

APPROVED AT MAY 12, 2010 REGULAR MEETING

**CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
MASS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
COUNCIL HEARING ROOM
995 PALM ST.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2010
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Susan Rains called the meeting to order at 2:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Susan Rains, Denise Martinez, Tracy Amundson, Elizabeth Thyne, Art Apruzzese, Margaret Crockett, and Stanley Yucikas

Absent: Robert Wolf

Vacant: Alternate (open)

Staff: John Webster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Webster introduced Fred Munroe, with Ridership Development Consultants (RDC) who was awarded a contract by the City to offer training and assistance for senior and disabled members of the community wishing to learn how to become more mobile through regular use of public transportation. This training is made possible with a two-year grant from Caltrans using Federal Transit Administration (FTA) mobility enhancement funds

He also introduced Laura Mallory, the interim manager for First Transit who recently replaced Steve Aanonson.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

A. CONSENT ITEMS

A-1. Approval of January 13, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes

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Mr. Apruzzese moved to approve the minutes.

Ms. Crockett seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B-1. Potential MTC Special meeting in April to discuss Transit Budget and revenue projection implications

Mr. Webster discussed state funding updates regarding transit system assistance and regional share, as well as a working capital estimate for the end of next fiscal year. He also noted sales tax revenues were down about 13.21% for the first 7 months of actual receipts received.

He recommended the possibility of the MTC holding a special meeting to address the next Fiscal Year Service levels.

He noted the evening service was initially a pilot program with 100% of those funds being already spent and if that service were to continue there should be discussion regarding Cal Poly students and staff paying through cash fares or monthly passes or additional subsidies from the University. He felt that if service reductions were necessary, the evening service should be eliminated first before consideration of reducing weekday or weekend service.

There was general discussion on how raising fares had affected ridership. It was agreed that the economy and unemployment issues were factors in ridership decline, as well as lower gas prices being available.

Mr. Apruzzese suggested looking into an on-board poll to survey whether riders would favor reducing hours or raising fares again.

Mr. Yucikas moved to schedule a special meeting at 2:45 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 to discuss FY/budget issues.

Ms. Crockett seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. ACTION ITEMS

C-1. Review and approve Revised Program of Projects

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Mr. Webster discussed the revised Program of Projects (POP) using FTA Section 5307 funding. He noted the hybrid bus project was being postponed due to the delay with State Prop 1B funds and that FTA 5307 would be used to augment the existing grant (CA-90-Y606) to help pay for the Double Deck Bus from Alexander-Dennis and that might be delivered as early as late May 2010. He was expecting additional information on the DD vehicle construction timeline shortly and would report back to the MTC at the next meeting.

Ms. Admundson moved to approve the Revised Program of Projects as presented to be submitted for the Council consent agenda.

Ms. Crockett seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

D-1. Transit Manager's report

D-2. Operating-Performance reports

Mr. Webster presented highlight discussion on:

- **Ridership report**
- **Contractor issues and First Transit staff changes**
- **Contractor Liquidated Damages**
- **Capital projects**
- **FTA 5317 New Freedom Grant:** Mr. Munroe noted that 10 volunteers were needed to sign up to get the program implemented; requirement had not yet been met.
- **SLOCOG-TDA Funding**
- **State Funding issues and the California Transit Association**
- **Federal Stimulus II**

Mr. Webster did note that he did think the staff goal of reaching 1 million rider mark would be achievable at this time; he felt possibilities such as more students living on campus, the recent fare increase, and the price of gas falling were all factors in the ridership numbers being off by about 22,000 riders as compared to the same time last year.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Yucikas discussed staff policy on drivers stopping for a passenger once the bus started moving. Mr. Webster stated that drivers were instructed to use common sense and

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good judgment as to whether they can stop safely in order to allow the passenger to board.

Mr. Yucikas also suggested route number placards be displayed on the driver's side window. Mr. Webster noted that it might block the driver's vision, but would look into the possibility.

Mr. Yucikas further suggested that advertisements about riding the bus be put into jury summons packets, Facebook, websites, etc. – much like Clerk included information about parking garages.

Ms. Martinez expressed concerns about transients with excessive luggage taking front seats, thereby not allowing disabled and elderly riders access to those front seats. Mr. Webster agreed that the drivers needed to monitor each situation and would discuss the situation with First Transit staff.

Ms. Thyne also noted that she had the opportunity to observe a homeless person sleeping in the same spot on a bus throughout several of that bus consecutive trips Mr. Webster noted that it was against policy for passengers to ride more than one trip without exiting the bus even with an unlimited ride pass and will discuss the situation with First Transit staff to monitor. Mr. Webster indicated that it would assist staff in being able to research a complaint if they were provided an exact location/date/time and bus number.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. to the special meeting on April 28, 2010 at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Woske, Recording Secretary