

## ***TRANSPAC Meeting Summary Minutes***

- MEETING DATE:** November 10, 2010
- ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Cindy Silva, Walnut Creek (Chair); Guy Bjerke, Concord (Vice Chair); David Durant, Pleasant Hill; Julie Pierce, Clayton; Mark Ross, Martinez
- PLANNING COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Bob Armstrong, Clayton; Diana Vavrek, Pleasant Hill; John Mercurio, Concord
- STAFF PRESENT:** Ray Kuzbari, Concord; Martin Engelmann, CCTA; Deidre Heitman, BART; Jeremy Lochirco, Walnut Creek; Lynn Overcashier and Corinne Dutra-Roberts, 511 Contra Costa; Barbara Neustadter, TRANSPAC.  
Guests: BART Director Gail Murray; Amanda Martin, BART; Keith Halvorson, Joe Sbranti, Pittsburg.
- MINUTES PREPARED BY:** C. L. Peterson, TRANSPAC Staff

**Chair Silva convened the meeting at 9:04 a.m. without a quorum. Member Bjerke arrived at 9:04 and Member Durant arrived at 9:12 a.m.**

1. Pledge of Allegiance/Self-Introductions - Completed
2. Public Comment - None

### **Consent Items**

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Approval of July 8, 2010 and September 9, 2010 TRANSPAC minutes.  
**Ross/Durant/Unanimous**

### **Actions Items**

4. **Presentation by Paul Reinders, Traffic Engineer, City of Pittsburg on the James Donlon Boulevard Extension Project (formerly the Buchanan Road Bypass).**

Paul Reinders presented information on the James Donlon Boulevard Extension Project. This project will help alleviate congestion on Buchanan Road that is responsible for long delays at intersections, increased travel times, safety hazards and decreased emergency response times. Continued East County development will increase the demand on SR 4 as well as arterials. The James Donlon Boulevard Extension will add 1.98 miles to the existing roadway in the undeveloped hills south of Pittsburg at the western edge of the proposed Sky Ranch II subdivision and will connect with Kirker Pass Road. About 100 acres of right-of-way acquisitions will be needed to move forward with the project. There is currently no funding commitment and construction would begin a minimum of three years after funding is secured.

Joe Sbranti, Pittsburg Assistant Manager and City Engineer, emphasized the importance of separating commute traffic from residential areas, schools, and bike lanes. The commuters benefiting the most are those whose destination is Concord, Clayton and Walnut Creek, and the project will not provide a commuter shortcut to the freeway.

There was discussion about plans for future expansion. Mr. Reinders said that the two-lane road at 60 mph will handle the demand to 2030 at acceptable levels of service. Mr. Sbranti stated that the area is zoned for private open space and not development. No additional development is anticipated on the Thomas property.

**ACTION:** Report received

#### **5. Presentation by Steve Kappler, BART Group Manager of Capital Programs, Central County BART Crossover Project Update**

Mr. Kappler provided an update on the Crossover Project. The crossovers are located on the BART track between the Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill Stations, which was the longest stretch of track without crossovers. The crossovers will allow BART to route trains around disabled trains and add capacity during peak hours.

Mr. Kappler showed photos of the Jones Road construction area, including the tunnel for the Canal Trail. Placing the track over the tunnel required a creative engineering design to maintain strength without significantly reducing the size of the tunnel. The existing track was replaced with a ballasted track using a heavier rock. Even with the specially modified tamper equipment, a significant amount of manual labor was still required. Two power gap breaker stations are being brought in by cranes to provide power to the new sections of track. Soundwalls that dampen rather than reflect sound have been built near the crossovers to mitigate noise.

Throughout the project, BART has made efforts to accommodate nearby residents most impacted by the noise and disruption due to the construction. He noted that the City of Walnut Creek and the County were helpful in accommodating BART's needs as well. Mr. Kappler said that having a good contractor, good plans and good work contributed to the success of this project.

Chair Silva commented that some residents near the Walnut Creek Station have recently complained that eastbound trains seem to be coming into the station noisier than usual, and asked if that could be due to this project. Mr. Kappler said that when the Crossover Project is finished, BART will use a new grinder machine to smooth the rails which should help.

Member Bjerke complimented Mr. Kappler on the fine presentation. He also commented that he's noticed extreme noise when riding BART. Mr. Kappler acknowledged that passengers do experience more noise in the tunnels, especially in cars where the carpets have been removed. Gail Murray added that in addition to doing more grinding on the tracks, BART is purchasing 200 new cars to be delivered in 2017. The manufacturer will design the interior to help mitigate noise.

**ACTION:** Report received

**6. Reports on CCTA activities. TRANSPAC and CCTA Representatives are requested to report on the most recent CCTA Administration and Projects Committee (Member Pierce), Planning Committee (Member Durant), and CCTA meetings (Members Pierce and Durant)**

a. Administration and Projects Committee (APC) meeting

Member Pierce reported that APC received a report on quarterly sales tax revenues (see APC Item #5 on the consent calendar). APC approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Antioch to put in sewer line improvements in conjunction with Highway 4 construction. APC approved a request for funds for right-of-way acquisition for the Buskirk Avenue Widening - Phase II. APC also approved some Highway 4 amendments. A status update on the Caldecott Tunnel Improvement Project was given by Cristina Ferraz, Caltrans Project Manager. The low bid for the SR4 Widening at Somersville to SR 160 was about 67% of the engineering estimate. Staff was seeking authorization to request that the unused funds be put into a reserve account to use in the SR 4 Widening project.

b. Planning Committee (PC) meeting

Member Durant reported that the PC approved the City of Concord's Growth Management Program Compliance Checklist. The PC approved a Measure J allocation for the Sub-Regional West County Safe Transportation for Children: Low Income Student Bus Pass Program. Information was provided about the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), which wants to establish policies and strategies to address the predicted rising of sea levels. These policies and strategies may impact cities' land use as well as the Authority's future transportation projects. Martin Engelmann said that the Authority will prepare a comment letter to the BCDC. The Authority's selection committee recommended that it enter into a consultant agreement with Parisi Associates, which will work with the Contra Costa Health Services Department to develop a County Safe Routes to Schools program. Another update was given on SB 375 implementation. It was noted that the Joint Policy Committee has created a website at OneBayArea.org to serve as a clearinghouse for Sustainable Communities Strategy information.

Chair Silva brought up the subject of Measure O, the \$10 vehicle registration fee that did not pass in November's ballot. Member Pierce thought its failure could be due to voter fatigue in addition to opposition to having more money directed to transit. Member Durant commented that the public attitude was anti-spending, that Measure O lacked sunset provisions and voters' lack of trust that the money would be spent where they wanted. Member Bjerke thought that campaigning for it might have been a mistake. Bob Armstrong had heard comments that the measure was a self-imposed tax to keep money that State has taken away which rewards the State for its bad spending behavior.

**ACTION:** Information accepted

**7. Reports from 511 Contra Costa and TRANSPAC Staff**

a) **511 Contra Costa Report**

Lynn Overcashier reported on the FY 2011-12 work plan for programs and projects for grant application submittal to CCTA, BAAQMD, and MTC. She noted that this year's approach will shift from incentives to a focus on municipal, employer and schools services. For example, 511CC has recently been in contact with principals and PTAs at Walnut Creek

Intermediate and Diablo View schools in Clayton to discuss new programs that may include such elements as providing public bus etiquette classes and bike safety presentations, making a ridematch database accessible to parents, and organizing school bike “rodeos”. 511CC also will be applying for more mini grants for additional funding and may be eligible for Safe Routes to Schools funds through MTC.

Member Pierce asked if bike pools will be something that 511CC will be talking to schools about as it will help get cars off the road and increase safety. Ms. Overcashier confirmed that the bike pools, or “the walking school bus”, would be discussed.

Corinne Dutra-Roberts announced that today the Contra Costa bike mapper application became available on the 511 Contra Costa website. This application provides street level mapping and trail mapping plus information about bike rack and locker locations. She noted that MTC’s bike mapper application did not include Contra Costa.

**ACTION:** Authorized the 511 Contra Costa-TRANSPAC/TRANSPLAN TDM Program Manager to submit applications to CCTA for FY 2011/12 Measure J Commute Alternative Funds; to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for FY 2011/12 TFCA Funds; to MTC for CMAQ (Employer Outreach Funds); and to execute the required grant contracts and enter into cooperative agreements with the respective funding agencies. **Bjerke/Ross/Unanimous**

**b) TRANSPAC Report**

Barbara Neustadter reported that the SR 4 Corridor System Management Plan (now known as the SR 4 Integrated Corridor Management Analysis) has been approved for signature by CCTA’s Executive Director. The Integrated Corridor Analysis (formerly known as the SR 4 Corridor Management Plan) is underway. The Corridor TAC will meet soon and appointments to the Corridor Policy Advisory Committee will be requested next month.

The TAC has been looking at school crossing guard services and has reviewed the contracts from jurisdictions and County. Next month the TAC will work on developing common contract provisions that can be used by all jurisdictions in the procurement process.

The TAC will also discuss allocation of the available FY 08-09 Measure J line 20a “Additional Transportation for Seniors and People with Disabilities” funds. Proposals for the City of Walnut Creek Senior Club Mini Bus Program and the City of Pleasant Hill Senior Van Service will be discussed.

**ACTION:** Information received

**8. TAC Reports by Jurisdiction:**

Walnut Creek – Jeremy Lochirco reported that construction work has been completed on the Ygnacio Valley Road adaptive signal timing project. The software is now being calibrated, tested and refined. Construction of the sidewalk between Marchbanks and Ygnacio Court will be completed next month. A retaining wall is being built along that portion.

Martinez – Ms. Neustadter reported that the City has requested and will be receiving authorization to sign a CCTA cooperative agreement for the appropriation of \$200,000 in Measure J funds for the Court Street Overcrossing.

Pleasant Hill – Requested and received authorization from CCTA for \$2.9M for right-of-way acquisition for the Buskirk Avenue Phase II project.

No reports were given for Concord, Clayton, and Contra Costa County

**9. Correspondence/Copies/Newsclips/Information**

**ACTION:** Information received

**11. For the Good of the Order**

Member Bjerke said that the December meeting will occur a few days after he leaves the Concord City Council, but he will attend the meeting along with the new Council member.

Chair Silva was congratulated for her re-election to the Walnut Creek City Council.

**ACTION:** None required

**12. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.** The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2010 at 9 a.m.