

## Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee

### AGENDA

**January 20, 2009: 2:00-3:30PM**

Sonoma County Transportation Authority  
Large Conference Room  
490 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 206  
Santa Rosa, California 95401

#### ITEM

1. Introductions
2. Public Comments on Items not on Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes, November 18, 2008 – **DISCUSSION / ACTION\***
4. Approval of Agenda – **DISCUSSION / ACTION**
5. Officer Elections --- **DISCUSSION / ACTION\***
6. Reports:
  - 6.1. Transit Agencies
  - 6.2. Other Agencies
  - 6.3. SCTA
    - a. President Obama's Report\*
    - b. Programming Update\*
7. Other Business / Comments / Announcements
8. Adjourn - **ACTION**

\*Materials attached.

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The next S C T A meeting will be held **February 9, 2009**  
The next TPCC meeting will be held **March 17, 2009**

**Copies of the full Agenda Packet are available at [www.sctainfo.org](http://www.sctainfo.org)**

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SB 343 DOCUMENTS RELATED TO OPEN SESSION AGENDAS: Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the **TPCC** after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Sonoma County Transportation Authority office at 490 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 206, during normal business hours.

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**TRANSIT-PARATRANSIT COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING  
 MINUTES  
 November 18, 2008**

**ATTENDEES**

Battenberg, Dennis	TPCC Chair
Brown, Beryl	Earle Baum Center of the Blind
Brown, Robert	Becoming Independent
Burge, Gail	Petaluma People Services
Cuneo, Robert	Citizen
Foster, Dr. Jerry	Over 60 representative
Gaffney, Jon	Whistlestop Wheels
Henzerling, Larry	Disability Services & Legal Center
Ivory, Michael	City of Santa Rosa
Mulroy, Jackie	Whistlestop Wheels
Petersen, Cynthia	Golden Gate Bridge, Hwy. & Transportation District
Topf, Mary	Citizen

SCTA Staff: Lynne March, Nina Donofrio

Chair Dennis Battenberg called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

**ITEM**

1. Introductions  
 Round table introductions were made.
2. Public Comments on Items not on Agenda  
 There was no public comment.
3. Approval of Minutes, September 16, 2008 – **DISCUSSION / ACTION\***  
 The minutes were approved as submitted.
4. Approval of Agenda – **DISCUSSION / ACTION**  
 The agenda was approved as submitted.
5. Reports:

5.1. Transit Agencies

*Santa Rosa CityBus:*

Michael Ivory of the City of Santa Rosa reported that service to Oakmont had begun, transferring from fixed route service to MV Transportation, using a large paratransit van that seats 16 passengers and that has two positions for mobility devices to be secured. They had a little over 450 passengers in October. This service is a deviated fixed route; if a paratransit passenger in Oakmont calls ahead of time the bus can arrange to come to their home to pick them up. Five route deviations were made during October.

Dr. Foster added that all feedback he had heard was positive about this service, and that it has been very successful.

Mr. Ivory noted that the City would like to see increased ridership with this service, possibly 800 to 1,000 riders, adding that Oakmont residents have already paid for this service through Homeowners Association dues. He cited problems with scheduling meetings to accommodate the

bus schedule. Dr. Foster explained that since the central complex at Oakmont is being rebuilt, there are fewer venues to hold meetings for residents, and that this has resulted in scheduling difficulties.

Mr. Ivory next announced that October was a record for both fixed route and paratransit service.

Further discussion took place regarding trends in taking alternative modes of transportation, and whether this trend would continue if gas prices go down.

Mr. Ivory next announced that Santa Rosa CityBus would be making a presentation to City Council December 9 for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and would be reporting to Council that Santa Rosa won the California Small Transit Operators award this year for efficiency.

Mr. Ivory reported that the new Route 19 has been very successful. It is in seventh position among the 17 bus routes making up Santa Rosa CityBus, and is filling a need for a previously underserved population of riders. It is connecting the southwest Santa Rosa area with jobs and shopping. Ms. March added that this need was identified in previous public outreach for the Roseland Community Based Transportation Plan and was funded by the Lifeline Transportation Program.

In response to Chair Battenberg's inquiry as to whether cash fare box recovery is up, Mr. Ivory replied that he would research this and get back to him with the information.

*Petaluma People Services:*

Gail Burge reported that they had their highest ridership ever in October, with 2,135 rides, which is approximately 12% over last year. A shopping shuttle for the Leisure Lake Mobile Home Park was implemented. She reported that an issue with riders is the fare – they want the transit service, but want to pay the fixed route fare, not the higher paratransit fare. Riders are picked up at the mobile home clubhouse, but the return trip provides door-to-door service to their home, and assistance with their groceries, etc.

Ms. Burge announced that Max Calder will be leaving the city of Petaluma in mid-December.

Mr. Ivory confirmed with Ms. Burge that Petaluma had provided free service during the month of October, but she could not confirm that this had an effect on ridership, as it was not advertised.

*Golden Gate Transit:*

Cynthia Petersen presented informational handouts on the history, funding, service, and proposed new service of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District. She said ridership is up (regional service is up approximately 7%). She reported many more people along the corridor attempting to ride locally within Marin County. Marin County has been lobbied to add more frequent service along the corridor between Novato and Marin City. As a result, the agency is looking at overall costs and ridership and cutting back on those routes with low ridership in order to accommodate the increased need to minimize travel time on Route 80 between Santa Rosa and San Francisco. The agency is implementing a new route, 101, that will stop only in Novato and San Rafael on its way to San Francisco. Route 80 scheduling would change during the week, Monday through Friday, and would become Route 101, to accommodate commuters from Sonoma County to San Francisco. She stated that there is sufficient service on connecting buses within Marin County to accommodate local riders in Marin County. Ms. Petersen handed out updated maps and schedules showing how this will be implemented. A public hearing on this matter is scheduled for Friday, November 21, at the Toll Plaza office. Public outreach has taken place on this issue. The weekend and evening Route 80 service will remain intact. She reviewed additional proposed changes of several major routes, including Route 10 in San Francisco. If approved, these changes will take place in March.

Ms. Petersen announced her retirement at the end of the year from Golden Gate Transit.

Mr. Battenberg asked where the District was anticipating getting funding from for the 101 expansion of service. Ms. Petersen replied that they had had a toll increase last year and that 60% of all toll revenue goes to transit. They are hoping to cover costs of the expansion by shifting service from lower-performing routes, and through a more efficient use of transit. This issue is still in the public input process, with an upcoming public hearing on November 21. The Board will likely take action on December 19.

*Whistlestop Wheels:*

Jackie Mulroy reported that October was also a very busy month for this agency. In October over 10,000 passengers were transported, including taxi overflow and 12,074 inter-county trips were made. They had an 18% increase in ridership in September for paratransit service, and an 8% increase for inter-county service. She also reported that they are awaiting the delivery of 16 buses; there were problems with the delivery, but this is now anticipated to be in mid-December. They are continuing to look at mobile data computers on buses.

Ms. March asked what is anticipated, particularly in connection with coordination of services, now that SMART has passed. Mr. Ivory responded that the City of Santa Rosa has been preparing for this for some time and does not anticipate making drastic changes; he noted that there is nothing in the SMART proposal that earmarks funds for shuttle service, and the area is already served with five different routes. Ms. Petersen reported that she understood they would need a southern Novato transfer location for bus transfers and in 2003 a tentative transfer point was identified, when service changes were made, which was not generally met well by the public. She anticipated that discussion would be taking place regarding this issue with Golden Gate Transit and the public.

Chair Battenberg commented that he had seen articulated buses in Nevada, and asked if there were any currently in use by any of the transit operators. Ms. Petersen responded that they have 10; these are used for the Canal area, where they need to transport many people for short distances. These vehicles are 60 ft. long, but because they break at 35 ft. from the front of the bus they are more maneuverable in tight areas than a 40 ft. bus. She noted that these vehicles are usually not used on freeways or on roads that go up hills.

5.2. Other Agencies

Bob Brown of Becoming Independent reported that they had just bought a bus from the Earle Baum Center. It will be used as a transport bus. He is attempting to get it made into a mobile art studio, and conduct art classes in the field.

Beryl Brown of the Earle Baum Center reported that the Center will be closed next week. She explained that the Center provides assistance for the visually impaired and the blind, including training in technology, tools and living skills. They also have support groups.

5.3. SCTA

a. Officer Elections in January --- **INFORMATION\***

Ms. March reminded the Committee that election of officers will take place at the next meeting. Dennis Battenberg and Larry Henzerling have consented to be candidates for Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

b. 2009 Meeting Schedule --- **INFORMATION\***

Ms. March next referred to the 2009 meeting schedule of the Committee, which is not likely to change.

c. Caltrans: Complete Streets --- **INFORMATION\***

Ms. March presented a memorandum, Deputy Directive Number DD-64-R1, which supersedes DD-64, which addresses policy on “Complete Streets – Integrating the Transportation System,” noting that ‘complete streets’ are those that accommodate all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, people who use wheelchairs and other mobility devices, motorists, and transit users.

d. Proposed Lifeline Projects --- **INFORMATION\***

Ms. March presented a staff report that had previously been presented to the Board for approval of the three-year “Program of Projects” for the Lifeline Transportation Program. This is still in a state of flux, as amounts may be changing, based on potential STA reductions, and Proposition 1B funds. Golden Gate Transit did not apply for this program, deferring to local need. The Board approved the recommended funding as shown in the chart for submittal to the MTC.

Ms. March reported that a proposal had been made to substantially reduce STA funding. A call went out to transit operators asking for their response to MTC as to the impact of such a funding cut in terms of service, maintenance, etc. Santa Rosa CityBus and Petaluma Transit have responded. Results were compiled and a letter was sent to the Budget Committee and to the Legislative Committee from MTC. MTC has reported that to date, the proposed STA cuts have been getting little support in Sacramento.

**6. Other Business / Comments / Announcements**

Mr. Ivory reported that he and Jim Wagner will be giving a presentation in Oakland on disaster preparedness for the disabled population. This will be provided for agencies so that they can get their contractors that provide paratransit service prepared for emergency services in the event of a disaster, with sanitation, food, water, blankets, cots, etc. He said he would be sending Committee members information following the presentation. A spreadsheet has been prepared summarizing items and costs to provide emergency essentials for 30 people for three days. He noted that most agencies are not prepared for people to stay on site as first responders in the event of an emergency. He also noted that the City plan for MV Transportation would be to have the MV staff based out of the Stony Point Transit Center.

**7. Adjourn - ACTION**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

After the meeting adjourned, Dr. Jacob Foster announced that he needed to resign as a TPCC member due to family needs.



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## Staff Report

**To:** *Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee (TPCC)*

**From:** *Lynne March, Transportation Planner*

**Re:** *Election of TPCC Officers for 2009*

**Date:** *January 20, 2009*

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### **Issue:**

The election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the TPCC for 2009

### **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. 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** as Vice-Chair during 2008, and in prior years. They have graciously consented to be candidates for service in 2009.

### **Meetings:**

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

### **Action Requested:**

Members are to elect a Chair and Vice Chair of the TPCC.

## Staff Report

**To:** *Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee (TPCC)*

**From:** *Lynne March, Transportation Planner*

**Re:** *President's Position on ADA and Disability Issues*

**Date:** *January 20, 2009*

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**Issue:**

Mr. Barack H. Obama is to be inaugurated as our country's President on this historic day. What is his thinking about ADA and issues of importance to people with disabilities?

**Summary:**

For your possible interest, at the following website one can scroll to the bottom to open a report titled:

*[Barack Obama and Joe Biden's Plan to Empower Americans With Disabilities](http://www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities/)*

<http://www.barackobama.com/issues/disabilities/>

The report states that roughly 1 in 6 Americans personally experience some form of disability, yet that there are still "...severe shortcomings in our country's efforts to break down barriers that exclude people with disabilities and deprive them of true equality of opportunity and independence."

Mr. Obama promised to "...renew America's leadership by making the United States a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities."

The four-part plan detailed in the report focuses on:

1. Educational opportunities
2. Ending discrimination and promoting equal opportunity
3. Increasing the employment rate of workers with disabilities
4. Supporting independent, community-based living

Additionally, Mr. Obama strongly supported the ADA Restoration Act, which overturned the Supreme Court decisions that limited the ADA's coverage and effectiveness.



## Staff Report

**To:** *Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee (TPCC)*

**From:** *Lynne March, Transportation Planner*

**Re:** *Programming Update*

**Date:** *January 20, 2009*

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### **TFCA**

The "Call for Projects" has been issued and applications are due February 20. Revenues for projects are estimated to be down about \$115,000 from last year. TFCA funds the ongoing transit marketing programs of Sonoma County Transit and Santa Rosa CityBus. The competitive portion may fund transit, bicycle, pedestrian, arterial management, and other projects, such as vehicle purchases and retrofits ---all of which must demonstrate emission reduction benefits.

Funding Estimate is as follows:

<b>Santa Rosa</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Competitive</b>	<b>Total Allocation</b>
38.14%	25.57%	36.29%	100%
<b>\$239,138</b>	<b>\$160,324</b>	<b>\$227,538</b>	<b>\$627,000</b>

### **LIFELINE**

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) staff has informed SCTA that they will be requesting MTC Board approval of Tier I projects in January (the list of projects was provided in the last TPCC agenda packet). For this cycle, funding was for the most part requested to sustain existing transit services, in light of cuts in other transit funding sources. The status of funding for Tier II projects remains uncertain pending resolution of the State Budget.

### **FTA 5310**

California Transportation Commission (CTC) approval of projects for FTA 5310 Elderly and Disabled Program funding is anticipated at the January 14 meeting of the CTC. It is

anticipated that CityBus and Becoming Independent proposals will be approved, however, not Petaluma People Services' proposal.

**TDA3**

The 09/10 "Call for Projects" will be issued after the fund estimate is received. This is anticipated to be around the second week of January. TDA 3 revenues are anticipated to be reduced from the levels of the prior several years. This revenue source funds pedestrian and bicycle projects and planning.