

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MARIN COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2006, AT 9:07 A.M.

Roll Call

Present: Director McGlashan; Director Heller; Director Brown; Director Kinsey; Director Swanson; Director Murray; Director Adams; Director Albritton (Alternate)

a. OPEN TIME

Transportation Advocacy

A representative of the Marin Center for Independent Living ("MCIL") urged the Marin County Transit District ("MCTD") to take an active role in advocating for increased statewide transit funding.

b. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/s Director McGlashan - Director Murray to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2006.

AYES: ALL

c. BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MATTERS

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

d. TRANSIT PLANNING MANAGER'S ORAL REPORT

General Manager

Transit Planning Manager Amy Van Doren advised that the Public Works and Human Resources Directors are working to develop a job description and salary range for a General Manager that should be ready for the Board's review in April.

e. FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR A STUDY ON ENHANCED TAXI SERVICES FOR SOCIAL SERVICE AND PUBLIC PARATRANSIT PROGRAMS FOR MARIN COUNTY RESIDENTS

By letter dated March 20, 2006, Transit Planning Manager Amy Van Doren submitted her report and recommendations regarding the above-captioned matter.

M/s Director Kinsey - Director McGlashan to authorize President to execute agreement with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for a Study on Enhanced Taxi Services for Social Service and Public Paratransit Programs for Marin County Residents.

Ms. Van Doren advised that Transit District staff has been working with Health and Human Services staff on this agreement, and noted that an extensive working group of stakeholders will oversee development of the Study.

A representative of Transportation Solutions Defense and Education Fund ("TRANSDEF") noted that this study includes a focus on accessible taxis. In response to a question from President Adams, staff stated that the study will look at strategies to support and increase the utility of taxi services for able and disabled residents of Marin.

Directors discussed the possibilities of utilizing community funding and community-based organizations as a way to expand service availability and spoke about the geographic distribution of services.

A member of the public commented that local jurisdictions do not have money available to provide matching funds for enhanced transit services.

AYES: ALL

- f. ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, CONTRACT WITH NELSON/NYGAARD CONSULTING ASSOCIATES TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON ENHANCED TAXI SERVICES FOR SOCIAL SERVICE AND PUBLIC PARATRANSIT PROGRAMS FOR MARIN COUNTY RESIDENTS.

By letter dated March 20, 2006, Transit Planning Manager Amy Van Doren submitted her report and recommendations regarding the above-captioned matter.

M/s Director Kinsey - Director Murray to authorize President to execute agreement with Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates to Conduct a Study on Enhanced Taxi Services for Social Service and Public Paratransit Programs for Marin County Residents.

In response to a question from Director Swanson, Ms. Van Doren advised that the request for bids had been sent to the District's entire consultant list but only one bid was received.

Thereafter, the vote on the pending motion was

AYES: ALL

- g. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENT ON THE REVISED SHORT RANGE TRANSIT PLAN

By letter dated March 20, 2006, Transit Planning Manager Amy Van Doren submitted her report and recommendations regarding the above-captioned matter and presented a brief summary of the major changes made to the Revised Short Range Transit Plan ("SRTP").

Director Murray clarified that a rumor that building a Novato transit hub would require taking people's homes is absolutely untrue.

The public hearing was declared open to receive public testimony.

Two representatives of Green Gulch Farm and several members of the public urged the Board to continue operating the West Marin Stagecoach along Route 1, to add additional service on weekdays and weekends, and to provide shuttle service to Muir Beach.

In response to a question from Director Kinsey, a representative of Green Gulch Farm spoke about their efforts to organize carpool programs.

A representative of the Transportation Solutions Defense and Education Fund ("TRANSDEF") requested that the Board direct staff to consider TRANSDEF's proposal to provide fifteen minute service along the Highway 101 corridor, expressed concern regarding proposed route number changes, commented on MCTD's administrative costs, spoke about possible inequities related to the fare charged on Route #35, and noted the increased cost of transit services to the MCTD.

A representative of the Marin Center for Independent Living ("MCIL") expressed concern regarding proposed cuts to service in the Miller Creek and Lucas Valley Road areas and suggested an expansion of community-based partnerships through the Health and Human Services Department to provide service to these areas. The speaker also commented on the proposed donation of vehicles to community-based organizations and requested that passenger surveys be conducted every three years instead of the proposed five years.

A Transportation Planner for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area ("GGNRA") asked that the MCTD collaborate with the GGNRA on the final West Marin Stagecoach route, on the vanpool option to replace lost service, and to provide adequate Muir Beach bus stops. The speaker expressed support for the transit amenities proposed for several transit stops to be served by MCTD service and encouraged the District to act before Memorial Day to provide transit amenities such as bus shelters, benches, phones and restrooms at both Marin City and Manzanita to support the Muir Woods shuttle service. The speaker urged the MCTD to work to secure local funding sources, in conjunction with federal funds, to sustain a permanent and expanded Muir Woods shuttle.

A representative of the Marin County Bicycle Coalition urged the Board to include a policy in the SRTP to require high capacity bicycle racks on the front of all transit vehicles and advised that the Coalition is currently working with Golden Gate Transit on this issue.

A representative of the Larkspur School District thanked staff and the Board for maintaining school routes.

Members of the public commented that the SRTP is overly optimistic regarding the fare box recovery rate, expressed concern regarding the notification process for the development of the SRTP, urged the Board to consider adding a stop at Tam Junction for the Muir Woods Shuttle, requested that bike storage facilities be improved at all major bus stops, spoke about allowing folding bicycles on buses, and requested improvements at Marin City's transit center.

Alternate Director Paul Albritton commented that the SRTP should be looked at as a working document, expressed support for the Local Initiative Service, and urged adoption of the SRTP. Seeing no one else present to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Director Swanson expressed concern regarding the financial assumptions used in the SRTP related to the 30% fare box recovery rate and requested that staff include a model with a 25% fare box recovery rate in the SRTP.

Directors and staff discussed the deadlines associated with the adoption of the SRTP.

Bonnie Nelson of Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates advised that the SRTP includes data regarding which services would be cut if revenue projections are lower than predicted and which services would be added if additional revenue is realized.

In response to a question from Director McGlashan, Ms. Nelson advised that the SRTP includes a significant increase in the budget for marketing.

A representative of Golden Gate Transit responded to questions regarding the policy for allowing luggage on buses, as well as to comments regarding the replacement of existing bicycle racks with a higher capacity bicycle rack.

Directors expressed support for installing higher capacity bicycle racks on transit vehicles and for the use of alternative fuel vehicles, spoke about the options for service to lower density areas of the County and the possibilities of working with communities through the Local Initiative Service Program, commented on the importance of establishing the Muir Woods Shuttle as a permanent service, directed staff to develop a list of people who wish to be notified of meetings and to explore better means of communicating with the public, spoke about the need for ongoing Advisory Committees, directed staff to include in the SRTP the anticipated total funds from Measure A on an annualized basis, spoke about the need for a Transportation Demand Management Coordinator to work with local businesses on commute alternative programs, and acknowledged the importance of looking for new revenue streams for transit. Director Mc Glashan requested that staff provide additional detail in May on marketing strategies in advance of implementing the new service plan.

M/s Director Murray - Director Brown to adopt the Revised Short Range Transit Plan.

Director Swanson expressed concern regarding the financial assumptions used in the SRTP related to the 30% fare box recovery rate and requested that the SRTP also include a financial model with a 25% fare box recovery rate.

Directors Murray and Brown declined to amend their motion but directed staff to include the information requested by Director Swanson in the materials presented to the Board before adoption of specific routes in May.

Thereafter, the vote on the pending motion was

AYES: Director McGlashan; Director Heller; Director Brown; Director Kinsey;
Director Murray; Director Adams

NOES: Director Swanson

VOTE: Motion carried 6-1.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

SINE DIE

CHAIR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY