

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MARIN COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2006, AT 9:10 A.M.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Director Murray

1a. Open time

State Bond Measure

A member of the public distributed a document dated January 18, 2006, entitled Governor's Strategic Growth Plan, a preliminary working list of transportation projects funded by a proposed bond infrastructure measure. The speaker requested that the Transit District hold hearings on the use of such funds if a bond measure is passed.

1b. Board of Directors' Matters.

Muir Woods Shuttle

Director Mcglashan reported that the Muir Wood Shuttle will begin service on Saturday of the Memorial Day weekend and will run every weekend and every holiday through Labor Day at 1/2 hour intervals .

1c. Transit Planning Manager's Oral Report.

New Staff Introduction

Transit Planning Manager Amy Van Doren introduced new Senior Transportation Planner Suzanne Bourguignon.

West Marin Stagecoach

Ms. Van Doren advised that two proposals have been received in response to the Request for Proposals ("RFP") for the West Marin Stagecoach and staff will be conducting interviews tomorrow.

Ms. Van Doren also advised that staff is in the process of applying for federal rural transit funds to pay for new vehicles for the West Marin Stagecoach. Ms. Van Doren noted that it may take up to a year to get the new vehicles once funds are approved.

1d. Public Hearing to Receive Comment on the Draft Service Plan.

By letter dated May 9, 2006, Transit Planning Manager Amy Van Doren submitted her report and recommendations regarding the above-captioned matter.

Mr. Van Doren reported on the five public meetings that were held throughout the County to give the public an opportunity to comment on the Draft Service Plan ("Plan"), and noted that those comments are reflected in the revised Plan which was distributed yesterday. Ms. Van Doren advised that staff will return to the Board for approval of the Plan on May 16, 2006, at 9:00 a.m., after incorporating comments received at today's hearing. Ms. Van Doren reported that the project's timeline necessitates approval of the Plan in time for Golden Gate Transit to refine and finalize their schedules, to insure that local and regional services interconnect appropriately, and to put their routes out for bid in June in order to implement the Plan in September.

Ms. Van Doren commented on some of the issues which have arisen through the public process, particularly the preliminary study of a transit hub in southern Novato and the proposed routing of buses to the Kaiser Hospital area in San Rafael.

Ms. Van Doren reported that Public Works Director Farhad Mansourian met with the Novato City Manager regarding the issue of a Novato transit hub and clarified that no study will be conducted until the Transit District and the City of Novato work together through a public process. Ms. Van Doren advised that the proposed Plan is not dependent on a transit hub in Novato.

(Supervisor Brown absent at 9:19 a.m.)

Ms. Van Doren commented on two proposed bus routes serving the Kaiser Hospital area in San Rafael. Ms. Van Doren advised that the routing in the Plan is contingent on reaching agreement with local jurisdictions and noted that Transit District staff will be working with staff from the City of San Rafael through a public process before any routes are approved.

(Supervisor Brown present at 9:22 a.m.)

Ms. Van Doren reported that staff has been working with the cities of Larkspur and Corte Madera on partnership Route 221. Ms. Van Doren noted that the two cities have developed a survey for their residents and will be holding public meetings on May 16 and May 17 to get public input on local transit service issues.

Ms. Van Doren commented that Transit District staff continues to work with the County's Department of Health and Human Services to design a Partnership Route 347 but this has not been finalized in this Plan.

Board members and staff discussed routing and buses to Kaiser Hospital, the Twin Cities shuttle survey, the difference between old Route 15 and new Route 17, the development of Route 221, and the development of a grant application for Local Initiative shuttle service in Mill Valley. Ms. Van Doren advised that there will be a separate process for Local Initiative Service that is not identified in this Plan.

(Supervisor Kinsey present at 9:33 a.m.)

The hearing was declared open to receive public testimony.

A member of the Muir Woods Park Community Association expressed appreciation for the reinstatement of the weekend service of the old Route 63 and requested that staff and the Board consider running the bus up Panoramic Highway.

A representative of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area acknowledged County leadership in working with them to improve alternate access to park sites along Highway 1. The speaker commented on their experiment last year to utilize changeable message signs along Highway 101 to identify when Muir Woods and Stinson Beach parking lots are full. The speaker requested that the Board consider increasing the capacity and frequency of the bus route to Stinson Beach, study connectivity of the Muir Woods shuttle with ferry service in Sausalito, and amend the existing Transit Plan to include the Muir Woods Shuttle such similar to the pilot service between Stinson Beach and Point Reyes.

The President of the Muir Woods Park Community Association and several members of the public requested that the Board consider adding daily bus service to the Muir Woods community.

Several members of the public expressed concern regarding proposed transit changes along Nova Albion Way in San Rafael, citing environmental, health, noise, quality of life, traffic, safety and street infrastructure impacts, and the requirement to conduct an Environmental Impact Review under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). One of the speakers presented a petition signed by 54 residents requesting that Routes 45 and 49 be removed from the Service Plan until a better route can be found and another speaker expressed concern regarding the public notification and outreach process.

Several members of the public expressed concern regarding the possibility of a transit hub being located in front of the Los Robles Mobile Home Park in Novato, citing health, safety, security and noise impacts. A speaker submitted a letter signed by 147 members of the Mobile Home Park opposing the transit hub and there was a show of hands from a number of those present to express concern regarding this issue.

(Supervisor Brown absent at 9:52 a.m.)

A member of the public requested that Route 29 run every half hour to Marin General Hospital from the San Rafael Transit Center, that Fairfax be provided with bus service later in the day and evening, and that service on Route 22 should run into Mill Valley, Corte Madera and Larkspur in the evening.

A member commented on a double loop proposal for Route 61 which she had submitted last week and asked about local partnership possibilities for senior transit services in West Marin.

(Supervisor Brown returned at 10:13 a.m.)

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the interface between local service and freeway buses.

Novato City Councilwoman Judy Arnold thanked the Board for hearing the concerns of the Los Robles Mobile Park community and confirmed that no decisions have been made regarding the location of a transit hub in Novato.

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

Public Works Director Farhad Mansourian advised that Director Murray sent her regrets that she is unable to be here today but wanted to assure everyone that she has been working with staff from the City of Novato on the transit hub issue and has made it very clear to staff that she would not support any proposal to build a transit hub by the Mobile Home Park if it can not be made to work for the residents.

Mr. Mansourian also advised that staff is committed to improving public outreach and assured everyone that staff will work with the individual cities and towns through extensive public forums to discuss the issues raised today.

Board members thanked everyone who attended today to express their concerns, as well as staff for their efforts to put this Plan together.

Director Kinsey advised that he will be working with staff to find resources to add service to Muir Woods Park and spoke about financing equity for transit in West Marin.

Director McGlashan spoke about the possibility of working on a Local Initiative service route for Muir Woods Park which could combine with Mill Valley for a school route.

Director McGlashan commented on the need for better technology to replace noisy diesel buses.

Director Heller advised that she will communicate the information from today's meeting regarding bus routes on Nova Albion Way to the City of San Rafael's City Manager, City Council and Mayor.

Director Adams expressed concern regarding buses running on Nova Albion Way and expressed an interest in participating in future discussions with the City of San Rafael to work out a viable way to provide transportation in the area with minimal impacts to the community.

Director Adams requested staff to provide the Board with follow up information regarding the comments about new routes and CEQA.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

SINE DIE

CHAIR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY