

**CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
MASS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
SLOCOG OFFICES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2007
Approved 09-12-2007**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Jean Knox called the meeting to order at 2:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jean Knox, D. Gregg Doyle, Susan Rains, Diana Gould-Wells, Christine Batteate, Margaret Crockett, Kathy Howard and Denise Martinez

Absent: Tracey Amundson

Staff: John Webster and Sabrina Haggie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Knox noted that due to the switch in meeting venues, Ms. Hooper could not be present to swear in new member at large Margaret Crockett.

Mr. Doyle noted that the agenda roll call should now list Denise Martinez as Vice Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Don Miller, Route #2 rider, had been in communication with various staff/organization members about needing to get more bike rack capabilities available, reporting that he had been unable to ride several times because the racks were already filled. He now stated that the bus had a 3-position bike rack in place and wanted to thank staff for all their efforts to make this happen.

A. CONSENT ITEMS

A-1 Approval of May 9, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Knox requested that due to the lateness of the meeting start and the pending presentations, MTC table the minutes' approval until the next meeting.

There were no objections.

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B-1 Runabout Service Presentation

David Lilly, RTA representative, presented an ADA overview as it pertained to transportation. He stated that Runabout provides transportation for disabled people who could not use fixed route services. He discussed various aspects of the program and its requirements for eligibility. He noted the Runabout schedules mirrored fixed route schedules and when evening service is expanded on fixed routes, Runabout schedules will extend as well, using some contingency funds available. He reported that that 90% of the usage was now ADA, serving approximately 1,200 ADA riders.

Kim Blakeman asked if there was an assessment mechanism available for those riders who should really be using Runabout and not fixed route transit. Mr. Lilly replied there was not and suggested drivers hand out Runabout brochures to caregivers or disabled riders.

B-2 Ride On Service Presentation

Mark Shaffer, Ride On representative, stated that there needs to be a supportive process to help foster independence among the disabled riders. He proceeded to present an overview of Ride On and the Senior Shuttle and stated that he works closely with Social Services and senior agencies to institute support services. He noted that the program does not receive a lot of tax revenue and providing rides was becoming more expensive. He reported Ride On was the major transporter for RTA programs and providing Medi Cal door/door service that was free to the rider who needed transport for medical services. He outlined grant monies and fees and time frames for No. Coast, No. County, and So. County schedules, which provided approximately 400 rides/month.

Ms. Howard stated she would like to see some type of training for seniors who are equipped with scooters and wheelchairs to better be able to operate the equipment. Mr. Shaffer referenced a senior training program with COG and agreed with the pro-active training approach for equipment operation.

B-3 Fall Services Update

Mr. Webster distributed information on increasing route service in the evenings, supported by the STA grant.

Mr. Blakeman discussed route changes and stated the new routes/schedules would be in place September 4 through June 15, 2008, with the week prior/after Christmas blacked out). Ms. Haggie discussed the advertising promotion of schedule changes and evening services and agreed with work with Cal Poly to get the word out to campus, as well as promoting the changes during WOW week.

Mr. Doyle suggested sandwich boards at the Cal Poly UU and Mott Gym stops. He also noted that the community should be targeted with ads as well to reach the people that currently do not ride the bus because there had been no evening service, so as to inform them that there is now evening service available.

Ms. Howard felt that the lack of service amendments/expansions during the summer months were unfair to seniors who would like to also utilize the evening service, e.g. Farmer's Market, Friday Night Plaza concerts, etc. She did not feel that schedules should always be tied to the student population. Mr. Webster agreed to discuss the concerns further with Ms. Howard to see how to address the issue.

Mr. Doyle suggested using the Trolley service for Thurs./Friday evening service for the seniors.

Ms. Haggie discussed the new Descanso reverse loop, which will become effective September 4, 2007.

B-4 Bikes on Transit Vehicles

Mr. Webster reported that his office was dedicated to retrofitting/equipping new vehicles with the 3-position bike racks.

Mr. Blakeman discussed the reasons why bike racks installed at the back of busses was a dangerous set-up.

C. ACTION ITEMS

C-1 Fare Increase for Beach Cities Cab

Mr. Webster discussed the March 7, 2007 request from Jeff Goldenberg President/Founder of Beach Cities Cab Company for a fifty-cent (\$0.50) per mile fare increase which would bring the proposed rate to \$3.00 per mile. He reported that the increases in fuel and insurance costs prompted the applicant's request, and seems reasonable due to the volatility of gasoline prices. He stated the applicant was attempting to address customer complaints and if the fee increase were granted, the applicant would eliminate the current \$10/minimum charge per ride and would not request another increase until March 2009.

Mr. Doyle moved to approve the request for an increase to a \$3/mile charge, providing the applicant dropped any minimum fare requirement and did not request another fee increase until at least March 2009.

Ms. Rains seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

D-1 Transit Manager's Report

Mr. Webster recapped several points in the report for discussion.

Ms. Knox clarified that the MTC would be well involved with the SRTP Study Steering Committee process and that a presentation would be presented to MTC.

D-2 Operating and Performance Reports

Mr. Webster distributed and discussed a revised format for reporting ridership information, with a spreadsheet breakdown by month and by pass type regarding fare revenue. He agreed with Mr. Doyle's request that ridership information also be provided on a route-by-route basis.

Laura Fulton, student, distributed and discussed her report on the use of hybrid busses in San Luis Obispo and felt the hybrid option would be compatible with the City's needs and would prove to be more efficient.

Mr. Webster agreed that while being more efficient, the current costs compared to a diesel bus would show that the City might not recoup its costs if it went with a hybrid fleet, which were still priced very high.

Mr. Webster also distributed a copy of the revisions to the MTC bylaws.

There was no further Committee discussion.

E. MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Committee member comments.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Woske, Recording Secretary