

Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee

MEETING AGENDA

September 16, 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: July 15, 2014 – **DISCUSSION / ACTION***
4. Roundtable Updates
 - 4.1. Transit / Paratransit Operators
 - 4.2. Other Entities
5. 2015 Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update – Janet Spilman – DISCUSSION
6. Staff Report – Section 5310 Pending Call for Projects – Dana Turrey / Tracy Repp / Michael Ivory - DISCUSSION*
7. Short-Range Transit Plan –Applications Due September 19 – Information available online at http://apps.mtc.ca.gov/meeting_packet_documents/agenda_2268/12_S RTP_Update.pdf
– INFORMATION
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
- INFORMATION
9. New Members – DISCUSSION
10. Other Business / Comments / Announcements
11. Adjourn – **ACTION**

*Materials attached

The next **SCTA** meeting will be held October 13, 2014
The next **TPCC** meeting will be held November 18, 2014

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

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TRANSIT-PARATRANSIT COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Meeting Notes of July 15, 2014

ITEM

1. Introductions

Meeting called to order by Chair Dennis Battenberg at 1:30 p.m.

TPCC Member Attendees: Dennis Battenberg, Chair; Stan Gow, Vice Chair; Steve Birdlebough, Sonoma County Transportation and Land Use Coalition; Bob Cuneo, Senior Representative; Jodi Curtis, Sonoma County Transit; Rachel Ede, City of Santa Rosa; Ronny Kraft, City of Petaluma; Tracy Repp, Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging; Terry Scussel, Whistlestop Wheels; Matt Wilcox, Santa Rosa CityBus.

Guest Attendees: Patricia Kearns.

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

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes: May 20, 2014 – **DISCUSSION / ACTION***

Approved as submitted.

4. Roundtable Updates

4.1. Transit / Paratransit Operators

Whistlestop Wheels:

Terry Scussel reported that intercounty ridership is somewhat light. On-time performance has been improving in Marin County, 87%-88%, with the goal of reaching 90%. Traffic issues are the biggest problem in intercounty service.

Petaluma Transit:

Ronny Kraft reported that on August 14 paratransit fares are being raised from \$2.50 to \$3.00, and that free fixed route service will be available to paratransit riders who have the required ID card.

Emily Betts had a baby boy.

Staff has encountered issues with Trapeze counts, but ridership is fairly static for the summer (which is generally the case) but is up from last year.

4.2. Other Entities

Area Agency on Aging:

Tracy Repp reported the award of a grant from MTC. A consortium has been established and two meetings have been held thus far. Upon receipt of the funding, plans are to expand transportation options, examining where there are gaps and barriers to transportation, and coordinating transportation options, and implementing volunteer driver programs.

The consortium will also be pursuing implementation of a voucherless travel program based on Marin County's model.

In response to Committee's questions, Ms. Repp reported that the source of funding for this grant is the FTA New Freedom program.

As of March 2015, the Department of Human Services will assume administration of the Sonoma Access web site and call center through the Area Agency on Aging.

Stan Gow encouraged members to attend consortium meetings.



Ms. Repp added that the next meeting is scheduled for September 9 at the City of Santa Rosa Transit Center, 50 Stony Point Road.

Sonoma County Transit:

Jodi Curtis announced the successful implementation of Route 29, the weekend coast route, on July 5.

Ridership has decreased by 4% for the year over the previous fiscal year for fixed route service. Paratransit ridership is up 14%. Staff expects another increase in ridership next year, but not as high. Ms. Curtis confirmed that staff has been able to accommodate the significant increase in paratransit service.

Effective August 11, Sonoma County Transit will be assuming the local service from the City of Healdsburg (Healdsburg Transit). The schedule is still being finalized. An open house will be held for the public with a bus on exhibit. Staff will also be implementing functional assessment for paratransit service.

Ms. Curtis responded to Committee questions regarding the reason for the 14% increase in paratransit ridership, noting a significant influx of new riders, particularly in the aging population, and that she did not have specific data as to what geographic areas are experiencing the highest ridership; however, she did note that the Sonoma Valley and Russian River areas have a significant increase in paratransit service.

Ms. Curtis confirmed that complementary paratransit service is required to be provided for the Route 29 service going to Bodega Bay and Jenner, and that commuter service is exempt from having complementary paratransit service. She noted that this only applies to one route currently.

Santa Rosa CityBus:

Rachel Ede reported on the Paratransit Efficiency Study, noting that new service to the Earle Baum Center has been implemented effective July 1 as a means of consolidating multiple paratransit trips to the Center. Individuals have the option of taking a fixed route bus for free from the Transit Mall and then reserve a paratransit vehicle for a trip to the Earle Baum Center. This service only operates

upon request by calling to reserve it. Regular paratransit service is still available.

Another change in paratransit service as part of the Paratransit Efficiency Study is that effective May 5 paratransit service hours to and from Oakmont mirror standard service for the Route 15 bus, Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. Paratransit riders who need service outside of these hours are being referred to Sonoma County Paratransit, which offers complementary service to the Route 30 bus.

A service change was implemented effective July 6 for Route 10; due to traffic on Mendocino Avenue this route will now have 20 minute service Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in response to on-time performance issues.

Ms. Ede next announced that staff will be conducting a Comprehensive Operational Analysis over the coming year, making a detailed study of the entire transit system for CityBus, with possible restructuring and potentially shifting schedules, and providing a longer-term plan for transit service in the future.

Whistlestop Wheels:

Terry Scussel announced the addition of a new route by Marin Transit from Dillon Beach and Tomales to Petaluma; this provides free fixed route service to Petaluma only on Tuesdays.

5. New Members – DISCUSSION

It was determined that this would be addressed at the next Committee meeting.

6. Other Business / Comments / Announcements

Ms. Turréy announced that Caltrans and MTC will be releasing a Call for Projects for the STA 5310 program on October 1. More information will be available at the next Committee meeting. Mr. Scussel added that the deadline is November 6, and that there will be changes.

Ms. Spilman reported that staff is still working on performance measures related to goals of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Performance measures have been established for the first four goals of the CTP; however, these have yet to be identified for the new goal, which is to promote economic variety. Public outreach is delayed in response to adjustments

that have been requested by the Board.
Discussion followed regarding the effectiveness and productivity of public meetings. Ms. Spilman explained that staff is examining various options for outreach.

Discussion followed regarding Congressional movement to extend MAP21 funding to May 2015. Ms. Ede explained that this is in response to the end of funding for the Highway Trust Fund on August 1.

7. Adjourn – ACTION
2:15 p.m.

Staff Report

To: Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee
From: Dana Turrey, Transportation Planner
Item: Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 Program
Date: September 16, 2014

Issue:

What is the status of FY13 and FY14 FTA 5310 cycle?

Background:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (49 U.S.C. Section 5310) is a formula program that provides capital and operating grants to assist private non-profit corporations and public agencies to provide coordinated transportation services that are planned, designed, and carried out to meet the needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities.

The two-year federal surface transportation authorization, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), provided for a new, expanded Section 5310 Program. The New Freedom program was eliminated as a stand-alone program, and was consolidated with the Section 5310 Elderly and Disabled. This new expanded program is now called the Section 5310 Formula Grants for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, and provides a mix of capital and operating funding.

The FY13 and FY14 cycle of the Section 5310 Program is jointly administered by Caltrans and MTC. Under this cycle, Caltrans continues in the role as the designated recipient of funds. MTC is overseeing the Call for Projects, and will manage the project selection process.

MTC has reported that approximately \$8M will be available for the region's Large Urbanized Areas under the FY13/14 cycle, of which approximately \$502K will be available for the Santa Rosa area.

The Call for Applications will be released on **October 1, 2014** and applications are due on **November 6, 2014**. A full schedule is provided below.

Additional information on the Section 5310 FY13 and FY14 Cycle Call for Applications is available at <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/FTA/5310.htm>.

Section 5310 FY13 and FY14 Cycle Schedule

Activity	Date
MTC approves regional guidelines	September 24, 2014
Caltrans releases call for projects	October 1, 2014
Application Workshop	October 14, 2014
Applications due to MTC	November 6, 2014
Preliminary Program of Projects due to Caltrans	January 1, 2015
Draft Program of Projects to Programming and Allocations Committee	January 14, 2015
Draft Program of Projects to Commission	January 28, 2015
Adopted Program of Projects due to Caltrans	January 30, 2015
Grant Approved by FTA	September 30, 2015