

Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee

MEETING AGENDA

November 21, 2017 – 1:30 p.m.

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: September 19, 2017 - **DISCUSSION / ACTION***
3. Notice of Officer Elections for 2018 – Discussion*
4. Fare payment alternatives for paratransit - Discussion
5. Roundtable Updates - Discussion
 - 5.1. Transit / Paratransit Operators
 - 5.2. Mobility Partners
6. Public Comment - Discussion
7. Items for Next Agenda - Discussion
8. Other Business / Comments / Announcements
9. Adjourn - **ACTION**

*Materials attached

**Materials to be handed out

The next **SCTA/RCPA** meeting will be held December 11, 2017

The next **TPCC** meeting will be held January 16, 2018

Copies of the full Agenda Packet are available at www.scta.ca.gov.

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TRANSIT PARATRANSIT COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Meeting Notes of September 19, 2017

ITEM

1. Introductions

Meeting called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Chair Dennis Battenberg.

Members: Dennis Battenberg, Chair; Stan Gow, Vice-Chair; Bob Cuneo; Paul George, Disability Services & Legal Center; Steven Schmitz, Sonoma County Transit; Jon Gaffney, Golden Gate Transit.

Guests: Bettina O’Brien, Santa Rosa Multiple Sclerosis Support.

Staff: Dana Turrey; Drew Nichols.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes: July 18, 2017 -

DISCUSSION / ACTION*

Approved as submitted.

3. ADA Accessibility Specifications for Transportation Vehicles – Discussion

3.1. Priority Seating Signs on Buses

Dana Turrey spoke about the Americans with Disabilities Act, with regards to the specifications for transit vehicles, i.e. signage, priority seating, and the configuration of busses. The topic was introduced by conversations with Chair Dennis Battenberg. An attachment containing the language from Code of Federal Regulations that addresses this topic is included in the agenda packet and was described.

Paul George provided thoughts on the use of language, including the evolution through terms such as “disabled” or “handicapped” or “alternately abled” to describe an individual with a disability.

Ms. Turrey explored the language in the code, and suggested the use of “persons with disabilities” as it is used in the existing code. Mr. George added that this is the language that was discussed at the Center for Independent Living.

Transit operators noted that there is no FTA guidance on the nomenclature used on buses. Signs on most buses currently read, “reserved for seniors and disabled persons.”

The committee discussed the role, importance, and language in the ADA and the relationship to public transportation.

3.2. Interior Circulation on Buses

Per a request from Chair Battenberg, Dana Turrey pointed to the standard requirements for bus configurations as outlined in the attached ADA Code.

The committee shared experiences and their ideas.

4. Round Table Updates*

4.1. Transit / Paratransit Operators

Sonoma County Transit

Steven Schmitz described the recent activities for Sonoma County Transit. Since SMART service started, so far the connectors has been smooth. Ridership is hoped to increase as rail service continues.

Paratransit ridership has increased roughly 40% over the last few years.

Additionally, the first electric bus will be arriving soon, with anticipation of a second bid.

Bettina O'Brien asked if there was an idea of the number of paratransit users who use SMART.

Mr. Schmitz responded that there is not an indication that paratransit rides have gone up due to SMART, though the data will be studied more closely.

Golden Gate Transit

Jon Gaffney noted that Golden Gate Transit has seen paratransit rides connecting to SMART. However, Whistlestop is contracted to do the accessible component of the Lyftline last mile program offered by the Transportation Authority of Marin. There have been some short rides to and from SMART through this service.

Golden Gate Transit has seen paratransit numbers decline - in-county service is down 4% and inter-county service is down 14%. This is in contrast to an average annual increase of 5% in recent decades.

Golden Gate Transit has been contracted for SMART customer service and will provide a connector shuttle between San Rafael station and the Larkspur Ferry Terminal.

Paratransit software and technology upgrades are currently in process.

The committee explained the transfer procedures and trip connections between SMART and the respective transit operators.

4.2. Mobility Partners

Dana Turrey handed out a flier from the Area Agency on Aging which describes the volunteer driver program and the different agencies that are partnered with the Area Agency on Aging.

5. Public Comment

Paul George handed out a flier describing the "Tech Expo & More" which offers information, products, and services for individuals with disabilities.

Bettina O'Brien asked about electric scooter travel training on public transportation and who would provide that training to those who wish to have it.

6. Other Business / Comments / Announcements

N/A

7. Adjourn – **ACTION**

The committee adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Staff Report

To: Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee
From: Dana Turréy, Transportation Planner
Item: TPCC Officer Elections for 2018
Date: November 21, 2017

Issue:

The election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee (TPCC) for 2017 is noticed for the TPCC meeting scheduled on January 16, 2018.

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 may review 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 also reviews the annual Coordinated Claim for Sonoma County.

The TPCC is 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 2017. Any nominations for Chair and Vice Chair, including the current 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 3rd 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 16, 2018 is requested, as a quorum of voting members is required for the election.