

WCCTAC
West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, 26 June 2009

Members Present: Maria Viramontes, Chair (Richmond); Ed Balico (Hercules); Tom Butt (Richmond); John Gioia* (Contra Costa County); Aleida Chavez* (WestCAT); Joel Keller (BART); Roy Swearingen, Vice-Chair (Pinole); Joe Wallace (AC Transit). City of San Pablo Councilmember Paul Morris. Absent: Ann Cheng (El Cerrito), Jeff Ritterman (Richmond).
*arrived after roll call.

Staff Present: Christina Atienza, Nancy Cuneo, Valerie Lipscomb, Joanna Pallock, John Rudolph, Linda Young; Brad Beck, 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: *Executive Director Christina Atienza* withdrew Item # 10b from the Consent Calendar. *Director Swearingen* asked for clarification on Item # 11. *Director Swearingen* moved to adopt all items of the Consent Calendar, excluding Items # 10b and 11. The motion was seconded by *Director Butt* and carried unanimously.

3. **Approved Minutes and Summary of May 29, 2009 Board Meeting.**
4. **Approved Summary of the June 11, 2009 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting.**
5. **Received Staff Reports.**
6. **Received Information pertaining to State Budget Update.**
7. **Received 2008 Freeway Congestion Report.**
8. **Authorized Chair to execute Master Cooperative Agreement for Commute Alternatives Program.**
9. **Approved continued development of planning application to Safe Routes to Transit.**
- 10a **Approved Draft Program Guidelines for Measure J Student Bus Pass Program.**
- 10c **Received Information pertaining to CCTA's approval of WCCTAC's request to use Measure J funds for unreimbursed costs of the Student Bus Pass Program pilot under the Lifeline Transportation Program.**
12. **Received Final Summary of 2009 Board Retreat.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

13. **AB 744 (Torrico) Regional Express Lane Network Update**

ACTION: No action. Discussion by Board.

DISCUSSION: *Chair Viramontes* provided background information on two letters recently sent to Senator Alan Lowenthal, Chair of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee, which will hold a public hearing on AB 744 on Tuesday June 30, 2009. Signed by *Chair Viramontes*, WCCTAC sent a letter to Senator Lowenthal opposing implementation of express lanes (also known as HOT Lanes) in West Contra Costa County. Signed by Mayor Robert Taylor, Vice-Chair of CCTA, the Authority sent a letter to Senator Lowenthal opposing HOT Lanes in Contra Costa County if provisions agreed upon by the Authority and MTC are not included in AB 744.

Ms. Atienza stated that the cities of Hercules, Pinole, Richmond, and San Pablo had approved Resolutions opposing implementation of express lanes in West Contra Costa, and that El Cerrito's discussion of its Resolution to oppose express lanes is expected to occur on June 29, 2009. *Director Gioia* stated that the county had adopted a position similar to the Authority's. *Director Gioia* also expressed support for the Consent Calendar which had been approved prior to Mr. Gioia's arrival.

14. Draft Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

ACTION: No action; discussion only. Plan will be addressed in July 2009 meeting.

DISCUSSION: *Mr. Brad Beck* reviewed the process and purpose of updating the Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in light of Measure J policies relating to the Growth Management Program and trail facilities, MTC's routine accommodation checklist, and local jurisdictions' eligibility for state Bicycle Transportation Account funding. Mr. Beck outlined the elements and goals of the plan, described implementation tasks, and reviewed the public workshops held in conjunction with release of the draft plan. *Ms. Joanna Pallock* summarized the commenting process for West County jurisdictions.

Councilmember Paul Morris suggested that safe riding and safe parking of the bicycle are important issues, and that education, enforcement, and design are essential ingredients to safety. *Director Swearingen* inquired whether funding is available for roadway improvements related to bicycle safety: *Mr. Beck* responded in the affirmative. *Director Butt* inquired about "Complete Streets" legislation. *Mr. Beck* said that AB 1358 requires jurisdictions in updating their general plans to incorporate the concept of complete streets, i.e., streets to be designed for all users. *Director Balico* suggested that the plan appears to emphasize bicycle needs, not pedestrian activity; and that bike racks should be expanded in transit-rich locations, such as the new transit center in Hercules. *Ms. Atienza* said that throughout the region, pedestrian advocates tend to be outnumbered by bicycle advocates, while technical planning for bicyclists is in some ways simpler than planning for pedestrians. *Director Gioia* suggested that there is a need for data about pedestrian activity, and that pedestrian activity and human health are related. *Director Wallace* said that safety on the streets should be of paramount concern: some neighborhoods are not suitable for walking because of violence, and drug-dealers are the primary bicyclists. *Chair Viramontes* suggested that bicycle activity should not be encouraged on some busy streets, due to the volumes of traffic and the width of the street, while other streets may be ideal for bicyclists because they are quieter, safer, and parallel the main arterial. Further, amenities for pedestrians

might include pedestrian bridges over wide, busy roadways. *Mr. Charlie Anderson* stated that maintenance of the riding surface, e.g., removing debris, should be highlighted as a matter of concern in the plan, and that some bicycle boulevards that parallel main arterials are not ideal for cycling because the many stop signs slow down riders, sometimes in an unsafe position. *Mr. Nathan Landau* noted that AC Transit is working with *Assemblymember Nancy Skinner* to legalize 3-bike racks on the front of buses (instead of 2-bike racks); AC Transit is working with WCCTAC and cities to complete a study on bicycle parking near bus stops; and further details on designing for pedestrians is in AC Transit's manual, "Designing With Transit," available on AC Transit's web site.

15a. WCCTAC FY 2009/10 Proposed Dues.

ACTION: Upon motion by *Chair Viramontes*, seconded by *Director Balico*, and carried unanimously, the Board authorized staff to send letters to WCCTAC members notifying the jurisdictions of WCCTAC's FY 2009/2010 dues.

DISCUSSION: *Ms. Atienza* presented an overview of Item # 15. Dues are the same as last year, and the draft work plan has been sent to all agencies, along with the proposed operating budget. Comments are requested by July 24th. Several agencies have said it looks okay; Pinole will discuss dues and the work plan in July, with a tentative okay for now. WCCTAC received formal comments from the County, including a suggestion to use Measure J funding to administer Measure J projects: staff will consider this suggestion on a case by case basis, and may recommend using Measure J administrative cost reimbursements to grow the fund balance. Further, the dues, work plan and budget will typically be distributed in April; this year the Board deferred distribution of these materials until after the Board Retreat, which occurred in May. *Director Swearingen* announced that Pinole would probably seek to pay its dues in two installments. *Chair Viramontes* said she would ask Directors Butt and Ritterman to assist in providing Richmond's dues in one lump sum, and confirmed that no other member agencies would pay their dues in more than one part.

15b. WCCTAC FY 2009/10 Work Plan.

ACTION: Upon motion by *Director Butt*, seconded by *Director Balico*, and carried unanimously, the Board adopted the FY 2009/10 work program.

15c. WCCTAC FY 2009/10 Revised Draft Operating Budget.

ACTION: Upon motion by *Director Wallace*, seconded by *Director Balico*, and carried unanimously, the Board adopted the FY 2009/10 operating budget.

DISCUSSION: *Ms. Atienza* noted (1) the budget is balanced, including the discount given to WestCAT; (2) WCCTAC obtained reimbursement from Measure J for cost overruns incurred in the Lifeline Transportation Program pilot student bus pass program, in line with the county's comment on Item # 15a above; and (3) Transportation Demand Management accounts for almost half of WCCTAC's budget. *Ms. Atienza* noted that with respect to the Greenprint project,

Richmond Councilmember Jim Rogers and EAH Housing may petition the Board for use of the remaining \$8,000 in the account for a Greenprint related service.

11. Position on Proposed Richmond Ordinance for Instituting a Commuter Benefit Program.

ACTION: Upon motion by *Director Swearingen*, seconded by *Director Balico*, and carried unanimously, the Board adopted a support position on the subject ordinance.

DISCUSSION: *Ms. Linda Young* described the proposed ordinance. The cities of Richmond and Berkeley are assembling similar ordinances that require businesses to provide or coordinate services for employees to take advantage of tax and other incentives for using alternative transportation to work. These incentives, further described at www.511ContraCosta.org, including employee pre-tax set-asides for transit fare, employer-provided transit passes, and employer-provided shuttles connecting work sites to transit centers. *Director Swearingen* noted his support for such programs as a business owner and employer, because these programs do not cost his business money, while they provide benefits to employees.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

16. Correspondence/Other Information:

a. Incoming:

- May 26, letter from Mr. Martin Engelmann, CCTA, responding to WCCTAC comments on Draft 2009 Countywide Transportation Plan and EIR
- June 5, letter from ABAG concerning Green Business Coordination and 511 Contra Costa

b. Outgoing:

- June 3, to WCCTAC Member Agencies' City Managers, County Administrator, General Managers, and Technical Advisory Committee Staff, Proposed WCCTAC Dues for FY 2009-10 – see Attachment under item 15a
- June 9, to Mr. Robert McCleary, CCTA, Request for Allocation of Measure J Program 21b – Low-Income Student Bus Pass Program Funds for FY 2009 and FY 2010
- June 10, to Pinole City Council, WCCTAC's Concerns Regarding Installation of HOT Lanes on I-80

c. Workshops/Conferences/Events:

- none

d. News Articles:

- May 31, The New York Times, re Potential Changes in Auto Industry due to Growth in Carsharing

17. WCCTAC Board and Staff Comments

Ms. Atienza announced (1) there is a possibility that BART workers may be on strike next week, as the contracts for some unions expire June 30, 2009; (2) that she will be taking a vacation July 23-30, 2009; and (3) that two student interns, Ms. Yarigza Caruso and Ms. Carina Contreras, of Richmond High School, provided to WCCTAC from Richmond Youth Works, had been doing office work satisfactorily under the supervision of *Ms. Nancy Cuneo*.

Chair Viramontes announced that MTC recently published a new list of the most congested freeways in the Bay Area. While I-80 between the Carquinez Bridge and the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza has consistently ranked #1 in terms of congestion, MTC's new list splits I-80 into two parts, the first part, still #1, between Central Avenue and the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, and second part, between Carquinez and Central, now #19.

18. Workshops/Conferences/Events:

- none

19. Adjournment. Chair Viramontes adjourned WCCTAC until 8:00 a.m. on July 31, 2009.