

**CORRECTED**  
**CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO**  
**MASS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, March 9, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bob Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Bob Johnson (Chair), Jean Knox (Vice Chair), Denise Martinez, D. Gregg Doyle, Susan Rains, and Dustin Robinson

**Alternates:** Kathy Howard (voting)

**Absent:** Jose Lemus, Rob Nesbitt

**Staff Present:** Austin O'Dell

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. O'Dell introduced Jerry Wiggins.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tylor Middlestadt, Cal Poly ASI representative, stated there was an urgent need to increase the bus route availability for campus. He discussed the loss of campus parking and reported that the campus is making efforts to focus students on using alternate transportation. He believed the busses to Cal Poly were too infrequent and did not run late enough into the evening. He believed students were now looking for alternate ways to get to/from campus. He also felt there should be more bike racks available on the busses.

**A. CONSENT ITEMS**

**A-1 Minutes from the January 12, 2005 meeting**

Motion made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Ms. Rains, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

There were no discussion items at this point.

## **C. ACTION ITEMS**

### **C-1 Performance Report**

Mr. O'Dell summarized the Performance Report from January 2003 to January 2005, outlining changes and factors systemwide, service standards, and noting the unproductive evening service schedule.

The total ridership, productivity, and fare box ratios were up. He reported that total ridership was up 53%; Cal Poly ridership was up 82%; non-Cal poly ridership was up 12%; and "riders per hour" was up 56%.

The trolley service ridership was down, mostly due to a downturn in the economy and visitor numbers and he reported that the schedule was redesigned to run Thursdays – Sundays, from downtown to upper Monterey Street.

He reported that Route 6A & 6B were successful, but Route 7 & 8 did not meet performance standards of 12 riders per hour.

In discussing Service Refinements, he noted significant costs approaching: new buses added, emissions equipment installed, fuel cost increases, and fielding a new contract.

Mr. O'Dell noted that Route 3 had major issues, most notably maintaining on-time performance with 30-minute headways. After discussing several suggested options, the Committee agreed to expand the service to include 40-minute headways.

He also discussed options in reducing service to include: implementing Sunday service schedules for Routes 1 – 5, 7 and 8 for key holidays and winter breaks; eliminating Routes 6 A/B on key holidays and Cal Poly breaks.

Refinements to Evening Service included keeping 6 A/B the same and eliminating Route 7 & 8 service between June 16 and Labor Day, to be reviewed in six months.

Refinements to the Trolley service included limiting hours run to noon to 5:30 p.m., with a review in July 2005.

After general discussion, the following items were identified:

1. Eliminating Highland Drive segment for Route 1 and include direct service to medical offices near Sierra Vista Medical Center.
2. Monitor Route 3 for on-time performance and headway changes.
3. Operate Trolley only from March 17 through December 31.
4. Investigate strategies for Route 6 A/B to increase capacity while not impacting service segments, e.g. review peak service data.

Mr. O'Dell distributed information on ridership for each bus route peak weekday service.

Mr. Johnson opened the discussion to the public for comment. Seeing none, he closed the discussion.

Mr. Robinson suggested that the peak service time for Cal Poly students be extended to 10 a.m.

Ms. Knox was very concerned with Cal Poly night ridership and offering later hours of operation, as well as the possibility of adding another bus and the need for increasing Cal Poly's financial participation.

Mr. Doyle stated he generally agreed with the refinements as outlined but felt the review needed to have significant service changes. He distributed and discussed his proposal for significant service changes, which he claimed would not increase net costs and rely on shifting service to where the higher demand was identified.

The proposal included discussion on:

1. Keeping Route 2's existing elements and adding a 15-minute loop up California Blvd to connect with Foothill Blvd, to access major shopping and student housing, which would yield a 60-minute headway.
2. Combine service elements of Routes 1 & 3, as he felt they mirrored one another too closely and could be consolidated.
3. Add a "Route 6C" by eliminating Route 1, which duplicated the proposed extended Route 2 segment and use the bus from the defunct Route 1.

He further outlined his proposed service "triangle" region.

Mr. O'Dell was concerned with "triple interlining" of the busses and dropping the Route 1 service on Augusta Street. He was generally concerned with imposing too many changes too quickly and felt public perception of same would be negative and decrease public confidence to ride the bus.

He was also concerned about the general limitations of budget dollars allocated and of the numbers of buses available in the aging fleet.

Mr. O'Dell suggested implementing staff refinement recommendations as presented for July 1, 2005 and considering Mr. Doyle's proposal for January, 2006.

The Chair recognized Mr. Middlestadt, who urged that changes involving Cal Poly ridership and extended service be implemented by September 2005 to maximize the large influx of new students who needed to decide how to utilize transportation. He also noted that having students pay cash for fares on the extended evening service was not unreasonable.

Mr. Doyle made the motion, seconded by Ms. Rains, to accept staff recommendation for refinements for July 1, 2005, to include the following:

1. Extend Route 3 headways to forty minutes;
2. Add Sunday service as follows:
  - a. **Routes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.** Thanksgiving Friday, Presidents Day, Martin Luther King Day, 5 days for Winter Break in December.
  - b. **Routes 7 and 8.** Sunday service (equals no service) on Thanksgiving Friday, Martin Luther King Day, 10 days for Winter Break in December.
  - c. **Trolley.** Sunday service on Thanksgiving Friday, Martin Luther King Day, 10 days for Winter Break in December.
3. Shift the Trolley service hours to operate from 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. This shift represent no change in revenue vehicle hours.
4. Provide no service on Routes 7 and 8 from June 16th through Labor Day. Routes 7 and 8 would resume regular service on Labor Day.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Doyle also made the motion, seconded by the Chair, for staff to review and return with recommendations, to be implemented by July 1, 2005, to increase headways on Route 2 from forty minutes to one hour headways. As part of this motion, the inbound Route 2 would continue to serve on Marsh Street, where the route will travel on Nipomo and Palm Street toward City Hall, serving a new bus stop on Palm Street in front of the City/County Library. The Route 2 would continue north on Santa Rosa, east on Mill St., and north on California Blvd. The Route 2 would continue west on Foothill Blvd, south on Broad to serve a new bus stop at Broad and Ramona, east on Meinecke, south on Santa Rosa, and return to the Downtown Transit Center on the regular routing.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Doyle made another motion, seconded by Ms. Rains, to have staff to review and make recommendations regarding his Proposal Sections 1 and 5, to remove Route 1 and consolidate service with Route 6 A/B/new C as indicated on the map contained for implementation by January 2006.

Ms. Martinez stated she did not favor eliminating Route 1 and felt there were significant service groups that would be negatively affected (i.e. the homeless riders).

Mr. O'Dell agreed that sensitivity and equity among all riding populations should be considered along with efficiency.

Mr. Johnson called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. to the next regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Woske, Recording Secretary