

Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee

MEETING AGENDA

March 15, 2016, 1:30-3:00 PM

Sonoma County Transportation Authority
SCTA Large Conference Room
490 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 206
Santa Rosa, California 95401

ITEM

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Meeting Notes: January 19,2016 – **DISCUSSION / ACTION***
3. Roundtable Updates
 - 4.1. Transit / Paratransit Operators
 - 4.2. Other Entities
4. Coordinated Claim – **DISCUSSION / ACTION****
5. Paratransit Fare Structure – Staff Report – **INFORMATION***
6. Public Comment
7. Other Business / Comments / Announcements
8. Adjourn – **ACTION**

*Materials attached

**Materials handed out

The next **SCTA** meeting will be held April 11, 2016
The next **TPCC** meeting will be held May 17, 2016

Copies of the full Agenda Packet are available at www.sctainfo.org.

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SB 343 DOCUMENTS RELATED TO OPEN SESSION AGENDAS: Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the **Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee** after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Sonoma County Transportation Authority office at 490 Mendocino Ave., Suite 206, during normal business hours. Pagers, cellular telephones and all other communication devices should be turned off during the committee meeting to avoid electrical interference with the sound recording system.



TRANSIT PARATRANSIT COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Meeting Notes of January 19, 2016

ITEM

1. Introductions

Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Stan Gow in Chair Dennis Battenberg's absence.

TPCC Member Attendees: Stan Gow, Vice Chair; Bob Cuneo, Citizen, Senior Representative; Steve Birdlebough, Friends of SMART; Norine Doherty, Sonoma County Department of Health Services; Doug Langille, Santa Rosa CityBus; Rabon Saip, Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging; Steven Schmitz, Sonoma County Transit.

Guests: Bettina O'Brien, Citizen.

Staff: Nina Donofrio, Dana Turr y.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes: November 17, 2015 – **DISCUSSION / ACTION***

Approved as submitted.

3. Officer Elections – **DISCUSSION / ACTION***

Dana Turr y opened up nominations for officers of the Committee, announcing that Dennis Battenberg had agreed to continue as Chair and that Stan Gow had agreed to continue as Vice Chair of the Committee. She invited additional nominations.

Dennis Battenberg was elected Chair and Stan Gow was elected Vice Chair unanimously.

4. Roundtable Updates

4.1. Transit / Paratransit Operators

Doug Langille announced that on January 28 interviews will be taking place for a Transit Planner to replace Matthew.

Re-Imaging CityBus is progressing.

Mr. Langille noted the ease of Clipper use in coordinating with different transit operators.

Mr. Langille next reported on the effectiveness of budget and productivity incentives for paratransit service. Essentially this has resulted in no loss of service hours from fixed route.

Service for Oakmont will continue to be restricted; this is not required service under ADA and will allow for more local capacity in service.

Mr. Langille explained that paratransit service negotiation should result in more efficient service; e.g., determining what time the rider needs to be at their destination and their availability for their return/pickup trip.

Service changes for paratransit will be taking place this week.

Sonoma County Transit:

Steve Schmitz announced the successful soft launch of Clipper service the previous Sunday, January 17. This has resulted in zone and rider category changes.

The free college student program has been extended for another year.

The regular fare has been increased to \$1.50.

Mr. Schmitz next announced website updates, including NextBus.

A third ticket will be forthcoming for zones three through eight for paratransit service. Old tickets will still be honored

In response to Committee questions, Mr. Schmitz confirmed that Clipper service is not available for paratransit service.



Sonoma County Transit has assumed service of Cloverdale Route 68.

Petaluma Transit:

Staff has renewed their contract with CARES.

Real time vehicle location is nearly complete; it includes iPhone and Android applications. Hardware signs in three locations will be installed showing real time information at Copeland Transit Mall, the east side, and the downtown center.

The signal priority project on North McDowell is in progress, although it is delayed. Staff hopes to begin testing it in approximately one month. This is Phase 1 of a 3-phase project.

Staff has been working on their SRTP which recommends adding busses to mitigate the afternoon peak service delay in performance.

Modest expansion (Route 24 and 5) has been implemented.

5. Other Entities

SMART:

Steve Birdlebough distributed a flyer and announced an upcoming public hearing February 1 by the California Public Utilities at Helen Lehman Elementary School to address the rail crossing at Jennings Avenue. Further discussion followed regarding the crossing.

Area Agency on Aging:

Norine Doherty reported on Sonoma Access website improvements; the Earle Baum Center. Staff has applied for the Community Area Planning Grant.

Rabon Saip reported on his activities in connection with seniors facing stopping driving.

5. Coordinated Claim – DISCUSSION / ACTION (handout)

This item was tabled to the March 15 meeting.

6. Paratransit Fare Structure – Staff Report – INFORMATION (handout)

This item was tabled to the March 15 meeting.

7. Public Comment

Bettina O'Brien, citizen, reported on issues with evening paratransit service and difficulty in getting to her home, as it is beyond the range of service.

The Committee acknowledged this as a regional issue and that this is something that would be addressed by Golden Gate Transit.

Discussion continued regarding the challenge of providing service after regular hours and outside the mandated service area.

Ms. O'Brien next addressed the issue of using renewable energy for transit. Mr. Schmitz reported the delivery of the first electric vehicle, explaining that eventually they plan to have a fully electric fleet.

8. Other Business / Comments / Announcements

N/A

9. Adjourn – ACTION

2:50 p.m.

Staff Report

To: Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee
From: Dana Turréy, Transportation Planner
Item: Paratransit Fare Structure
Date: March 15, 2016

Issue:

What are the current paratransit fares in Sonoma County?

Background:

The Federal Transportation Authority (FTA) sets regulations around paratransit service under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Transit agencies are required to provide complementary paratransit service to persons unable to use the fixed-route system when operating fixed-route transportation service for the general public. This requirement does not apply to commuter bus, commuter rail and intercity rail systems. Paratransit service must serve geographic areas within three-fourths of a mile of the public transit operator’s fixed-route service corridors and set fares that do not exceed twice the cost of adult fare on fixed-route service. All bus services in Sonoma County comply with these requirements.

Transit Fares:

The table below lists current one-way fares for paratransit and fixed-route transit on busses in Sonoma County. All four of the bus operators listed below offer paratransit-eligible riders a fifty percent discount on fixed-route transit trips. Both fixed-route and paratransit fares cover only a very small fraction of the overall cost of the trip and require heavy subsidies. A typical one-way paratransit trip costs the operator approximately \$40.

Current one-way fares

Transit Operator	Paratransit Fares	Fixed-Route Transit Fares	
		Adult Fare	Disabled - 50% off
<i>Petaluma Transit</i>	\$3.00	\$1.50	\$0.75*
<i>Santa Rosa CityBus</i>	\$3.00	\$1.50	\$0.75
<i>Sonoma County Transit</i>	\$3.00 - \$7.10	\$1.50 - \$3.65	\$0.75 - \$1.83
<i>Golden Gate Transit Inter-County paratransit</i>	\$7.25 - \$19.50	\$4.50 - \$11.75	\$2.25 - \$5.88

*Petaluma Paratransit customers who have a plastic Petaluma Paratransit ID card can ride Petaluma Transit **free of charge**.

Interoperator Transfers:

Petaluma Transit, Santa Rosa CityBus, Sonoma County Transit, and Golden Gate Transit are in the process of establishing agreements that provide a \$1.50 fare credit for transfers between operators.

Other Resources:

Additional information for riders is provided by Petaluma Transit, Santa Rosa CityBus, Sonoma County Transit, and Golden Gate Transit online. Web links to these resources are included below.

Petaluma Paratransit Riders Guide - <http://cityofpetaluma.net/pubworks/pdf/transitpdf/Paratransit-Riders-Guide.pdf>

Santa Rosa CityBus Paratransit Users Guide - http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/departments/transit/paratransit_services/howtouseparatransit/Pages/default.aspx

Sonoma County Transit Paratransit Information - <http://sctransit.com/paratransit/>

Golden Gate Transit - <http://www.whistlestop.org/transportation/>

Action:

No action requested. This is an informational item only.