

SUMMARY MINUTES
TRANSPAC Meeting – December 10, 2009

ATTENDANCE:

Elected Officials: Mark Ross, Martinez, TRANSPAC Chair; Cindy Silva, Walnut Creek, TRANSPAC Vice Chair; Julie Pierce, Clayton, CCTA Representative; David Durant, Pleasant Hill, CCTA Representative; Guy Bjerke, Concord.
Absent: Susan Bonilla, Contra Costa County.

Planning Commissioners: Bob Armstrong, Clayton; Diana Vavrek, Pleasant Hill; Matt Francois for Jon Malkovich, Walnut Creek; Bob Hoag, Concord; Michael Murray, Contra Costa County. **Vacant Seat:** Martinez

Staff: Ray Kuzbari, Concord; Tim Tucker, Martinez; Deidre Heltman, BART; Martin Engelmann, CCTA; Eric Hu, Pleasant Hill; Jeremy Lochirco, Walnut Creek; Cindy Dahlgren, County Connection; Lynn Overcashier, Corinne Dutra-Roberts, 511 Contra Costa; Barbara Neustadter, Connie Peterson, TRANSPAC staff.

Meeting convened with a quorum by Chair Ross at 9:02 a.m.

1. **Convene meeting: Pledge of Allegiance/Self-Introductions - completed**
2. **Public Comment** – Gene DeMar stated that he was concerned about the impact that the Buskirk Avenue Project might have on the oak trees along Hookston and Iron Horse Trail bike access. He asked about the status of the review of the plans and if the public will have an opportunity to comment. Eric Hu said that this is tied to the realignment project, and plans are still in design and have not been released to the public. A series of public meetings will be conducted to give the public time to address City staff within the next six months.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA: Pierce/Silva/unanimous**
Approved the November 12, 2009 minutes
END CONSENT AGENDA

4. **Presentation by Tian Feng, BART District Architect, on Measure J Projects at Central County BART Stations**

Deidre Heltman conveyed Director Gail Murray's apologies for not being able to attend TRANSPAC today due to the need to attend a previously unscheduled BART Board meeting. She introduced Tian Feng, who presented an overview of BART's plans for various improvements to Central County BART stations funded with Central County Measure J funds. Mr. Feng discussed some new ideas for station enhancements that focused on wayfinding, which strives to ensure that all patrons can easily access and use the transit system. BART is involved in a cooperative partnership with MTC to work on connectivity improvements.

Mr. Feng's presentation described how the Embarcadero station is serving as the wayfinding improvement pilot project, using a series of standard directional signs with consistent colors and pictograms. BART is developing real-time information display prototypes including solar-powered kiosks located at key decision points and transit information displays. He noted that the LED solar-powered signs also require less maintenance.

Mr. Feng continued with an overview of the proposed schedule and the budget, as well as examples of how the wayfinding elements will come together in all the Contra Costa stations. Mr. Feng said that wayfinding makes mobility options stronger and should make the system not only functional, but also be enjoyable and more equal to driving. Member Pierce said it was a good presentation and that wayfinding elements will be of help to her personally as well as to the general public.

ACTION: With thanks to Mr. Feng, the report on Central County BART station improvements was accepted.

5. **Pacheco Transit Hub maintenance funding request presented by Cindy Dahlgren, Director of Administration, County Connection**

At its November 19, 2009 meeting, the TAC recommended that TRANSPAC consider approving an allocation of \$15,000 per year for Pacheco Transit Hub maintenance, funded from TRANSPAC's Measure J line item 28, "Subregional Transportation Needs", provided that WCCTAC also approves a \$10,000 annual allocation. TRANSPAC has already approved an allocation of \$5,000 per year for the life of Measure J. In addition, the TAC recommended that TRANSPAC review the project in ten years to assess project performance and to determine if there are any other fund sources to cover the cost of the RTPCs' contribution for maintenance funding.

Cindy Dahlgren described how the Pacheco Transit Hub is fully funded for construction, but County Connection is responsible for maintenance per the cooperative agreement with Caltrans. Her presentation outlined the design and layout that will accommodate bus bays, increase the number of park and ride spaces, as well as provide access for the current tenant and the eventual building of the new interchange to the east of the Hub site. In this transit hub there will be amenities such as lighting, landscaping, bike racks and shelters. It was assumed that Measure J could be used Express Bus money to help support the facility, but this is no longer an option. The Hub cannot be built without the commitment to fund maintenance costs. County Connection is actively seeking other sources of funding, but is asking the subregions for contributions to support this facility.

In the discussion, Bob Hoag asked why TRANSPAC is being asked to pay for half the cost of maintenance, and what will happen when costs increase. Ms. Dahlgren said this amount was determined based on the fact that that Central County will be the major beneficiary and should pay the largest portion. It is understood that costs will increase over time and County Connection is looking at other sources of funding.

Michael Murray asked if any consideration had been given to options for advertising or some other kind of revenue model that might offset the cost. Ms. Dahlgren said advertising such as in shelters or billboards has not been considered. Member Silva asked about the possibility of charging for parking, estimating that a \$1/day parking fee would nearly pay for the cost of maintenance for a year. Ms. Dahlgren said that because this is a state owned property, Caltrans policy does not allow it. Member Silva agreed that this arrangement is acceptable for the first year in order to get approval, but would like charging for parking to be considered. Member Bjerke noted that Caltrans is charging their current tenant, and asked if the facility was designed with the anticipation that the tenant will leave at some point. Ms. Dahlgren said that when Interchange improvements are built, the tenant will leave. Chair Ross mentioned the development of a nearby CNWS transit hub, and it was noted that that the two transit hubs would probably serve different demographics.

Member Durant clarified that the concept of improving the transportation system means getting people out of their cars and into express buses, which is not done now because the system is not easy or accessible. CCCTA needs money for funds to implement this project, which could have a big impact and serve as a model of how to do it for similar facilities.

Ms. Dahlgren said that WCCTAC will consider a funding request tomorrow. However, it is possible that WCCTAC may reduce the amount it is willing to contribute. Lynn Overcashier suggested that Solano County also should be approached if it is going to use the hub.

ACTION: Approved \$15,000 annually from Measure J line item 28 "Subregional Transportation Needs", established a five year project review timeline, and agreed to continue to work with County Connection on the implementation of this project. Durant/Bjerke/unanimous

6. 2009 Strategic Plan Update

The TRANSPAC TAC reviewed the final version of the Strategic Plan at its November 19, 2009 meeting and recommended approval. It was noted that Central Contra Costa's programming had not changed since last spring at the start of the Strategic Plan process.

ACTION: Approved the 2009 Strategic Plan. Bjerke/Pierce/unanimous

7. TRANSPAC and CCTA Representatives' Reports. Items approved by the Authority on November 18, 2009 for Circulation to the Regional Transportation Planning Committees (RTPCs), and items of interest as well as the October 21, 2009 CCTA Summary Meeting minutes were included in the packet.

a. CCTA meeting

Member Pierce reported that CCTA authorized the APC to hire search consultant Roberts Consulting to help find its new Executive Director. Resumes and applications will be received by early to mid-January, with an offer being extended by February. In the meantime, Paul Maxwell has been appointed Interim Executive Director. The Board discussed the Strategic Plan as well as the rewritten Mission, Vision and Values statement.

b. Administration and Projects Committee (APC) meeting

Member Pierce reported that the APC did not receive a legislative report this month. The Authority got a clean audit this year. The APC received a report on the Caldecott tunnel project, and approved agreements with Parsons for design support services and with PB Americas for construction management services. The 2009 Strategic Plan is expected to be approved after review by the RTPCs.

c. Planning Committee (PC) meeting

Member Durant reported that the Planning Committee discussed programming for STIP Transportation Enhancement funds and recommended funding for Pleasant Hill South End Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvement Project, the Monument Corridor Pedestrian and Bikeway Pathway, and the BART Wayfinding Project. The PC was advised of the schedule of review for the Initial Measure J Growth Management Program (GMP) Biennial Compliance Checklist. Also discussed was the development of Guiding Principles for Implementation of SB375, noting that the Shaping Our Future principles could serve as a building block for these principles. The Authority's legal counsel will review questions raised by Save Mt. Diablo regarding Measure J Urban Limit Line requirements. The final 2009 Congestion Management Program was approved and forwarded to the next Authority Board for adoption. Member Pierce asked all cities to look carefully at the Measure J General Plan Review Amendment process which has been circulated to all the cities as it will be voted on soon. Member Pierce also urged all Planning Directors to attend the next Planning Directors meeting on Friday, at which ABAG staff will discuss SB375.

ACTION: Reports received

8. Reports from Staff and Committees

- a. Lynn Overcashier, Program Manager of 511 Contra Costa reported that the MTC 511 Regional Rideshare Program has requested cities in which a BART/Caltrain station is located identify a point person to be part of an emergency plan for relaxing parking standards adjacent to the BART station. 511 Contra Costa has offered to assist with information dissemination and working with jurisdictions. It was recommended that MTC contact the County as the Pleasant Hill BART Station is in an unincorporated area. When this topic was discussed at the November 19th TAC meeting, it did not generate a great interest in developing an emergency plan for parking. 511 Contra Costa is trying to work with MTC on other elements of the

emergency toolkit plan. Establishing the ability to bag meters, lift parking restrictions or to take the actions necessary in a municipal code is determined at the local level and is not MTC's decision.

- b. Meeting Schedule and Roster – TRANSPAC was asked to advise of any changes.
- c. General Plan Amendment – The TAC will consider it again in January and TRANSPAC will review it on February 11 and any comments should be forwarded as soon as possible.
- d. The unveiling of the electric charging station will follow this meeting. Chair Ross will speak briefly at this event.

ACTION: Reports accepted

9. TAC Staff Reports on local jurisdiction and agency transportation projects.

Ray Kuzbari, Concord, reported that the slide repair project on Ygnacio Valley Road is about 99% complete. Some overlay work is still required, but will be done at off peak hours to minimize the impact on traffic. The concrete divider will remain for safety reasons.

Cindy Dahlgren, County Connection, thanked the City of Concord and Ray Kuzbari, who was instrumental in getting the great transit accommodations and pedestrian access required for the building of the Lowe's center on Arnold Industrial Way. She also reported that the groundbreaking DVC transit center was held on November 17, and project construction is underway.

Tim Tucker, Martinez, reported that the City has opened the bids for the Marina Vista TLC project and will break ground in about three months. Property and business owner workshops were conducted at the beginning of project. The project includes amenities such as bike lanes, enhanced sidewalks and crosswalks, and decorative street lights. In addition, the bike lane gap will be finished.

Eric Hu, Pleasant Hill, reported that the Buskirk project is still in design approval and will soon begin public meetings with residents to inform them what's going on. The first step in construction will be the underground utilities.

Jeremy Lochirco, Walnut Creek, reported on an adaptive signal timing project on Ygnacio Valley Road in which detection cameras will be installed to replace several loop detectors. The technology will adjust signal timing and will affect all signals between I-680 and Oak Grove. Red light violation cameras are not included in this project.

ACTION: Reports accepted

10. Correspondence/Copies/Newsclips/Information - Accepted

11. For the Good of the Order

Chair Ross said that the Air District is considering revamping CEQA guidelines to make the requirements stricter. The Air District has notified Planners of upcoming planning sessions where it will be discussed. Member Pierce requested that the information be forwarded to Barbara Neustadter.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The next TRANSPAC meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2010 at 9 a.m. in the Community Room, City Hall, City of Pleasant Hill.