

Committee for Transit Accessibility

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

MINUTES

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
Emma Eljas	Member	Absent
Christina Fernandez	Staff Aide to Ex-Officio Board Liaison Reed	Present
Sandra Gouveia	Member	Absent
David Grant	Member	Present
Katie Heatley	Ex-Officio Member	Present
Troy Hernandez	Member	Absent
Jeffrey Jokinen	Member	Present
Dennis Kempel	Member	Present
Martin Lasich	Member	Absent
Laura Michels	Member	Present
Aaron Morrow	Chairperson	Present
Lechi Nguyen	Member	Present
David Robinson	Member	Present
Larry Saltman	Member	Absent
Dilip Shah	Member	Present
Vicci Smith	Member	Absent
Barbara Stahl	Member	Present

A quorum was not present and a Committee of the Whole was declared.

2. INTRODUCTION OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Patrick Griffin, Manager Public Affairs and Communications; Kathy Bonilla, Interested Citizen; Cam Acker, Silicon Valley Council for the Blind; Chai Vaidya, City of San Jose Senior Citizens Commission; Colleen Valles, Senior Policy Advisor; Jody Littlehales, Transportation Planner III; Linh Hoang, Public Relations Supervisor; Bernice Alaniz, Deputy Director, Marketing; Julia Jones, Senior Management Analyst; Dorothy Reyes, Customer Service Supervisor; Dino Guevarra, Sales and Promotions Supervisor; and, John Obrien, Senior Architect.

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Chai Vaidya, City of San Jose Senior Commission, expressed concern with the location of the bus stop servicing the Mayfair Community Center and suggested route diversions on mid-day trips so seniors don't have far to walk.

Member Shah suggested the Committee reach out to the various senior centers in the community to hear their concerns.

Member Romoser suggested having riders apply for Outreach on a conditional basis when there are extreme weather conditions.

4. Board of Directors Report

There was no Board of Directors Report.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Deferred to the January 11, 2012 Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2011

6. (Removed from the Consent Agenda)

Chief Operating Officer's Report

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Chief Operating Officer's Report

Chairperson Morrow thanked VTA staff for addressing the need for bus stop improvements at the San Jose Kaiser Facility, noting the difficulty of traveling along the pathways leading to medical offices.

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

7. Deferred to the January 11, 2012 Meeting

Quarterly Legislative Report

8. CTA Nomination Subcommittee

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole appointed a nomination subcommittee composed of Members Grant and Stahl to identify Committee members interested in serving as the Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons for 2012.

9. Light Rail Elevator/Escalator Retrofit Project Update

John O'Brien, Senior Architect, provided a brief overview of the staff report. Dino Guevarra, Sales and Promotions Supervisor, provided an overview of the outreach plan to keep the public informed.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objections, the Committee of the Whole received an update on the Light Rail Elevator/Escalator Retrofit Project.

10. Valley Rapid Projects Update

Jody Littlehales, Transportation Planner III, provided a brief overview of the staff report and a presentation entitled "Valley Rapid Projects" highlighting: 1) VTA Strategic Plan, 2) Project timeline, 3) How Rapid Transit is different from the local bus, 4) Specialized vehicles, 5) Enhanced stations, 5) Alum Rock Ave/King with Valley Rapid, 6) El Camino Real/Scott with Valley Rapid, and 7) El Camino Project potential configurations.

Member Grant suggested adding discounts and incentives for buying tickets at the kiosk.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received a report on the Valley Rapid Projects.

11. BART Silicon Valley

Bernice Alaniz, Deputy Director, Marketing, provided a presentation entitled "BART Silicon Valley Program and Project Update" highlighting: 1) Enhancing regional connectivity, 2) Phase 1: Berryessa Extension, 3) Berryessa extension funding plan, 4) Project alignment – City of Fremont, 5) Project alignment - City of Milpitas, 6) Project alignment – City of San Jose, 7) Kato Road grade separation, 8) Mission Warren Project, 9) Residential Noise Insulation Program, 10) Upper Penitencia Creek biological improvements, 11) Stations, 12) Noise, vibration, and dust mitigation 13) First major contract (C-700) scope, 14) Traffic and emergency access, 15) C-720 contract scope, 16) Silicon Valley Berryessa Extension (SVBX) project schedule, and 17) Communications and outreach.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received a report on BART Silicon Valley Project.

12. Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right of Way

Jim Unites, Deputy Director, Operations and staff liaison provided an overview of the staff report. He urged CTA members to view the guidelines and provide comments to VTA Staff or directly to the Access Board.

Chairperson Morrow expressed concern with the truncated domes which enable people with visual disabilities to determine the boundary between the sidewalk and the roadway. He noted they cause issues for those with mobility impairments and questioned who is going to tackle the cause.

Member Grant noted it would be helpful to see examples of what is being discussed and noted the Committee should spend more time focused on these matters.

Chairperson Morrow indicated most VTA infrastructure is accessible and the Committee will continue to monitor areas needing improvement.

Mr. Unites indicated diagrams can be found on the Access Board's website at <http://www.access-board.gov/prowac/nprm.htm>.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received a report on the proposed accessibility guidelines for pedestrian facilities in the public right of way.

13. Regional Transit Connection (RTC) Clipper Cards with Attendants

Mr. Unites provided an overview of the staff report.

The Committee of the Whole expressed concern with the policy, highlighting: 1) Lost attendant cards being used, 2) Privacy issues, and 3) Labor cost of creating a new database and running the program.

Mr. Unites indicated he will work with Chairperson Morrow to draft a letter to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) expressing the Committee's concerns.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received a report on the RTC Clipper Cards with attendants.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting recessed at 2:24 p.m.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting reconvened at 2:28 p.m.

14. Mobility Options Travel Training Program

Patrick Griffin, Manager Public Affairs and Communications, provided a brief overview of the staff report.

Deborah Tiroli, Interested Citizen, expressed appreciation for the Travel Training Program noting she is now able to take the bus to school and places in the community.

Member Nguyen requested VTA staff provide a travel training presentation at the Milpitas Senior Center.

Chairperson Morrow expressed concern with the Mobility Options Program and how the funds from the New Freedom's Grant (NFG) are being utilized. He noted strong opposition to the current model and indicated he cannot support VTA's application for the next funding cycle of the NFG unless there are fundamental changes. Chairperson Morrow stated he will be sending a letter to MTC staff noting the concerns and asked for the Committee's support.

Member Grant expressed concern with the Mobility Options item not being presented to the Committee before the application for NFG was submitted.

Member Michels indicated the Vista Center has worked with the Travel Training Program and noted she could not provide a vote of non-support of the Mobility Options Program.

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the Committee of the

Whole received the Mobility Options Travel Training Program update.

15. Workplan Update

Mr. Unites reviewed the Committee Workplan highlighting upcoming items and a change in the 2012 meeting schedule moving the July quarterly meeting to June.

Ex-officio Member Heatley suggested Google map pictures of stops that are frequented by individuals using the Outreach cards be used when the item is presented to the Committee.

Member Grant requested the Committee address the issue of lifts on Hybrid buses. Chairperson Morrow suggested a workshop be developed to have a full discussion.

REPORTS

16. City Disability Advisory Commission (DAC) Reports

Chairperson Morrow provided a brief update on City of San Jose activities.

17. Committee Ridership Program Report

Member Grant expressed appreciation to Outreach for being flexible with their schedule and providing service for a student when there was not enough room for an additional chair aboard the bus.

Member Stahl left her seat at 3:05 p.m.

18. Committee Staff Report

Mr. Unites announced former CTA Chairperson, Randy Tamez passed away in June and noted the August Board meeting was adjourned in his memory.

Stephen Flynn, Advisory Committee Coordinator, provided a report from the Board Chairperson and Advisory Committee Chairpersons' meeting where discussion included the Board City Grouping changes and VTA's major programs and challenges. The group viewed the first of a series of videos highlighting the Advisory Committees. He indicated they reviewed the Advisory Committee Enhancement process and noted Member Eljas expressed concern with the CTA's reduced meeting schedule.

19. Citizens Advisory Committee/Citizens Watchdog Committee (CAC/CWC) Report

There was no Citizens Advisory Committee/Citizens Watchdog Committee Report.

20. Chairperson's Report

There was no report from the Chairperson.

OTHER

21. Announcements

Member Romoser announced a fundraiser for the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center's youth program.

22. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Morrow and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Menominee L. McCarter, Board Assistant
VTA Office of the Board Secretary