

WCCTAC
West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, 31 July 2009

Members Present: Maria Viramontes, Chair (Richmond); Ed Balico (Hercules); Genoveva Calloway* (San Pablo); Bob Franklin (BART); Tom Hansen (WestCAT); Roy Swearingen, Vice-Chair (Pinole); Joe Wallace (AC Transit). Absent: Janet Abelson (El Cerrito); Tom Butt (Richmond); John Gioia (Contra Costa County); Jeff Ritterman (Richmond).

*arrived after roll call.

Staff Present: Christina Atienza, Nancy Cuneo, Valerie Lipscomb, Joanna Pallock, John Rudolph, Linda Young; Hisham Noeimi, CCTA; Michael Rodriguez, Meyers Nave.

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

1. Call to Order Self-Introductions. Chair Viramontes convened the meeting at 8:04 a.m.

2. Public Comment. There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION: *Chair Viramontes* removed Items #9 and #10. *Director Swearingen* clarified that Line 14 in Resolution 09-04 should be amended to the correct date: “December 18, 2008” instead of “December 18, 2009.” *Chair Viramontes* moved up Item #18 to ensure a quorum. *Director Wallace* moved to adopt all items of the Consent Calendar, excluding Items #9 and #10. The motion was seconded by *Director Balico*, and passed unanimously.

- 3. Approved Minutes and Summary of June 26, 2009 Board Meeting.**
- 4. Approved Summary of the July 9, 2009 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting.**
- 5. Received Staff Reports.**
- 6. Adopted 2009 Update to West County Action Plan.**
- 7. (a) Approved Cooperative Agreement with West Contra Costa Unified School District, and (b) Approved Request for Use of Unused Lifeline Grant Funds to Provide 35 AC Transit Youth Passes for North Richmond Summer Camp Students.**
- 8. (a) Approved Application to Safe Routes for Transit (SR2T) Cycle III Call For Projects for Wayfinding Signage Plan, and (b) Approved Letter of Support to SR2T for Nevin Walkway Improvements.**
- 11. Received Notice of Release of Richmond Draft General Plan Update.**
- 12. Rescheduled September 2009 meeting from September 25th to September 11th.**
- 13. Approved Payment of Street Smarts Traffic Safety Education Program Invoice.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Greenprint Project Request for Transfer of Funds.

ACTION: *Director Wallace* moved to request Greenprint to present information to the Board at a future meeting, seconded by *Director Swearingen*, and carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Director Swearingen* expressed concern about allocating unspent funds for Greenprint and asked for clarification as to the funds' use. *Chair Viramontes* explained that the original impetus for the project is to integrate shared cars in housing developments so that West County can advance scenarios for car-free living.

10. Draft San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan.

ACTION: *Director Hansen* moved to receive the Draft San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, seconded by *Director Wallace*, and carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION: In the discussion on Item #10, *Director Swearingen* noted that the expenditures authorized under Item #13 bear more exacting scrutiny.

14. AC Transit Draft 2009 Service Adjustment Plan.

ACTION: *Chair Viramontes* formed a subcommittee consisting of *Directors Wallace, Abelson, Franklin, Viramontes*, and an additional member, to meet and recommend a course of action for review at the September Board meeting.

DISCUSSION: *Executive Director Atienza* provided background information on AC Transit's proposed service plan adjustments. *Director Wallace* noted that AC Transit is available to explain service plan changes to elected officials and communities. *Chair Viramontes* recruited four Board members to serve with her on a subcommittee to meet with staff and AC Transit to study this issue and make a recommendation at the September Board meeting.

15. AB 744 (Torrico) Regional Express Lane Network Update.

ACTION: *Director Swearingen* moved to write an appropriate letter of acknowledgement to the state authorities, seconded by *Director Hansen*, and carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Ms. Atienza* reviewed provisions in the bill that were added subsequent to WCCTAC's efforts to include requested amendments, and asked for direction in responding to MTC's request for a letter of support for the bill. *Chair Viramontes* noted the David-and-Goliath dimensions of the struggle to include WCCTAC's amendments in the bill; acknowledged the cities, the Board of Supervisors, and CCTA for their efforts to advance WCCTAC's amendments; congratulated *Ms. Atienza* for her testimony at the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee; and thanked *Directors Balico* and *Abelson* for their persistence in communicating WCCTAC's concerns to state agencies. *Director Balico* identified *Chair Viramontes'* leadership as the critical element in shaping this bill to WCCTAC's preference.

16. Comments on Draft 2009 Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

ACTION: *Director Wallace* moved that staff prepare a letter to CCTA to the effect that the goals specified in the Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan should involve jurisdictions with land use authority and engage strategies that include engineering, education, enforcement, encouragement, seconded by *Director Swearingen*, and carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Ms. Christina Atienza* explained that bicycle and pedestrian safety are goals that require interdisciplinary efforts including engineering, education, enforcement, encouragement, and more, in the context of jurisdictions with land use authority to implement realistic improvements.

18. Notification of Intent to Renew Executive Director's Employment Agreement.

ACTION: *Director Swearingen* moved to extend *Executive Director Atienza's* employment agreement until October 31, 2009; seconded by *Director Balico*, and carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Chair Viramontes* asked that *Executive Director Atienza's* employment agreement be extended until October 31, 2009 in order to allow the hiring subcommittee time to complete *Ms. Atienza's* performance evaluation. The hiring subcommittee consists of *Directors Balico, Calloway, Gioia, Wallace* and *Viramontes*.

17. Point Molate Resort and Casino DEIS/EIR.

ACTION: *Chair Viramontes* invited the project management team (Upstream, et al.) to answer Board questions and give a targeted transportation-specific presentation at the September 11 Board meeting.

DISCUSSION: *Chair Viramontes* introduced *Ms. Janet Schneider* from the City of Richmond. *Ms. Schneider* noted that the 75-day comment period on the DEIS/EIR began with its release on July 10, 2009 and ends on September 23, 2009. *Ms. Schneider* introduced *Mr. Jim Levine*, from Upstream Point Molate LLC, of Emeryville. *Mr. Levine* introduced *Mr. Michael Taggart*, Project Manager, from Analytical Environmental Services, of Sacramento.

Mr. Taggart explained that next steps would include (a) receiving comments on the Draft EIS/EIR; (b) producing a Final EIS/EIR; (c) receiving a Statement of Overriding Consideration from Richmond if there are remaining significant and unavoidable impacts; (d) receiving a Record Of Decision; and (e) developing a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan.

Mr. Taggart provided an overview of the project alternatives. In response to *Director Balico's* question, *Mr. Taggart* stated that no alternative has been identified yet as the preferred alternative. *Chair Viramontes* asked *Mr. Taggart* to talk specifically about near-term findings with regard to traffic in Richmond, North Richmond, San Pablo, the County, and Pinole. In response to *Director Swearingen's* question, *Mr. Taggart* indicated that intersections in Marin County have been included in the traffic study. *Mr. Taggart* said he expects that infrastructure

improvements associated with the Pt. Molate casino project will be packaged with improvements already planned by local jurisdictions.

Mr. Taggart introduced the traffic engineering consultant, *Mr. Stephen Abrams*, from Abrams Associates Traffic Engineering, of Walnut Creek. *Mr. Abrams* stated that he would describe the geographic constraints of the project as opportunities for water and bus transportation. *Ms. Atienza* asked what percentage of the overall number of trips might be captured by ferry. *Mr. Abrams* replied 15% would be a conservative number, though others had suggested the number could exceed 20%. Director Wallace inquired whether DBE goals had been built into the project. *Mr. Levine* answered that in Upstream's contract with Richmond, goals for local and minority hiring had been included. *Chair Viramontes* stated that agreements had been made to hire Richmond residents.

Director Wallace and *Chair Viramontes* expressed concern about traffic cutting through portions of North Richmond, San Pablo, the County, Pinole, and Richmond. *Mr. Abrams* stated that mitigation will consist of adding lanes and signals to affected intersections and working with Richmond to synchronize the timing of signals. *Director Wallace* suggested that the Municipal Advisory Councils for North Richmond, El Sobrante, Montalvin Manor and other unincorporated areas should be contacted sooner rather than later, and that *Supervisor John Gioia* could provide contact information for these MACs. *Director Balico* suggested that project sponsors continue to coordinate ferry planning activities through the Water Emergency Transportation Authority. *Chair Viramontes* asked Board members to forward their specific questions to WCCTAC staff to include in the September 11 presentation and discussion.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

19. Correspondence/Other Information

a. Incoming:

- June 19, from Mr. Robert McCleary, CCTA, on items approved by the Authority on June 17, 2009

b. Outgoing:

- July 16, to Ms. Lina Velasco, Richmond, on comments to Miraflores Housing Development DEIR

c. Workshops/Conferences/Events:

- League of CA Cities, Sept. 16-18, San Jose Convention Center. Deadline to register Aug. 25. Register online at www.cacities.org/AC
- TOD MarketPlace 2009, Sept. 24, Hilton San Jose, www.todmarketplace.org

d. News Articles:

- June 23, Associated Press, All-electric car sharing debuts in Baltimore
- July 1, Contra Costa Times, EPA Rules that State can set its own emission standards
- July 10, New York Times, Buses may aid climate battle in poor cities

20. WCCTAC Board and Staff Comments. *Ms. Atienza* and *Chair Viramontes* recognized and thanked high school interns Yarigza Caruso and Carina Contreras from Richmond Youth Works for their work in the WCCTAC offices this summer. *Ms. Atienza* announced that the

ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Hercules Transit Center would be August 3. *Mr. Hisham Noeimi* announced that the Draft Environmental Document for the San Pablo Dam Road/Interstate 80 Interchange Project had been completed and would be discussed at a community meeting in Maple Hall on August 19.

21. Other Business

22. Adjourn. At 9:45 a.m., *Chair Viramontes* adjourned the meeting until Friday, September 11, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.