



Draft Minutes
PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
A Public Agency
Tuesday, May 12, 2009
5:30 PM
Santa Barbara MTD Auditorium
550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Davis, Chair; Dick Weinberg, Vice Chair; Sharon Anderson, Secretary; Roger Aceves, Director; Chuck McQuary, Director, Brian Fahnestock, Director

MEMBER NOT PRESENT:

John Britton; Director

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Sherrie Fisher, General Manager, Jerry Estrada, Assistant GM/Controller; Imelda Martin, Executive Assistant to the Board and General Manager; Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning & Compliance, Gabriel Garcia, HR & Risk Manager, Kate Schwab, Communications Specialist David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development and Community Relations, Bill Morris, Operations Manager, Paul Tumbleson, Sr. Scheduler; Dave Morse, Superintendent of Operations

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Maria Naranjo; Grecia Lima, Community Organizer with PUEBLO Education; Zoila Aguilar, Board member of PUEBLO Education Fund; Robert Burke; Penny Little; Arnaldo Aguilar; Lee Moldaver; David Pritchett, SBCAN, STUC and Candidate to City Council; David Gore; Melody Jorgenson; Leslie Mancebo; Charles Thompson; Amy Ramos; Grant House, Councilmember for the City of Santa Barbara

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Davis asked that all Board Members introduce themselves for the television audience.

3. REPORT REGARDING POSTING OF AGENDA

Imelda Martin, Executive Assistant to the Board and General Manager, reported that on Friday, May 1, 2009, the agenda for the meeting was posted at MTD's Administrative headquarters, on MTD's website, mailed to all who have requested the agenda and sent to the media of general circulation.

AT THIS TIME CHAIR DAVIS ASKED FOR A MOTION TO MOVE THE CLOSED SESSION ITEM #11 TO THE END OF THE MEETING, FOLLOWING ITEM # 13

Director Weinberg motioned to move Item #11 to the end of the meeting following Item #13. Director Aceves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. & 5. Director Aceves moved to approve the consent calendar for items #4 (Approval of minutes of minutes of April 7, 2009) and item # 5 (Cash Report from March 31, 2009 through April 13, 2009 and April 14, 2009 through April 27, 2009). Director Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CONSENT CALENDAR

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Burke commented on passenger cell phone usage on the bus. Mr. Burke suggested that cell phone usage be banned from use on MTD buses; he feels that they are a nuisance.

Mr. Burke also feels that passengers should be able to board after the bus begins to move away from the curb. Mr. Burke stated that riders are being denied service as a result.

7. UPDATE- CITY OF SANTA BARBARA (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)

Councilmember Helene Schneider thanked MTD for the continual assistance throughout the Jesusita Fire. Ms. Schneider reported that the City of Santa Barbara has setup a website for the community to view the Incident Command Process. The budget hearing for the City of Santa Barbara is scheduled for May 26th with subsequent meetings the following week. Transportation Planner Rob Dayton with the City of Santa Barbara is working with MTD Staff to coordinate a presentation of the Transportation module.

8. TRANSPORTATION FOR AMERICA (NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN)

Michael Chiacos, Energy Program Senior Associate, Transportation Specialist with the Community Environmental Council (CEC) in Santa Barbara presented an informative presentation following a brief introduction of the CEC. Mr. Chiacos stated that the CEC has looked at different technologies and strategies for reducing fossil fuel use in the transportation sector and put together the Transportation Energy plan now being implemented. Mr. Chiacos also stated that the CEC is also working with SBCAG and supported Measure A. The CEC also tracks funding opportunities at the State and Federal levels. The CEC will be working with Transportation America on the federal transportation Re-Authorization Bill.

At this time General Manager Fisher introduced Kate Schwab, Communications Specialist.

9. PROPOSED SERVICE PLAN FOR FY 2010 (ATTACHMENT-ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. Damiano, Manager of Transit Development and Community Relations, provided the Board with a presentation on the proposed Service Plan for FY 2010. Following Mr. Damiano's presentation he stated that this meeting was held to seek the public's input. The Development Department's outreach to the community included meetings with Line 8 passengers, Turnpike area merchants, 5 open houses at MTD which included Saturday and evening meetings, meetings with Supervisor Carbajal and Wolf, IVPAC, UCSB Associated Students, Goleta City Council and County of Santa Barbara Staff. A dedicated email address and voicemail was established as well for passenger comments. Following a question from Director McQuary, Mr. Damiano stated that the schedule in the University Drive neighborhoods has been coordinated in conjunction with resident's work schedules. Following a brief Board discussion Chair Davis opened the public comment period.

Maria Naranjo commented in support of the Line 8 return. She stated that there isn't a clear response to the public on Line 8. She asked for the Line 8's return as soon as possible. Additionally, she stated that patients of a Spanish speaking clinic on West Arrellaga Street need service from the Line 22.

Grecia Lima, Community Organizer with PUEBLO Education Fund stated that she has been speaking to passengers on the Line 8 independently surveying them on the service cuts. Requests included

earlier starts at Encina Street, signage changes on the buses, support of the Calle Real Shuttle, requests for the Isla Vista Shuttle to enter the business district. Ms. Lima thanked the Board for its commitment to serving the community.

Zoila Aguilar, Board member of PUEBLO Education Fund. Ms. Aguilar commented on the support of the Line 8. She stated that this service is needed for students to get to school, passengers to get to work and medical appointments. This request is also in support for mobility passengers where it is difficult for them to transfer consistently from bus to bus.

Robert Burke commented on his survey of MTD drivers in regard to the Line 8 and his independent survey of the business community affected by the Line 8 changes. Mr. Burke feels that MTD is not responsible for providing service to international students from SBCC.

Penny Little commented on the Line 8 service change. She stated that her household is losing income from renters due to lack of service. Ms. Little stated that there should be additional service during rush hour. Ms. Little stated that if MTD wants to be a public transportation that works and increases ridership, service must be provided so that people get the idea that they can depend on the bus.

Arnaldo Aguilar commented on the problems that he has encountered with drivers stopping far from the curb. It seems to bother the drivers when he asked for the buses to be lowered. At this time Chair Davis requested that HR & Risk Manager, Gabriel Garcia and Operations Manager Bill Morris accompany Mr. Aguilar and take his complaint.

Lee Moldaver commented on the service changes. Mr. Moldaver commented on the difficulty in providing service when there is a lack of funding available. He also commented that MTD is required by law to take the money that is reliably available and allocate it to serve the largest number of people. Mr. Moldaver also commented on the Line 9, Calle Real Old Town Shuttle. He stated that this line provided service to multiple key locations that are no longer served such as the Goleta Public Library, Fairview Gardens and the Goleta Valley Junior High. Mr. Moldaver also suggested that the MTD Board and staff brainstorm with UCSB Geography Dept. and staff at the Bren School.

David Pritchett, SBCAN, STUC and Candidate to City Council praised MTD for holding public meetings and outreach to passengers. Mr. Pritchett suggested a designation of a separate line for the Line 8 in conjunction with more outreach to passengers such as signs on the bus and drivers calling out connections with other lines. Mr. Pritchett suggested that MTD staff should look throughout the entire budget to find funding to restore the line 8. Finally, Mr. Pritchett suggested an earlier start in the year for the service changes.

David Gore stated that he is speaking on behalf of passengers that were unable to attend. He commented in particular on the evening commute from the Transit Center to Calle Real. Mr. Gore stated that the proposed service changes would eliminate evening service to passengers in the Calle Real area.

Melody Jorgenson commented in support of the Line 27.

At this time Chair Davis closed the public comment period.

General Manager Fisher read public comments from passengers via email and voice messages. General Manager Fisher stated that although there was a partial replacement to the line 8 in order to reinstate the Line 8 to its previous schedule; the District would have to find approximately \$200,000.

This current proposal shows a savings of over 800 hrs, which translates to \$80,000 by a reallocation of service on the Line 15.

Chair Davis expressed his support of the Line 8. He stated that this proposal should be brought to a subcommittee to bring back a comprehensive analysis to the full Board.

Director Aceves echoed Chair Davis' comments on requesting a comprehensive analysis.

General Manager Fisher requested that once the subcommittee meets with MTD Staff the recommendation come back to the full Board on May 26th.

Director Anderson moved to refer the service proposal to the Development/ Planning Committee. Director McQuary suggested using buses in the afternoon for peak hour service that earlier served student passengers during school hours.

Director Aceves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Weinberg stated that he appreciates staff commitment to serving the public in particular with efforts made on the Line 8.

10. LINE # 15 SERVICE (ATTACHMENT- ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)

General Manager Fisher recommended the approval of changes to the Line 15 during summer service beginning summer of 2009.

Chair Davis opened the public comment portion on this item.

Leslie Mancebo expressed her support of the expansion of service to the 15X and would like to see service continued through out the summer.

Charles Thompson commented on the Line 15X and stated that this service is used by more than SBCC Students on a year round basis. UCSB students, staff and faculty would like at least limited service during August – September and December – January.

Amy Ramos advocated for enhanced summer service on the Line 24X.

Director Aceves moved to approve staff's recommendation for authorization of service for the Line #15 effective June 15, 2009.

Director Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AT THIS TIME CHAIR DAVIS REQUESTED TO MOVE TO ITEM #12 FOLLOWED BY LINE

12. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Under the General Manager's report Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning and Compliance, updated the Board on the Valley Express. Mr. Maas reported that there are 21 passengers per trip with a farebox ratio of 73% based on fiscal year-to-date figures.

General Manager Fisher informed the Board of a Summerland Bus Shelter. This shelter is located at a project site for a new Post Office and bakery. The owners of the property have agreed to provide the funding shelter.

General Manager Fisher stated that a few Board Members and Staff attended the Carpinteria State of the City meeting. Ms. Fisher reminded the Board and the public that Staff and Director McQuary will be making a presentation to the Carpinteria City Council on May 26th at 5:30 p.m.

General Manager Fisher reported that MTD and UCSB staffs have continued discussion regarding the University of California Long Range Development Plan.

General Manager Fisher thanked a list of employees that voluntarily stayed on site after hours during the Jesusita Fire.

13. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Director Weinberg reported that he attended the SBCAG Sub-regional Planning Committee meeting. Director Weinberg stated that they are putting together plans to upgrade the strategic plan from what was planned for Measure D into Measure A. This includes creating an Oversight committee and funding allocations so that when Measure D expires in 2010 Measure A can take over. Director Weinberg thanked the community for voting for Measure A.

Director McQuary suggested staff to look at the possibility of having drivers at bus stops available to provide route information to passengers.

Director Davis expressed his desire to attend the upcoming Goleta State of the City Luncheon on June 5, 2009.

11. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION- 1020 CHAPALA STREET (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)

The Board will meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, conference with real property negotiator regarding MTD's 1020 Chapala Street Property, concerning price and terms of payment for the purchase, sale, exchange, or lease of that property; agency negotiator Jerry Estrada; other negotiation parties Redevelopment Agency of the City of Santa Barbara.

Upon returning from closed session, Chair Davis reported that no action was taken.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Director Aceves moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the MTD Administrative Office at 963-3364 at least **48 hours in advance** of the meeting to allow time for MTD to attempt a reasonable accommodation