

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

February 25, 2005

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, February 25, 2005 at the Santa Cruz City Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Chair Keogh called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Jan Beautz (arrived after roll call)
Dene Bustichi
Michelle Hinkle
Mike Keogh
Emily Reilly
Mike Rotkin
Dale Skillicorn
Pat Spence
Mark Stone
Marcela Tavantzis
Ex-Officio Wes Scott (arrived after roll call)

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Dennis Norton

STAFF PRESENT

Bryant Baehr, Operations Manager	Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager
Frank Cheng, MetroBase Project Manager	Robyn Slater, Human Resources Manager
Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager	Judy Souza, Base Superintendent
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel	Tom Stickel, Fleet Maintenance Manager
Steve Paulson, Paratransit Administrator	Les White, General Manager

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

Chuck Boxwell, RNL Design	Paul Marcelin-Sampson, Metro Riders Union
Pat Dellin, SCCRTC	Ian McFadden, SEA
Mary Ferrick, Schedule Analyst	Pat McKelvey, RNL Design
Christine Firman, Octagon Risk Services	Bonnie Morr, UTU
Terry Gale, IT Manager	Will Regan, VMU
Peter King, Octagon Risk Services	Amy Weiss, Spanish Interpreter
Gary Klemz, SEIU	Bob Yount, MAC/MASTF/E&D TAC

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Written:

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--|
| a. | David G. Eselius | Re: Scotts Valley – Watsonville Corridor |
| b. | Director Spence | Re: Remembrance of Michael Edwards |

Oral:

Margaret Gallagher requested that the Board make the necessary findings to add the following item to the Open Session Agenda:

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF APPROVED WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS BY OCTAGON RISK SERVICES, METRO'S NEW THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR

The need to pass this Resolution came to the attention of METRO management after the posting of the agenda and there is a need to take this action prior to the next regular Board meeting because Octagon's Third Party Administration duties begin on March 1st.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY

Make the necessary findings to add this item to today's Open Session Agenda

Motion passed unanimously with Director Norton being absent.

Chair Keogh assigned it as Item #4.1 to be taken before the Consent Agenda.

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

Bonnie Morr, UTU Chair, and Manny Martinez, PSA President, expressed thanks to Bryant Baehr noting that his many achievements are well documented and that the District will be hard-pressed to find someone of his caliber to replace him.

DIRECTORS BEAUTZ AND SCOTT ARRIVED AT THIS TIME

4. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

Item #4.1, and additional information for Items #7, #16 and #13 were distributed at this Board meeting.

SECTION I:

OPEN SESSION:

INSERT ITEM #2

**ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION
(Insert Written Communication)**

CONSENT AGENDA:

- ADD TO ITEM #5-1** APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 14 AND JANUARY 28, 2005 AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2005
(Insert Minutes of January 28, 2005)
- ADD TO ITEM #5-3** ACCEPT AND FILE JANUARY 2005 RIDERSHIP REPORT
(Insert Page 1 of the Ridership Report)
- INSERT ITEM #5-6** ACCEPT AND FILE THE MASTF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2004
(Insert Minutes)
- INSERT ITEM #5-8** ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2004
(Insert Report)
- INSERT ITEM #5-10** ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT
(Insert Staff Report)
- INSERT ITEM #5-12** CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SANTA CRUZ SEASIDE COMPANY FOR THE PROVISION OF LATE-NIGHT SERVICE
(Insert Staff Report)
- DELETE ITEM #5-13** CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF DAVE WILLIAMS TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) BY DIRECTOR SKILLICORN TO FILL VACANCY OF KANOA DYNEK
(Action taken at the February 11, 2005 Board Meeting)
- REPLACE ITEM #5-15** CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION EMPLOYEE CLAIMS
(Insert REVISED Attachment A, page 5-15.a1)

REGULAR AGENDA:

- ADD TO ITEM #7** CONSIDERATION OF RECEIPT OF REPORT REGARDING THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION'S PARATRANSIT COORDINATION TASK FORCE (PCTF) AND **FINAL** MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2005S
(Insert FINAL Minutes and Additional Information from Dir. Spence)
- INSERT ITEM #8** CONSIDERATION OF PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT
(Insert Staff Report)
- INSERT ITEM #9** CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PARACRUZ VEHICLE FUELING AND WASHING SERVICES
(Insert Staff Report)
- DELETE ITEM #12** CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF PROCEDURES FOR THE PRE-QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS PROCESS FOR THE METROBASE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT
- DELETE ITEM #14** CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A LEASE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 111 DUBOIS STREET, SANTA CRUZ
(Action taken at the February 11, 2005 Board Meeting)

- ADD ITEM #15** **CONSIDERATION OF ELECTION OF A DIRECTOR TO SERVE AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR 2005**
(Insert Staff Report)
- ADD ITEM #16** **CONSIDERATION OF THE COSTS AND SCHEDULE IMPACTS OF SOLICITING BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE I OF THE METROBASE PROJECT IN TWO SEGMENTS**
(Oral Presentation)
- ADD ITEM #17** **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICES OF BRYANT BAEHR AS MANAGER OF OPERATIONS FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT**
(Insert Resolution)
- 4-1. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF APPROVED WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS BY OCTAGON RISK SERVICES, METRO'S NEW THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Summary:

Elisabeth Ross reported that this new vendor has a different system than the previous vendor, which requires the District to have it's own separate account for the purpose of paying approved workers' compensation claims. The two signers on the account will be Octagon's CEO and Ms. Ross.

Robyn Slater introduced Octagon's Claims Manager, Peter King, and Claims Supervisor, Christine Firman, who said they are looking forward to working with the District.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ

Move passage of a Resolution authorizing the establishment of a bank account for the administration of approved workers' compensation claims by Octagon Risk Services, METRO's new Third Party Administrator.

Motion passed by unanimous affirmative voice vote in lieu of a roll call vote with Director Norton being absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 5-1. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 14 AND 28, 2005 AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2005**
- 5-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS**
- 5-3. ACCEPT AND FILE JANUARY 2005 RIDERSHIP REPORT**

- 5-4. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: DENY THE CLAIMS OF SHARON BORREGE, CLAIM #05-0005; MARIO ESPINOZA, CLAIM #05-0006; DEAN KERR, CLAIM #05-0007; AND GEICO INSURANCE, CLAIM #05-0008
- 5-5. ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2005 AND MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2004
- 5-6. ACCEPT AND FILE THE MASTF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2004
- 5-7. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2004 AND CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET TRANSFERS
- 5-8. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2004
- 5-9. ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE UPDATE
- 5-10. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT
- 5-11. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES REFLECTING VOTING RESULTS FROM APPOINTEES TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR THE JANUARY 2005 MEETINGS
- 5-12. CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SANTA CRUZ SEASIDE COMPANY FOR THE PROVISION OF LATE-NIGHT SERVICE
- 5-13. DELETED: ACTION TAKEN AT THE FEBRUARY 11, 2005 BOARD MEETING (CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF DAVE WILLIAMS TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) BY DIRECTOR SKILLICORN TO FILL VACANCY OF KANOA DYNEK)
- 5-14. ACCEPT AND FILE NOTIFICATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION REGARDING THE WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIM OF FRANK SLOAN
- 5-15. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION EMPLOYEE CLAIMS
- 5-16. CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION REGARDING LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE USE AT OTHER TRANSIT DISTRICTS

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR SKILLICORN

Approve the Consent Agenda

Motion passed unanimously with Director Norton being absent.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS

The following employees were awarded longevity certificates for their years of service:

FIFTEEN YEARS

Terry Gale, IT Manager

TWENTY YEARS

Randy Yagi, Sr. Customer Service Rep. (Retired February 11, 2005)
John Mellon, FM Lead Parts Clerk

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Mary C. Ferrick, Schedule Analyst (Held over from January)
Ruth Jones, Bus Operator

Paul Marcelin-Sampson commented that he felt Randy Yagi was a stellar Customer Service Representative as well as a great person.

7. CONSIDERATION OF RECEIPT OF REPORT REGARDING THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION'S PARATRANSIT COORDINATION TASK FORCE (PCTF) AND DRAFT MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2004

Director Spence commented that she felt that, for her, the Task Force experience reinforced the saying "if you don't set your level of expectation too high, you won't be disappointed". Director Spence abstained from voting on the final recommendations because she felt that although there were some good items, many of them were not in METRO's best interest. Legal mandates were not included. The preliminary recommendations were not included and Director Spence felt that they should have been. Director Spence read through and expanded on the information she provided on pages 7.28 and 7.29 entitled "Main Points PCTF Recommendations".

Director Reilly clarified that she understood that following legal mandates was implicit in all the recommendations, and that the Task Force is an RTC advisory group making recommendations to the RTC, and that METRO's three representatives to the RTC will keep METRO's best interest in mind when considering the recommendations.

Vice Chair Rotkin asked for clarification on how Director Spence's information relates to the draft recommendations, which he did not have with him. Director Spence replied that pages 7.28 and 7.29 contained items she had wanted the Task Force to consider. Les White clarified that pages 7.15 – 7.27 were the two sets of draft recommendations that the Task Force considered at its final meeting on February 16th. These pages were distributed to the Board at the February 11th meeting where the Board was encouraged to review all the material on this item and be prepared to comment at today's meeting.

Pat Dellin reported that the Task Force recommendations would go to the RTC in April and then be presented to METRO as one unified final document. Today's meeting is an opportunity to discuss and comment on the final Task Force meeting of February 16th, with a final report expected sometime in May.

Pages 7.15 – 7.27 were redistributed to the Board at today's meeting.

Chair Keogh clarified that this item is informational to this Board at this point and there will be time for comments once the RTC has forwarded the recommendations to METRO for consideration.

Paul Marcelin-Sampson and Director Spence acknowledged and thanked each other and METRO Staff for their work on the Task Force. Chair Keogh thanked Paul Marcelin-Sampson, Directors Reilly and Spence, and Staff for their time and effort spent participating on the Task Force.

8. CONSIDERATION OF PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT

Summary:

Bryant Baehr reported that this report covers November 2004, the first month that the service was provided in-house by METRO. Mr. Baehr went over the Operating Statistics which compares the months of October, when the service was contracted out, and November, when METRO provided direct service. Mr. Baehr explained that ride demand and telephone call volume exceeded projections during the first month, but have since leveled off. Mr. Baehr said that part of the high numbers could be attributed to the service being heavily promoted.

Discussion:

Director Beautz questioned the high variance between Rides Scheduled and Rides Performed and asked if there was a penalty for no-shows. Mr. Baehr replied that this is covered in the Customers Guide and that District Counsel is currently revising the no-show policy to include recent court rulings.

Steve Paulson reported on different issues that were identified during the first month and how Staff responded to them. Vice Chair Rotkin asked if accommodating the larger mobility devices is negatively impacting the service quality for other users. Mr. Paulson responded that currently, it is not a problem and that if it becomes an issue, Staff will bring it to the Board for direction to ensure that all customers are served equally.

Director Tavantzis commented that Staff is doing a great job. Chair Keogh commented that people are not contacting individual Directors with complaints, which is good.

9. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PARACRUZ VEHICLE FUELING AND WASHING SERVICES

Summary:

Tom Stickel reported that METRO requested proposals to provide vehicle fueling and washing services for ParaCruz vehicles as two separate contracts or as one combined contract. Cruz Car Wash submitted a proposal for both fueling and washing services and Steve's Union submitted a proposal for fueling services only. METRO did a cost price analysis and determined that the difference in the fuel prices between the two vendors was enough to split the contract.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY

Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract for ParaCruz vehicle washing services with Cruz Car Wash and authorize the General Manager to execute a contract for ParaCruz vehicle fueling services with Steve's Union Service.

Discussion:

Chair Keogh asked if METRO will have the capacity for fueling and washing these vehicles once MetroBase is complete. Les White responded that these services would be contracted out until there is a permanent ParaCruz facility.

Director Spence asked how often the vehicles get washed. Bryant Baehr replied that vehicles are cleaned at least on a weekly basis and every 3rd washing includes carpet and upholstery steaming, more often in inclement weather. The Operators are also responsible for making sure their vehicle is clean at the end of their shift.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Norton being absent.

10. PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION AND EXECUTION OF AN FTA GRANT FOR URBANIZED AREA FORMULA FUNDS FOR FY2005

Mark Dorfman reported that this annual public hearing is part of the federal requirements for receiving Federal Transit Administration funds. Staff is requesting approval of the Program of Projects for FY 2005, which covers operating assistance of \$3,021,556 for, the period of July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, and authorization to apply for Federal Administration Urbanized Area Formula Funds.

Public Hearing opened at 10:08 a.m.

No public comments were received.

Public Hearing closed at 10:08 a.m.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR REILLY

Adopt the Program of Projects for FY 2005 and authorize the application for Federal Transit Administration Urbanized Area Formula Funds.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Norton being absent.

ITEM #16 WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER AT THIS TIME

16. CONSIDERATION OF THE COSTS AND SCHEDULE IMPACTS OF SOLICITING BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE I OF THE METROBASE PROJECT IN TWO SEGMENTS

Summary:

Frank Cheng gave a quick update on the MetroBase project reporting that METRO has received signed agreements from Surf City and Odwalla who will vacate 120 Golf Club by March 15, 2005, with demolition starting shortly after that. Fleet Maintenance will be moving into 110 Vernon Street next week.

Pat McKelvey from RNL gave a slide presentation outlining the 3 different bidding strategy options for the construction phase.

The Base Approach entails bidding the entire project at one time, releasing bids in March 2005, receiving proposals in April, and commencing construction in May. This has been the overall intention and timeframe from the start. Benefits include a single general contractor and single source of responsibility. The problem is lack of current available funding and whether METRO can legally go out to bid the entire project with the anticipated appropriations. This option would have no increased costs.

Option One is the same strategy as the Base Approach with a 4-month delay, giving METRO time to actually receive anticipated funding appropriations. This is the preferred approach because it maintains the same advantages including one single source of responsibility and one general contractor. This option would have an anticipated increased cost of \$482,746 due to escalated costs and spiking of construction costs.

Option Two is to split the project into two bid packages and delay the Operations building and site work. The first bid would be for the Service and Maintenance Facilities and site work on River Street and Golf Club Drive at the same time. Bids for this would be released in May 2005, proposals received in June with construction commencing in July. The 2nd bid package for the Operations building would go out after the 1st part was completed in March or April of 2006. This option is the least preferred because it extends the project timeline, would have an anticipated cost increase of over \$1 million, there would likely be multiple contractors, multiple sources of liability and lower bonding capacity requirements.

Les White went through the funding side of the three options. For the Base Approach, the Board would have to issue, through the Santa Cruz Civic Improvement Corporation, \$12,761,000.00 in debt secured by sales tax with no program or legislatively supported funding sources to repay it. Repaying this debt would be dependent upon the Reauthorization Bill passing and the State not defaulting on the \$6,363,000.00 STIP funding.

For Option One, an AB3090 designation for FY 07-08 needs to be in place and the federal Reauthorization Bill needs to be enacted during the 4-month delay this option provides for.

Option Two conveys to CARB that METRO cannot meet its commitment. METRO has cash in hand to complete just the Maintenance facility now and then sometime in the future, build the other parts of the project.

If the Board goes with Option One or Two, an extension to the CARB deadline will need to be requested from January 1, 2006 to July 1, 2006.

Discussion:

Vice Chair Rotkin proposed supporting Option One as the clear choice even if it means taking service off the streets and feels Option Two would be a disaster.

Chair Keogh clarified that the funding METRO currently has in hand today plus the High Intensity Tier and the STIP allocation of \$6,363,000.00, is enough money to complete the entire project without borrowing, except for cash flow. The variables are the Federal Reauthorization Bill and the CTC approving the AB3090.

Staff recommends that the Board authorize Staff to submit a request to the SCCRTC for a STIP amendment designating \$6,363,000.00 in MetroBase funding as an AB3090 reimbursement project for FY 07-08.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR REILLY SECOND: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

Authorize Staff to submit a request to the SCCRTC for a STIP amendment designating \$6,363,000.00 in MetroBase funding as an AB3090 reimbursement project for FY 07-08.

Vice Chair Rotkin proposed the following friendly amendments, which accepted by the maker:

Part 2:

Approve Option One bidding strategy, which includes a 4-month delay and bidding the entire project in one bid package for the construction phase of the MetroBase Project.

Part 3:

Authorize Staff to prepare a recommendation on anticipated debt-issuing decisions to bring back to the Board

Part 4:

Authorize the General Manager to meet with the Staff of the California Air Resources Board to obtain an extension to the deadline from January 1, 2006 to July 1, 2006.

Part 5:

Direct Staff to contact Santa Cruz County and the Cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola, Scotts Valley and Watsonville, in addition to our State legislators, requesting letters and statements of support for making the MetroBase AB3090 designation for FY 07-08 the highest priority.

Discussion:

Bonnie Morr thanked the Board for choosing Option One and reported that UTU's National Legislative Director in DC has been working hard on the reauthorization of the transportation bills and he, along with the local state representative are pushing as much as possible to get funding for this project in the forefront.

Director Spence asked how the 4-month delay would affect the project and Director Skillicorn asked if weather would be a factor. Pat McKelvey replied that it had been taken into consideration and the weather should not be a problem.

Vice Chair Rotkin explained for the public that Option One is the clear choice because having more than one contractor is a nightmare. Besides it costing more, there are too many parties involved, change orders disagree with each other, if something goes wrong there are arguments about who was responsible for what which can lead to court battles.

Director Tavantzis clarified that part of the motion was to direct Staff to work with legislators but there are two legislators representing Santa Cruz, which she would like included in the motion.

Director Tavantzis also reported that on Friday, March 4th the Watsonville City Council would be meeting with the legislators for all of Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. Director Tavantzis requested that Staff fax her a paragraph that specifically states what the Council can strongly advocate for in person. Vice Chair Rotkin and Director Bustichi made the same request.

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTOR SCOTT LEFT THE MEETING

Directors Reilly and Rotkin accepted the following friendly amendment to Part 5 of the motion:

Part 5:

Direct Staff to contact Santa Cruz County and the Cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola, Scotts Valley and Watsonville, in addition to ~~our~~ any State legislators representing any part of Santa Cruz County, requesting letters and statements of support for making the MetroBase AB3090 designation for FY 07-08 the highest priority.

Director Tavantzis expressed concern with how the RTC will handle the competing AB3090s and does not want METRO's to compete with or fall behind the rail.

Direction: Chair Keogh directed Staff to make personal contact and establish a relationship with CTC staff to clarify these issues.

Chair Keogh stated that he is very confident that the RTC will cooperate in every way possible and get this submitted correctly. Chair Keogh cautioned the Board very strongly regarding borrowing the \$12 million, of which half is to be paid back by the High Intensity Tier federal allocation. Chair Keogh is confident that that is going to happen, leaving a \$6 million debt. This translates into an interest payment of approximately \$350,000.00 to \$500,000.00 in transit service on the street that will be put in jeopardy if the STIP money does not come forward.

Motion passed unanimously with Director Norton being absent.

Director Reilly asked Pat McKelvey for information on hybrid concrete materials, to which he replied he would provide through Staff.

DIRECTORS SKILLICORN AND TAVANTZIS LEFT THE MEETING

Chair Keogh clarified that this discussion and motion also took care of Item #11.

11. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO ENSURE THE RECEIPT OF FUNDING FROM THE STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP) FOR THE METROBASE PROJECT

13. CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF SCOTTS VALLEY FOR THE RESUMPTION OF SERVICE ON VINE HILL SCHOOL ROAD

Summary:

Les White reported that at the February 11th meeting, Staff was directed to write to UTU to obtain their agreement so that the recommended service changes returning service to Vine Hill Elementary could be implemented prior to the June bid. Staff was also directed to contact the City of Scotts Valley and the School District to obtain a letter of assurance that if these changes were implemented, that they would be in effect for at least an entire school year. Mr. White reported that he has written to both parties and has not received a response.

Discussion:

Mr. White said that with trepidation, knowing the City of Scotts Valley and the School District have not responded to or signed off on the proposal, Staff recommends modifying the proposal to include the 7:25 a.m. Route #31 and the 2:15 p.m. Route #32 trips circle the High School and Vine Hill Elementary, which will provide direct access to the middle school and the Scotts Valley Transit Center without having to go all the way to METRO Center. It is further recommended that the 3:25 p.m. and 4:25 p.m. Route #31 trips be reconfigured to turn south on Granite Creek and return to Santa Cruz via Hwy 17 and lastly, that the 3:55 p.m. Route #32 trip be eliminated due to low ridership and that the service hours be redeployed to other routes where ridership needs warrant additional service.

Director Bustichi reported that he believes Staff's recommendation is a good compromise for everyone involved.

Paul Marcelin-Sampson commented that he is glad underutilized is being cut here and hopes to see redeployment of service with the \$12,500.00 cost savings and urged the Board not to say yes to these types of requests again because they are very costly.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BUSTICHI SECOND: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ

Approve Staff's recommendation to approve a portion of the request from the City of Scotts Valley and the Scotts Valley Unified School District to reconfigure the Routes #31 and #32 to reinstate service on Vine Hill School Road.

Motion passed with Director Rotkin abstaining and Directors Norton, Skillicorn and Tavantzis being absent.

15. CONSIDERATION OF ELECTION OF A DIRECTOR TO SERVE AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR 2005

Les White reported that Director Reilly had been appointed by METRO to the RTC as an alternate, and now that she is representing the City of Santa Cruz, the Board needs to appoint another alternate to replace her.

Chair Keogh nominated Mike Rotkin as the 3rd alternate to the RTC.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BUSTICHI SECOND: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ

Appoint Mike Rotkin as the 3rd alternate to the RTC for 2005.

Motion passed unanimously with Directors Norton, Skillicorn and Tavantzis being absent.

17. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICES OF BRYANT BAEHR AS MANAGER OF OPERATIONS FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Chair Keogh presented Mr. Baehr with a plaque, Staff presented him with a farebox and Paul Marcelin-Sampson presented him a six-pack of beer. All Directors present, members of the public and Staff commented on Mr. Baehr's many accomplishments and outstanding performance over the past six years and wished him well.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR REILLY SECOND: DIRECTOR HINKLE

Move passage of a Resolution of appreciation for the services of Bryant Baehr as the Manager of Operations for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District.

Motion passed by unanimous affirmative voice vote in lieu of a roll call vote with Directors Norton, Skillicorn and Tavantzis being absent.

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

Margaret Gallagher reported that the Board would be discussing one case of anticipated litigation with its Legal Counsel.

19. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

None.

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Chair Keogh adjourned to Closed Session at 11:45 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 12:09 p.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

20. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

Margaret Gallagher had nothing to report at this time.

ADJOURN

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There being no further business, Chair Keogh adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS
Administrative Services Coordinator