and that Items #2 and #3 were deleted.

18. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

None.

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Chair Beautz adjourned to Closed Session at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 11:10 a.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

19. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

Margaret Gallagher reported that the Board took no reportable action in Closed Session.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS
Administrative Services Coordinator