

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District was convened on Friday, March 28, 2014 at the Santa Cruz METRO Administrative Offices, located at 110 Vernon Street, in Santa Cruz, California.

SECTION I: OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bustichi called the meeting to order at 8:48 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

The following Directors were present:	
Director Hilary Bryant	~
Director Dene Bustichi	√
Director Karina Cervantez	V
Director Daniel Dodge	V
Director Zach Friend	√
Director Ron Graves	V
Director Michelle Hinkle	V
Director Deborah Lane	V
Director John Leopold	√
Director Bruce McPherson	V
Director Lynn Robinson	√
Ex-Officio Director Donna Blitzer	

STAFF PRESENT

Leslie R. White, Secretary/General Manager Leslyn Syren, District Counsel

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

WERETRESENT	
Angela Aitken, Finance Manager	Ai
Sharon Toline, Safety and Training Coordinator	Su
Rebecca Daniel, Paralegal	Er
Jim Helmer, Resident, 5 th District	Jo
Debbie Kinslow, Assistant Manager	Da
Robert Cotter, Maintenance Manager	Su
Thomas Hiltner, Grants/Legislative Analyst	Li

Anna Marie Gouveia, Fixed Route Superintendant Erron Alvey, Purchasing Manager Joel Rigler, Member of the Public Daniel L. Zaragoza, Assistant Paratransit Superintendent Liseth Guizar, Security & Risk Administrator Amy Weiss, Spanish Translator

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liseth Guizar invited the Board to Santa Cruz METRO's 10 –Year Anniversary celebration of Highway 17 Joint Powers Authority Agreement on May 9, 2014. It would be held at 920 Pacific Avenue at 12-noon. She stated there would be speakers from the members of the Joint Powers Authority Agreement and she extended the hope that the Board would be able to attend.

Chair Bustichi introduced the Spanish Translator Amy Weiss. Ms. Weiss spoke to the assembly and introduced herself and offered her services to any who would need translations.

Chair Bustichi acknowledged that the meeting was televised by Community Television of Santa Cruz, Channel 26.

Leslie White asked for Ciro Aguirre, Anna Marie Gouveia, and Sharon Toline to address the Board and introduce the new class of Bus Operators. Mr. Aguirre introduced Ms. Gouveia, Ms. Toline, and Mr. Daniel Zaragoza who then introduced the new Bus Operators for both Santa Cruz METRO and ParaCruz. Ms. Gouveia and Ms. Toline spoke about the new Santa Cruz METRO Operators and asked the class to introduce themselves. The students who spoke were Randy Morillo, Mary Dutton, Fatima Gonzales, Tony Yee, Sandra Bellow, Hugo Zacharias, Erik Estrada, Jeremy Levenfas, Jose Noellas, and Christopher Sands. Mr. Zaragoza introduced the new Operators for ParaCruz. The students who spoke were: Ernie Perez, David Phillips and Ricardo Vivanco.

Chair Bustichi thanked the new class and welcomed them to Santa Cruz METRO.

4. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sara Schifrin with the Committee of La Posada, introduced the Board to their new committee member and a new transit user, Patty Miller. Ms. Schifrin thanked the Board for the assignment of the 6 Bus and stated they were happy to see so many people use the new route. She stated that it was not only seniors who were taking advantage of this new route (i.e. students and multiple residential complexes). She asked the committee to include their bus stop to route 86 so that people in the community can have a more complete route and go further than downtown. She expressed her concerns that their temporary assignment of Route 6 expired in September.

Director Bustichi acknowledged the request by La Posada and stated that staff would be looking into the inclusion of La Posada into a bus route.

Joe Rigler addressed the Board and shared his history with Santa Cruz METRO and how he fought for Les White to become General Manager. He acknowledged that he met the new CEO/General Manager and was hopeful that he would continue to fight for the service that has allowed Mr. Rigler from being homebound.

Jim Helmer, a resident of Ben Lomond and the former City Traffic Engineer, addressed the Board. He expressed his gratitude to the increased safety awareness and increased safety measures taken in regards to pedestrian safety, particularly in the case of unlit conditions to bus stops along rural roads.

He attributed this to the leadership of Mr. White and thanked him for his service and congratulations on his career.

Director Dodge addressed the assembly and stated that April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month. He shared with the Board a statistic he found alarming – that 1 out of 5 girls and 1 out of 7 boys experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18. He stated that the Watsonville Healing Center would be hosting a march and community event titled "Walk to Stop the Silence" on Saturday, April 5 from 11 to 2 at the Watsonville Plaza.

Director Dodge extended an invitation to the next Watsonville City Meeting on Tuesday, April 1. He stated that there would be a presentation from George Dondero from RTC, who would be accepting comment on their Draft Regional Transportation Plan and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Director Dodge stated that they would be accepting public comments on both plans until April 8. He stated that the Association of the Monterey Bay Area Government would also be present and were working on their Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan Sustainable Community Strategy and would be accepting comment on their plan until April 8. He encouraged people to check their respective web sites for information and send their comments in.

Director Dodge also encouraged attendance to the Board meeting of April 25, where the Board was tentatively scheduled to talk about Santa Cruz METRO Transit District's Short-term Transportation Plan.

Chair Bustichi acknowledged there was written communication to the Board regarding the METRO Short-Range Transit Plan. The letter was a new addition to the agenda and that hard copies were available to the public for viewing.

- 5. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS None.
- 6. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. White confirmed that the only piece of additional documentation is the letter mentioned in the Communications to the Board of Directors. He stated that it would be incorporated and available on the SRTP.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 7-1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2014
- 7-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARY APPROVED CLAIMS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2014
- 7-3. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORTS YEAR TO DATE AS OF JANUARY 31, 2014
- 7-4. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY ACCESSIBLE SERVICES REPORT FOR JANUARY 2014

- 7-5. ACCEPT AND FILE VOTING RESULTS FROM APPOINTEES TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2014
- 7-6. ACCEPT AND FILE STATUS REPORT OF ACTIVE GRANTS AND SUBMITTED GRANT PROPOSALS FOR MARCH 2014
- 7-7. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT FOR JANUARY 2014
- 7-8. ACCEPT AND FILE METRO PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR JANUARY 2014
- 7-9. ACCEPT AND FILE SANTA CRUZ METRO SYSTEM RIDERSHIP REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2014
- **7-10.** CONSIDERATION OF RATIFICATION OF THE ACTIONS OF THE MAINTENANCE MANAGER AND AUTHORIZATION OF A PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,208.12 TO PREFERRED PLUMBING, INC.
- 7-11. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH VISION COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, INC. FOR RADIO SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$45,000
- 7-12. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC AUCTION SERVICES WITH FIRST CAPITOL AUCTION, INC.
- 7-13. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF DONALD PEATTIE TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) FOR A TERM OF OFFICE ENDING MARCH 28, 2016.
- 7-14. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF NICONA KEESAW TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) FOR A TERM OF OFFICE ENDING MARCH 28, 2016.

Chair Bustichi asked the Board and public for comment on the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, Chair Bustichi asked for a motion.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR GRAVES SECOND: DIRECTOR MCPHERSON

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EX-OFFICIO BLITZER BEING ABSENT.

REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Bustichi asked for conformation to move to the regular agenda with the removal of Item 13. Mr. White confirmed that Item 13 would be pulled and would come back to the Board in the following month. Chair Bustichi confirmed that the item would not be discussed during the meeting and pulled Item 13.

8. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICES OF LESLEY WRIGHT Chair Bustichi read the Resolution of Appreciation for Lesley Wright and invited the Board and public to speak on her behalf. As Ms. Leslie Wright had passed away, the resolution was granted posthumously and was accepted by her aunt, Nancy Wright. Chair Bustichi asked for a motion to the resolution.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR LEOPOLD SECOND: DIRECTOR DODGE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EX-OFFICIO BLITZER BEING ABSENT.

Ms. Nancy Wright accepted the resolution and spoke of her niece, Lesley Wright's service, character, and dedication to the community. Ms. Wright stated that her niece had a big heart, bright sense of humor, and strong sense of independence, which she was able to express in great part due to Santa Cruz METRO services. Ms. Nancy Wright thanked the Board on behalf of the family and friends. Members of the public who also spoke of their relationship of Ms. Wright were John Doherty, Bonny Moore, Eduardo Montesino, Anna Marie Gouveia, Ernestina Saldana, and Salsa Gonzales.

Director Hinkle and Director Lane acknowledged the dedication and service that Ms. Wright lent not only to Santa Cruz METRO but to the entire community.

Chair Bustichi thanked the family and friends for attending and express his hope that it would bring comfort to her friends and family to know that Ms. Wright was a part of METRO's family and that she will be remembered and missed.

9. CONSIDERATION OF PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL BUS COALITION FOR REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. White spoke about the enactment of Map 21, a federal funding legislation for public transportation and highways which resulted in an adjustment in funding by moving \$427M out of what traditionally went to bus capital and moved it into rail modernization. This last minute adjustment shows that there is need for a long-term bill to address unbalanced provisions for bus and rail systems. Mr. White stated that the rail system recognized APTA's need to remain neutral and formed the Rail Working Group outside of APTA. This group was so successful that they were able to get the \$427M of bus funds. Mr. White emphasized a need to balance the equation by forming an advocacy organization that focuses on the bus side for the purposes of promoting bus funding and for advocating on behalf of bus funds on the federal level. While in Washington, DC, Chair Bustichi, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Director Dodge, and Mr. White attended an inaugural dinner organized by bus operators, manufacturers and bus advocates. Their intention is to form a coalition that would address the balance against the Rail Working Group. Mr. White recommended that the Board join the Bus Coalition at the cost of \$1,000 per year plus time and effort.

Director Leopold stated that it was exciting that there is a coalition of operators particularly concerned with bus systems.

Director Dodge thanked Mr. White for his presentation. He added that he learned through the APTA conference that 55% of all trips taken on public transportation are on buses. He stated that there was an extreme amount of money that was eliminated during the Map 21 process. Director Dodge stated that the formation of the Coalition is very timely and that he supports our participation.

Chair Bustichi asked if any members of the public would like to address the Board on this issue. Seeing none, he brought the issue back to the Board.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR MCPHERSON SECOND: DIRECTOR ROBINSON

APPROVAL FOR GIVING \$1,000 TO AND PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL BUS COALITION.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EX-OFFICIO BLITZER BEING ABSENT.

10. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF ALEXANDER CLIFFORD TO POSITION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)/GENERAL MANAGER AND APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Leslyn K. Syren, District Counsel, addressed the assembly in regards to the appointment of Alexander Clifford. She reminded the Board that there are four actions that needed to be followed in order to bring the new General Manager on Board: changing of the job description; change in the management compensation plan; adoption of a resolution appointing Mr. Clifford; and approval of Mr. Clifford's contract.

Chair Bustichi acknowledged that the active search for a replacement to General Manager, Leslie White, started in October of 2013. He stated that the Board started with a pool of 47 candidates. He stated that they received help from the consulting firm, The Mercer Group, who did a great job of searching across the nation to find the best candidate.

Chair Bustichi opened for public comment to address the appointment and to Mr. Clifford directly.

Carolyn Derwing, SEA President, asked about the compensation and holidays listed in the report. Ms. Syren replied that the section Ms. Derwing referred to was already voted on by the Board at a previous meeting.

Ernestina Saldana, a member of the public expressed concerns with Mr. Clifford's appointment with regards to his reputation in Chicago that she read about via an internet search.

Director Leopold acknowledged that he was a part of the recruitment committee that looked carefully to find a good recruiter who in turn carefully screened the candidates. They interviewed 20 individuals over the phone and brought 11 in for interviewing. The subcommittee interviewed 4 candidates and two finalists were interviewed by the Board. Director Leopold stated that they really wanted a candidate with integrity and having examined the issues in Chicago they felt that they were not due to the situation on the job but with political influences. Given his track record in running bus and rail

systems that he would be an excellent executive to be the next CEO/General Manager of Santa Cruz METRO Transit District. Director Leopold motioned to approve all four of the recommended actions.

Director Graves seconded the motion with allowance for further discussion.

Director Dodge thanked the Human Resources Department and the Committee for the time and effort that they put into this job search. He stated that he felt that the process of recruitment could have been improved and that he felt the contract was rather generous. Director Dodge stated that as he was coming from a city experiencing financial hardships, he was not in support of the contract. He also expressed concern with Mr. Clifford's lack of bus experience and his adjustment to a smaller community.

Deborah Lane asked the Board if they were taking individual votes or if there would be a roll call.

Chair Bustichi stated that unless the vote was close, he would ask for an all in favor and would identify individuals who were opposed.

Director Lane thanked Chair Bustichi and asked to exercise her right as a Director under Section 10, Subsection 3, of the District Bylaws, to have her protest and descent recorded in the minutes. She expressed her concern over the loss of what she felt was good past practices, particularly in regards to including staff and stakeholders in the hiring process. She stated that she did not want this to become precedent and that she was voting no to all four provisions.

Director Cervantez stated that she would be abstaining from voting on these recommendations because as the new member to Board, her presence and participation was not included in some significant decision making in regards to the process. She stated that she looked at Mr. Clifford's record in transit and looked forward to working with him to expand service and would like to make sure that the expansion includes bus operators, staff, and key cultures in the community.

Vice-Chair Robinson stated that it was important to work together in making sure the focus was on moving forward. She acknowledged the need to sometimes work with things that were very difficult, but that she was excited for the opportunity to grow METRO to be the agency that it can be. She stated she was in support of the motion.

Director Graves thanked the committee that worked on the recruitment and to all those involved. He stated that he shared some of the concerns of Director Lane as to the process needing to involve all of the steak holders. Director Graves said he felt that this would be a learning process and he hopes that Mr. Clifford would do as good of a job as Mr. White. Director Graves stated that he looks forward to working with Mr. Clifford.

Director Friend thanked Chair Bustichi for the leadership he provided through the selection process. He stated that he respectfully disagreed with his colleague from Watsonville about the approach taken. He stated he felt the process was complete and he thought the compensation was commensurate with not just experience but in comparison to other like counties. Director Friend stated he looked forward to working with Mr. Clifford during these challenging times and that he supported all four recommendations and would be supporting Mr. Clifford moving forward.

Director McPherson agreed with Director Friend, with respect to the other members of the Board, that while they could criticize the process, he did not think that it should be held against the finalist. He stated he thought that Mr. Clifford was an excellent final candidate. Director McPherson stated he believed Mr. Clifford would be an excellent CEO/General Manager.

Director Dodge expressed a need to advocate on behalf of his community and to return to them with positions he felt was fair and just. He stated that there were four recommendations being asked to vote together and his vote would reflect differently if the items were put to the Board separately. Director Dodge stated he wanted his vote to be reflective of the people that he represented.

Chair Bustichi acknowledged that although the process had room for improvement, they could not have found a better manager to replace Mr. White. He stated that the final four candidates were all more than capable, but the committee wanted to search for an individual who would be the best fit for the community, the ridership, and the employees they would oversee. He encouraged the Board that while there may be differences of opinion, they needed to come together to have success with the General Manager, Santa Cruz METRO, and the community.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR LEOPOLD SECOND: DIRECTOR GRAVES

APPROVAL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ALEXANDER CLIFFORD TO POSITION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)/GENERAL MANAGER AND APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

MOTION PASSED WITH NAYS FROM DIRECTOR DODGE AND DIRECTOR LANE, ABSTENTION FROM DIRECTOR CERVANTES, AND EX-OFFICIO BLITZER BEING ABSENT.

Chair Bustichi invited Mr. Clifford to say a few words.

Mr. Clifford thanked the Board and General Manager, Les White. He stated that he was honored to accept the position. He acknowledged the comments that were made and understood that he had big shoes to fill. Mr. Clifford introduced his wife and thanked her for her support. He stated that he felt that it was all about the team, about the fine dedicated employees of Santa Cruz METRO. Mr. Clifford quoted the mission statement and confirmed that they were words he took to heart.

Chair Bustichi thanked and welcomed Mr. Clifford.

11. APPROVAL OF THE FY15 & FY16 PRELIMINARY LINE ITEM OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR REVIEW AND TDA/STA CLAIM PURPOSES

Angela Aitken addressed the Board and stated she was there to present a preliminary budget as the Draft and Final would be presented respectively in May and June. She stated that she was giving a high

level look at the budget. Topics she addressed included Operating Budgets, Operating Revenue, Operating Expenses including personnel and non-personnel expenses, and the Capital Budget.

Director Leopold questioned AMBAG/CTC Misc funding with comparison to previous years. He expressed concern that the report was showing a major decrease in FY15 and nothing for FY16.

Ms. Aitken replied that it was a line item that is amended when and if that money is granted. She stated that it was not budgeted forward as the amount was dependent on when grants were awarded. She stated they did not want to put in a false number and budget against it.

Director Leopold acknowledged the tenuousness of predicting grant funding but requested that when the Draft Budget is presented that there should be a conservative and safe estimate added.

Chair Bustichi inquired as to what the historical practices for this were.

Director Dodge agreed with Director Leopold that with Santa Cruz METRO's stronger relationship with funding sources such as AMBAG, he would also like to see a reasonable estimated number in the budget.

Ms. Aitken acknowledged the request and stated that they can do that.

Director Leopold stated that that he noticed the Assistant General Manager was not listed in the new hire section of the report. He stated it was his understanding that once they hired a new General Manager that the process for hiring an Assistant Manager would take place.

Ms. Aitken replied that the Assistant Manager was already built into the previous budget and what was listed was for new positions and was beyond the original passed budget.

Ms. Aitken stated that they will come back to the Board in April when more line items would be added. She acknowledged that after reviewing with Mr. Clifford that there would likely be further changes for the May and June presentations.

Seeing no further comment from the Board or public, Chair Bustichi moved for approval.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROBINSON SECOND: DIRECTOR LEOPOLD

APPROVAL FOR THE FY15 & FY16 PRELIMINARY LINE ITEM OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR REVIEW AND TDA/STA CLAIM PURPOSES

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH EX-OFFICIO BLITZER BEING ABSENT AND A REQUEST FROM DIRECTORS DODGE AND LEOPOLD FOR A REVISION ADDING AMBAG GRANT FUNDING AMOUNTS.

12. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AT THE 2014 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

Mr. White was first to speak on this item, stating that the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) conference theme was "opportunity." He stated that at the Federal and State levels, Santa Cruz METRO has a chance to meet its needs as there is an increase of funds that are proposed. He called on the Board for their support by writing letters to the members of congress they have developed relationships with and their activity in communicating with the Senate was critical; the impacts are felt at all the bus stops in all of Santa Cruz County.

Ms. Slater stated she attended the HR Committee where she learned that more than 50% of management and supervisory leveled individuals would be retiring in the next 5-10 years. She stated that there was emphasis on the opportunity for recruiting at the national level. Ms. Slater stated that she and Ms. Guizar would be attending ROP in April and would actively promote working in transportation on a local level as well.

Director Dodge stated that during the meeting he was able to meet with many decision makers and also was able to talk about transportation issues like the New Flyer buses; an issue that many Board members were not yet aware. Director Dodge said that he brought material that could be disseminated to the staff. He acknowledged the good work done by Chris Giglio with Capital Edge. Director Dodge stated that Santa Cruz METRO was taking a leadership role in APTA and that with the new CEO/General Manager, he looked forward to continuing to advocate on Santa Cruz METRO's behalf.

Vice-Chair Robinson acknowledged Mr. White's contributions. She stated that he had the ability to advocate for what we really needed. Vice-Chair Robinson thanked their legislative partners, Capital Edge, who have been a rock that advocated marvelously.

Chair Bustichi stated that he felt APTA as a great organization that can help achieve the agenda. He restated the importance of the Bus Coalition and acknowledged the great respect attendees had for Mr. White's knowledge and expertise. Chair Bustichi stated that he thought there would be significant support from federal and legislative leaders in regards to electric buses and it was great to see the level of support from Washington. He also acknowledged that Capital Edge was phenomenal in getting them into places they never thought they could.

13. RECEIVE STATUS REPORT AND PRESENTATION ON THE WATSONVILLE TRANSIT CENTER RENOVATION Item Pulled.

14. ORAL REPORT OF THE RECRUITMENT TASK FORCE

Dene Bustichi thanked the subcommittee, taskforce, Leslyn Syren, Robyn Slater, Liseth Guizar, Angela Aitken, and all the people who were involved in the process.

15. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Chair Bustichi announced the next meeting Friday, June 13, 8:30 a.m., at the Santa Cruz Metro Administrative Offices, 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz.

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16. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Syren reported the topics that would be covered in the closed session and also commented that she did not foresee the need to reconvene with report of closed session.

Ms. Carolyn Derwing, SEA addressed the Board in response to the Closed Session items on behalf of SEIU. She stated that the Union Leaders at Santa Cruz METRO make a concerted effort to resolve issues on a low and informal level as possible. Once it goes beyond the local level, the Union Representatives no longer have control over the processes or procedures following.

Chair Bustichi thanked Counsel and adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m. to closed session.

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION