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Transit - Paratransit Coordinating Committee

Tuesday, January 15, 2008, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
490 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 206, Santa Rosa

ITEM

- I. Introductions
- II. Public comments on items not on agenda
- III. Consent Items – DISCUSSION/ACTION
 - A. Approval of the agenda
 - B. Approval of Minutes: November 27, 2007*
- IV. Annual Election of TPCC Officers ---ACTION*
- V. New Volunteer Driving Program for West County. --INFORMATION
Terry Kelley, Sebastopol Senior Center Director
- VI. Comprehensive Transportation Plan: Public Poll Results
--- INFORMATION. Matt Stevens, The Results Group
- VI. Reports – INFORMATION
 - A. Transit Agencies
 - B. Other Agencies
 - C. SCTA Reports:
- VII. Adjourn – ACTION

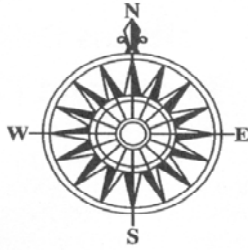
* Please see attached

Next **TPCC** meetings in 2008 are **3/18, 5/20, 7/15, 9/16, & 11/18**
Next **SCTA** meeting is **2/4**

DISABLED ACCOMMODATION: If you have a disability that requires the agenda materials to be in an alternative format or an interpreter or other person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact the SCTA at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to ensure arrangements for accommodation. TPCC agendas are available online at the SCTA website: www.sctainfo.org Click on "Meetings and Agendas," then "TPCC Agenda Packets" The TPCC agenda is available in pdf format. Please call if needed in MS Word.

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**TRANSIT-PARATRANSIT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
(TPCC)**

MEETING MINUTES

November 27, 2007

Brown	Beryl	Earle Baum Center of the Blind
Burge	Gail	Petaluma People Services
Brown	Robert	Becoming Independent
Foster	Jacob	Citizen
Henzerling	Larry	Community Resources for Independence
Ivory	Michael	City of Santa Rosa
McKamey	Valerie	Calif. State Dept. of Rehabilitation
Mendoza	Rafael	Citizen
Morrison	Mardell	City of Santa Rosa
Mulroy	Jackie	Whistlestop Wheels
Taylor	Katherine	Sonoma Co. Area Agency on Aging

Staff present: Chris Barney, Nina Donofrio, Lynne March.

Larry Henzerling called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

I. Introductions

Introductions were made.

II. Public comments on items not on agenda

There was no public comment.

III. Consent Items – DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. Approval of the agenda

Dr. Foster moved for approval of the consent items. Katherine Taylor seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes: Sept 18, 2007*

Dr. Foster moved for approval of the minutes. Beryl Brown seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

IV. Reports – INFORMATION

A. Transit Agencies

City of Santa Rosa:

Michael Ivory reported that over the last six months all paratransit agencies have been working to coordinate ridership guidelines so that they all have the same information. He presented a new brochure for review. Paratransit has been conducting almost 200 trips daily. Fixed route service is getting cameras installed and operating. Service at Coddington and South Santa Rosa Avenue has had recent trips dropped because of

getting behind schedule, even with extra buses in the afternoon. This is expected to continue through the holiday season, for another four or five weeks.

The National Transit Database Report was just completed for the past fiscal year and will be submitted, per MTC requirements. This reports on all aspects of the transit system service, including mileage, number of passengers, and trips made. This information is used to establish federal and regional funding guidelines. Over 1,073,000 miles were traveled in fixed route service, and over 50,000 paratransit passengers were served.

Mr. Ivory reported that the Functional Assessment Program has to date completed 270 assessments since July 23. Of these, 143 of those evaluated were considered unrestricted and those passengers have permanent access to the paratransit system. There were four denials during this evaluation period. Mr. Ivory presented a report on the results of these evaluations. Information is being compared with last year's results. Approximately 15%-20% of former passengers for paratransit have opted of this service under the new functional assessment that took place.

Mr. Henzerling noted that staff did a good job conducting these assessments, and were responsive and empathetic with potential paratransit passengers, and helped educate the public as to the process of qualifying for paratransit service, and compliance with ADA standards.

Mr. Ivory next reported that the City has been more proactive in reducing no-shows for paratransit, as no-shows had been averaging approximately 500 in a month. A monthly report by MV Transportation provides data on those passengers who are no-shows more than twice in a month. Guidelines allow three no-shows or late cancellations in a three-month period. Warning letters were sent to chronic no-show passengers, and this has greatly reduced the number of no-shows. Two passengers were suspended from paratransit service for excessive no-shows; passengers who are suspended from the service do have the option to appeal it. One letter for a no-show has been received from MV Transportation in the past three weeks.

Whistlestop Wheels:

Jackie Mulroy reported that this transit provider had their highest no-show month ever the previous month; 8,600 trips and 109 no-shows, or approximately 1% of riders. Late cancellations (any cancellations that are less than two hours) are typically counted as one-half point. No-shows are counted as one point; after four points the passenger could be suspended. Staff is generally liberal in taking into consideration various factors that may contribute to no-shows. Inter-county ridership for October was 1,231 intercounty trips (up 2% from this time last year, and 19% from last September), the busiest ever for this agency.

Ms. Mulroy next reported that they are waiting for delivery of buses. The contract with Caltrans for purchasing buses will be up for bid (BusWest lost the contract with Caltrans), which means a delay in future orders for vehicles.

Route 80 is now stopping at the Petaluma Transit Mall on Copeland Street. Translink is on all vehicles, but there has been a delay in getting cards out to all passengers, with priority being given to replacement cards for current cardholders. Whistlestop will be a station that will provide Translink cards, but they have to be set up with a computer terminal. It is hoped that this will be in place by January 1, 2008.

City of Petaluma:

Gail Burge of Petaluma People Services reported that the Petaluma Transit Mall is now open and operational, and that Petaluma People Services now have two new buses. They had approximately 1,900 rides during October.

B. Other Agencies

Area Agency on Aging:

Katherine Taylor announced that she invited members of the Sebastopol Senior Center's Volunteer Driver Program to attend the January meeting of the TPCC. She will advise when she hears back from them so that this can be included in the January agenda.

C. SCTA Reports:

- 2008 TPCC Meeting Schedule INFORMATION*

Lynne March presented a schedule of upcoming meetings for 2008. .

- Easter Seals Distance Learning INFORMATION*

Ms. March referred to a schedule showing upcoming opportunities for distance learning

- MTC's Coordinated Plan Status INFORMATION

MTC's Draft Coordinated Plan was sent out for comments. This project has been under contract with Nelson-Nygaard. The Plan was sent out to participants of the TPCC intake meeting of January, 2007, as well as others. Some figures had to be corrected as to participation, and some information sheets were incomplete.

Ms. March announced her recent return from visiting Europe, and noted that she identified a great need for accessibility for the disabled in her travels.

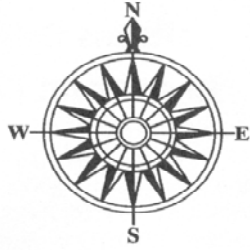
Mr. Henzerling announced that December 3 is the International Disabled Persons Day, sponsored by the United Nations. Discussion followed regarding the need for accessibility for the disabled internationally, and how even very advanced public transportation systems often overlook accessibility for the disabled, including the bullet trains in Japan and the subway systems of Beijing, China.

Mr. Mendoza addressed the need for gathering data on the number of Hispanic passengers for both public transit and paratransit, and for outreach to this community. Ms. March noted that this information is not centralized and would need to be provided by each of the transit providers. Mr. Ivory explained that the City of Santa Rosa has gathered information in the past on the demographics of passengers for fixed route service but not for paratransit. He added that outreach is mostly directed at fixed route service, but because paratransit service is so highly subsidized it is difficult to advertise for this service. He noted that City staff would be happy to meet with any groups to provide information regarding paratransit service. He said he would follow up on this.

Ms March also reported that there has been no notice regarding FTA 5310 funding as of yet.

V. Adjourn – ACTION

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.



Staff Report

To: Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee (TPCC)

From: Lynne March, Transportation Planner

Re: Election of TPCC Officers for 2008

Date: January 15, 2008

Issue: Who shall serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the TPCC for 2008?

Background:

The committee's purpose is to advise the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) on the transit needs of communities of people with special needs, including elderly, disabled, and those of low income. The committee has an interest in both paratransit and fixed route transit issues.

The TPCC facilitates communications between transit and paratransit users and the operators of such services. The TPCC reviews transit proposals involving Transportation Development Act (TDA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 funds. TDA funds are available for various types of transportation projects including the provision of transit and paratransit services. The TPCC is also involved in raising awareness of the many issues faced in both using and providing transit and paratransit services.

Officers:

SCTA's Ordinance No.3 requires that a Chair and Vice Chair be elected at the first meeting of the year to lead the TPCC during the calendar year.

Dennis Battenberg served as Chair and Larry Henzerling served as Vice-Chair during 2007. They have consented to be candidates for service in 2008.

Meetings:

The TPCC normally meets the 3rd Tuesday of every other month at 2 p.m. Meetings are held in SCTA's conference room.