

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

May 9, 2008

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, May 9, 2008 at the District's Administrative Office, 370 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Director Tavantzis called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Jan Beautz (arrived after roll call)
Donald Hagen
Michelle Hinkle
Kirby Nicol
Emily Reilly
Mike Rotkin
Dale Skillicorn
Pat Spence
Mark Stone
Marcela Tavantzis
Ex-Officio Donna Blitzer (arrived after roll call)

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Dene Bustichi

STAFF PRESENT

Ciro Aguirre, Operations Manager
Angela Aitken, Finance Manager
Pat Aviles, Asst HR Manager
Wally Brondstatter, Acting Paratransit Super.
Frank Cheng, MetroBase Project Manager
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
April Warnock, Paratransit Superintendent
Les White, General Manager

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

Ceil Cirillo, RDA
Tony Condotti, Attorney
Katherine Donovan, RDA
Eduardo Montesino, UTU

Rachel Moriconi, SCCRTC
Bonnie Morr, UTU
Randy Swart, VMU

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Written:

None.

Oral:

Les White announced that Fleet Maintenance Lead Mechanic Randy Swart was retiring and would be formally recognized by the Board at the next meeting.

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTOR BLITZER ARRIVED

Ciro Aguirre announced that April Warnock was METRO's new Paratransit Superintendent.

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

None.

4. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

A revised Staff Report for Item #5-7 was distributed and is attached to the file copy of these minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

5-1. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2008

No questions or comments.

5-2. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR MARCH 2008

No questions or comments.

5-3. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: None

No questions or comments.

5-4. ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) AGENDA FOR MAY 21, 2008 AND MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2008

No questions or comments.

5-5. ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2008

No questions or comments.

5-6. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE PROJECT STATUS REPORT

No questions or comments.

5-7. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF REVISED FY 2009 TDA CLAIM

Les White reported that the revised Staff Report contained corrected dollar amounts.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS:

This presentation will take place at the May 23, 2008 Board meeting.

7. PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDERATION OF FY09 & FY10 DRAFT FINAL BUDGET

Public Hearing will take place at the May 23, 2008 Board meeting.

Summary:

Les White reported that the Board would see this budget three more times after today, including holding a Public Hearing in two weeks, prior to adopting it in June. Mr. White pointed out that Item #10 on today's agenda regarding the cessation of MediCal funding for the dialysis trips is not yet included in this budget, although it will have a significant impact.

8. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION ISSUES BEING CONSIDERED BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION AUTHORIZATION TASK FORCE REGARDING FEDERAL TRANSIT FUNDING

Les White reported that the information contained in this Staff Report and attachments is designed to provide the Board with a status report regarding the progress in preparing for a new federal transit authorization bill.

Mr. White reported that in representing METRO as a member of the Task Force, he has continued to express concern that the restructured federal Highway and Transit Programs suggested by the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission could have the effect of directing funds to the major metropolitan areas at the expense of the smaller urban areas, like Santa Cruz, and the rural areas.

Mr. White said that his concerns have been well received by the Task Force members and the policy papers that are attached to this Staff Report are reflective of those concerns.

CHAIR BEAUTZ ARRIVED AND PRESIDED OVER THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING

9. CONSIDERATION OF DROPPED SERVICE ANALYSIS REPORT

Summary:

Ciro Aguirre reported that in April the Board directed staff to investigate and provide a report on dropped service caused by the unavailability of operators to perform service. The absence data reviewed by staff for the months of January, February and March 2008 revealed that unexpected operator absences were significantly higher on payday Fridays and holidays. The data also revealed that no service was dropped due to mandated Vehicle Transit Training.

In addition, staff has determined that three additional operators are needed to fulfill labor needs. A class of six trainees is scheduled to be in service on May 21, 2008. These new operators will replace retirees and includes the three additional positions.

Discussion:

There was a discussion about the different types of protected and planned absences and the impact of unexpected absences.

Director Rotkin requested a comparative analysis of other transit agencies' experience with this issue.

10. CONSIDERATION OF METRO PARACRUZ ALLIANCE/DIALYSIS TRANSITIONAL REPORT

Summary:

April Warnock reported on the recent cessation of MediCal funding for dialysis trips as of May 2nd that had been provided on a no-fare basis for several years through the Central Coast Alliance for Health. Of approximately 84 dialysis persons, 20 are not eligible for ParaCruz, 21 were already using ParaCruz, another 21 transitioned to ParaCruz and there are approximately 18 more whom are currently eligible but not using ParaCruz to and from dialysis as of Friday, May 2nd.

This transition has greatly impacted ParaCruz operations by adding 121 new trips per week so far at an average cost of \$30.00 per ride. If all 60 persons transition to ParaCruz for dialysis rides, the yearly cost to ParaCruz is projected to be approximately \$500,000.00 just for dialysis rides.

Les White added that the three impacts on ParaCruz include the aggregate operating cost, the need to increase the current level of personnel, and the need to replace and increase the current number of vehicles in order to perform the extra trips without over-utilizing supplemental providers.

11. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION PROPOSING MODIFICATIONS TO METRO'S BYLAWS FOR PURPOSES OF CLARITY AND TO DOCUMENT CURRENT METRO PRACTICES

Margaret Gallagher reported that there were no substantive changes but that the modifications simply reflect current practice and clarify the language.

12. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A NEW CONTRACT ADDENDUM TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA PURCHASE CARDS PROGRAM MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH U.S. BANK

Angela Aitken reported that METRO was recently notified that it was one of many agencies that had not completed a new contract addendum with US Bank for the CAL-Card program

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR STONE SECOND: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

Authorize the General Manager to execute a new contract addendum to the State of California Purchase Card Program Master Service Agreement with US Bank

Motion passed unanimously with Director Bustichi being absent.

13. CONSIDERATION OF PROVISION OF FREE FARES FOR PARACRUZ PASSENGERS TO SUPPORT THE UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION LOCAL 23 SENIOR DINNER SCHEDULED TO BE HELD MAY 24, 2008

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR STONE SECOND: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

Approve supporting the United Transportation Union Senior Dinner scheduled to be held on May 24, 2008 by providing free fares on the ParaCruz Service for those passengers attending the event

Motion passed unanimously with Director Bustichi being absent.

Eduardo Montesino, UTU, distributed a flier for the event, which is attached to the file copy of these minutes, and invited all present to attend.

14. ORAL ANNOUNCEMENT: NOTIFICATION OF MEETING LOCATION FOR MAY 23, 2008 – CAPITOLA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 420 CAPITOLA AVE, CAPITOLA

Chair Beautz announced that the May 23, 2008 Board Meeting would be held at the Capitola City Council Chambers, 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola.

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

Margaret Gallagher reported that Item #2a was deleted and that the Board would have a conference with its Labor Negotiators regarding UTU, Local 23, Fixed Route, a conference with its Real Property Negotiators regarding property located at 425 Front Street, Santa Cruz, and a conference with its Legal Counsel regarding Existing Litigation regarding property located at 425 Front Street, Santa Cruz.

16. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

None.

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Chair Beautz adjourned to Closed Session at 10:33 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 11:32 a.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

17. 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 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS

Administrative Services Coordinator