

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070**

MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: R. Foust (Chair), R. Gordon, C. Groom, J. Lee, K. Matsumoto, T. Nagel, J. Vreeland

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: J. Cassman, C. Goodrich, G. Harrington, C. Harvey, R. Haskin, J. Hurley, R. Lake, M. Lee, M. Martinez, N. McKenna, D. Miller, S. Murphy, M. Scanlon, M. Simon, B. Welch

Chair Rosanne Foust called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. TA Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair Pat Dixon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenses for January 2010
- b. Assignment of Contract for Providing Investment Management Services

A motion (Nagel/Lee) to approve the Consent Calendar was passed.

Approval of Minutes of February 4, 2010

Director Terry Nagel said, on page 3 of 8, "TA" in the last paragraph should read "CSS."

A motion (Nagel/Vreeland) to accept the minutes with this change was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Bigelow, Redwood City-San Mateo Chamber of Commerce, provided information on today's California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) Board meeting:

- Peter Calthorpe presented "Vision California", which is funded by the CHSRA and uses community planning techniques to meet AB 32 and SB 375.
- The revised draft program level Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) to comply with the court judgment in the Atherton, et. al., v. CHSRA should be available for public comment on March 11 for a 45-day comment period.
- On April 1, the CHSRA is releasing the alternatives analysis for the San Francisco to San Jose segment for a 45-day comment period.

Director John Lee expressed concern that 45 days is not sufficient time for public comments.

Mr. Bigelow said only the updated changes will be available for comment, not the entire document. He suggested the TA write a letter to request an extension of the comment period.

Chair Foust said a number of communities are requesting an extension.

Executive Director Michael Scanlon said staff would make it known throughout their association with the CHSRA that a 45-day comment period is not enough time to review the alternatives analysis.

Director Nagel asked for clarification on the extension. Mr. Scanlon said this request may come from the Peninsula Rail Program (PRP). The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) has a Memorandum of Understanding with the CHSRA and staff may just convey the message that 45 days is not enough time and ask what can be done.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Dixon said that at its March 2, 2010, meeting the CAC received information on the following:

- Contract for providing TA investment management services
- FY2010 amendment to the TA Operating Budget
- Transportation funding initiative and State and Federal legislative report
- Paratransit and the Senior Mobility Initiative
- Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report-2nd quarter FY2010
- Details on the March 3 Calera Parkway Project scoping meeting.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – ROSANNE FOUST

CAC recruitment begins on March 15. Five terms expire on May 31, 2010. Applications are due on April 12 at 5 p.m.

SAMTRANS LIAISON REPORT – KARYL MATSUMOTO

The regularly scheduled March 10 meeting has been moved to March 9 because some board members and staff will travel to Sacramento to thank legislators for their work and to encourage them to hold true and explain that the San Mateo County Transit District needs money.

JOINT POWERS BOARD REPORT

Executive Director Michael Scanlon reported on the meeting of March 4, 2010.

- Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) liaison Sue Lempert said \$70 million earmarked for the Oakland Airport Connector Project is being redistributed. Caltrain will receive between \$2.2 and \$2.5 million for rail bridge work.
- JPB CAC Chair John Hronowski said that at its February 17 meeting Deputy Director JPB Capital Program Delivery Liria Larano and Project Manager Rafael Bolon reported on the San Bruno Grade Separation Project.
- Reviewed monthly performance statistics – January 2010 compared to January 2009
 - a. Total Ridership was 920,103, a decrease of 6.2 percent.
 - b. Average Weekday Ridership was 35,584, a decrease of 5.2 percent.
 - c. Total Revenue was \$3,214,335, a decrease of 4.7 percent.
 - d. On-time Performance was 94.8 percent, a decrease of 2.4 percent.
 - e. Caltrain Shuttle Ridership was 6,551, a decrease of 14.7 percent.
- Year-to-date performance statistics – January 2010 compared to January 2009
 - f. Total Ridership was 6,995,558, a decrease of 9 percent.
 - g. Average Weekday Ridership was 37,704, a decrease of 8.8 percent.
 - h. Total Revenue was \$24,619,523, a decrease of 4.5 percent.
 - i. On-time Performance was 93.8 percent, a decrease of 0.8 percent.

- Staff is finalizing details on the Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- Executive Officer Planning and Development Marian Lee reported on the Caltrain Comprehensive Access Program; policy goals will be adopted at the May board meeting.
- A stolen abandoned car was hit on the right of way by the first train on February 25. Amtrak executives are fine tuning protocol because the accident affected both tracks for an extended time. Later the same day, there was a fatality on a southbound run.
- Met with the City of Palo Alto mayor, city manager and police chief to discuss safety improvements in Palo Alto including additional fencing and trimming of vegetation and trees.
- Thanked JPB Chair Sean Elsbernd and Directors Ken Yeager and Omar Ahmad for their willingness to serve on a subcommittee to oversee the competitive process to procure Caltrain operating services over the next 10 years.
- Chair Elsbernd spoke frankly about Caltrain's financial crisis and was assured the JPB is in good shape until the end of FY2010. Beyond that, the three JPB partners are experiencing serious financial difficulties, which are a reflection of elimination of State aid, reduced sales tax and depressed economic conditions. The future could be bright with electrification, modernization of High Speed Rail (HSR).
- The Giants season begins with an exhibition game on April 1 and the season opens on April 9.
- The January Safety and Security Report provides information on the work of engineering staff and Amtrak crews in dealing with weather-related incidents during the winter rain storms.
- Peninsula Rail Program Director Bob Doty presented details on the Context Sensitive Solutions Toolkit, which is a mechanism for communities and stakeholder groups to organize and provide input to the project team.
- The Board:
 - a. Authorized assignment of contract with Tamalpais Wealth Advisors to CSI Capital Management, Inc. to provide investment management services.
 - b. Accepted the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for January 2010.
 - c. Authorized entering into Memoranda of Understanding with the cities of San Francisco and San Bruno to receive Section 190 Grade Separation Funding up to \$15 million combined.
 - d. Authorized approval of a contract change order with Granite Construction Company for procurement of railroad signal houses for the San Bruno Grade Separation Project for a not-to-exceed amount of \$2 million.
 - e. Assessed the FY2010 Fuel Hedge Program and authorized adoption of a fuel hedging policy.
 - f. Authorized support of the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act of 2010 for California's November 2010 statewide ballot.
 - g. Received the Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report – 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2010.
 - h. Received a report from Legal Counsel that property acquisitions for the San Bruno Grade Separation Project are proceeding.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Scanlon thanked Chair Foust and members of the TA Board for participating in a meeting with Curt Pringle of the CHSRA. Mr. Scanlon commented on how much Mr. Pringle appreciated hearing about genuine issues and concerns.

Chair Foust said she was pleased to see the summary Mr. Bigelow distributed on the March 4 CHSRA board meeting. She sent an email requesting an upcoming board meeting be held in this area.

FINANCE

Authorize Amendment of Fiscal Year 2010 Operating Budget for a New Total of \$25,149,603

Manager of Budgets Ladi Bhuller said staff proposes the Board authorize an amendment to the Operating Budget to account for the decreasing sales tax projections along with decreasing interest income. FY2010 sales tax projections were \$64.7 million. Year-to-date, ending January, sales tax revenues are under budget by \$2.6 million. Based on current trends, staff is proposing to revise the annual sales tax projection to \$60 million. Sales tax revisions have necessitated adjusting the corresponding expenditures. Staff is also proposing to revise interest income. The majority of TA investments are with the County Pool, which has been projected to have a return of 1.75 percent. However, year-to-date the investments are averaging only 0.95 percent. The TA investment with TWA, which makes up about 26 percent of the entire portfolio, is on budget at approximately 2 percent to-date.

Director Matsumoto thought staff was withdrawing as much money as legally possible from the County Pool after the Lehman Brothers losses. Ms. Bhuller said the Board authorized withdrawing \$100 million a year and a half ago, which was moved in quarterly increments. In fall 2009, the Board approved movement of an additional \$50 million and staff has moved about one-half of this amount. When that \$50 million is moved, and staff can find appropriate places to move additional funds, they will come to the Board for additional authorization.

Director Matsumoto said a February 24 article in the *Wall Street Journal* said Lehman Brothers losses in the San Mateo County Pool took the biggest hit with losses to transit of \$25 million and the value is now 20-cents on the dollar.

Mr. Scanlon said the county is working hard on this in Washington D.C., through the Board of Supervisors and Deputy County Manager Mary McMillan. Senator Dianne Feinstein is expected in the Bay Area soon to address this issue.

A motion (Lee/Nagel) to recommend the budget amendment was approved.

Director Rich Gordon left at 5:40 p.m.

PROGRAM

Verbal Update on State and Federal Legislative Program

Government Affairs Manager Seamus Murphy reported:

State

- The Legislature approved some significant changes to the transportation finance system with their approval of the alternative to the governor's proposed gas tax swap. The proposal still eliminates sales tax on gasoline and replaces it with a 17.9-cent increase in the State gasoline excise tax. However, the Legislature retains the sales tax on diesel fuel at an increased rate of 6.75 percent and reserves 75 percent of these revenues for a State Transit Assistance (STA) program beginning in 2012. This will result in a minimum \$350 million

STA program that is expected to grow to over \$500 million by 2020. Caltrain and SamTrans will each receive \$4.5 million. In addition, the Legislature will appropriate \$400 million to cover STA through the next fiscal year. Caltrain and SamTrans' share of this will be over \$5 million each. When it became clear the Legislature was moving forward with the swap, staff directed our legislative advocates to negotiate some baseline funding for transit, which staff believed was the best possible outcome.

- The other transit funding component, the 6-cent per gallon fee imposed at a regional level, was removed from legislation approved today.
- Other transportation impacts on local streets and roads essentially trade future increases in funding for a current year and future year deferrals of Highway Users Tax Account funds (HUTA) as follows:
 - a. New gasoline excise tax increases State commitment to highways and local streets and roads by \$400 million in 2011-2012 and \$3 billion over 10 years with 44 percent going to HUTA.
 - b. 2010-2011 deferrals - \$50 million per month will be deferred on a pro rata basis from cities and counties for the HUTA program. Deferred payments for San Mateo County would equal \$4.7 million. Cities and Counties can borrow against their Proposition 1B allocation to compensate for deferred funds.

Authorize Support of the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act of 2010 for California's November 2010 Statewide Ballot

Mr. Murphy said the measure was drafted in response to a long history of State cuts and diversion of local government funding and it would protect the use of various revenues for very specific local services, including transportation and transit. The transit-specific protections deal primarily with the STA program and transportation sales taxes collected at the local level. In addition, it would protect against the diversion of the quarter-cent sales tax provided through the Transportation Development Act (TDA) along with local sales taxes enacted by Self-Help counties. The measure would make diversions of property tax and redevelopment funds from local cities and counties illegal.

Chair Foust said she would abstain from voting because she is on the Redwood City Council and the initiative has not come to the council and it has not yet qualified for the November ballot.

Director Nagel said if there is support by the Board, they could send a letter to cities asking that they consider adopting the same resolution.

Director Jim Vreeland asked if this was time-sensitive. Mr. Murphy said signatures need to be submitted to the State by mid-April to qualify for the November 2010 ballot.

Mr. Scanlon said this may be deferred to next month to see how signature gathering is progressing. He said support from transit agencies and cities will make it easier to get the required 700,000 signatures.

Director Nagel said it would be good to adopt the resolution today to help signature gathering. Cities can be informed that local campaigning is being done under the slogan, "Save our Services."

A motion (Nagel/Lee) to support the initiative was approved. (Foust abstained.)

Program Report: Paratransit Program and the Senior Mobility Initiative and Action Plan

Manager Accessible Transit Services Bill Welch provided the following details:

- SamTrans' ADA Paratransit services include Redi-Wheels and Redi-Coast, which are required by law and partially funded by original and new Measure A funding.
- Redi-Wheels started in 1977.
- The mission of paratransit is to comply with ADA regulations; provide safe, efficient and high-quality service; serve all trip requests and provide regional connections.
- Features of paratransit service:
 - a. Service area and hours mirror fixed routes
 - b. Ride reservations 1-7 days in advance on a shared-ride system
 - c. On time: 0-20 minutes after scheduled pickup time
 - d. Personal care attendants ride free
 - e. In-person interviews determine eligibility
 - f. Oversight is by the San Mateo County Paratransit Coordinating Council
- The new Measure A was approved by voters in 2004 for a one-half cent sales tax for 25 years, commencing January 1, 2009. Estimated funding in 2004 dollars is \$2.4 million per year and \$60 million over a 25-year period.
- Paratransit expenses for 332,000 trips in FY2009 were \$13,614,000 with a subsidized average cost of \$41 for a one-way trip. A standard customer fare is \$3 for a one-way trip and \$1.50 for a Lifeline fare (fares increase on July 1, 2010)
- Paratransit funding sources of \$14,081,912 include passenger fares, local TDA and STA funds, operating grants, sales tax and Measure A.
- The program has a high growth potential due to aging populations in San Mateo County; and the new Measure A supports more of the operating costs.

Manager of Strategic Planning Corinne Goodrich provided details on the Senior Mobility and New Freedom Initiatives.

- The population of 65 years-plus seniors is dispersed throughout the county with concentrations along the El Camino Real corridor.
- Specific needs for transportation will be affected because the senior population will double in the county in the next 20 years to 160,000, and more seniors will live in places difficult to serve with public transportation. Seniors will not be accustomed to using public transportation and existing transportation services will not be able to meet all the needs of seniors.
- If action is not taken, there will be a strain on families of seniors who have limited mobility, isolation of seniors, rising numbers of traffic injuries and deaths and a strain on public, private and non-profit services.
- The Senior Mobility Action Plan is a joint effort to keep older people safe and connected to their communities as problems related to aging make it harder for them to get around.
- Senior Mobility Action Plan strategies include: community transit services, community-based transportation, encouraging use of transit, safe driving and driving retirement, taxicabs, information and assistance and walking and pedestrian safety.
- New Freedom Initiatives are funded through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and include pilot programs for mobility ambassadors, vehicle sharing, telephone information and assistance and volunteer drivers.

- A Senior Mobility Guide provides information in English, Chinese and Spanish about a wide range of programs and services.
- The Mobility Ambassador Program is staffed by volunteers at six host senior centers with a Senior Mobility Coordinator and program monitoring.
- The Vehicle Sharing Pilot Program will promote vehicle sharing partnerships, better serve transportation needs of clients, and realize cost savings or revenue generation with an approach of facilitation.

Director Vreeland requested this presentation be given to the City of Pacifica because there are a number of senior housing complexes, and transportation on the coastside is a challenge.

Chair Foust requested a presentation at the Senior Center in Redwood City. Ms. Goodrich responded there was already an ambassador there.

Director Nagel requested a copy of the map showing population areas by age. Ms. Goodrich said she will make it available to her.

Director Nagel asked if it would be possible to start a volunteer driver program. Ms. Goodrich said funding is available to work with the Family Service Agency. This agency operates a program called TRIP for low income seniors in the Fair Oaks section of Redwood City and Daly City. Staff is looking for entities to champion volunteer driver programs.

Director Nagel said there is a program in Maine that purchases cars from people who receive credits toward rides by volunteer drivers. Cars that are purchased are used by volunteer drivers or sold for revenue.

Director Nagel asked why staff conducts in-person interviews before booking individuals for paratransit trips. Mr. Welch said individuals must be evaluated for their ability to use fixed-route service.

Director Nagel asked if a person with Alzheimer's could ride with or without a personal assistant. Mr. Welch said they would be eligible but they would probably want to have a personal care assistant and Redi-Wheels has a provision to not leave someone alone or for a driver to leave a vehicle unless it is in sight.

Director Matsumoto asked if residents of assisted living facilities with shuttle service are eligible for Redi-Wheels service. Mr. Welch replied yes.

Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report – 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2010

Director of TA Program Joe Hurley extended an invitation to discuss any issues. He thanked Manager Project Controls Kelvin Yu for preparation of the report.

REQUESTS FROM THE AUTHORITY

Director Vreeland thanked Mr. Hurley for his role in the March 3 scoping meeting in Pacifica on the environmental document for the Calera Parkway Project. He said projects on the coastside have challenges with wetlands, sensitive habitats and populations. The project is a partnership with the TA, City of Pacifica, Caltrans and the community. Director Vreeland

asked staff to make sure there is much more community involvement in the process, discussion on past alternatives, what will be in the environmental document and to provide documents to the public in a timely manner.

Deputy CEO Chuck Harvey thanked Director Vreeland for his comments, perspective and participation in the scoping meeting. He said this project probably involves the highest number of technical studies for any project, and has been in the works for nearly 20 years. Staff will be working closely with the City of Pacifica and Caltrans to determine information about the early alternatives and format a way to present those in a meaningful and understandable way. Staff will provide a methodology to allow additional public participation.

Director Vreeland expressed concerns about the March 19 deadline for comments and the need for flexibility to make sure concerns are truly vetted. Mr. Harvey said staff recognizes the need to consider the timeline and make an adjustment.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE AUTHORITY

Correspondence to Senator Dianne Feinstein requesting support and advocacy for FY2010 appropriation of \$1 million for the San Bruno Grade Separation Project.

LEGAL COUNSEL

No report

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 1, 2010, at 5 p.m. at the San Mateo County Transit District Administrative Building, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA 94070.

Adjournment 6:29 p.m.