

# SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

**Minutes- Board of Directors**

**September 28, 2007**

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, September 28, 2007 at the Santa Cruz City Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Chair 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

#### **DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Dene Bustichi

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Angela Aitken, Finance Manager  
Frank Cheng, MetroBase Project Manager  
Mark Dorfman, Assistant General 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**

Anna M. Gouveia, Transit Supervisor  
Ian McFadden, Transit Planner  
Stacy Patyk, Seacliff Drive Resident

Dana Van Horn, Harris & Associates  
Amy Weiss, Spanish Interpreter

### **2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Written:**

a. Seacliff Drive Residents

Re: Routes 54 & 55 Vehicle Size

Oral:

Stacy Patyk, a Seacliff Drive resident, spoke on behalf of all of the residents on the letter listed as Item #2-a on today's Agenda. Ms. Patyk stated that the County Board of Supervisors informed her that they have no jurisdiction in this matter, so she is presenting it to the METRO Board directly. She expressed concern regarding full size buses on Routes 54 & 55 causing structural damage to Seacliff Drive and urged the Board to take immediate action to replace the buses with smaller Paratransit size vehicles or ending the Seacliff routes altogether. Ms. Patyk stated that the residents are retaining the services of a geologist and stated the results would be forwarded to Ellen Pirie and METRO.

Director Nicol reported that the current issue of *METRO Magazine* lists the Top 100 Transit Fleets in the country and that several cities are using feeder routes to bring passengers to hubs where express routes are available. Director Nicol urged staff to look into this approach for the future. Les White responded that a joint Board/MAC work session is being proposed to be held on Friday, October 19, 2007 at 9:00 at METRO's Administration Offices, where Wilbur Smith and Associates will make presentations regarding METRO's Short Range Transit Plan, which will address this issue.

Director Rotkin requested a Staff Report on Routes #54 & #55 ridership data next month.

**3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

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

Attachment "A" for Item #5-16 was distributed at today's meeting which is attached to the file copy of these minutes.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 5-1. **APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 10 & 24, 2007**
- 5-2. **ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2007**
- 5-3. **CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: None**
- 5-4. **ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2007 AND MINUTES OF JULY 18, 2007**
- 5-5. **ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2007**
- 5-6. **ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT**
- 5-7. **ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR JUNE 2007**
- 5-8. **ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE UPDATE FOR MONTH OF AUGUST 2007**
- 5-9. **ACCEPT AND FILE AUGUST 2007 RIDERSHIP REPORT**
- 5-10. **ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES REFLECTING VOTING RESULTS FROM APPOINTEES TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR THE AUGUST 2007 MEETING(S)**

- 5-11. **CONSIDERATION OF REVISING THE MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION PLAN**
- 5-12. **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFER REINSTATING EMPLOYEE INCENTIVE PROGRAM**
- 5-13. **CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH WILBUR SMITH ASSOCIATES FOR THE PREPARATION OF A SHORT RANGE TRANSIT PLAN**
- 5-14. **CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING METRO TO ACQUIRE A USED FORKLIFT FROM CASEY PRINTING FOR \$1,250.00**
- 5-15. **CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR TWO JOHN DEERE NATURAL GAS BUS ENGINES WITH VALLEY POWER SYSTEMS, INC.**

Chair Tavantzis pulled Item #5-16 and placed it at the end of the Regular Agenda as Item #13 and also explained that Item #5-11, a Revision to the Management Compensation Plan would be effective on the plan's implementation date of July 1, 2006 in order to comply with CalPERS.

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

**Approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda including that Item #5-11 becomes effective on July 1, 2006**

**Motion passed unanimously with Directors Beautz and Bustichi being absent.**

**VICE CHAIR BEAUTZ ARRIVED**

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

#### **6. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS**

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

#### **TEN YEARS**

Byron L. Watson, Bus Operator

#### **TWENTY YEARS**

Eduardo Biddlecome, Bus Operator  
Cynthia A. Cummings, Bus Operator  
Anna M. Gouveia, Transit Supervisor

#### **7. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A RESOLUTION TERMINATING THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC ENTITY INSURANCE AUTHORITY (CPEIA) JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT**

#### **Summary:**

Les White reported that METRO no longer has a need to be a member of the CPEIA as it is now allowed to be a participating member of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) to access excess workers' compensation insurance directly through CSAC.

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

**Approve the Resolution terminating the California Public Agency Insurance Authority Joint Powers Agreement (CPEIA)**

**Motion passed unanimously with Director Bustichi being absent.**

**8. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH PARVUS CORPORATION FOR WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICES (WI-FI) FOR THE HIGHWAY 17 EXPRESS**

**Summary:**

Mark Dorfman reported that this was a joint project of MST & METRO utilizing a Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District grant.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR REILLY SECOND: DIRECTOR SPENCE**

**Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Parvus Corporation for Wireless Internet Service (Wi-Fi) for the Highway 17 Express**

**Motion passed unanimously with Director Bustichi being absent.**

**9. CONSIDERATION OF A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH LESLIE R. WHITE TO SERVE AS GENERAL MANAGER FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1, 2004 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2010**

**Summary:**

Director Rotkin reported that the Board is giving Mr. White a small enhancement in his compensation in exchange for his willingness to stay for an additional year. Director Rotkin also reported that the Board is unanimously pleased with Mr. White's incredible performance as General Manager.

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

**Authorize the Board Chair to execute a contract amendment with Leslie R. White to serve as General Manager for the period of December 1, 2004 through December 31, 2010**

**Motion passed unanimously with Director Bustichi being absent.**

**10. CONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS FOR 2008**

**Summary:**

Chair Tavantzis reported that the Board would resume meeting once per year in Scotts Valley and increase the number of meetings held in Watsonville from one to three per year.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ**

**Approve the Regular Board Meeting Date and Location Schedule for 2008**

**Motion passed unanimously with Director Bustichi being absent.**

**11. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CHANGE ORDER WITH ARNTZ BUILDERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$363,054.00 FOR THE SERVICE & FUELING BUILDING COMPONENT OF THE METROBASE PROJECT**

**Summary:**

Frank Cheng reported that Arntz Builders has submitted a Change Order Request which includes all outstanding work items with the exception of delay related costs.

**Discussion:**

Chair Tavantzis stated that the MetroBase Board Committee felt some of the extra costs incurred were design issues and there were questions of responsibility. Les White agreed and explained that there are areas that METRO believes will be recovered from RNL, Caltrans, and PG&E. Staff recommends making Arntz whole by compensating them for the work they did and then pursuing recovery from the responsible parties afterwards.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR HAGEN SECOND: DIRECTOR ROTKIN**

**Authorize the General Manager to execute a Change Order with Arntz Builders in the amount of \$363,054.00 for the Service & Fueling Building Component of the MetroBase Project**

**Motion passed unanimously with Director Bustichi being absent.**

**12. CONSIDERATION OF SERVICE REVISIONS FOR WINTER 2007**

**Summary:**

Ian McFadden reported that no action is requested today and that a Public Hearing will be held next month to get public input on the proposal to eliminate the Paradise Park loop on Route 4 due to low ridership and operational needs. Staff is also proposing a modification to the first southbound trip of Route 35 to restore connection to Highway 17.

**Discussion:**

Chair Tavantzis express concern that eliminating fixed route to Paradise Park would impact ParaCruz service as well. Mr. McFadden replied that staff would notify Paradise Park management and contact any ParaCruz customer directly that would be affected.

**13. CONSIDERATION OF EXECUTING AN EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE OPERATION OF THE HIGHWAY 17 EXPRESS AND THE AGREEMENT WITH AMTRAK FOR PAYMENT THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**

**Summary:**

Mark Dorfman reported that the parties have been negotiating a more equitable arrangement over the past several months. Staff recommends that the Board approve the extension of the MOU using the revised formula for cost sharing and also to extend the agreement with AMTRAK which provides the mechanism for payments to METRO, subject to review and approval by District Counsel.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ**

**Authorize the General Manager to execute an Extension of the Memorandum of Understanding for the funding and operation of the Highway 17 Express Service using the revised formula for cost sharing and also extend the Agreement with AMTRAK for payment through September 30, 2010, subject to review and approval by District Counsel**

**Motion passed unanimously with Director Bustichi being absent.**

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chair Tavantzis adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS  
Administrative Services Coordinator