

## Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee

### MEETING AGENDA

**November 18, 2014, 2014 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. Public Comment
3. Approval of Meeting Notes: September 16, 2014 – **DISCUSSION / ACTION\***
4. Roundtable Updates
  - 4.1. Transit / Paratransit Operators
  - 4.2. Other Entities
5. Notice of Elections – Staff Report – **DISCUSSION\***
6. 2015 Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update – Janet Spilman – **DISCUSSION**
7. FTA Section 5310
  - 7.1. Large Urbanized Areas – Applications submitted 11/6/14 - **INFORMATION**
  - 7.2. Small Urbanized Areas – Applications due to MTC and SCTA 12/1/14 - **INFORMATION**
8. Other Business / Comments / Announcements
9. Adjourn – **ACTION**

\*Materials attached

The next **SCTA** meeting will be held December 8, 2014

The next **TPCC** meeting will be held January 20, 2014

Copies of the full Agenda Packet are available at [www.sctainfo.org](http://www.sctainfo.org).

**DISABLED ACCOMMODATION:** If you have a disability that requires the agenda materials to be in an alternate format or that requires an interpreter or other person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact SCTA at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

**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 September 16, 2014

#### ITEM

##### 1. Introductions

Meeting called to order by Chair Dennis Battenberg at 1:33 p.m.

*TPCC Member Attendees:* Dennis Battenberg, Chair; Stan Gow, Vice Chair; Kat Aby, Earle Baum Center of the Blind; Steve Birdlebough, Sonoma County Transportation & Land Use Coalition; Vaughn Held, Disability Legal Services Center; Michael Ivory, City of Santa Rosa; Tracy Repp, Area Agency on Aging; Rabon Saip, Area Agency on Aging; Terry Scussel, Whistlestop Wheels;

*Guests:* Dubii, Citizen; Linda Picton, Occupy Transit; Lillian Payne Vaughn, citizen.

*Staff:* Nina Donofrio, Janet Spilman, Dana Turr y.

##### 2. Public Comment

Lillian Payne Vaughn, citizen of Cotati, commented on difficulties she has encountered trying to get transit information, and informed the Committee that she is registered for paratransit service. She expressed her frustration in trying to get assistance, specifically information regarding Whistlestop Wheels, and difficulties in trying to get referred to their service, as well as miscommunication (or no communication) among various agencies.

Mr. Scussel requested her contact information in order to follow up and resolve the issue. Ms. Aby confirmed Ms. Vaughn's experience. Mr. Battenberg recommended contacting the administration at Volunteer Wheels; the lead agency that should be coordinating this transit service.

Additional issues raised included the cost of paratransit service to Kaiser Medical Center, and Kaiser's failure to respond to Ms. Vaughn's inquiry regarding this.

##### 3. Approval of Meeting Notes: July 15, 2014 – DISCUSSION / ACTION\*

Approved as submitted.

##### 4. ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

###### 4.1. Transit / Paratransit Operators

*Whistlestop Wheels:*

Terry Scussel had nothing new to report.

*Santa Rosa CityBus:*

Michael Ivory reported that paratransit service is down minus 1.1%, and that this trend is continuing. Fixed route ridership is also down; August showed an 11% decrease in ridership compared to the previous year. The reason for the decrease in fixed route ridership has not been determined; in response to Committee questions, Mr. Ivory explained that free paratransit trips on fixed route average approximately 2,000 per month.

Mr. Ivory announced that staff is seeking to replace two 2008 paratransit minivans under the 5310 program. A number of fixed route buses (1998s and 2000s) are still in operation and need to be replaced. Staff is in the process of entering into a consortium with other agencies to purchase new vehicles for fixed route service; it is likely to be over one year before new vehicles will be in operation.

MTC has granted Santa Rosa CityBus exclusion from the current cycle for the Short Range



Transit Plan (SRTP) because staff is currently involved in the development of the COA (Comprehensive Operational Analysis, or Long Range Transit Plan). Nelson-Nygaard is the consultant on the COA.

In response to queries from the Committee, Mr. Ivory explained the replacement cycle/life cycle of transit vehicles (12 years average for fixed route vehicles; five-year for paratransit automobiles, and four years for paratransit minivans).

Mr. Ivory projected growth to be a minimum of 3%. He confirmed that the 11% decrease in fixed route ridership does include students. He explained that the number of free fixed route rides for ADA-compliant paratransit riders cannot be determined, due to the spontaneity this service offers; however, he confirmed that these rides average 1,800 to 2,000 per month. He also confirmed that same-day paratransit service cannot be offered at this time.

*Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging:*

Tracy Repp reported that staff is part of a consortium of agencies working on coordinating transportation throughout Sonoma County, with Sonoma County Human Services as the lead agency in this effort. She invited Committee members to attend their meetings. They recently held a Transportation Mobility Committee meeting through their Advisory Council.

Ms. Repp announced the award of an \$89,000 grant which will be used to hire a part-time Transportation Coordinator, pending approval of the Board of Supervisors. Applications have also been submitted for 5310 funding and for a Caltrans grant.

*SMART:* Steve Birdleough announced the projected start of service in December 2016. SMART was not awarded the federal TIGER grant, which they had hoped to use to extend the rail from Larkspur to San Rafael. Delivery of the first train set is expected in approximately one year. It is currently being rebuilt in Chicago, will go to Colorado next for testing, and then will be delivered to SMART.

4.2. Other Entities

N/A

5. 2015 Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update – Janet Spilman – DISCUSSION

Janet Spilman explained that this is a 25-year plan. This Plan includes data from Climate Action 2020 and Portrait of Sonoma County. Methodology used in the regional Plan Bay Area was utilized. Discussion followed regarding the growing trend in private transportation services (e.g., Uber, Lyft, etc.). Chair Battenberg raised the issue of including services such as Airport Express. Ms. Spilman explained that, in general, the Plan includes those projects that may be funded through the SCTA.

Linda Picton raised the issue of participation by agencies, using the example of Santa Rosa Junior College, and the need to increase service hours in order to allow public transportation for evening classes; as well as including Greyhound and Golden Gate Transit.

Discussion continued regarding connectivity among agencies, communication, and simplification of services, as well as public outreach. Local community broadcast stations were suggested as a means of outreach. It was also noted that a large population does not have Internet access or email.

Ms. Spilman agreed to return with updated information in the future.

6. Staff Report – Section 5310 Pending Call for Projects – Dana Turréy / Tracy Repp / Michael Ivory – DISCUSSION\*

Ms. Turréy announced that the New Freedom program has been consolidated with the traditional funding program, and is now called 5310. It provides a mix of capital and operating funds. For the 2013/14 cycle for Large Urbanized Areas, Caltrans is the public agency and MTC will be overseeing the call for projects. Applications are due November 6.

Ms. Turréy explained that the program is split between large urban areas and small urban areas, and referred to the 5310 Call for Projects Schedule for Small Urbanized Areas.

Tracy Repp distributed a map showing the small urbanized areas included under this program.

In response to concerns expressed by Chair Battenberg, Mr. Ivory explained that a substantial portion of these funds are directed to seniors and the disabled. He confirmed that all paratransit riders must qualify through an ADA eligibility evaluation.

Mr. Ivory explained the advantages of forming a consortium through the Area Agency on Aging, thereby showing the communication among local agencies, establishing greater credibility, thereby being a stronger contender for receiving funding.

Ms. Repp noted that areas to be targeted include Cloverdale, Central Santa Rosa, and Rohnert Park/Cotati, and that an effort will be under way to help agencies, such as Petaluma People Services, to grow. Each agency would handle its own vehicle grant.

Ms. Picton expressed concern regarding the need for funding to provide improved service for paratransit riders, and her frustration at promoting volunteer drivers and spending funds on disqualifying potential riders, rather than incentivizing and providing employment for paid drivers.

Rabon Saip cited the example of Uber as part of a current movement of independent drivers offering services to the public, and the upcoming “silver tsunami” of seniors who are no longer able to drive.

7. Short-Range Transit Plan – Applications Due September 19 – Information available online at [http://apps.mtc.ca.gov/meeting\\_packet\\_documents/agenda\\_2268/12\\_SRTP\\_Update.pdf](http://apps.mtc.ca.gov/meeting_packet_documents/agenda_2268/12_SRTP_Update.pdf) - INFORMATION

Mr. Ivory explained that Santa Rosa is not included in this, as staff is currently working on their Comprehensive Operational Analysis.

In response to Committee questions, Ms. Turréy explained that SMART is not currently required to develop a SRTP.

Discussion followed regarding coordination of transit services with SMART, including access to stations, pathways, parking, etc. The need for expand bus transit hours of service (e.g., evening service to Santa Rosa Junior College) was discussed.

Ms. Repp noted that staff is seeking ways to incentivize drivers for paratransit as part of the grant application.

8. Lifeline Cycle 4 Draft Program Guidelines are available for review online at [http://apps.mtc.ca.gov/meeting\\_packet\\_documents/agenda\\_2268/10/0\\_Lifeline\\_Cycle\\_4\\_Memo.pdf](http://apps.mtc.ca.gov/meeting_packet_documents/agenda_2268/10/0_Lifeline_Cycle_4_Memo.pdf) - INFORMATION

9. New Members – DISCUSSION

N/A

10. Other Business / Comments / Announcements

N/A

11. Adjourn - **ACTION**

3:00 p.m.

## Staff Report

**To:** Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee  
**From:** Dana Turrey, Transportation Planner  
**Item:** TPCC Officer Elections for 2015  
**Date:** November 18, 2014

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### **Issue:**

The election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee (TPCC) for 2015 is noticed for the TPCC meeting scheduled on January 20, 2015.

### **Background:**

The committee's purpose is to advise the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) on the transit needs of communities of people with special needs, including elderly, disabled, and those of low income.

The TPCC facilitates communications between transit and paratransit users and the operators of such services. The TPCC reviews transit proposals involving Transportation Development Act (TDA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310, and other funds. TDA funds are available for various types of transportation projects including the provision of transit and paratransit services. The TPCC is charged with approving the annual Coordinated Claim for Sonoma County.

The TPCC is also involved in raising awareness of the many issues faced in both using and providing transit and paratransit services. The committee has an interest in both paratransit and fixed route transit issues.

### **Officers:**

SCTA's Ordinance No.3 requires that a Chair and Vice Chair be elected at the first meeting of the year to lead the TPCC during the calendar year. Dennis Battenberg has served as Chair and Stan Gow as Vice-Chair during 2014. Dennis consented to be Chair and Stan consented to be Vice Chair again in 2015. Any additional nominations for Chair and Vice Chair are now invited. Nominations for Chair shall be limited to members having attended six (6) or more meetings in the preceding three (3) years.

### **Meetings:**

The TPCC normally meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every other month at 1:30 p.m. Meetings are held in SCTA's conference room.

### **Actions Requested**

1. Nominations for Chair & Vice Chair are requested.

2. Attendance on January 20, 2015 is requested, as a quorum of voting members is required for the election.