

Committee for Transit Accessibility

Wednesday, November 12, 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 1:04 p.m. by Chairperson Morrow in Building A, Auditorium, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

Agenda was taken out of order.

19. Announcements

Chairperson Morrow informed the committee former CTA Member, Barbara Rhodes, recently passed away. He indicated Ms. Rhodes served on the CTA for 12 years and was instrumental in advocating accessibility needs for the elderly and disabled. Mr. Morrow noted the meeting will be adjourned in her honor.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Lori Arnberg	CTA Member	Present	
Linda Gallo	CTA Member	Absent	
David Grant	CTA Member	Present	
Marjorie Jensen	CTA Member	Present	
Connie Langford	CTA Member	Present	
Laura Michels	CTA Member	Present	
Shawna Nourzaie	CTA Member	Absent	
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	Absent	
Martin Lasich	CTA Member	Present	
Mike Montague	CTA Member	Absent	
Aaron Morrow	CTA Chairperson	Present	
Dilip Shah	CTA Member	Present	
Thomas Slack	CTA Member	Present	
William Zhu	CTA Member	Present	
Barbara Stahl	CTA Member	Present	
Anthony Drummond	CTA Ex-Officio Member	Absent	
Katie Heatley	CTA Ex-Officio Member	Present	

2. INTRODUCTION OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Dan Smith, Chief Operating Officer; Sandra Weymouth, Policy and Administration Manager; John Sighamony, Senior Transportation Planner; Ann Carey, Executive Assistant to the General Manager; David Ledwitz, Management Analyst; Bill Capps, Deputy Director, Operations; Jennie Hwang Loft, Public Information Officer; Dale Halterman, Project Manager; Deborah Harrington, Board Secretary; Camille Williams, Accessible Services Program Manager; Patrick Griffin, Customer Service Supervisor; and Stephen Flynn, Senior Management Analyst.

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

David Grant, Interested Citizen, expressed concern regarding the lift and ramp usage email that was recalled.

Jim Unites, Staff Liaison, indicated the email had an incorrect attachment and was therefore recalled and a corrected one sent.

4. Minutes of September 10, 2008

M/S/C (Gouveia/Jensen) on a vote of 12 Ayes, 0 Noes, and 3 Abstentions to approve the Minutes of September 10, 2008. Members Jensen, Eljas, and Michels abstained.

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

5. Summary Minutes of October 8, 2008

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the Summary Minutes of October 8, 2008 were received.

6. Chief Operating Officer's Report

Dan Smith, Chief Operating Officer, introduced the new Board Secretary, Deborah Harrington. Mr. Smith provided a report highlighting the following:

- Increase in light rail usage for San Jose Sharks games;
- The opening of the Snell and Santa Teresa light rail stations, completing the Southline Platform Retrofit Project; and
- VTA's involvement in Older Driver Traffic Safety Seminars and Mobility Options Training with the California Highway Patrol and the Santa Clara County Traffic Safety Committee.

Member Grant questioned if anyone with a disability participated in VTA's emergency exercise.

Jim Unites indicated there were people participating in the exercise who simulated being disabled, but no disabled persons were used for the demonstration due to safety considerations.

Member Grant suggested having a disabled participant at future exercises to better indicate concerns.

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

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

7. Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2035

John Sighamony, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an update on the Services and Programs for Persons with Disabilities portion of the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2035. Mr. Sighamony pointed out several changes and welcomed feedback.

Member Grant questioned what services were being improved for fixed route.

Jim Unites, Staff Liaison, indicated there are fixed route changes in bus and light rail addressed in other sections of the plan, but they will make changes and include it in this section as well.

Member Grant expressed concern with Community Buses being listed as an improvement noting that the smaller buses equal less space for wheelchairs.

Member Eljas expressed concern with the lack of information in the plan for the aging population. She suggested including information addressing travel safety on buses and at transit centers.

Member Langford commented on the use of Community Buses downtown which have greatly assisted seniors disadvantaged by cutbacks by giving them access to transportation for a lower fare.

Member Michels questioned if an orientation, talking signs, or similar improvements for the blind or visually impaired would be included in the plan.

Mr. Sighamony noted there is some information indicated in the transit information section of the VTP 2035, but asked for further input if there is something missing.

Chairperson Morrow expressed concern with the lack of fixed route information noting the majority of the section was focused on paratransit.

Mr. Unites indicated the section points out initiatives and objectives but does not go into the details of every program.

Chairperson Morrow noted several requests have been made by the CTA for information regarding senior and disabled ridership numbers, lift ramp problems and boarding complaints but it has not been presented. Mr. Morrow indicated this information is needed to create plans and provide incentive for seniors and the disabled to use the fixed route system.

Chairperson Morrow made a motion to develop a comprehensive plan that focuses on building fixed route transportation. He suggested the plan include looking at all fare medium programs, budgets, and goals and objectives.

Member Slack indicated the motion needs to identify that the plan focuses on people with disabilities and seniors.

Member Grant suggested patterns of the disabled and seniors who take fixed route be included as a part of the plan.

M/S/C(Morrow/Grant) Development of an improvement plan for fixed route similar to VTA's paratransit improvement plan, which will include reducing barriers to fixed route, improving access and affordability, and creating an increasing demand for fixed route for the disabled community and seniors.

8. Bus Stop Improvement Program

Jim Unites, Deputy Director, Operations, provided a brief update on the Bus Stop Improvement Program. He indicated 22 bus stops will be constructed in Spring 2009. Mr. Unites welcomed suggestions for specific locations to be added into the plan.

Member Stahl questioned if improvements included adding additional bus stop shelters.

Mr. Unites indicated shelters are covered under a separated program, but welcomed suggestions for those improvements as well.

Member Grant questioned if any centers were contacted to provide input.

Mr. Unites indicated requests are solicited from organizations, passengers, and the general public.

Member Grant suggested the use of car cards to solicit feedback from riders to suggest stops which need improvement. He also suggested looking at bus stops which need shelters as a part of the fixed route improvement program.

Member Heatley informed the committee she is compiling locations frequented by paratransit which should be helpful in compiling a list of social service agencies to contact.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the Bus Stop Improvement Program update was received.

9. Ticket Vending Machine (TVM) Prototype

Dale Halterman, Project Manager, provided additional information on the TVM and presented the prototype for CTA members to test and provide feedback.

Chairperson Morrow questioned if there were volume controls on the TVM.

Mr. Halterman noted there will be an improvement on the final project with clearer voice enunciation and operable volume controls.

Member Slack questioned the security against vandalism of the machines.

Mr. Halterman noted there have been extra measures taken to protect the machine and the screens so they can't be easily broken or tampered with.

Member Grant questioned the ability of the machine to provide data on ridership of disabled individuals.

Ann Carey, Executive Assistant to the General Manager, indicated there is a project going through the approval cycle to put Smartcard readers on platforms and have users swipe their cards to get the information. Ms. Carey indicated this would require a change in behavior for riders and noted it is one of the issues for CTA to address when the item is presented.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the committee received the update on the Ticket Vending Machine.

10. Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Process

Jennie Loft, Public Information Officer, provided a progress report on the status of the Advisory Committee Enhancement process. She noted the process is continuing to make strong progress towards meeting its goals. Several subcommittees have developed draft

mission statement for submission to their committee, and the others are in the development stage. Ms. Loft indicated the interim mission statements will be used in the task force phase to help define different items.

Member Grant questioned if members could attend the subcommittee meeting as well.

Deborah Harrington, Board Secretary, noted the established subcommittee needs to remain below the quorum to prevent violation of Brown Act.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) process was received.

11. Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Subcommittee Report

Aaron Morrow, CTA Chairperson, provided a report from the ACE subcommittee meeting and a draft of the mission statement.

Ex-Officio Member Heatley noted the mission statement language was left extremely broad to open up conversation so it can be fine tuned.

Member Slack suggested the committee be able to study it and give feedback.

Ex-Officio Member Heatley noted the new VTA mission statement was used as a backdrop and requested the committee receive the mission statement as a reference.

Member Stahl suggested the item be placed on the Agenda for December to allow time for the committee to evaluate and comment.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the committee received the Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Subcommittee report.

12. Committee Work Plan

Jim Unites, Staff Liaison, provided updates on the committee Workplan noting the addition of several items including, elections of officers, mobility device community education, the Uplift Program, and travel training program.

In addition, Fiscal Services will be providing information on the budget and soliciting feedback before it's developed.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the Committee Workplan was received.

13. Motion Tracking Report

Chairperson Morrow noted the addition of the new motion regarding the improvement plan for fixed route.

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

14. Nominating Committee

Chairperson Morrow asked for volunteers to propose a slate of nominees for CTA officers for 2009. Members Grant, Stahl and Slack will serve as the nominating committee.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the Nominating Committee was selected.

REPORTS

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

Member Eljas provided a report on the DAC meeting noting a presentation given by the head of the Collaborating Agencies Disaster Relief Effort (CADRE) group, which focused on taking on the problems of vulnerable populations in the event of an emergency.

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

16. Board of Directors Report

There was no Board of Directors Report.

17. Committee Staff Report

There was no Committee Staff Report.

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

18. Chairperson's Report

There was no Chairperson's Report.

OTHER

19. Announcements (Continued)

Member Stahl asked those interested in running for CTA office to please contact the nominating committee.

20. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. in memory of former CTA Member, Barbara Rhodes.