

# SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

November 12, 2004

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, November 12, 2004 at the District's Administrative Office, 370 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Vice Chair Keogh called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

## SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

### 1. ROLL CALL:

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT

Michelle Hinkle  
Mike Keogh  
Mike Rotkin  
Pat Spence  
Mark Stone  
Marcela Tavantzis  
Ex-Officio Wes Scott (arrived after roll call)

#### DIRECTORS ABSENT

Sheryl Ainsworth  
Jan Beautz  
Dennis Norton  
Emily Reilly  
Dale Skillicorn

#### STAFF PRESENT

Bryant Baehr, Operations Manager  
Frank Cheng, MetroBase Project Manager  
Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager  
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel  
Steve Paulson, ParaCruz Administrator

Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager  
Robyn Slater, Human Resources Manager  
Judy Souza, Base Superintendent  
Tom Stickel, Fleet Maintenance Manager  
Les White, General Manager

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

Ron Dean, UTU  
Pat Dellin, SCCRTC  
Jeff Le Blanc, MAC/MASTF  
Bonnie Morr, UTU

Will Regan, VMU  
Bob Yount, MAC/MASTF  
Arturo Zamudio, UTU

Vice Chair Keogh determined that there would be a quorum for Closed Session to begin at 10:30 a.m.

### 2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

#### Written:

- |    |                       |     |                         |
|----|-----------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| a. | Mariann Soulek        | Re: | Recent Bus Service Cuts |
| b. | Sue Wilson            | Re: | Recent Bus Service Cuts |
| c. | Caroline Bliss-Isberg | Re: | Stroke Center           |

### **DIRECTOR SCOTT ARRIVED AT THIS TIME**

Director Keogh commented that the letter for the Stroke Center was well deserved. Director Spence asked about the Route 65 and Bryant Baehr said the ridership wasn't there. Mr. Baehr also said the current *Headways* goes through to June 1, 2005 with no changes planned prior to that date.

Les White added that in the meantime, the Board would have a policy discussion to determine the level to keep lifeline service.

#### Oral:

A member of the public spoke in favor of having better connections between the Highway 17 Express and the last Route 10.

### **3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS**

Bonnie Morr requested more information on UTU employees' eligibility to roll over their CalPERS 457 Deferred Comp funds to purchase airtime. Ms. Morr wants to know officially why the whole state can do it but METRO employees can't. Ms. Morr was directed to request this in writing to Les White.

Les White reported that HR and Legal Counsel are currently working on this, which is not permitted by the County or the City of Santa Cruz, and that the IRS determines whether a deferred comp program is tax deferred or not.

Director Keogh added that if this is to be permitted, it could require a signed caveat saying that participating may cause a loss of tax deferral, and it must not jeopardize the whole plan.

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

None.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **5-1. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8 AND OCTOBER 22, 2004**

Director Spence made the following 2 corrections: on page #5-1.17, Pat Star's name should be **Path Star**, and on page #5-23, where it says "Director Spence suggested including in the motion.." should read "**Director Spence asked if the motion could include..**".<sup>1</sup>

### **5-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS**

No questions or comments.

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<sup>1</sup> These 2 pages were corrected and redistributed to the Board for approval at their November 19, 2004 meeting.

**5-3. ACCEPT AND FILE SEPTEMBER 2004 RIDERSHIP REPORT**

Page 1 of the Ridership Report will be included in the November 19, 2004 Board Packet.

**5-4. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS:**

None.

**5-5. ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2004 AND MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2004**

No questions or comments.

**5-6. ACCEPT AND FILE AGENDA FOR THE MASTF COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 2004 AND THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2004 MEETING**

Will be included in the November 19, 2004 Board Packet.

**5-7. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2004 AND CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET TRANSFERS**

Elisabeth Ross clarified for Director Spence that ParaCruz expenses would be listed under Department 3100 in next month's report. Director Rotkin added that the sales tax revenue for the City was up.

**5-8. ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ STATUS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2004**

Bryant Baehr clarified that this report would continue through the end of October 2004, then close out.

**5-9. ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR JULY 2004**

Will be included in the November 19, 2004 Board Packet.

**5-10. ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE UPDATE**

No questions or comments.

**5-11. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT**

Will be included in the November 19, 2004 Board Packet.

**5-12. ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES REFLECTING VOTING RESULTS FROM APPOINTEES TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING.**

No questions or comments.

5-13. **INTRODUCTION OF EMPLOYEE WITH 30-YEAR EMPLOYMENT ANNIVERSARY WHO WAS ABSENT FROM THE OCTOBER 22, 2004 BOARD MEETING**

Les White introduced Sylvia Rogers, Payroll and Benefits Coordinator.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

6. **PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS**

This presentation will take place at the November 19, 2004 Board Meeting.

7. **CONSIDERATION OF RECEIPT OF REPORT REGARDING THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION'S PARATRANSIT COORDINATION TASK FORCE (PCTF) AND DRAFT MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2004**

Director Spence had no report but asked about Title 24 on page #7.5, which is the zoning and state review process of public facilities and that paratransit vans are considered public facilities. Pat Dellin said she would look into this.

8. **CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE**

Tom Stickel reported that proposals are still being reviewed and that next week Staff would most likely request that this item be deferred to the December meeting. Bonnie Morr stated that UTU should be involved in the process because it concerns a contractual benefit.

9. **CONSIDERATION OF PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT**

Bryant Baehr gave a PowerPoint presentation and reported on the first week of in-house ParaCruz operations. Mr. Baehr said the first few days were a bit hectic as expected, but towards the end of the week things smoothed out. A written report will be provided for the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Les White recognized the positive tone set by Bryant and congratulated him along with Steve, Wally, April, Bonnie and UTU, on a very difficult transition going smoothly.

Bonnie Morr added that the drivers that had transitioned over from Community Bridges were more dedicated, committed and doing a better job working for the District.

10. **CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2004**

Elisabeth Ross reported that this was the District's annual Financial Statements and report of the auditors' findings and that there had been no issues and everything was fine.

**11. CONSIDERATION OF STATUS OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND THE IMPACT ON MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS AT METRO**

**Summary:**

Les White reported that the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA21), which provides funding authorization for public transit, will expire on May 31, 2005. The House and the Senate each passed Reauthorization Bills that would have provided five to six year extensions, but each with different funding levels and program modifications.

When the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress reconvenes in 2005, it is critical that new Bills are introduced in both Houses in order to begin a Transportation Authorization process that will result in the passage of a new multi-year Bill prior to the May expiration. The absence of enactment of a multi-year Federal Reauthorization Bill has placed approximately \$13.5 million in federal funds earmarked for MetroBase in jeopardy.

**12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO POSTHUMOUSLY REDEDICATE THE SCOTTS VALLEY PARK AND RIDE CENTER AS THE BART CAVALLARO TRANSIT CENTER IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT**

**Summary:**

Les White reported that this rededication is being proposed because in addition to being very instrumental in getting the Scotts Valley Transit Center built, Bart Cavallaro served on the Board of Directors for 19 years. Mr. White said criteria for naming a Transit Center or District component after a person included length of time on the Board, the person being instrumental in the existence of the facility, and it must be a posthumous recognition.

**Discussion:**

Director Rotkin announced that he would not be at next week's meeting, but supports this Resolution and believes it is well deserved, also that it should not be moved to consent so public comments can be heard at the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, including his own which Director Scott will read.

Jeff Le Blanc stated he also supports the Resolution with 100% enthusiasm. Director Keogh stated that he does not support naming a public facility after a person, unless they provided the funding for the facility. Director Tavantzis said she normally would not support this either but agreed that this time is an exception. Les White answered Will Regan's question by reporting that if the Board approved this Resolution, there would be a February or March rededication ceremony with a plaque. Jeff Le Blanc added that Bart Cavallaro was acting as a public servant and is due the credit and honor.

Director Rotkin proposed and then rescinded a motion to approve this Resolution today so nobody is forced to make comments on television.

13. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION FOR THE SERVICES OF LINDA WILSHUSEN AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

Director Tavantzis pointed out that the word “Director” was missing in the 4<sup>th</sup> “Whereas”. Director Spence pointed out a comma was missing after the word “Commission” on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page and it was noted that “of the” was repeated in that same sentence.<sup>2</sup>

14. **CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ FOR SHUTTLE SERVICE FOR 2005 EVENTS**

Mark Dorfman reported that the City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department has requested shuttle service for various events planned for 2005. Staff is requesting that the Board authorize Staff to work with the City on the request as long as the provision of they comply fully with the existing Board policy which is that they must pay for the service themselves. Staff will also let the City know that they would need to work out the details with the County regarding use the County parking lot.

**ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR TAVANTZIS**

**Move Items #10 and #14 to the Consent Agenda for the November 19, 2004 Board Meeting.**

**Motion passed unanimously with Directors Ainsworth, Beautz, Norton, Reilly, and Skillicorn being absent.**

15. **ANNOUNCEMENT: NOTIFICATION OF MEETING LOCATION FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2004 – WATSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 250 MAIN STREET, WATSONVILLE**

No questions or comments.

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

Margaret Gallagher reported that the Board would discuss with their Legal Counsel the case of Ward Howard; and with the Property Negotiator the properties at 25 Sakata Lane and 120 Golf Club Drive; and two cases of anticipated litigation.

17. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION**

None.

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<sup>2</sup> These corrections were made and the REVISED Resolution was redistributed to the Board for their approval at the November 19, 2004 meeting

**SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION**

Vice Chair Keogh adjourned to Closed Session at 10:10 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 11:16 a.m.

**SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

**18. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Les White reported that the Board set a minimum bid of \$4 million for the property at 25 Sakata Lane and authorized Staff to proceed to prepare the documents necessary to solicit bids for the sale of the property.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Vice Chair Keogh adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS  
Administrative Services Coordinator