

APPROVED MAY 13, 2009

**CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
MASS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
COUNCIL HEARING ROOM
995 PALM ST.
SPECIAL MEETING-PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Susan Rains called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Susan Rains, D. Gregg Doyle, Denise Martinez, Margaret Crockett,
Robert Wolf, Elizabeth Thyne, and Stanley Yucikas

Absent: Tracey Amundson, Kathy Howard

Staff: John Webster, Tim Bochum, Dee Lawson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council liaison Jan Marx introduced herself.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

A. CONSENT ITEMS

There were no consent items.

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no discussion items.

C. ACTION ITEMS

C-1. Public Hearing on Proposed Fare Modifications

Mr. Webster and Mr. Bochum discussed current budget issues, including funding reductions, rising fuel costs, performance standards and farebox and service ratios. Staff outlined the proposed fare increases.

Michelle Mason, Laurel Lane resident, would prefer fares increases rather than service cuts. She suggested gaining revenue through parking garage and meter increases and commercial advertising on buses.

Louise Justice, 3000 Augusta, discussed the senior/disabled fare increases and suggested phased increases.

Staff discussed existing budget line items to possibly be re-allocated to offset fare increases.

Staff noted that evening service would need to be re-examined, as the pilot program was funded through a grant and farebox funds were not covering the costs.

Mr. Yucikas suggested Cal Poly students pay an evening service surcharge; Mr. Webster noted that 60% of evening service riders were Cal Poly students and this could be looked at as the original STA funding will be expended by the end of this Fiscal Year..

Mr. Wolf favored proposed fare increases in general and agreed with increasing the senior age limit from 62 years of age to 65 years of age. He noted that the original senior/disabled fare was set particularly low.

Ms. Martinez stated she supported fare increases and favored a gradual, phased approach if possible.

Mr. Yucikas supported the need for fare increases and felt the fares should be matched to RTA to better facilitate transfers between county transit systems, which would expanded service network.

Mr. Doyle felt more drastic "big picture: actions were required and suggested an Ad Hoc committee re-examine bus advertising. He favored all the rates as proposed, agreed with Cal Poly students paying an evening service surcharge, and felt the 5-day pass should be priced at \$10.00. He did not feel increases should be phased in and all increases should be implemented by May 1, 2009.

Mr. Doyle moved to approve the staff recommendations as proposed, amending the report to reflect a \$10 price for a 5-day pass and that these increases should be implemented by May 1, 2009 if possible.

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Mr. Yucikas seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Members requested staff provide additional ridership, fare and pass data for March meeting.

Tim Bochum advised there may be a need for another special meeting in April depending on direction from Council at the public hearing. Staff would look to a toolbox approach in order to meet basic services if necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Monday, March 11, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. in the Council Hearing Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Woske, Recording Secretary