

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MARIN COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2005, AT 4:05 P.M.

PRESENT: DIRECTORS Charles McGlashan, Barbara Heller, Susan L. Adams, Steve Kinsey, Dick Swanson, Harold C. Brown, Jr., President

ABSENT: DIRECTOR Cynthia L. Murray

a. BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MATTERS

No Board of Directors' matters were presented at this time.

b. TRANSIT PLANNING MANAGER'S ORAL REPORT

Local Transit Planning

Transit Planning Manager Amy Van Doren briefly commented on participation at recent community meetings held to gather input regarding improving local transit services.

FY 2005-06 Transit District Budget Modifications

Ms. Van Doren advised that, based on expected adjustments to school service and youth fares as a result of today's hearings, she will bring forward an amended Transit District budget for approval. Ms Van Doren also advised that she is working with the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District ("GGBHTD") regarding an amended service agreement reflecting proposed changes to the routes serving the Larkspur and Ross Valley School Districts.

Notice regarding Service Changes and Youth Fare Policy

Ms. Van Doren advised that she is working with the GGBHTD to prepare a joint notice to be distributed to schools and parents, based on expected Board actions today, regarding service changes and an implementation of a new youth fare policy.

Draft Service Plan

Ms. Van Doren advised that she is working on a draft service plan, including a draft rural service plan, and advised that she will keep the Board informed of these efforts.

Short Range Transit Plan

Ms. Van Doren responded to questions from the Board regarding an expected timeframe for the Board's consideration of the Short Range Transit Plan ("SRTP").

c. OPEN TIME

Alternate Transit District Director

Alternate Transit Director Paul Albritton advised that he was present.

d. HEARING: SCHOOL SERVICE ADJUSTMENTS

By letter dated August 2, 2005, Transit Planning Manager Amy Van Doren submitted her report and recommendations regarding the above-captioned matter. Ms. Van Doren advised that copies of amendments made to the June 28, 2005, staff report regarding adjustments of school route services for FY 2005-06 were available. Ms. Van Doren advised that the amendments primarily clarify the implementation of the youth fare during the first year of operation and include revisions to reflect consistency with Golden Gate Transit ("GGT") scheduling protocols.

The hearing was declared open for public comment.

Superintendent of Schools for the Larkspur and Ross Valley School Districts and the Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services for the Tamalpais Union High School District individually expressed appreciation to the Board, Ms. Van Doren and GGT for their efforts to continue school service to the Larkspur and Ross Valley School Districts. The Transportation Coordinator for the Marin School of Arts and Technology commented on proposed changes to bus routes 55, 57 and 59.

Seeing no one else present to speak, the hearing was closed.

M/s Adams-Swanson, to direct staff to implement school service adjustments beginning September 12, 2005.

Ms. Van Doren responded to questions from the Board regarding implementation of an annual pass and considerations for the youth fare.

The vote on the pending motion was

AYES: DIRECTORS McGlashan, Heller, Adams, Kinsey, Swanson, Brown  
ABSENT: DIRECTOR Murray

e. HEARING: YOUTH FARE POLICY

By letter dated August 2, 2005, Transit Planning Manager Amy Van Doren submitted her report and recommendations regarding the above-captioned matter.

The hearing was declared open for public comment.

David Schonbrunn of Transportation Solutions Defense and Education Fund ("TRANSDEF") suggested that the existing infrastructure for pass programs established by several of the schools be maintained during the upcoming year.

Ms. Van Doren responded to a question from the Board stating that the White Hill and Brookside Schools currently issue their own annual bus pass and advised that the Board could decide to continue the bus pass system for these schools until the annual youth fare pass program is implemented in the fall of 2006, with the understanding that the continued use of the passes for these schools would be restricted to the applicable school routes for the current school year.

A San Anselmo parent expressed appreciation to the Board and presented a letter outlining her comments.

Ms. Van Doren responded to comments from the Board regarding issues to be considered as part of the development of the annual youth pass program for 2006, including addressing issues such as lost passes.

A member of the public and Alternate Director Albritton briefly commented on the expected implementation of TransLink in 2006 and its expected integration of the youth pass program.

Assistant Marin County School Superintendent Luke McCann conveyed interest in working collaboratively with the Transit District and all the school districts regarding issues related to development and implementation of the student pass program.

A parent suggested the District explore alternative payment plans in addition to the proposed \$350 annual convenience pass.

Directors Swanson and Adams individually commented on alternative payment structures and expected implementation of TransLink pass.

The Superintendent of the Ross Valley School District expressed her District's willingness to work with the Transit District to work out the details of the youth pass program.

Ms. Van Doren responded to comments from the Board regarding the proposed \$1.00 youth fare and youth fare considerations during the interim period of the upcoming school year and the fall of 2006.

A San Anselmo parent requested the Board to allow the schools who currently issue their own annual bus pass to continue the bus pass system until the annual youth fare pass program is implemented in the fall of 2006.

Craig Yates of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's ("MTC's") Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee ("EDAC") briefly commented on the integration of Translink and the youth pass system.

Discussion ensued among Board members and staff regarding development of a youth fare program for implementation in the fall of 2006, and considerations for a transitional program for implementation in the upcoming school year.

Director Swanson made a motion to direct staff to implement a \$1 fare for youth age 18 and below, to provide free tickets for students in free and reduced lunch programs, and to develop a pass program for implementation in FY 2006-07, as detailed in staff report dated August 2, 2005; and to direct staff to report back to the Board, identifying additional options for a transitional pass program, considering comments expressed at today's hearing.

Seeing no one else present to speak, the hearing was closed.

After discussion among Board members regarding alternative motions, members agreed to first consider a motion on the recommendations outlined in the August 2, 2005, staff report.

M/s Swanson-McGlashan, to direct staff to implement a \$1 fare for youth age 18 and below, to provide free tickets for students in free and reduced lunch programs, and to develop a pass program for implementation in FY 2006-07.

AYES: DIRECTORS McGlashan, Heller, Adams, Kinsey, Swanson, Brown  
ABSENT: DIRECTOR Murray

M/s McGlashan-Swanson, on behalf of Director Brown, to direct staff to work with the White Hill and Brookside Schools and the Larkspur School District to facilitate continuation of the existing annual pass program, to be implemented, *if possible*, for the school year beginning the fall of 2005.

Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District ("GGBHTD") Planning Director Alan Zahradnik advised that there are currently three pass programs administered by the Larkspur School District, Brookside School and White Hill School, applicable only on Routes 117, 123, 126 and 127. Ms. Van Doren advised that Larkspur School District did not have a pass program. The Larkspur School District had provided Route 117 service to its students at no charge under its contract with Golden Gate Transit.

Ms. Van Doren advised that the current pass program at White Hill School is valid only on the specific routes for transportation to school, emphasizing that, if it's possible to continue the three pass programs currently administered by the schools, that the pass would only apply on those specific routes.

Ms. Van Doren further responded to comments from Director Swanson regarding developing incentives for purchasing an annual pass, and the considerations for setting the annual pass at \$350. Ms. Van Doren further emphasized that, if implementation of a transitional pass program for this school year is possible, the pass would serve the specific school populations mentioned, and would be limited to those specific routes for school trips only.

The vote on the pending motion was

AYES: DIRECTORS McGlashan, Heller, Adams, Kinsey, Swanson, Brown  
ABSENT: DIRECTOR Murray

f. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/s Kinsey-Adams, to approve the minutes of the meetings of June 14, June 21 and June 28, 2005, as circulated.

AYES: DIRECTORS McGlashan, Heller, Adams, Kinsey, Swanson, Brown  
ABSENT: DIRECTOR Murray

g. PASS-THROUGH AGREEMENT WITH GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT FOR FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FUNDS

By letter dated August 2, 2005, Transit Planning Manager Amy Van Doren submitted her report and recommendations regarding the above-captioned matter.

Transit Planning Manager Amy Van Doren responded to questions from the Board regarding the Board's interest in purchasing clean fuel vehicles and the expected delivery of the ten paratransit vehicles.

Craig Thomas Yates briefly commented on efforts by the national group Mobility Works in exploring bio-diesel paratransit vehicle options.

M/s Kinsey-Swanson, to approve an updated agreement with Golden Gate Transit for purchase of ten paratransit vehicles using federal funds.

AYES: DIRECTORS McGlashan, Heller, Adams, Kinsey, Swanson, Brown  
ABSENT: DIRECTOR Murray

h. ADOPTION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ("MOU") BETWEEN GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, HIGHWAY, AND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT, COUNTY OF MARIN, MARIN COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT, AND THE SONOMA MARIN RAIL TRANSIT DISTRICT

By letter dated August 2, 2005, County Counsel Patrick Faulkner submitted his report and recommendations regarding the above-captioned matter.

M/s Kinsey-McGlashan, to adopt a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District, the County of Marin, the Marin County Transit District and the Sonoma Marin Rail Transit District.

Transit Planning Manager Amy Van Doren and Deputy County Counsel Nancy Stuart Grisham responded to questions from Director Adams regarding the parties' interests identified in the MOU, specifically referring to Article 1.4a(ii) Retained Rights.

(Director Swanson absent at 4:55 p.m.)

Discussion continued among Directors and staff regarding provisions in the MOU protecting the Transit District's use of the San Rafael Transportation Center ("SRTC"), the limited property interests of the Transit District, and reasons why the Transit District is a party to the MOU.

(Director Swanson present at 4:57 p.m.)

Director Adams expressed concerns regarding whether the MOU provides for equal access for all transportation modes at the SRTC.

Ms. Grisham recommended that the Board approve the agreement, noting that the Board could send a letter to GGT and SMART emphasizing the Transit District's position regarding the importance of protecting the rights and interests of users of Marin County transit facilities.

Three members of the public and Alternate Director Albritton further commented on the proposed MOU.

Director Brown suggested the original motion be amended to direct staff to prepare a letter to clearly identify the Transit District's interest with respect to local transit.

Ms. Grisham briefly noted that further technical language is being developed that will be presented to all the participating agencies.

Director McGlashan expressed his support for sending a letter to SMART and GGT and briefly commented on SMART's interest in working cooperatively.

Director Adams stated she was not comfortable supporting the MOU as currently presented, unless the Transit District's interests are more clearly represented.

Director Kinsey noted that the proposed MOU has been reviewed by several authorities, including the North Coast Rail Authority, SMART, GGBHTD, the Board of Supervisors; suggesting that the Board express its concern by sending a letter, but not hold up the process by rejecting the MOU which, if modified, would need to be returned to all the agencies for review.

Ms. Grisham further responded to comments from Directors Kinsey, Heller and Brown.

Director Brown recommended that the matter be continued until the next Transit District meeting.

Discussion continued among Board members and staff. Thereafter, a roll call vote was ordered on the pending motion.

AYES: DIRECTORS McGlashan, Kinsey, Swanson  
NOES: DIRECTORS Heller, Adams, Brown  
ABSENT: DIRECTOR Murray

Directors and Deputy Counsel Grisham further commented on the Transit District's consideration of the proposed MOU.

(Director Kinsey absent at 5:26 p.m.)

i. UPDATE ON THE TRANSLINK CONSORTIUM

By letter dated August 2, 2005, Transit Planning Manager Amy Van Doren submitted her report regarding the above-captioned matter.

j. LOCAL FARE ZONES BETWEEN EAST AND WEST MARIN

By letter dated August 2, 2005, Transit Planning Manager Amy Van Doren submitted her report and recommendations regarding the above-captioned matter.

M/s Swanson-Adams, to eliminate local fare zone surcharge for trips between West Marin and East Marin.

AYES: DIRECTORS McGlashan, Heller, Adams, Swanson, Brown  
ABSENT: DIRECTORS Kinsey, Murray

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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SECRETARY

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