

Committee for Transit Accessibility

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

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 1:03 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	Absent	
Linda Gallo	CTA Member	Present	
David Grant	CTA Member	Absent	
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	Absent	
Troy Hernandez	CTA Member	Present	
David Julian	CTA First Vice Chair	Absent	

Martin Lasich	CTA Member	Present	
Mike Montague	CTA Member	Present	
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	
Fernandez, Christina	CTA Ex-Officio Member	Present	
Katie Heatley	CTA Ex-Officio Member	Present	

2. INTRODUCTION OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Ann Carey, Executive Assistant to the General Manager; Michael Hursch, Deputy Director Maintenance and Security; Bill Capps, Deputy Director Transportation; David Ledwitz, Management Analyst; Sandra Weymouth, Policy and Administration Manager; Jennie Hwang Loft, Public Information Officer; Dan Smith, Chief Operating Officer; Paulette Mulligan, Accessible Services Representative; Linh Hoang, Public Relations Supervisor; Art Takahaura, Interested Citizen; and, Walter Schinke, Silicon Valley Council of the Blind.

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Walter Schinke, Interested Citizen, expressed concern with bus safety and training of drivers on the community buses. He noted on several occasions wheelchair tie-downs have been left on the floor and seats in wheelchair spaces left in the upright position which pose safety hazards for riders.

Mr. Schinke also noted he was aware of approximately 15 stops in South Santa Clara County that did not have pads or accessible sidewalks for individuals in wheelchairs which is not in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He expressed concern with the route changes which are being proposed noting difficulty with getting to Saint Louise Hospital.

William Zhu, Interested Citizen, noted that 35 people were cited for fare evasion during a two hour inspection, and questioned what action will be taken to prevent this in the future.

Chairperson Morrow requested the Security presentation to be presented to the CTA include information on fare evasion tactics.

4. Minutes of January 7, 2009

M/S/C (Stahl/Hernandez) on a vote of 13 Ayes, 0 Noes, and 2 Abstentions to approve the Minutes of January 7, 2009. Member Slack and Chairperson Morrow abstained.

5. Chief Operating Officer's Report

Dan Smith, Chief Operating Officer, announced Board Chairperson Dolly Sandoval appointed San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed as the Ex-Officio Board Liaison to CTA. Mr. Smith introduced Christina Fernandez, Policy Analyst, who will be representing Mr. Reed's office.

Mr. Smith provided information on the success of several travel training events which partnered Accessible Services with local agencies that provided information to the elderly and disabled on available transportation services and promoted the Mobility Options Program.

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Walter Schinke for his comments regarding Community Bus safety concerns and indicated staff will follow up. He requested Jim Unites, Deputy Director Operations and CTA Liaison, obtain information regarding the bus stop pads.

Mr. Smith addressed the concerns regarding fare evasion indicating all fare inspector positions have been filled and sting patrols recently ramped up concentrating on areas with higher levels of evasion. He indicated results have been impressive noting a number of citations were issued, missing persons found, and several arrests made for outstanding warrants.

Member Langford questioned if tracking was done on individuals who are homeless or low income seniors and information given so they can obtain free or discounted passes. Mr. Smith indicated the majority of individuals caught are high school students, and calls are made to parents hoping that will have an impact on their behavior.

Member Slack questioned why police are called. Mr. Smith indicated if a person refuses to show identification the police are called and arrests are made if they have outstanding warrants.

Member Zhu indicated more needs to be done to prevent people from not paying fares. He noted he has been riding the light rail for four years and has rarely seen the inspectors.

Member Michels questioned the number of inspectors employed by VTA. Mr. Smith indicated there are ten inspectors and they ride along the line most of the day.

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

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

6. VTA Call Stop Annunciator Information

Jim Unites, Staff Liaison, provided background information on the annunciation system noting the external system is computerized and announces the route number and destination to assist passengers with getting on the proper bus. The internal system calls out major intersections and transfer stations along the route and also enables the operator to announce stops requested by passengers.

Mr. Unites indicated coach operators are given a list of stops along the route that must be called out should the system fail. Mr. Unites noted in 2007 there was a glitch in the software which caused problems, but indicated it was resolved and only 28 customer complaints were received in 2008.

Member Slack noted he was pleased with the report and indicated the importance to the visually impaired community. He questioned if VTA knows the system isn't working properly if no complaint is filed. Mr. Unites indicated operators report it or it is discovered by a mechanic during normal preventative checks.

Member Michels questioned if coach operators can turn off the outside annunciator. Mr. Unites indicated only the inside microphone would override it.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, a report on VTA Call Stop Annunciator Information was received.

7. Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Process

Jennie Hwang Loft, Public Information Officer, provided a report on the ACE process to date noting the Task Force conducted its first meeting and the group requested a Board Member be appointed to preside over meetings.

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

8. Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Subcommittee

Ex-Officio Member Heatley provided a report on the ACE Subcommittee meeting noting a revised mission statement and proposed changes to the by-laws would be presented to the Committee in March.

Ex-Officio Member Heatley noted the Task Force suggested the relationship between Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and CTA be reviewed and the lack of connection between the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) be addressed.

Stephen Flynn, Senior Management Analyst, provided information on the role of BPAC and CAC and noted several ways CTA could provide contributions to the committees.

Member Stahl questioned when discussing pedestrian walkways are wheelchairs being considered. Ms. Loft indicated collaboration is needed to keep the CTA informed with developments in each committee and to provide open dialogue.

Chairperson Morrow noted BPAC members would like to collaborate with CTA on areas where expertise with accessibility issues is needed.

Member Eljas suggested a representative sit at the committee meetings to provide expertise. Ex-Officio Member Heatley suggested someone be designated to attend or have joint meetings. Ms. Loft indicated the Task Force will review options.

Mr. Flynn indicated arrangements can be made to have a BPAC Member address the CTA.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the Advisory Committee Enhancement Subcommittee report was received.

9. Committee Workplan

Jim Unites, Staff Liaison, provided a brief update on the Committee Workplan, noting the new month-by-month format.

Ex-Officio Member Heatley requested Board driven items be differentiated on the Workplan. Mr. Unites indicated the only item on the Workplan thus far is the Budget Review.

On Order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the CTA Workplan was reviewed.

10. Motion Tracking

Jim Unites, Staff Liaison, indicated no new motions were passed; however, the verbiage of the provisional mission statement was added to the report.

On Order of Chairperson Morrow, and there being no objection, the Motion Tracking report was received.

REPORTS

11. San Jose Disability Advisory Commission (DAC) Report

Member Eljas indicated she was not present at the San Jose Disability Advisory Commission (DAC) meeting but indicated she received a concern from a member regarding how the proposed bus changes might affect paratransit service areas. Chairperson Morrow requested staff follow up on the concern.

Chairperson Morrow indicated he attended the meeting noting most of the discussion centered on employment discrimination being investigated at two employment centers in Sunnyvale and San Jose that have allegedly refused services to people with disabilities.

Mr. Morrow announced the retirement of the American with Disabilities Act Accessibility Coordinator for the City of San Jose, and noted the DAC is advocating preventing the position from being filled by someone who is unqualified.

On order of Chairperson Morrow, and there being no objection, the San Jose Disability Advisory Commission Report was received.

12. Board of Directors Report

Christina Fernandez, Policy Analyst to San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, thanked the Committee for welcoming her and indicated she will be attending CTA meetings and providing updates of Board actions to the committee.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the Board of Directors report was received.

13. Committee Staff Report

There was no Committee Staff Report.

14. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Morrow provided a brief report indicating he would like to update the Workplan and add a website update and a discussion proposing changes to CTA reporting to the Transit Planning and Operations (TPO) Committee.

Ex-Officio Member Heatley suggested the reporting change go through the Task Force.

Mr. Morrow indicated he would like to meet with staff to develop a report on fixed route travel patterns of the senior and disabled community and create a reference document of the top bus routes traveled and when and of the top five or ten destinations to aid in making informed decisions about system changes.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the Chairperson's Report was received.

OTHER

21. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

22. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Menominee L. McCarter, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors