

TRANSIT-PARATRANSIT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2009

ATTENDEES

Abbey, Kevin	Pride Industries, Inc.
Burge, Gail	Petaluma People Services
Brown, Beryl	Earle Baum Center of the Blind
Cuneo, Bob	Citizen
Eisen, Judith	Area Agency on Aging
Gaffney, Jon	Whistlestop Wheels
Katz, Harvey	Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Trans. District
Henzerling, Larry	TPCC Vice Chair & Disability Services & Legal Center
Ivory, Michael	City of Santa Rosa
Mendoza, Rafael	Latino Community Representative
Wagner, Jim	Sonoma County Transit

SCTA staff present: Nina Donofrio, Lynne March.

Vice Chair Larry Henzerling called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m. in Chair Dennis Battenberg's absence.

ITEM

1. Introductions

Round table introductions were made.

2. Public Comments on Items not on Agenda

Beryl Brown reported on the problem of delayed response time from Volunteer Wheels when calling to request a ride, noting that it can be one to two days before they return the call and that she never knows what time they will be arriving to pick her up. She stated that this makes it difficult to plan.

Bob Cuneo explained that Volunteer Wheels said this is due to a "matching" problem – that they cannot respond until they have "matched" calls. He also noted that their system is similar to MV Transportation; however, he could not explain why they would have this problem when MV Transportation is able to confirm requests immediately. Mike Ivory of Santa Rosa CityBus observed that there is a significant learning curve in becoming efficient in scheduling rides.

Jim Wagner of Sonoma County Transit added that staff is trying to schedule as efficiently as possible in the use of vehicles and that this is more challenging to do for County wide rides than for the local Santa Rosa area. He said he would look into this further.

3. Approval of Minutes, March 17, 2009 – DISCUSSION / ACTION

The minutes were approved with the following corrections: On page 2 in the first paragraph, correct the spelling of Judith Eisen's name; on page five, correct her name from "Judy" to read "Judith" Eisen.

4. Approval of Agenda – DISCUSSION / ACTION

The agenda was approved as submitted.

5. Reports:

5.1. Transit Agencies

Santa Rosa CityBus:

Mike Ivory reported that he had been submitting grants and is awaiting signed documents. Staff is awaiting signed documents from Caltrans from the Federal Transportation Authority for the purchase of a bus for paratransit. He reported that there are issues with the City's purchase of fixed route buses related to the federal stimulus funding. Previously he had understood that four vehicles were under construction; however, he learned that this may not be the case, and this purchase is on hold.

Mr. Ivory next reported that staff has been examining frequency of routes, but there are no changes in service at this time.

Mr. Ivory announced the implementation of a team to address senior transportation issues. Ginny Doyle of the Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging assembled the team, which includes Council Member Gary Wysocky, Supervisor Efren Carrillo, herself, and Mr. Ivory. They will be going to Washington, D.C. as part of a select group of 10 teams to develop a new program in Sonoma County. Partners in Marin County were also selected to attend the event.

Mr. Wagner of Sonoma County Transit reported that staff is awaiting delivery of five new 40-ft. buses; two have been delivered. These are the last such vehicles built by Orion. Ten more Orion 7 low-floor buses are on order. These are expected to arrive in October, 2010.

Mr. Wagner announced a 15% reduction in services, as was reported in the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*. A public hearing took place May 12 at the Santa Rosa City Council chambers. Major routes have not been significantly impacted. Changes will be effective June 28. The new public guide is expected to be available June 12. The most significant changes are in Routes 20 and 30. Route 20 will no longer serve Fulton Road, Guerneville Road, or Coddington. It will come straight to the Transit Mall from Highway 12. In response to questioning by Ms. Brown, Mr. Wagner explained that Route 22 has been cut back but is maintaining the same service to Earle Baum Center for the Blind. Route 28 has been modified to have two trips from Guerneville to Occidental.

Golden Gate Transit:

Harvey Katz announced that Route 80 will be changing during the week days starting in June. It will become an express through Marin County to Sonoma County. Staff was awaiting completion of the HOV lanes on Highway 101 before implementing this change. Mr. Katz estimated that this should reduce the commute between Sonoma County and Marin County by approximately 30 minutes. No cuts in service are anticipated at this time.

Petaluma People Services:

Gail Burge reported that paratransit ridership is up by approximately 18% for March and April. Beginning June 1, a new Transit Manager, Joe Rye, from Livermore Transit, will be on staff.

Whistlestop Wheels:

Jon Gaffney reported that April ridership was down by approximately 15%. Work is continuing on installing data terminals. Staff has just submitted their 5310 grant to MTC.

Area Agency on Aging:

Judith Eisen announced that the Sebastopol volunteer driving program has been very successful, with 272 trips for May. Work is continuing on connecting the volunteer driver program with the Roseland area and getting the program information published in Spanish. She noted that there were four volunteer drivers in Guerneville in March and there are 15 or 16 volunteer drivers in Sebastopol. Efforts are under way to increase the number of drivers in Guerneville and to not limit rides to solely medical trips. Ms. Eisen reported that approximately 33% of the volunteer rides are for medical appointments, split between social, recreation and shopping trips.

Pride Industries:

Kevin Abbey reported that Daniel Dionne has retired from Pride Industries. He explained that Pride Industries is a nationwide non-profit organization that provides transportation and other services in Roseville, Santa Rosa and Los Angeles. They have recently secured contracts in Louisiana, New Jersey and Virginia, as well military base maintenance. Locally they are currently operating 17 routes for paratransit service.

5.2 Other Agencies

There were no other reports.

5.3 SCTA

a. FTA 5310 Status

Ms. March reported that she was not certain which agencies have applied for this program, other than the City of Santa Rosa. She reported that the City of Petaluma will not be applying. She has not heard whether Becoming Independent will be applying. She had received a call from one of the tribes but has not heard from this agency since. Pride Industries will be applying.

b. Status of Lower Russian River Community Based Transportation Plan

Ms. March announced that the Plan was adopted. A list of 28 solutions is included as a result of the study. She summarized these; some of which are projects and some of which are strategies. These are related to bicycles, a trail feasibility study to look at connectivity; a number of solutions related to transit; and transportation manager coordination (as performed by Ginny Doyle of the Area Agency on Aging).

Ms. Eisen questioned the methods of the public outreach and accuracy of the findings, noting her surprise that transit to Santa Rosa was not among the top ranking solutions to be included in the study. She referred Ms. Eisen to the comprehensive report, noting that it represents a good faith effort and broad representation of a cross section of the population. Ms. March explained that outreach findings from RRROC workshops was also considered and tended to validate the CBTP outreach findings. She noted that this information is advisory in nature. Implementation of the ideas depends on funding availability.

Ms. March reported that MTC has made a commitment to the Lifeline Transportation Program to fund projects for low income and minority communities; however, funding sources need to be found.

c. Status of Healdsburg Community Based Transportation Plan

Ms. March announced that this is under way and has not had as much public interest as the other CBTP studies. There is a large Latino population that Ms. March noted is very resourceful in networking and car pooling. She predicted that the highest priority issue would likely be maintaining the existing transit service.

6. Other Business / Comments / Announcements

Mr. Henzerling asked Mr. Ivory how the recently-implemented diverted route in the Oakmont area was doing. Mr. Ivory responded that this is progressing very well. Ridership was almost 400; of these, 51 were deviations for the month of April. He explained that ADA eligible passengers can call MV Transportation and get a ride. Staff is trying to implement a way of obtaining a report that would indicate how many of these types of calls would have otherwise been calls for paratransit service.

Mr. Ivory next explained that staff is examining how to make Route 18 more efficient, adjusting frequency of stops and possibly making it a deviated route. It currently takes one hour and 15 minutes to complete one route through Santa Rosa, with stops at every senior facility as well as at Safeway and the Senior Center.

Ms. March referred to previous announcements regarding the Senior Institute and that Petaluma has a new Transit Manager. The Way to Go! Expo will be held August 12 at the Santa Rosa Downtown Market. The Market has been reconfigured to keep Mendocino Avenue open; this will change the location of the Expo. Staff is working with the Downtown Market management to finalize this. She confirmed that participants include the City of Santa Rosa, and the City of Petaluma. Whistlestop Wheels and Golden Gate Transit were also confirmed as wanting to participate.

Ms. March next announced that KRCB, Channel 22 and FM 91, will broadcast a post-election analysis at 7 p.m. May 20. Rod Dole, the Sonoma County Auditor-Tax Collector and Congress member Jared Huffman will be on the program.

Ms. March also reported that the MTC Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Hearing has been cancelled. She has not heard yet when it is to be rescheduled but will provide this information when available.

Ms. Eisen announced that May 21 a "Learning Today for Living Tomorrow" event will take place, to be held at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This will include a "Car Fit" program, a number of transit agencies, the County, IWalk and other health organizations. This is part of celebrating older Americans month. Supervisor Efren Carrillo will be attending.

7. Adjourn – ACTION

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Staff Report

To: Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee (TPCC)
From: Lynne March, Transportation Planner
Item: 2009 Way to Go! Expo
Date: July 21, 2009

Issue: What is the status of planning for the 2009 Way to Go! EXPO?

Background: SCTA will be presenting its 4th annual transportation alternatives fair on August 12th between 5:00pm and 8:30pm at the Santa Rosa Downtown Market. The Way to Go! Expo staging area will be on the east side of Old Courthouse Square (rather than the west side as last year). The market configuration has changed this year --- moving east and opening Mendocino Avenue to traffic.

This is SCTA's "signature event," a win-win opportunity to deliver a high-value community event that is enjoyable and educational; and an opportunity to be visible as an organization working for the benefit of the public.

The overall goal of the event is to provide information to people about transportation options, as well as why alternatives to single-occupancy driving of gasoline powered cars could/should be considered. Reasons include doing one's part to reduce greenhouse gases and protect the climate; saving money; increasing one's personal fitness; and helping to mitigate local traffic congestion and air pollution.

Participants include both transportation providers and an array of entities interested in fostering sustainable transportation practices. The following lists those who have committed to make the EXPO happen:

- Smart Center of San Francisco: smartcars (Bringing a SmartCar)
- ZAP World (Bringing ZAP cars and scooters)
- AAA's GreenlightTM Initiative (Bringing a hybrid)
- Rickshaw Rudy's (Bringing a rickshaw)
- Ultra Motor (Bringing an Urban Freedom electric bicycle)
- Revolutionmoto (Bringing Vespas and other scooters)
- North Bay Electric Auto Association (Bringing an electric car)
- Blue Sky Center: eMotors. Make Mine Electric, K-Tech Automotive
- Electric Motor Sports (Bringing electric motorcycle)
- Manly Honda (Bringing an Insight and a Fit)
- Hansel Ford (Bringing a Ford Escape Hybrid)

SMART train
AMTRAK
IWALK
Volkssport: Sonoma County Stompers
Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian Coordination
Caltrans District 4 Bicycle Coordination
Sonoma County Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning
SCTA Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning
Santa Rosa Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning
Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
NorCal Bike Sport (Bringing bicycles)
The Bike Peddler (Bringing bicycles)
Trek Bicycle Store (Bringing bicycles)
Santa Rosa Police Department Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Program
Sierra Club
Sonoma County Water Agency
Sonoma County Transportation & Land Use Coalition
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District
Sonoma County Department of General Services: Energy & Sustainability
Leadership Institute for Ecology & the Economy
Sonoma County Climate Protection Campaign
GO LOCAL Sonoma County
LITE Initiatives
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
American Lung Association
Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging
Council on Aging of Sonoma County
Sonoma County Transit (Bringing an Orion bus)
Volunteer Wheels
Santa Rosa CityBus (Bringing the Transit Information Center & a CityBus)
MV Transportation
Petaluma Transit
Petaluma People Services Center
Golden Gate Transit
Whistlestop Wheels
Sonoma County Airport Express
511.org
Santa Rosa Public Works
Santa Rosa Fleet Services
.....and, of course, SCTA!

Staff Recommendation: Come support and enjoy this fun and informative community event.