



Citizens Advisory Committee

AGENDA

November 29, 2004 – 4:00 p.m.

Sonoma County Transportation Authority
520 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 240A, Santa Rosa, California

Directors

Paul Kelley, Chair
Sonoma County

Robert Jehn, V. Chair
Cloverdale

Steve Allen
Windsor

Bob Blanchard
Santa Rosa

Joe Costello
Sonoma

Patricia Gilardi
Cotati

Mike Healy
Petaluma

Linda Kelley
Sebastopol

Mike Kerns
Sonoma County

Lisa Schaffner
Healdsburg

Tim Smith
Sonoma County

Vicki Vidak-Martinez
Rohnert Park

ITEM

- I.** Introductions
- II.** Consent Items - **DISCUSSION/ACTION**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from October 25, 2004
 - B. Approval of Agenda
- III.** Announcements/Reports – **DISCUSSION/ACTION**
- IV.** SCTA Sales Tax Measure Update – **DISCUSSION/ACTION**
 - A. Measure M
 - B. Other sales tax measures
 - C. Strategic Planning Process
 - D. Role of Oversight Committee
- V.** Announcements / Other Business - **DISCUSSION**
- VI.** Adjournment - **ACTION**

The next **S C T A** meeting will be held **January 10, 2005**
The next **C A C** meeting will be held **January 31, 2005**

SCTA Staff

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SONOMA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES Monday, October 25, 2004

ATTENDEES

Bob Anderson, United Winegrowers	John McHugh, Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce
Dennis Battenberg, PCC	Willard Richards, League of Women Voters
Steve Birdlebough, Friends of SMART	Don Sanders, Sierra Club
Linda Branscomb, 2 nd District	Janet Spilman, SCTA
George Ellman, Transportation & Land Use Coalition	George Steffensen, Operating Engineers #3
Dennis Harter, Sonoma County Alliance	Suzanne Wilford, SCTA
Elijah Henley, SCTA	

ITEM

- I. Introductions

- II. Consent Items - **DISCUSSION/ACTION**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from August 30, 2004
 - B. Approval of Agenda

The minutes and approval of agenda were passed unanimously.

- III. Announcements/Reports – **DISCUSSION/ACTION**
 - A. TPLUS Meeting report

Ms. Spilman announced that the first meeting of the Transportation Land Use Strategy (TPLUS) took place on September 29, 2004. The meeting was opened to planning commissioners and local advocates. The purpose of the meeting was to develop policies, and best practices manual on to how to implement local funding TLC/HIP programs.

A second meeting is scheduled to take place tomorrow, October 26, 2004, at the Petaluma Community Center.

- B. Regional Bike Program – Call for Projects

Ms. Spilman reported that we would be getting about \$400,000 a year in federal aid CMAQ money starting in FY06/07 and FY07/08 to spend on bike or pedestrian projects. The call for projects in the regional program will close on January 21, 2005.

- C. Caltrans funding issues

Ms. Wilford reported that funding is still bleak. At the last SCTA meeting staff brought up to the Board that we might be looking at GARVEE Bonds for 12 to

Steele. The purpose of GARVEE Bonds is to advance large projects when you can't accumulate enough money at one time to actually deliver. The State is now looking at using GARVEE Bonds as the only way of getting cash flow for projects in the State. The CTC compiled a list of approximately 19 projects statewide that would be viable candidates for GARVEE Bonds. They broke those up into three categories and 12 to Steele is in the Top-5, the fifth ranked project in the State. If they are able to move forward on the GARVEE Bonds and the SCTA doesn't disagree with that in principle then they should be able to use that to deliver 12 to Steele.

There are some implications with that. As soon as Bonds get issued it guarantees that the project can go to construction. That would likely happen next year. We do have a \$10 Million shortfall in the project due to the cost of concrete and steel and we would be able to do the complete project and not have to defer any of it if we use GARVEE Bonds. The down side is that you have to pay interest on the Bonds. We are looking at approximately \$50 Million total construction costs. That would be an estimated annual debt service of \$6 Million for 12-years. This would be the impact to our County share of the STIP money. They are not sure of the terms of the Bond and won't know until January or February.

The question the Board raised is what does that do to our ability to use GARVEE Bonds on the other two projects in the future. Looking at assumptions it is possible that we may be able to do Bonds for the other two projects. If Measure M passes then we not have to Bond.

The issue for the SCTA is that the CTC has considered it in the top five projects of the State that they would move forward with this. The staff recommendation to the SCTA will be that we should do this, as there is no guarantee that this project will get moving if we don't do it. GARVEE Bonds are tenuous at this point, the CTC will only be able to do them if Propositions 68 and 70 fail. The proponents of Proposition 68 and 70 have pulled their resources from the campaign and are saving them to fund a lawsuit if they fail. Therefore there will be litigation if these propositions fail. This will throw the money that would be available into limbo until resolved.

D. SMART report

Ms. Wilford reported that SMART Board of Directors, with one abstention, voted to put the SMART sales tax measure quarter-cent expenditure plan on the ballot in November 2006.

IV. SCTA Sales Tax Measure Update – **DISCUSSION/ACTION**

A. Measure M

Mr. Anderson reported that mailers have gone out to the voters.

There was discussion about absentee votes and how they are counted what impact these votes would have to determining the results of Measure M.

B. Other sales tax measures in the Bay Area

Ms Wilford provided a brief update on the status of sales tax measures in other counties.

V. Transit Forum Report – DISCUSSION/ACTION

Mr. Battenberg announced that there has been a low turnout and suggested that a combined Para-transit and CAC committee be formed to generate more of a turnout.

Mr. Anderson noted that this year the number of attendees was small that attended the forum and focused on fixed transit.

Ms. Spilman reported that the participation this year was down. It might be good to form a committee to focus on improvements and increase participation at next year's meeting. It has been a trend over the years of fewer Para-transit riders. Staff is considering making a recommendation to the SCTA that the Para-transit Coordinating Committee change its name to the Transit Advisory Committee and making it more general transit put will discuss this with the PCC representatives in the coming months.

VI. Announcements / Other Business - DISCUSSION

Ms. Wilford announced that Congresswoman Woolsey has invited Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher from the East Bay who is on the Transportation Infrastructure Committee to do a media event/presentation on transportation issues. This media event will be open to the public and will be held at the County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, October 28th at 1:30 PM.

Mr. Birdlebough announced that Friends of SMART and the Leadership Institute is sponsoring a Grand Tour of Rail and Ferry Services in the Bay Area that will take place on November 12, 2004.

VII. Adjournment - ACTION

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.