

**West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee
Board of Directors Meeting
DRAFT Meeting Minutes: January 31, 2014**

Members Present: Janet Abelson, Chair (El Cerrito); Tom Butt (Richmond); Gayle McLaughlin (Richmond); Sherry McCoy (Hercules); Aleida Andrino-Chavez (WestCAT); John Gioia (County) Cecilia Valdez (San Pablo); Zakhary Mallett (BART); Jael Myrick (Richmond); Roy Swearingen (Pinole)

Staff Present: John Nemeth, Jerry Bradshaw, Joanna Pallock, Danelle Carey, Valerie Jenkins, Linda Young; Ben Reyes, Legal Counsel;

Location: San Pablo Council Chambers, 13831 San Pablo Avenue, San Pablo, CA 94806

1. **Call to Order and Self-Introductions – Chair Janet Abelson**
2. **Public Comment.** None
3. **Introduction of John Nemeth - New WCCTAC Executive Director.** The Board welcomed *Mr. Nemeth* who previously served as the Planning Manager for the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District, and who also worked for BART, MTC and the San Mateo County Transit District.
4. **Elections: (a) CCTA Representative (even-year term), (b) CCTA Alternate(s), (c) WCCTAC Chair, (d) WCCTAC Vice-Chair.**

ACTION: *Director Gioia* nominated current Chairperson *Janet Abelson* to be reappointed as the CCTA Even-year Representative. Seconded by *Director McCoy*. Passed unanimously.

Chair Abelson nominated *Director McCoy* to be the CCTA Alternate Representative. Seconded by *Director Valdez*. Passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Butt nominated *Chair Abelson* to be re-elected as WCCTAC's Chair for one year. Seconded by *Director Mallett*. Passed unanimously.

Director Gioia nominated *Vice-Chair Butt* to be re-elected as WCCTAC's Vice-Chair. Seconded by *Director Valdez*. Passed unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION: *Director Mallett* moved to ADOPT Items 5-11. Seconded by *Director McCoy*. Passed unanimously. *Director Gioia* asked staff to disclose the salary of the new Executive Director. It was announced that *Executive Director John Nemeth* was hired at an annual salary of \$135,000.

5. **Minutes of December 6, 2013 Board Meeting.**
6. **Monthly Program and Projects Status Report**
7. **Final 2014 Board and TAC Meeting Schedule.**
8. **Financial Report for November and December 2013.**
9. **Payment of Invoices over \$10,000.**
10. **Appointment of New Executive Director.**
11. **Administrative Restructuring Items.**
 - **Financial Services Agreement.**
 - **Insurance & Benefits.**
 - **Deferred Compensation Agreement – ICMA-RC.**
 - **CalPERS Reallocation Agreement.**

DISCUSSION

12. Resolution of Support for a Study of High Capacity Transit Options.

ACTION: *Director Butt* motioned to adopt the Resolution and add to the adoption of the motion a statement saying “direct staff to work with all West County transit providers to develop a scope of work for a study of high occupancy transit.” Seconded by *Director Myrick*. Nine votes in favor: *Abelson, Butt McLaughlin, McCoy, Gioia, Valdez, Mallett, Myrick and Swearingen*. One vote opposed: *Andrino-Chavez*.

DISCUSSION: *Mr. George Parsons*, a citizen of Pinole, addressed the Board to express his support for high occupancy transit service.

Vice-Chair Butt explained the reason he placed this resolution on the agenda. He stated that there has been a disconnect between the staff item on the agenda and the resolution. He clarified that the resolution includes all transit, and not just BART.

Director Gioia asked if there is a possible rail extension using the existing right-of-way. *Director Butt* stated that this is a resolution to look at all possible rail options and has the broadest intent.

Director Andrino-Chavez stated that she supports a market based study including transit. But her sense is this study is premature since the funding has not been identified.

Director McLaughlin stated that she fully supports this study.

Director Myrick stated the language in the resolution shows supports for transit and he is in favor of the resolution.

Director Butt moved to have the resolution add the phrase “work with all West County transit providers.”

Director Andrino-Chavez stated that it is premature to create a study.

Deidre Heitman, BART Planning staff, explained that the resolution helps the process to have an expression of support in the form of resolution. *Interim ED Jerry Bradshaw* stated that the scope has not been designed but the scope and funding may come together. Wording should state “direct staff to work with all transit agencies” in the motion.

Vice-Chair Butt agreed to give direction to staff to work with all transit agencies and leave the resolution as is.

Director Myrick seconded the motion.

WestCAT General Manager, Charlie Anderson, addressed the Board to say WestCAT would prefer to move this item to a future meeting so staff could find out about other planning efforts (including BART Metro Study) and develop a draft scope and options. Then a study would be an alternatives analysis and a lot of the issues would be clarified.

Vice-Chair Butt responded that WCCTAC has to start somewhere. He said this study will come back to WCCTAC. First, staff will develop the level of detail and plenty of opportunities to weigh before the study moves forward. He emphasized that it is important to move now.

Director Cecilia Valdez asked when WCCTAC decides how much to ask for. She asked what the process entails.

Interim ED Jerry Bradshaw said the scope will determine the level of funding needed depending on the depth and resources and grants. He added that this will come back to the Board but would not preclude action to move now.

Director Gioia said this is a policy decision for the Board, not the staff. The Board develops the scope. The level of analysis will also be determined by whether there is new funding source from another half-cent sales tax. A committee of the Board could be set up to define the scope.

Deidre Heitman said the resolution is not necessary as a funding tool, but it will help the BART Board know that it is consensus from West County to seek a study and this is the first step.

Chair Abelson brought up a study done before 2000. That led to the Rapid Bus project on San Pablo. She referred to the factors that led to the decision to create a Rapid Bus service. There was consideration given to both BART and streetcar-like services. She sees that this is a similar process. Her understanding of the study is that all factors and options would be considered by experts in the field. She asked if there was some funding set aside already under Christina's era.

Director Swearingen stated that it was studied by a subcommittee of the Board. *Chair Abelson* said she thinks there were funds secured and asked for staff to research. *Joanna Pallock* mentioned that funds from MTC for \$60,000 from MTC's Community Based Transportation Plan for Hercules/Rodeo/Crockett could be applied to this effort, depending on the scope.

Director McCoy said she sees this motion as a first step and what might be possible. Anything moving forward would come back to the Board. All the transit agencies would assess their needs. *Interim Director Bradshaw* concurred that the Board will have many opportunities to weigh in.

Director Andrino-Chavez could develop a more detailed resolution if we wait for more information and discussion.

Director Swearingen commented that WCCTAC is 10 years behind on addressing issues with transit on the I-80 corridor. The resolution is very generic and now WCCTAC can move forward to talk about the issues and he supports the resolution.

AC Transit staff, Nathan Landau, said his agency has been involved in these studies plus AC is seeking funding for San Pablo Ave about future service and any effort should work with those efforts. He reiterated what *Director McCoy* said; that there can be many options as part of the solution. The study needs to be framed openly with comprehensive questions and a wide universe of solutions.

13. Action Plan for Routes of Regional Significance – 2014 Update.

ACTION: *Director McCoy* motioned to release the 2014 Draft Action Plan to CCTA and the other RTPCs for review. Seconded by *Director Mallett*. Passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *CCTA staff Matt Kelly and consultant, Julie Morgan from Fehr and Peers*, presented the Draft Action Plan for Board approval to release to the public.

Director Mallet asked about population data and made a point that density impacts were not part of the analysis. It is his opinion that El Portal is a Route of Regional Significance because at certain times of day it is impacted by the college traffic.

Director McCoy asked about the chart showing job growth and local resident growth. She also asked for a copy of the entire document in color. *Julie Morgan* stated that there is a trend of more jobs available in West County relative to the population but it is not a 1:1 relationship. *Director McCoy* asked about the data showing that the increase in traffic is from Solano County rather than West County and asked where this data came from. *Ms. Morgan* stated that it came from the MTC and CCTA models.

Director Valdez left at 9:05 a.m.

Director Gioia left at 9:12 a.m.

Director Andrino-Chavez stated that working with Solano County will be important

Vice-Chair Butt asked about the goal of enhancing rail crossings. He mentioned efforts by Richmond and that the city is seeking State and Federal legislation to change the codes. He asked if there were any surveys done on rail crossing. *Ms. Morgan* was not aware of any inventory. *Director Butt* stated he will be contacting local cities to see if this can be addressed together.

Director Swearingen looked at the data on Pinole Valley Road and asked why the LOS B to a LOS F and what is being planned for this area. It will be looked into.

STANDING ITEMS

14. Correspondence/Other Information

1. Incoming

December 27, 2013, from CCTA, Items Approved by the Authority on December 18

January 16, 2013, from AC Transit, Reappointment of Joe Wallace as AC Transit representative on WCCTAC Board and H. E. Christian Peeples as alternate.

January 17, 2013, from CCTA, Items Approved by the Authority on January 15th.

b. Outgoing

December 9, 2013, to CCTA, Meeting summary of the December 6th WCCTAC Board meeting.

January 15, 2014, to ABAG, Letter of Support for San Pablo Avenue Complete Streets Project award application (cities of San Pablo and Richmond).

January 15, 2014, to Michele Rodriguez of City of San Pablo, Letter of Support for City of San Pablo application for a TDA Article 3 grant application for a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

- c. **Workshops/Conferences/Events – no upcoming events**
- d. **Summary and Minutes of recent Technical Advisory Committee meetings**
 - October 10, 2013 TAC Meeting
 - November 21, 2013 TAC Meeting
- e. **Acronym List**

15. Board and Staff Comments

- Board Member Comments, Conference/Meeting Reports (AB 1234 Requirement), and Announcements
- Report of CCTA Representatives (*Directors Abelson & Butt*)

Vice-Chair Butt addressed the Board about the item on the Mobility Management Plan at the CCTA Board meeting on January 15, 2014. He noted that even though he asked for more time to comment, CCTA passed the Plan. He asked that the WCCTAC Board have a chance to review. *ED Bradshaw* stated that it will be coming in March. *Chair Abelson* also mentioned that AC Transit was not part of the study and represents a majority of the paratransit service area in West County

- Executive Director's Report – *Interim ED Bradshaw* gave a summary of his efforts at WCCTAC over the past year.

16. Other Business