

WCCTAC
West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, 28 May 2010

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

Staff Present: Christina Atienza, Valerie Jenkins, Joanna Pallock, Linda Young; Hisham Noeimi, CCTA; Michael Rodriguez, Legal Counsel; Bradley Ward, Treasurer.

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

1. **Call to Order and Self-Introductions.** *Chair Maria Viramontes* called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** Public comment on Item #7 below.

CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION: *Chair Viramontes* removed Item #6. *Director Wallace* moved to approve Items #3 through #5 of the Consent Calendar, seconded by *Director Abelson*; and passed unanimously.

3. **Minutes and Summary of April 30, 2010 Board meeting.**
4. **Summary of May 13, 2010 TAC Meeting.**
5. **Staff Report for May 2010.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. **Update on Vehicle Registration Fee Expenditure Plan Options.**

ACTION: *Director Hansen* moved to accept the staff report, seconded by *Director Balico*; and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Mr. Hisham Noeimi*, CCTA, provided an update on the proposed measure, and reviewed spending recommendations by the RTPCs. The CCTA is expected to discuss the matter in June, with final approval expected in July. *Chair Viramontes* clarified that in West County, the proposed expenditure plan includes 50% for local streets and roads and 10% for bicycle and pedestrian projects, with 40% for transit.

Director Abelson asked whether the voters would be informed of the different percentage allocations for each subregion. *Mr. Noeimi* responded that the percentages would be included in the Expenditure Plan.

Director Abelson noted that she thought that the transit allocation would go directly toward transit operations, and not to the RTPCs. *Director Wallace* noted that the fee is not being spent to benefit transit riders. *Director Keller* noted approval of WCCTAC's recommendations and expressed that flexibility is key owing to different geographic priorities and there being no sunset provisions. *Director Ritterman* noted that while more specificity may be desirable, flexibility is key because priorities are a moving target. *Director Hansen* noted that he was happy with West County's allocations. *Vice-Chair Swearingen* remarked that fixed percentages are limiting, and questioned the need for them; to which *Chair Viramontes* replied that they are tied to the polling results.

Director McNeil inquired as to why WCCTAC was supporting this initiative if it promotes auto use. *Mr. Noeimi* responded that the intent of SB 83 is to move people, and that in Contra Costa, there is a major funding shortfall for pavement needs; proceeds would reduce further deterioration of pavement, which serves all modes.

Director Abelson remarked that transit allocations should be dedicated exclusively to transit operations, which is a fundamental need that is not being addressed sufficiently. *Director Balico* remarked of the need to be mindful of the spirit of the bill, the requirement for return-to-source, and the different needs across the county. *Director Wallace* expressed that there was nothing in the initiative for transit. *Chair Viramontes* responded that 40 percent is going to transit. *Director Butt* noted that the anticipated \$741,000 in revenue is eligible to go toward transit operations now, and that he did not see a conflict.

Chair Viramontes inquired about the potential impact of the anti-Jarvis bill. *Mr. Noeimi* noted that the Hidden Tax Initiative would require fee programs that received less than a 2/3 majority vote may have to go back to the voters.

7. Comprehensive Paratransit Study.

ACTION: *Director Ritterman* moved to advance the paratransit study, seconded by *Director Butt*; and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Ms. Atienza* provided an overview of the Paratransit Subcommittee's meetings and recommendation to retain a consultant to conduct a paratransit study, in light of diminishing funding and rising demand. *Director Abelson* clarified the scope of work for the study and the role of the study in helping WCCTAC to move forward in programming Measure J 20b and providing recommendations to CCTA for programming Measure J 15.

Director Balico noted that the study would be good, and recommended that the consultant selection process be competitive. *Vice-Chair Swearingen* noted that it seemed like a lot of money for administration. *Ms. Atienza* noted that the consultant would be selected on a competitive basis.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *Mr. Harpreet Sandhu*, Richmond resident, described his experience in identifying gaps and flaws in the coverage areas of different paratransit providers, and suggested that further study is necessary to understand where efficiencies in operations may be gained, especially with respect to Richmond's paratransit program.

Mr. Sandhu inquired whether the meeting with the ad hoc subcommittee to flesh out the scope of work would be open to the public. *Chair Viramontes* directed staff to inform *Mr. Sandhu* of the meeting so that he may attend, and also inquired whether the motion included going back to the Board in June with the scope of work. *Ms. Atienza* noted that the motion did not include it, but that it was her intent to do so.

8. WCCTAC Support for Richmond's Partnership with Cybertran Ultra Light Rail Transit; General Discussion on Staff Support for Member Agency Lobbying Efforts.

ACTION: *Director Abelson* moved to support the project, including technical support by WCCTAC staff, seconded by *Director Butt*; and passed with one abstention by *Director Wallace*.

DISCUSSION: *Director Ritterman* provided an update on Cybertran and efforts by officials from Richmond to promote the project locally and in Washington DC. *Director Ritterman* suggested that next steps include building a demonstration project at the Richmond Field Station, approaching the Federal Transit Administration for funding for research and innovation, and coordinating with local agencies and services to train the labor force, and asked the Board for continued WCCTAC staff support, including for lobbying efforts. *Director Keller* described ULRT applications at Heathrow Airport and potentially in the City of San Jose, and commended WCCTAC for being supportive of the project and urged continued support as he saw a future in this technology. *Director Abelson* expressed that she did not want WCCTAC to pay for staff to go to Washington DC. *Director Balico* suggested that the Board be more open-minded and regional in their thinking, and commented that continued staff support was not a lot to ask for and that he was confident that *Ms. Atienza* would be professional enough to know how much time is appropriate. *Chair Viramontes* noted that she will ask Richmond to earmark funds for *Ms. Atienza's* travel needs, if necessary, so that WCCTAC would not have to pay.

9. FY 2010-11 Final Work Program and Preliminary Budget.

ACTION: *Director Balico* moved to adopt the FY 2010-11 Final Work Program and Preliminary Budget, seconded by *Director Abelson*; and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Ms. Atienza* provided an overview of the Work Program and Budget. *Ms. Atienza* stated that moving forward, the Board would receive quarterly reports on the entire budget, including STMP; and the work conducted by staff on identified consultant-led projects would inform the Board's strategic plan.

10. Transportation Demand Management Program.

ACTION: *Chair Viramontes* stated that due to time constraints, the presentation by *Ms. Linda Young* would be held over to a future meeting.

STANDING ITEMS

11. Correspondence/Other Information

- a. **Incoming**
 - April 22, Randell Iwasaki, CCTA: Items Approved by the Authority for Circulation to RTPCs and Items of Interest
- b. **Outgoing**
 - April 30, WCCTAC Member Agencies: Proposed WCCTAC Dues for FY10-11
 - April 30, Randell Iwasaki, CCTA: Request for Clarification on Measure J Program 15 Language
 - May 4, Brad Beck, CCTA: Support for El Cerrito CMA Block Grant Application
- c. **Workshops/Conferences/Events**
 - None

12. WCCTAC Board and Staff Comments

- a. None

13. Other Business. None

14. Adjourned until Friday, June 25, 2010 at 8:00 a.m.