



**SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (METRO)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA MEETING MINUTES*
NOVEMBER 16, 2018 – 9:00 AM
WATSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
275 MAIN STREET
WATSONVILLE, CA 95076**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) was convened on Friday, November 16, 2018 at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Watsonville, CA.

The Board Meeting Agenda Packet can be found online at www.SCMTD.com and is available for inspection at Santa Cruz METRO's Administrative offices at 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz, California. *Minutes are "summary" minutes, not verbatim minutes. Audio recordings of Board meeting open sessions are available to the public upon request.

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SECTION I: OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER at 9:12 AM by Chair McPherson.

ROLL CALL: The following Directors were present, representing a quorum:

Director Ed Bottorff	City of Capitola
Director Cynthia Chase	City of Santa Cruz
Director Trina Coffman-Gomez	City of Watsonville
Director Jimmy Dutra	City of Watsonville
Director Norm Hagen	County of Santa Cruz
Director John Leopold	County of Santa Cruz
Director Donna Lind	City of Scotts Valley
Director Cynthia Mathews	City of Santa Cruz
Director Bruce McPherson	County of Santa Cruz
Director Dan Rothwell	County of Santa Cruz
Director Mike Rotkin	County of Santa Cruz
Ex-Officio Director Alta Northcutt	Cabrillo College
Ex-Officio Director Davon Thomas	UCSC

Ex-Officio Director Thomas and Directors Bottorff, Dutra and Leopold were absent.

STAFF PRESENT:

Alex Clifford	METRO CEO/General Manager
Julie Sherman	METRO General Counsel

METRO EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO VOLUNTARILY INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER) WERE:

Angela Aitken, SCMTD	Dawn Crummie, SCMTD	Ginger Dykar, SCCRTC
Debbie Kinslow, SCMTD	Rachel Moricom, SCCRTC	Daniel Zaragoza, SCCRTC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair McPherson introduced Carlos Landaverry and his Spanish Language interpretation services. Mr. Landaverry announced his services in Spanish for the assembly. Chair McPherson also announced that the meeting is being televised by Community Television of Santa Cruz County with technician, Mr. Lynn Dunton. Today's City of Watsonville technician is Mindy Esqueda.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS

The Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCIS) discussion at last evening's Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) meeting was summarized by attending Directors. They stressed no decisions were made; the next meeting is scheduled for December 6th. A decision is anticipated at the RTC's January 17 meeting.

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Peoples, representing TrailNow, also referenced the RTC meeting and spoke of the teamwork required to fix the roads and make METRO a valued asset.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAC

Hearing none, Chair McPherson moved to the next agenda item.

LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

Hearing none, Chair McPherson moved to the next item.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION - distributed and available at the back of the room

- Agenda Item 12, Attachment E, experienced intermittent printing issues. Fresh copies were distributed. CEO Clifford noted METRO hopes to replace the problematic machine in the near future.
- News Clips

At CEO Clifford's request, Chair McPherson approved pulling Item 17, noting this agenda item will be brought back at the December 14 board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 9-01 RECOMMENDED ACTION ON TORT CLAIMS
- 9-02 ACCEPT AND FILE: PRELIMINARY APPROVED CHECK JOURNAL DETAIL FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2018
- 9-03 ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND NOVEMBER 9, PERSONNEL/HR COMMITTEE MEETING
- 9-04 ACCEPT AND FILE: QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT OF GRANT APPLICATIONS, ACTIVE GRANTS AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES JULY – SEPTEMBER 2018
- 9-05 ACCEPT AND FILE: METRO PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2018
- 9-06 ACCEPT AND FILE: METRO SYSTEM RIDERSHIP REPORTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF FY18

- 9-07 APPROVE: CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE CEO TO EXECUTE A CONTACT WITH GIRO, IN. FOR HASTUS SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT
- 9-08 APPROVE: CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT TO CLAREMONT BEHAVIORAL SERVICES FOR EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SERVICES NOT TO EXCEED \$26,000
- 9-09 APPROVE: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FY19 REVISED CAPITAL BUDGET

There was no public comment.

ACTION: MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED

MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

SECOND: DIRECTOR LIND

MOTION PASSED WITH 8 AYES (Directors Chase, Coffman-Gomez, Hagen, Lind, Mathews, McPherson, Rothwell and Rotkin) Directors Bottorff, Dutra and Leopold were absent.

REGULAR AGENDA

10. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS FOR THOMAS HILTNER (20 YEARS), ROBERT KRAUSE (10 YEARS) ANDREW KEARNEY (10 YEARS) NATHANAEL ABREGO (10 YEARS) AND RUBEN VALDEZ (10 YEARS)

Chair McPherson announced and congratulated those employees absent and present.

Chair McPherson expressed his appreciation for Mr. Hiltner's years of service and applauded his successes. Vice Chair Rotkin presented the certificate to Mr. Hiltner.

Tom Hiltner made a few comments reflecting on his years in the community and with METRO; adding, he will return with additional comments in January when his retirement is announced.

Nathanael Abrego spoke of his experience with METRO. He is happy to provide the ParaCruz service and wants to be able to tell his passengers that we will do everything we can to make their lives easier. He said the last few years have been difficult, due to Operator understaffing, resulting in staff stress and exhaustion. This has been spiritually taxing due to the decisions they must make between eating lunch or getting their client to their doctor appointment. It is important for our community that we provide quality service that they can trust in.

Director Coffman-Gomez requested longevity award recipient bios at future board meetings, highlighting the employee's depth of experience with METRO.

11. ORAL CEO UPDATE

Acknowledging Mr. Abrego's comments, CEO Clifford said METRO continues to struggle with hiring ParaCruz Operators. (We are currently short four ParaCruz Operators.) We continue creative recruiting; working hard to draw in applicants.

COO Aguirre added our efforts are yielding results: There is a new class in session. The most current recruitment resulted in 13 applicants.

CEO Clifford spoke on a variety of subjects, including:

Dawn Crummie, HR Deputy Director, is temporarily filling the role of Acting HR Director. We are beginning a new recruitment, as our last round was unsuccessful. Angela Aitken has returned to her capacity as CFO.

Senator Frazier has asked that the Transportation Development Act (TDA) law be reviewed as things have changed since the Act was adopted. In the last few years, waiver requests have been granted on fare box recovery. CEO Clifford is a member of the new Committee working on this project.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has issued a new revision (with minimal changes) of its Innovative Clean Transit (ICT), zero emissions regulation. We are looking for the CARB board to take a pause, examine how technology is/has evolved, and perhaps take action to revise its schedule to meet technology. CEO Clifford was able to chat extensively with a major player involved in the CARB legislation while attending the CalACT Conference in Napa this week.

If planning and bus branding efforts are successful, VTA CEO, Nuria Fernandez, will participate in a joint press release on December 14th at 8:00AM at the Scotts Valley Transit Center to celebrate the articulated bus purchase and hybrid diesel vehicles. The regular board meeting will follow at 9:00AM, immediately following the event.

Promotions:

- Ed Cummins, promoted to Maintenance Supervisor
- Jose Raygoza-Ramirez promoted to Mechanic II

There was no public comment.

12. ACCEPT AND FILE: THE YEAR TO DATE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF AUGUST 31, 2018

Angela Aitken, CFO, spoke to the presentation, noting METRO hopes to fill some vacant positions in the near future pending the final results of the Prop 6 ballot measure.

Director Rotkin requested a slide be added that reflects diesel costs if these costs track differently than gasoline.

Public comment:

Brian Peoples, said TrailNow has been asking RTC if Measure D can be bonded. He wondered if this is a question for METRO to ask.

ACTION: MOTION TO ACCEPT AND FILE THE YEAR TO DATE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED

MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

SECOND: DIRECTOR COFFMAN-GOMEZ

MOTION PASSED WITH 8 AYES (Directors Chase, Coffman-Gomez, Hagen, Lind, Mathews, McPherson, Rothwell and Rotkin) Directors Bottorff, Dutra and Leopold were absent

13. ORAL UPDATE ON IMPLICATIONS OF PROP 6 ELECTION RESULTS

Barrow Emerson, Planning and Development Director, provided the following information:

We are waiting to confirm the final results of Prop 6. Once confirmed, we will plan another board work session and consider topics such as filling positions, revisiting the fare structure issue, developing a strategy for improving service and continued attention to replacing almost 60% of our obsolete fleet.

CEO Clifford added that he remains cautiously optimistic until the final outcome is announced before proceeding with hiring, etc. The anticipated positions include an additional Mechanic, Bus Operator, Financial Analyst, Marketing Director and two Customer Service Representatives.

Director Rotkin wants METRO to be more assertive in protecting METRO's future and financial resources to make public transportation a viable alternative throughout the county; e.g., bus stops are needed to protect our riders from the rain. What would be required if we were to begin looking at implementing a dedicated ¼ cent sales tax to support METRO?

Director comments included: A cohesive transportation component once the UCIS is moving forward; analyzing route frequency; new route implementation as a result of new employer locations such as Kaiser and the Enterprise building in Scotts Valley.

Public Comment:

Mr. Peoples thinks collaborating with Silicon Valley businesses could help. He disagreed with Director Rotkin's tax measure proposal.

Jack Carroll, citizen, suggested METRO implement free bus fare(s). Director Rotkin explained how METRO's fare box recovery affects federal funding.

Eduardo Montesino, representing the Bus Operators and Paratransit, said the community is ripe for more services and suggested METRO reach out to the community to gauge the potential of a sales tax or bond measure to provide better service and address the loss of ridership due to loss of connectivity. Referring to Jarrett Walker's recent presentation, CEO Clifford suggested micro transit may address our rural routes. He noted transit nationwide is experiencing a loss of ridership. The strategic planning process will continue. Rather than exploring bonds (which makes sense for facilities), METRO is exploring alternative options; e.g., the recent leasing of Paul Revere buses.

Ex-Officio Northcutt noted that Cabrillo students are looking at zip car and other alternatives to work in conjunction with METRO service.

14. ACCEPT: REPORT ON UCSC ARTICULATED BUS PILOT PROJECT

Barrow Emerson, Planning and Development Director, is recommending articulated buses be added to the fixe routes serving UCSC on a permanent basis.

Chair McPherson and Director Rotkin thanked Larry Pageler for his support, knowledge and assistance in making this happen.

Eddie Benson, Maintenance Manager, will return to the Board with a pricing list of additional maintenance and capital costs resulting from this project; e.g., maintenance costs; purchase of additional lifts, special tools, etc.

Larry Pageler provided additional information regarding routes between downtown and campus, noting October is the busiest month of the year, averaging 15,000 rides per day on METRO. Enrollment is up this year.

Several Directors expressed support for improving Watsonville student retention rates without a transportation barrier.

Public comment:

In response to Mr. People's question, Mr. Barrow noted the annual cost for the bus and Operator is approximately \$120,000 per year.

ACTION: MOTION TO ACCEPT AND FILE THE REPORT ON THE UCSC ARTICULATED BUS PILOT PROJECT AS PRESENTED

MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

SECOND: DIRECTOR ROTHWELL

MOTION PASSED WITH 8 AYES (Directors Chase, Coffman-Gomez, Hagen, Lind, Mathews, McPherson, Rothwell and Rotkin) Directors Bottorff, Dutra and Leopold were absent

15. ACCEPT AND FILE: UNIFIED CORRIDOR INVESTMENT STUDY UPDATE

Barrow Emerson, Planning and Development Director, welcomed Ginger Dykar and Grace Blakeslee from RTC. Speaking of the study, he reminded the assembly that the three corridors are separate and serve a different population.

Ms. Dykar said RTC staff is recommending an environmental review, which would include alternative analysis and preliminary design to pursue transit on the rail right of way. Additionally, the BRT could be examined.

CEO Clifford, referencing funding to METRO on page 15.7, noted the highlighted lines are in jeopardy; excess of \$9M could be in jeopardy. We are recommending a full-blown alternatives analysis examining rail and where the funds will come from. METRO is not anti-rail; we are pro mass transportation.

Discussion among Directors, METRO and RTC staff ensued regarding a proposal/recommendation to present to the RTC, which would hold METRO funding safe as we proceed and maintain percentages from the three different funding sources. These funds would complement the modality of transportation through the corridor to the highest and best possible use.

Public comment:

Mr. Peoples said TrailNow would support buses on the corridor.

Bruce Sawhill, Friend of the Rail representative, and Barry Scott, Aptos resident, have long advocated for rail, but if something else would come along that is less expensive, they'd listen. They would insist on electric options and that METRO runs it all. They would like to see one integrated transportation agency with connectivity. He expressed concerns that METRO could suffer.

Jack Carroll would like to see economic equity; versus RTC's goal of equitable access and UCIS defines this as geographic equity. He believes the train corridor would serve 1% of the population at a cost of \$15 round trip plus bus fare plus a possible tax increase. He asked if we can lower the fares and increase the frequency.

ACTION: MOTION TO:

1) That METRO support BRT light operational improvements in the Soquel Avenue/Drive Freedom Blvd. corridor and ensure we investigate possible parking restrictions and other local traffic adjustments to improve the corridor.

2) Support pursuit of a bus on shoulder on Highway 1.

3) Commit to comprehensive transit service facility in the rail corridor and begin implementation planning by conducting in the near term a comprehensive alternatives analysis to determine the most appropriate mode of public transit for the rail corridor and support efforts to secure funding from federal and other sources and adding a full analysis of operations funding sources as part of the alternative analysis.

4) Support mass transit using rail corridor in which mass transit would run adjacent to bike and pedestrian facilities, but not under the rail banking concept.

5) Recommend an RTC policy be created that would commit to funding METRO with TDA-LFT, TDA-STA and TDA-SGR at current percentages in perpetuity.

6) Support METRO CEO in writing a letter to the RTC communicating this motion/recommendation.

MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

SECOND: DIRECTOR MATHEWS

MOTION PASSED WITH 8 AYES (Directors Chase, Coffman-Gomez, Hagen, Lind, Mathews, McPherson, Rothwell and Rotkin) Directors Bottorff, Dutra and Leopold were absent

16. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE CPS HR CONSULTING SEIU CLASSIFICATION STUDY AND NEW POSITIONS DESCRIPTIONS

Angela Aitken, CFO, spoke to the staff report and asked that the Board approve the position descriptions in concept today as METRO continues to meet with SEIU.

There was no public comment:

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE THE CPS HR CONSULTING SEIU CLASSIFICATION STUDY AND NEW POSITIONS DESCRIPTIONS IN CONCEPT AS PRESENTED

MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

SECOND: DIRECTOR LIND

MOTION PASSED WITH 8 AYES (Directors Chase, Coffman-Gomez, Hagen, Lind, Mathews, McPherson, Rothwell and Rotkin) Directors Bottorff, Dutra and Leopold were absent

AGENDA ITEM 17 PULLED AT CEO CLIFFORD'S REQUEST AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD: CONSIDERATION & APPROVAL OF THE FINAL CPS HR CONSULTING MANAGEMENT TOTAL COMPENSATION STUDY RESULTS

Chair McPherson announced the next meeting: Friday, December 14, 2018 at 9:00AM at the Scotts Valley City Chambers, One Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley, CA and adjourned the meeting at 11:32AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Pye
Executive Assistant