

Committee for Transit Accessibility

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

MINUTES

NOTE: MEMBERS MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA.

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Committee for Transit Accessibility (CTA) was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson Morrow in Building A, Auditorium, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Lori Arnberg	CTA Member	Present	
Linda Gallo	CTA Member	Present	
David Grant	CTA Member	Present	
Marjorie Jensen	CTA Member	Present	
Connie Langford	CTA Member	Present	
Laura Michels	CTA Member	Absent	
Shawna Nourzaie	CTA Member	Present	
Larry Saltman	CTA Member	Present	
Emma Eljas	CTA Second Vice Chair	Present	
Sandra Gouveia	CTA Member	Present	
Troy Hernandez	CTA Member	Present	
David Julian	CTA First Vice Chair	Present	
Martin Lasich	CTA Member	Present	

Mike Montague	CTA Member	Absent	
Aaron Morrow	CTA Chairperson	Present	
Dilip Shah	CTA Member	Present	
Thomas Slack	CTA Member	Absent	
William Zhu	CTA Member	Present	
Barbara Stahl	CTA Member	Present	
Anthony Drummond	CTA Ex Officio Member	Present	
Katie Heatley	CTA Ex-Officio Member	Present	

2. INTRODUCTION OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Captain Robert Schiller, Protective Services; Dan Smith, Chief Operating Officer; Susan Garcia, Board Assistant; Sandra Weymouth, Policy and Administration Manager; Greta Helm, Chief of External Affairs; Jennie Hwang Loft, Public Information Officer; John Sighamony, Senior Transportation Planner; Dorothy Reyes, Customer Service Supervisor; Camille Williams, Accessible Services Program Manager.

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Larry Saltman, Interested Citizen, provided information regarding a request from the San Jose Office on Aging for two shelters on Chambertine Drive and Dartmouth to provide protection from increment weather for seniors who travel to the facility using public transportation.

4. Minutes of July 9, 2008

M/S/C (Langford/Gouveia) on a vote of 13 Ayes, to 0 Noes, to 3 Abstentions to approve the Minutes of July 9, 2008.

5. Chief Operating Officer's Report

Dan Smith, Chief Operating Officer, announced the departure of Captain Luther Pugh who was reassigned to head the detective division in the sheriff's office. Mr. Smith introduced Captain Robert Schiller who has been assigned to head VTA's Protective Services and will replace Captain Pugh.

Mr. Smith provided a brief update on the Southline Retrofit project noting the completion of phase five with the opening of the Cottle station on September 27, 2008. He indicated that the sixth and final stage will be the Snell and Santa Teresa stations, which are scheduled to be completed on November 27, 2008.

NOTE: M/S/C MEANS MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED AND, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Smith provided information on VTA's role in locating a woman with Alzheimer's who had been missing for two days. She was discovered at a light rail station and safely returned to her residence.

Mr. Smith indicated that a fare inspection sting was conducted at the Ohlone Chynoweth station. He explained that individuals were checked for valid passes and educated on how to purchase tickets. Mr. Smith noted that no arrests were made but citations were given to several people who had already been warned.

Ex-Officio Member Heatley commented that Germany has posted fake transit signs because people with Alzheimer's or dementia tend to migrate toward them.

On order of Chairperson Morrow, there being no objection, the committee received the Chief Operating Officer's Report.

BUSINESS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS/GENERAL MANAGER

6. Advisory Committee Enhancement Strategy

Jennie Hwang Loft, Public Information Officer, provided background information on the advisory committees at VTA and their purpose. Ms. Loft indicated that the recent audit reinforced the recommendation from the Hay Group organizational assessment regarding the need to incorporate the advisory committees' input on the development of policy solutions.

Ms. Loft noted that the overall plan is to improve the operation and effectiveness of the advisory committees. She asked for volunteers to participate in the development of the advisory committee enhancement initiative who will work as a task force to review the Committees' goals and responsibilities and ensure that they are in line with the new vision and mission statements.

Member Jensen questioned how long the process will be.

Ms. Loft indicated that it is based on the committee members input, but is expected to take no longer than 6-8 months.

Member Grant expressed interest in providing input and noted that he would like the entire committee to contribute to the discussion. He suggested a portion of the regular meeting time be set aside to work on the initiative.

Chairperson Morrow agreed that brainstorming would be done with the entire committee and then paired down to the smaller committee.

Member Jensen commented that she was in favor of making the discussion a part of the regular meeting.

Member Julian indicated his agreement with the suggestion.

Chairperson Morrow noted that the task force meeting would be held right before the CTA meeting. He indicated that he was open to the incorporating it into three CTA meetings and have the subcommittee refine the suggestions report back to the entire committee and proceed from there.

Chairperson Morrow, Ex-Officio Member Heatley, and Members Eljas, Julian, and Stahl volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Member Saltman volunteered to serve as an alternate.

On order of Chairperson Morrow, there being no objection, the committee reviewed the Advisory Committee Enhancement Strategy.

7. Committee Workplan

Chairperson Morrow provided a brief update on the committee Workplan noting that an update on the VTP 2035 and information on the grant reporting process are scheduled to be presented in October.

Ex-Officio Member Heatley commented that there needs to be enough time to discuss the advisory committee strategy in October as well.

Member Grant expressed concern regarding the travel patterns item on the Workplan noting that the information provided seemed incomplete. Member Grant questioned if VTA has a list of the different centers which service individuals with disabilities and the routes which serve them. He also questioned if the bus dispatchers have this information to assist them in scheduling buses for those routes. Mr. Grant indicated that low floor vehicles should be use along those routes to assist passengers getting on and off of the bus.

Member Grant requested that the item be placed back on the Workplan.

Chairperson Morrow indicated that the information was provided in a spreadsheet which listed all routes and the percentages of lift deployment.

Jim Unites, CTA Staff Liaison indicated that information can be provided on how buses are scheduled and deployed.

Chairperson Morrow indicated that he was ok with bringing the item back to the committee and asked staff to get with Member Grant to work out a plan so that it can be addressed properly.

Ex-Officio Member Heatley commented that the new fare box system will help with getting that data.

Dan Smith, Chief Operating Officer noted that schedulers have a general knowledge of needs in their community. Mr. Smith indicated that the older coaches are in the process of being replaced and that VTA is looking into technology for low floor hybrid community buses. He also indicated that a lift overhaul is being conducted for the 97-98 series coaches, which is the majority of the fleet.

Member Grant questioned if there is a list of centers that is centralized for schedulers.

Mr. Smith commented that Ex-Officio Member Heatley would have that information on the top locations in ridership.

On order of Chairperson Morrow, there being no objection, the Committee Work Plan was received.

8. Motion Tracking Report

Chairperson Morrow noted that one motion was made in August regarding the development of a set of goals and objectives specific to improving the information to the public on the use of wheelchairs and other devices on public transit. Chairperson Morrow indicated that the item was scheduled to be presented in October, but was being moved to December to allow time to address the advisory enhancement strategy.

On order of Chairperson Morrow, there being no objection, the committee received the Motion Tracking Report.

REPORTS

9. City of San Jose Disability Advisory Commission (DAC) Report

Member Eljas provided a report on the DAC meeting noting that presentations were received on disaster preparedness and low income housing. Member Eljas announced that there will be a Disability Awareness Day fair at San Jose City Hall on October 8, 2008. She noted that many organizations will be there to participate and the focus will be hiring individuals with disabilities.

Chairperson Morrow expanded further noting that there will be vendors as well as employers at the fair.

On order of Chairperson Morrow, there being no objection, the committee received the City of San Jose Disability Advisory Commission (DAC) report.

10. Board of Directors Report

There was no Board of Directors Report.

11. Committee Staff Report

Jim Unites, CTA Staff Liaison, provided an update on youth and senior pass sales noting that the sales have increased 11 percent since the new fees were implemented. Mr. Unites indicated the Bus Stop improvement program items would be brought back to the committee to review the list and make comments.

Ex-Officio Member Heatley questioned when the changes in New Bus Service program were going to be reviewed.

Mr. Unites noted that staff is beginning the data collection and a draft will be out later this year. Mr. Unites indicated that public comment would be taken in early 2009 and the Board will see the proposed changes in April or May.

On Order of Chairperson Morrow, there being no objection, the committee received the Committee Staff Report.

12. Chairperson's Report

There was no Chairperson's Report.

OTHER

13. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

14. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Morrow, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.