

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT (METRO) **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 4, 2017 – 9:30 AM METRO ADMIN OFFICES** 110 VERNON STREET SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) was convened on Friday, August 4, 2017 at the METRO Admin offices, 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz. 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.

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SECTION I: OPEN SESSION

- CALL TO ORDER at 9:30 AM by Chair Dutra. 1
- ROLL CALL: The following Directors were present, representing a quorum: 2

Director Ed Bottorff City of Capitola Director Cynthia Chase City of Santa Cruz **Director Jimmy Dutra, Board Chair City of Watsonville Director Norm Hagen County of Santa Cruz** Director John Leopold County of Santa Cruz City of Scotts Valley **Director Donna Lind City of Santa Cruz Director Cynthia Mathews** Director Bruce McPherson, Board Vice Chair County of Santa Cruz **Director Dan Rothwell County of Santa Cruz**

Director Mike Rotkin County of Santa Cruz Vacant Ex-Officio Director **UC Santa Cruz**

Ex Officio Director Liber McKee Cabrillo College

Directors Chase, Leopold and McPherson were absent.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

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

Angela Aitken, METRO Marilyn Garrett, bus rider

Larry Pageler, UCSC Becky Steinbruner, private citizen

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Having none, Chair Dutra moved to the next item.

4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Having none, Chair Dutra moved to the next item.

5 COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Becky Steinbruner, member of the public, expressed several concerns, including those listed below, about the relocation of the bus stop in Aptos Village (inbound route 71):

- 5% slope at stop with no resting platforms will cause problems with people who have mobility issues
- Final specifications from County were not given to METRO before it went out to bid
- Bus bay is narrow and could cause traffic issues
- Lost line of sight for cars
- Will lose bike lane because of bus stop bay
- Concerns over contaminated dirt hauled away from site

Marilyn Garrett, member of the public, echoed Ms. Steinbruner's concerns, distributed documents pertinent to her concerns and added comments regarding:

Second-hand radiation use of cell phone usage on buses

Hearing no further comments, Chair Dutra moved to the next agenda item.

6 LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

Having none, Chair Dutra moved to the next item.

7 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS None

8 CONSIDER ADOPTING A RESOLUTION WHICH AUTHORIZES THE CEO TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE AGREEMENTS TO RECEIVE FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION'S BUS AND BUS FACILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND TO COMMIT LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE FEDERAL GRANT

Tom Hiltner, Grants/Legislative Analyst, noted that METRO had secured funds for a 50% overmatch to the federal share of \$2.73 million to replace 9 buses at \$606k per bus. Staff requests approval to overmatch the grant amount to provide a competitive advantage to the grant application. The minimum required match is 15%, and the 50% overmatch is based upon successful grant applications in the 2014, 2015 and 2016 cycles. Staff recommends that the Board commit \$2.73 million for a total project of \$5.46 million to replace 9 of the oldest diesel buses (circa 1998) with 9 CNG buses.

Discussion among the board members and METRO staff continued with the Board suggesting METRO reach out to various legislators, local agencies and local cities to solicit their support for the grant funding effort.

Public comment:

Ms. Steinbruner and Ms. Garrett voiced their support to update the fleet and increase service at a minimal cost to METRO.

Director Rotkin reminded the assembly that the successful passing and anticipated revenues from Measure D allowed METRO to 'rescue routes'. The federal government recommends a 14 year life span/state of good repair for buses. Much of METRO's fleet is beyond this age. With new buses, any repairs would be covered by warranty for a certain length of time. This represents money spent on basic services.

John Bartholomew, METRO Bus Operator, noted that the 1998 buses break down often and voiced his support.

ACTION: MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION WHICH AUTHORIZES THE CEO TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE AGREEMENTS TO RECEIVE FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION'S BUS AND BUS FACILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND TO COMMIT LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE FEDERAL GRANT AS PRESENTED

MOTION: DIRECTOR BOTTORFF SECOND: DIRECTOR HAGEN MOTION PASSED WITH 8 AYES (Directors Bottorff, Dutra, Hagen, Lind, Mathews, Rios, Rothwell & Rotkin). Directors Chase, Leopold and McPherson were absent.

9 RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON A PROPOSAL TO IMPLEMENT AN ARTICULATED BUS PILOT PROJECT WITH UCSC

Barrow Emerson, Planning and Development Manager, provided background to the attached staff report, which proposes implementing an articulated bus pilot project for UCSC. He highlighted UCSC will fund the leasing of the buses, cost of training operators, and any special vehicle pay for operators. During, and as a result of, a recent 2-day demo in February 2017:

- 6 operators were trained on all 5 routes;
- Positive feedback by students was received;
- Proposal received to operate 3 buses in Winter/Spring school terms.

Public Comment:

Larry Pageler, UCSC representative, noted a larger bus (64 seats on an articulated bus) will help meet the demands of larger loads along the Western Drive corridor. UCSC plans to conduct student outreach over the next 8 months and hopes to begin the pilot program during the Winter/Spring quarters.

Alice Malmberg, UCSC student, provided her prospective and voiced support. She plans to work to encourage the success of a student fee ballot referendum; adding any reduction to bus service will lead to more students driving.

Director Mathews thanked Ms. Malmberg for her enthusiasm and supported the outreach efforts.

In response to Ms. Garrett's inquiry, Mr. Emerson noted that UCSC had provided additional resources which enabled METRO to create a new route (22) and, in conjunction with recent Board action, an additional two operators to service the UCSC area.

Director Bottorff thanked UCSC for their participation and support. He then inquired as to how METRO determined the number of buses required.

Mr. Emerson responded that the number was determined based on the route requirements. Three buses would allow us to more efficiently service routes 15, 16 and 20. He added, due

to the relative short 6-7 month term of the project, the (used diesel) buses will be leased and configured to METRO's specific requirements.

Mr. Eduardo Montesino, UTU representative, said he was not made aware of the demo in advance and tied this to a lack of communication. Other concerns regarded the possible longer load time, lack of differential pay language within the labor agreement and possible issues with Operator reallocation. He believes METRO's HASTUS (payroll) software may require updating to process any differential pay.

Mr. Bartholomew voiced his support for the pilot program. He asked if the buses would be parked at UCSC or METRO and who will maintain them. He also voiced his concern regarding premium pay.

Mr. Emerson responded the buses will be parked at Judy K. Souza Operational facility and maintained jointly between the leasing company and METRO staff. METRO does not anticipate incurring any additional capital costs during this lease period.

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE METRO STAFF PROCEEDING WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ARTICULATED BUS PILOT PROJECT WITH UCSC AS PRESENTED

MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR BOTTORFF MOTION PASSED WITH 8 AYES (Directors Bottorff, Dutra, Hagen, Lind, Mathews, Rios, Rothwell & Rotkin). Directors Chase, Leopold and McPherson were absent.

10 REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

General Counsel, Julie Sherman, announced the two items to discuss in Closed Session:

- Conference with Legal Counsel Existing Litigation
- Conference with Labor Negotiator

General Counsel Sherman did not anticipate an announcement after the Closed Session.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:30AM

MEETING RECONVENED TO GENERAL SESSION AT 11:53AM

General Counsel Sherman announced there was nothing to report from the Closed Session.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:55AM

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bauer Administrative Assistant