

Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee

MEETING AGENDA

January 16, 2018 – 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: November 21, 2017 - **DISCUSSION / ACTION***
3. Smoking Ordinances, Ellen Swedberg, Sonoma County Department of Health – Presentation*
4. Officer Elections for 2018 - **DISCUSSION / ACTION***
5. Member Roster and Recommendation - **DISCUSSION / ACTION***
6. Accessible Transit Website and Sign Project, CityBus and Earle Baum Center - Presentation
7. Roundtable Updates - Discussion
 - 7.1. Transit / Paratransit Operators
 - 7.2. Mobility Partners
8. Public Comment - Discussion
9. Items for Next Agenda – Discussion
 - 9.1. Clipper overview, including potential for paratransit payment in version 2.0
10. Other Business / Comments / Announcements
11. Adjourn - **ACTION**

*Materials attached

**Materials to be handed out

The next **SCTA/RCPA** meeting will be held February 5, 2018

The next **TPCC** meeting will be held March 20, 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 November 21, 2017

ITEM

1. Introductions

Meeting called to order at 1:36 p.m. by Chair Dennis Battenberg.

Members: Dennis Battenberg, Chair; Stan Gow, Vice-Chair; Bob Cuneo; Paul George, Disability Services & Legal Center; Mohamed Ali, MV Transportation; Yuri Koslen, Santa Rosa CityBus; Jon Gaffney, Golden Gate Transit; Steven Schmitz, Sonoma County Transit; Norine Doherty, Area Agency on Aging.

Guests: Steve Birdlebough, Sonoma County Transportation and Land Use Coalition; Patricia Kerns; Diane Deutch; Laurie Ballard; Farjean Colbert; Don Ziskin.

Staff: Dana Turrey; Drew Nichols.

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

DISCUSSION / ACTION*

Approved as submitted.

3. Notice of Officer Elections for 2018

Dana Turrey announced the call for officer elections for calendar year 2018. Dennis Battenberg and Stan Gow are the current Chair and Vice-Chair.

Members are encouraged to attend the January 16th, 2018 meeting as a quorum is required in order to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Yuri Kolsen asked on the process for committee membership.

Ms. Turrey responded if there is interest from the committee, recommendations should come from the committee.

Dennis Battenberg mentioned “members at large,” which grants voting rights to those who want to be members when vacant position are unavailable.

Ms. Turrey noted that new members are required to have attended at least two meetings in the past year.

Patricia Kerns express interest to formally join the committee.

Bob Cuneo mentioned there is an interest from the Earle Baum Center for the Blind to have representation at the TPCC.

4. Fare payment alternatives for paratransit

Emily Betts, Petaluma Transit, explained potential alternatives to cash payments for fares on paratransit service in Petaluma, noting the challenge for cash payments.

The first idea discussed is to establish a prepay system for users.

The second idea discussed is to incorporate smart phone fare payments, which is already in use for the fixed route service, for paratransit users.

Ms. Betts asked for feedback.

Paul George asked whether Clipper can be used on the paratransit system.

Ms. Betts responded that Clipper is not on any paratransit service region wide.

Jon Gaffney added Clipper 2.0 may consider adding paratransit to the system.

Mr. Cuneo asked how effective would it be to write or call individuals on the regional level to advocate for Clipper to be integrating onto paratransit.

Mr. Battenberg entertained the idea for the TPCC to endorse a letter as a committee urging Clipper be integrated onto paratransit service.

The committee discussed the software used in dispatching, options for purchasing tickets, and Clipper services.

5. Round Table Updates*

5.1. Transit / Paratransit Operators

Sonoma County Transit:

Steven Schmitz described the efforts with the wildfire evacuations. Some busses and bus shelters in Larkfield did have minor damage.

The fixed route system will be reevaluated since the wildfire has displaced a significant portion of the population, specifically in the Mark West and Larkfield area.

The phone system for Volunteer Wheels has been resolved. A new cloud based system to handle public comments is developing and will be available for both Sonoma County Transit and Volunteer Wheels staff to review in the next month.

Paratransit ridership levels have increased around 40% over the past two to three years.

Petaluma Transit:

Emily Betts reported paratransit ridership has decreased roughly 15% overall from last year. Petaluma Transit ran service with free fares during the wildfires, and as shuttles between the evacuation centers.

Service changes in January on the fixed route system are expected to facilitate easier transfers to and from SMART.

Santa Rosa CityBus:

Yuri Koslen described evacuation efforts during the wildfires, noting around 300 individuals were evacuated through the first few days.

Santa Rosa CityBus staff plans to present to the Santa Rosa City Council on extending the free pass program for Santa Rosa Junior College students to into the spring semester. The program will be brought back to the Council for an extension into following semester.

Furthermore, work to provide bus stop identification numbers and locations for visually impaired individuals is in progress and will be brought to the Committee once completed.

Additionally, work to implement ParkSMART – the shuttle between the Downtown Santa Rosa SMART station and downtown Santa Rosa parking garages – is set to begin shortly and is intended to serve the commute hours. The shuttle is free and is funded through the Santa Rosa Parking Division.

The Committee discussed the challenges drivers and riders experience for drop offs and pickups at the YMCA due to configuration of the curb and parking lot.

Golden Gate Transit:

Jon Gaffney reported paratransit ridership is slightly down on Marin local service; regionally is down 15% for the last fiscal year. Fixed route ridership is also decreasing.

A complete remodel of the Golden Gate Transit website is under way.

Finally, challenges with the Larkspur ferry shuttle between the San Rafael SMART station and Larkspur Ferry are still being worked on.

Steve Birdlebough asked Steven Schmitz why paratransit ridership is increasing for Sonoma County Transit, whereas the rest of the transit

operators are seeing a decrease. Mr. Schmitz does not have any data about why this is occurring.

5.2. Mobility Partners

Norine Doherty, Area Agency on Aging, announced that the travel voucher program is set to sunset in December.

The Sonoma Access website will be launching soon. Ms. Doherty explained the upgrades and will be happy to share the information with the committee once launched.

Finally, the next Sonoma Access meeting will be in January.

Ms. Doherty further explained the history of the volunteer driver program, noting for FY 16/17 over 4,200 rides were provided, and the processes for volunteers, including DMV background checks.

6. Public Comment

Steve Birdlebough commented on the issue of individuals not giving up seats to the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Diane Deutch commented on Volunteer Wheels and expressed contentment with the service; however, shared challenging experiences with the phone system. Laurie Ballard, Bob Cuneo, and Don Ziskin echoed Ms. Duetch's experiences and expressed their concern with Volunteer Wheels' phone service.

Steven Schmitz took note of these concerns and will follow up with Volunteer Wheels to address issues with their phone system, as they were unable to attend the meeting.

Patricia Kerns spoke on the increase smoking of marijuana and cigarettes at bus stops and the downtown Santa Rosa Transit Mall.

With the passage of Proposition 64 which legalized recreational use of cannabis, there is concern about the societal implications and second hand smoke in public areas.

Ms. Kerns advocated for increased signage prohibiting smoking at bus stops.

7. Items for next agenda

N/A

8. Other Business / Comments / Announcements

Added to the agenda at the request of the Chair: Language on Priority Seating on Busses.

Steven Schmitz spoke on the interest of the committee to have the language changed on the busses. The discretion is placed to each transit operator and Sonoma County Transit is set make these changes.

Stan Gow noted the need for all the transit operators to use the same language for priority seating areas.

Dana Turrey provided a brief summary of the discussion from the previous meeting.

The Committee discussed the concept and why the interest to streamline the language is preferred.

9. Adjourn – ACTION

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Staff Report

To: Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee
From: Dana Turréy, Transportation Planner
Item: 3.0 - Smoking Ordinances and Transit Waiting Areas
Date: January 16, 2018

Issue:

What smoking ordinances are currently in place in Sonoma County and how are they noticed and enforced at transit stops?

Background:

California State law regulates smoking of tobacco inside public buildings and various public places. Local city, town, and county governments may regulate the smoking of tobacco in a manner consistent with the laws relating to tobacco smoking. Local laws regulating smoking may be stricter than California law; this is true for most localities in Sonoma County.

According to California State law, one cannot smoke marijuana or marijuana products in any public place or in any location where smoking or vaporizing tobacco is prohibited.

Ellen Swedberg with the Sonoma County Department of Health Services, Coalition for a Tobacco-free Sonoma County will present on this topic and cover the following issues:

- ❖ Local smoking ordinances
- ❖ Enforcement
- ❖ Signage at bus stops, transit malls, train stations, etc.

Action Requested:

N/A

Staff Report

To: Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee
From: Dana Turréy, Transportation Planner
Item: 4.0 - TPCC Officer Elections for 2018
Date: January 16, 2018

Issue:

Who shall be elected Chair and Vice Chair of the Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee (TPCC) for 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.

Action Requested:

TPCC Members are requested to elect a Chair and Vice Chair for service in 2018.

Staff Report

To: Transit Paratransit Coordinating Committee
From: Dana Turréy, Transportation Planner
Item: 5.0 - TPCC Member Roster and Request for Recommendation
Date: January 16, 2018

Issue:

Who are the current TPCC representatives and what are the current vacancies? Shall the TPCC recommend Patricia Kerns as new member?

Background:

TPCC members broadly represent social service and transit providers representing the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons of limited means. Members also include public representatives who are users of these services, specifically; one transit paratransit user of limited means, one potential transit user who is disabled, one potential transit user 60 or older, one representative of Hispanic/Latino community. Appointments to the Committee will be made by the SCTA based on recommendations made by the Committee, and where appropriate by city councils and the Board of Supervisors. Members of the Committee shall serve terms of three (3) years. Memberships may be automatically renewed.

Current Membership:

TPCC membership currently includes the following individuals and organization representatives:

- Dennis Battenberg, Public
- Stan Gow, Public
- Bob Cuneo, Public
- Tim Webster, Earle Baum Center of the Blind (New)
- Tyler Hewitt, Becoming Independent
- Norine Doherty/Rabon Saip, Area Agency on Aging
- Jodi Curtis/Steven Schmitz/Bryan Albee, Sonoma County Transit
- April Pearson, Volunteer Wheels
- Yuri Koslen/Rachel Ede, Santa Rosa CityBus
- Peter Edwards, MV Transportation
- Emily Betts, Petaluma Transit
- Dawne Ivory, MV Transportation
- Jon Gaffney/Barbara Vincent, Golden Gate Transit
- Tony Sense, Whistlestop
- Joanne Parker, Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART)

Vacancies and Opportunities for New Members:

Vacancies on the TPCC currently include the following categories:

- One Representative of Hispanic/Latino Community, Public
- Local Social Service Provider for Seniors - Transportation Provider
- Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means

Alternates may be appointed in any of the categories.

Recommendation for New Member:

At the November 2017 meeting, Patricia Kerns, inquired about becoming a member of the Committee as a representative of the public. Ms. Kerns has attended more than two TPCC meetings in 2017 and therefore exceeds the TPCC's standard threshold for attendance for consideration of membership.

SCTA staff is requesting a recommendation from the Committee regarding appointment of Ms. Kerns as a Committee member, filling the role as an alternate in one of the currently filled public representative categories.

Actions Requested:

1. Consider the recommendation of Patricia Kerns as a new Committee member and provide direction to staff regarding appointment.
2. Make suggestions for new members to fill vacancies.