

TRANSPAC Meeting Summary Minutes

MEETING DATE:	July 12, 2012
ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:	David Durant, Pleasant Hill (Vice Chair); Joe Medrano, Clayton (for Julie Pierce, Chair); Mark Ross, Martinez; Bill Shinn, Concord; Karen Mitchoff, Contra Costa County; Kristina Lawson, Walnut Creek; Ron Leone, Concord (Alternate)
PLANNING COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:	Dan Richardson, Clayton; Diana Vavrek, Pleasant Hill; John Mercurio, Concord
STAFF PRESENT:	Ray Kuzbari, Concord; Jeremy Lochirco, Walnut Creek; Tim Tucker, City of Martinez; Steve Goetz, Contra Costa County; Laramie Bowron, CCCTA; Corinne Dutra-Roberts, 511 Contra Costa; Luther Kuefner, 511 Contra Costa; Barbara Neustadter, TRANSPAC.
GUESTS PRESENT:	Elaine Welch, Senior Helpline Services; Glenn Mix, Golden Rain Foundation
MINUTES PREPARED BY:	Marilyn Carter, TRANSPAC Staff

TRANSPAC reserves the right to take formal action on any item included on this agenda, whether or not a form of resolution, motion or other indication that action will be taken is included on the agenda or attachments thereto.

1. Convene Meeting

In the absence of Chair Pierce, Vice Chair Durant convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance/Self introductions – Completed

3. Welcome to Dan Richardson

Barbara Neustadter introduced and welcomed Dan Richardson, Planning Commissioner for the City of Clayton, who is replacing Bob Armstrong who previously held this position. Mr. Richardson commented that he looks forward to working with everyone at TRANSPAC.

Vice Chair Durant advised the group that this will be the most fun and productive meeting to be held all month.

4. Public Comment – None

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Approval of the May 10, 2012 minutes – Mitchoff/Lawson/Unanimous (Medrano/Richardson Abstained)**

END CONSENT AGENDA

6. **Call for Projects for TRANSPAC Measure J Line 20a Funds “Additional Transportation Services for Seniors and People with Disabilities”**

Ms. Neustadter commented that a lot of time was spent this year in putting together the Call for Projects for TRANSPAC Measure J Line 20a Funds. It was determined that the process was to be as simple and straightforward as possible to make the application process easier for agencies who do not have staff to assist in applying for grants. The amount available for funding is \$288,000 and the following applications were received:

Applicant	Amount Requested	
Caring Hands Volunteer Caregivers Program	\$50,000	
Golden Rain Foundation	\$62,883	
Golden Rain Foundation (Travel Training)	\$62,400	*
Rehabilitation Services of Northern California	\$42,560	
Senior Helpline Services	\$94,500	
Senior Helpline Services (Information and Referral)	\$16,500	*
City of Walnut Creek	\$39,000	
City of Martinez	\$68,000	
Total Requested	\$435,843	

* NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

TAC considered all applications and recommends that all but two of the projects be funded, and that TRANSPAC increase the amount of money to \$356,943 to fund the recommended applications. This is an increase of \$68,943, which is available in Line 20a funds. TRANSPAC approved the increase in funding.

The two projects not recommended to be funded are the Golden Rain Foundation and Senior Helpline Services applications, which are for travel training and information and referral services. TAC recommends that funding these kinds of projects be explored further to determine if these types of projects are appropriate for Line 20a funding.

Ms. Neustadter advised that the City of Martinez submitted its application a day late. She explained that the City of Martinez was encouraged by TRANSPAC to create such a service, and therefore TAC

decided to include that application. The City hopes to obtain funding for a vehicle to initiate service similar to the City of Walnut Creek and the City of Pleasant Hill programs.

Member Medranos questioned the significant difference between the per-ride costs of the various applicants, particularly the City of Martinez and Senior Helpline Services costs. Tim Tucker explained that the application from the City of Martinez requested funds for capital expense for purchase of a vehicle, and not operating expenses. The vehicle would be used over a period of 10-15 years.

Ms. Neustadter explained that there are two kinds of services: one with volunteer drivers which carry a low cost, and one with paid drivers which carry higher costs. Elaine Welch with Senior Helpline Services explained that the level of assistance that her organization provides is much different than the others in that it assists riders who require much more medical attention.

Member Durant commented that the cost per trip as well as the cost per person served does seem higher, and asked what other components make up the added costs. Ms. Welch responded that the riders who utilize her services require door through door services. Riders are initially given a home visit first, and are referred to additional resources to help them. Senior Helpline Services must hire staff to facilitate these types of services; volunteers are not qualified for that level of service.

Ms. Neustadter commented that Rossmoor is a service in the TRANSPAC area which receives Section 5310 funds, which makes it eligible to receive public funds.

Ms. Welch added that even though the application for the Information & Referral Service was not funded, Senior Helpline Services still plans to run the program.

ACTION: Approved. Shinn/Mitchoff/Unanimous

7. City of Concord Strategic Plan Amendment request to transfer \$830,000 in Measure J funds from Project 24027, Ygnacio Valley Road Permanent Restoration, Phase 2, to Project 1214 Commerce Avenue Roadway Extension

Vice Chair Durant announced the item and asked for comments. Member Mitchoff commented that she would like to see an off-ramp on 242 Northeast on Concord Avenue, as well as a left-turn onto the freeway on Concord Avenue traveling toward Concord. Unfortunately, these projects are not in the pipeline.

ACTION: Approved. Shinn/Lawson/Unanimous

8. Report on the Water Emergency Transit Agency (WETA) Discussions in Contra Costa

Barbara Neustadter presented the report. She commented that the Water Transit Agency (WTA) was originally created to provide ferry service to the San Francisco Bay Area. A bill was passed that changed WTA into the Water Emergency Transit Agency (WETA) to support the availability of emergency services.

She advised that Richmond, Hercules, Martinez and Antioch are interested in ferry services. A meeting was convened by the CCTA to discuss the WETA issues regarding these ferry services. WETA has funds for capital projects, but not for operations projects. Ms. Neustadter commented that there is a real issue regarding how to have emergency service without regular service. She shared the story of the 911 Boat Lift in New York Harbor, which resulted in the rescue of many people.

At the meeting, the cities and RTPCs present agreed to work together to determine how to move forward with the emergency aspect of this issue. In the event there is an extension of Measure J, the attendees agreed that the issue of ferry service could be addressed in Contra Costa. At this time West County is the only RTPC with funds in Measure J for ferry service.

Member Mitchoff commented that she agreed it would be difficult to have emergency service without regular service. Member Ross added that if ferry equipment was on hand, it would be easy to put it into place even if it was dry-stacked but with no equipment in place, it would be impossible. Member Shinn advised that Alameda County and Contra Costa County has plans to get emergency responders in place and that there are plans and equipment in place in different areas. Contracts with the Sheriff's Marine Patrol and Military are ready to handle emergency situations.

Member Mitchoff stated that a ferry service would provide the commerce side of an emergency situation for people to get to work in the aftermath. In today's environment, she worries that constituents would be unhappy to store a ferry for a "possible" eventuality.

Diana Vavrek questioned whether there is an inventory of resources to evacuate people, and whether commercial fleets are on contract or would be alerted to assist evacuation from San Francisco. Member Shinn responded that there is an inventory by the Office of Emergency Services ("OES") manager. The Alameda Sheriff is responsible for the region and has contracts with emergency vendors and equipment items.

Ms. Neustadter stated that TRANSPAC staff resources will be utilized to help craft a way to positively engage the ferry issue. Member Lawson commented that she supports TRANSPAC continuing to work on the issue.

Member Durant commented that the San Francisco Bay Area is one of the very few international city areas that has no solid ferry service. He feels it is long overdue and is in favor of exploring ways to make it a reality.

A discussion was held regarding the challenge of the geographic nature of the San Francisco Bay, the biggest problem being density and population.

Ms. Neustadter mentioned that an analysis was done for changing the vessel to a hovercraft type vessel which goes faster, is safe, is dock-able and draws less water to avoid dredging problems and suggested that additional work on the "vessel" issue could be beneficial.

ACTION: None required.

9. AB904: AB904 (Skinner) Local government: parking spaces: minimum requirements

Member Durant stated that AB 904 is a “retread” of an issue from last year, also sponsored by Assemblymember Skinner. That bill (AB 710) was revised substantially, making it minimally tolerable, but the bill died. It was resurrected this year in a different form and does not reflect all of the changes that were discussed last year. The new bill also introduces new components.

Member Mitchoff questioned whether anyone had spoken with Assemblymember Skinner to inquire why the bill is alive again. Member Durant stated that he is not aware of any contact with Assemblymember Skinner.

Member Leone stated that he coordinated with the League of California Cities members to testify at the Finance Committee Hearing in Sacramento and was prepared to talk before the Committee about the issue. Representatives and elected officials from each city were there to speak, and just before being called to testify, attendees were advised that the bill was pulled.

Member Mitchoff commented that she appreciates the efforts of Member Leone. She added that she is frustrated with the lack of communication from state legislators.

Member Lawson stated that the bill is coming from the California Infill Builders Association. She advised that a parking standard exists in Walnut Creek whereby parking standards can be reduced in a particular zone near the Walnut Creek BART Station. Every application received has been for parking in excess – applicants do not want to use the parking standard because applicants do not believe that those units can be marketed. The whole concept of forcing that standard seems completely misguided.

Member Durant added that the notion that seems to have driven the original version of the bill was a unique project problem in one city in Assemblymember Skinner’s district which was the desire for building more affordable housing in dense urbanized areas that have appropriate levels of infrastructure and public transportation.

ACTION: None required.

10. Benicia-Martinez Bridge 50th Birthday Party

Ms. Neustadter introduced the idea from Member Ross for a celebration for the 50th anniversary of the Benicia-Martinez Bridge. The City of Benicia and the City of Martinez are agreeable to work on the celebration.

Member Ross commented that the original bridge was the one that ended the ferry between Martinez and Benicia. With the building of the bridge came much prosperity to both Contra Costa and Solano Counties. It was difficult to get the connection to Highway 80 because federal funds could not be used to connect the bridge to Highway 80 in any form. It was determined that if the bridge could be called an on-ramp or off-ramp, it could connect to Cordelia. He continued that it is probably the longest on-ramp in the United States.

ACTION: Information Received

11. TRANSPAC CCTA Representative Reports: Reports on the most recent CCTA Administration and Projects Committee (Member Pierce), Planning Committee (Member Durant), and CCTA meetings (Members Pierce and Durant)

Member Durant turned the meeting over to Member Shinn because he had a conflict and needed to attend another meeting.

Ms. Neustadter reported on the CCTA Administration and Projects Committee Meeting. The Strategic Plan Amendment that TRANSPAC approved for the Marsh Creek Overlay Project to the Marsh Creek Road Upgrade in the City of Clayton was approved. The City of Pleasant Hill Buskirk Widening Phase II has gone through design review and is moving forward. For the City of Concord, the Clayton Road/Treat Blvd./Denkinger Road Intersection Capacity Improvements will be funded \$432,600 for environmental clearance, design and right-of-way.

AB904 was discussed, as well as AB780 which is the bill for costs associated with review and approval of project study reports required by Caltrans. This bill requires Caltrans to pay for the report because Caltrans requires the report. AB2498 concerns construction manager and general contractor project delivery method, which is a way that the CCTA can expedite project delivery by getting services in place in advance of need to more efficiently deliver the project.

CCTA approved an agreement with Barbary Coast Consulting for the implementation of their Strategic Communications Plan.

Ms. Neustadter continued with a report on the Planning Committee Meeting. The City of Concord calendar years 2010-2011 Growth Management Program Compliance Checklist was approved. A review of Contra Costa County's 2010-2011 Growth Management Program Compliance Checklist was conducted and there were some issues. The issues have now been resolved and the County will receive its appropriation.

Applications for the Contra Costa Transportation for Livable Communities Projects and Pedestrian Bicycle Trail Facilities Programs have been through the allocation process. The applications have been approved, the Cooperative Agreements have been approved for execution, and the first allocation of funding has been approved as well.

The Safe Routes to School Planning and Programming process was discussed, as well as how to conclude the Parisi contract. CCTA proposed that the leftover \$245,000 from the Parisi contract be allocated \$50,000 to each RTCP to use staff services to assist jurisdictions with grant applications for the \$3.2 million from the One Bay Area Grant for Safe Routes to School. Some jurisdictions do not have staff time and expertise to prepare for a grant call of such magnitude.

Mr. Richardson inquired if the consulting firm would provide grant applications for competing cities. Member Mitchoff responded that it is possible, but there was a discussion that there would be a coordinated effort so that there wasn't that competition, and that analysis would be done.

ACTION: Reports received

12. SB 375/SCS Report

Ms. Neustadter handed out the final version of the CCTA letter to MTC regarding Notice of Preparation of the Draft EIR for Plan Bay Area.

ACTION: Report received

13. 511 Contra Costa and TRANSPAC Staff Report

a) 511 Contra Costa: Report on MTC Smart Parking Workshop prepared by Lynn Overcashier, 511 Contra Costa

Corinne Dutra-Roberts reported that Lynn Overcashier attended the MTC Smart Parking Workshop, which was MTC's attempt to educate local jurisdictions on new parking ideas. MTC did a survey of developers and planners and the result indicated more issues than recommendations.

Jeremy Lochirco added that the workshop seemed an attempt to lay a foundation for the Skinner bill.

Steve Goetz commented that some of the information MTC used to justify the Skinner bill was from surveys of apartment complexes in Contra Costa County. The surveys did not contain sufficient details to ensure that the results are statistically valid for development projects and tracking studies. The County is considering whether to inform MTC to review the studies in more detail because the consequences of promoting the Skinner bill proposing parking standards that haven't been demonstrated to work anywhere in California, would create problems in local communities regarding parking shortages.

Mr. Lochirco added that the workshop was worthwhile and there were some really good points regarding shared parking and other issues. He felt the workshop was "tilted" to indicate what might be coming with the Skinner bill.

Ms. Dutra-Roberts announced that Contra Costa County Library is promoting a "Discover and Go" program whereby members who have a library card may go online and receive free or deeply discounted tickets to many different types of events. The Contra Costa County Library is partnering with 511 Contra Costa to provide transit to access the venues for those events. For the month of August, 511 Contra Costa will run a promotion whereby members may apply for free \$10 BART tickets when they print event tickets if the event venue is walkable from a BART station. This promotion will run for the month of August 2012.

b) TRANSPAC Report:

- 1. Updated TRANSPAC Roster**
- 2. 2011 Schools for the Future Report**

Ms. Neustadter stated that the 2011 Schools for the Future Report is provided for information purposes. The issue of "School Siting" is an area where changes need to be addressed because schools are sometimes built in locations that are not friendly to students arriving at school. The

2011 Schools for the Future Report is the latest report from Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

ACTION: Report received

14. TAC Reports by Jurisdiction

Tim Tucker advised that the City of Martinez is holding an informational meeting next Thursday on the intermodal parking lot which will be connected to the Amtrak Station via a pedestrian bridge.

ACTION: Information received

15. Agency and Committee reports

ACTION: Information received

16. For the Good of the Order

Member Ross commented that he attended the BCDC-ABAG-BAAQMD-MTC Joint Policy Committee (JPC) meeting on Tuesday to listen to the draft of the Bay Area Plan. He stated that the way in which the MTC is approaching SB 375 is doomed for failure and rebellion and putting all the elected officials and staff in the untenable position of putting out a plan for central government of all the regions. There should be a better way for local governments to tailor their need to meet SB 375 in a more local pattern than what is being forced upon the Bay Area.

Member Shinn shared that the Concord Reuse Plan is moving ahead. The City is working with the Navy now and there is a possibility of land disposal within the next 18 months. The City is making progress with the Navy with properties that have been cleaned up to CERT standards and the City is trying to determine how to dispose of those through auctions.

ACTION: None required

17. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. in the City of Pleasant Hill Community Room, unless otherwise determined.