

**West Contra Costa Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes: March 23, 2012**

Members Present: Janet Abelson, Chair (El Cerrito); William Wilkins, Vice-Chair (Hercules); Roy Swearingen (Pinole); Tom Butt (Richmond); Tom Hansen (WestCAT); Genoveva Calloway (San Pablo); Courtland Boozé (Richmond); Jeff Ritterman (Richmond); Joe Wallace (AC Transit); John Gioia (County). Absent: Lynette Sweet (BART)

Staff Present: Christina Atienza, Valerie Jenkins, Joanna Pallock, John Rudolph, Linda Young; Ben Reyes, Legal Counsel; Martin Engelmann, CCTA

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

1. **Call to Order and Self-Introductions.** *Chair Janet Abelson* called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
2. **Public Comment.** None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION: *Director Calloway* moved to adopt items 3, 4, and 5; seconded by *Director Boozé*; and passed unanimously with one abstention from *Director Butt* for item 3.

3. **Minutes and Summary of Feb. 24 Board Meeting, Summary of Feb. 9 TAC Meeting**
4. **Monthly Program and Projects Status Report**
5. **Financial Report for Feb. 2011**

DISCUSSION

6. **Proposed Projects for West County's Share of Measure J Countywide Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) Program.**

ACTION: *Director Ritterman* moved to accept recommended TLC project list; seconded by *Director Butt*; and passed unanimously with *Director Wilkins* recusing himself for potential conflict as a result of real-estate holdings.

DISCUSSION: *Joanna Pallock* presented the recommendations for funding for the Measure J TLC Program, which is intended to support local efforts to achieve more compact, mixed-use development, and development that is pedestrian-friendly or linked into the overall transit system. Approximately \$6 million total is anticipated to be available to fund west County projects through FY 2015, and about \$3 million of that is currently available. A call for projects was released in September 2011, with applications due the following November. In December 2011, the Board appointed an application

review panel, which was a subset of the TAC. The initial evaluation of the review panel resulted in about \$500,000 remaining of the anticipated funds. A supplemental call for projects was released in March 2012 to program the remaining anticipated funds.

Director Gioia commented that it was good to see these projects before the Board since the original efforts by WCCTAC in the 2004 expenditure plan was to dedicate funds for TLC. *Director Gioia* asked how locked in are the agencies to the timeline. For example, he presented the possibility of having the San Pablo Dam Road project ready before 2014, possibly in 2013. *Ms. Atienza* stated that any schedule changes should be brought to WCCTAC's attention so CCTA can be notified. She also emphasized that funds could not be allocated retroactively so no expenses should be incurred until the WCTAC Board and CCTA have a chance to review and approve the schedule changes. She also pointed out that if more money comes through in the next couple of years, WCCTAC can be flexible about the timing of the allocations.

Director Swearingen asked if the funds would not be available until 2014. *Ms Atienza* explained that FY 2014 begins in July 2013, so the funds would be available earlier that it appears.

7. Appointments and Nominations to the Countywide Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee

ACTION: *Director Ritterman* moved to accept the TAC's recommendation of *Mr. Bill Pinkham* as the west county CBPAC citizen representative; seconded by *Director Hansen*; and passed unanimously. A second motion was made by *Director Butt* and seconded by *Director Boozé* to forward *Adrienne Harris'* nomination to CCTA for the Countywide Senior and Disabled representative, assuming she accepts the nomination; passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Ms. Atienza* referred the Board members to page 6-1 regarding the CBPAC purpose. She explained that this is a staff and citizen committee staffed by CCTA. It oversees the update and implementation of the Countywide Bicycle Plan; recommends projects to be funded out of Measure J funds dedicated to pedestrian, bicycle, and trail projects; and generally attends to countywide bicycle and pedestrian issues. CCTA is seeking appointments for three positions: a west county staff and staff alternate and the west county citizen representative. There are two nominations for the west county citizen representative: *Mr. Bill Pinkham* and *Ms. Adrienne Harris*. The TAC is recommending *Mr. Pinkham*.

There are also two countywide positions open: one is for a senior/disabled representative and another one is for a youth representative. There is no recommendation for the senior/disabled representative at this time and there is one recommendation for the youth representative. *Ms. Shannon Leader-Beasley* is recommended for the youth seat on CBPAC.

Director Ritterman asked about the plan for the senior/disabled representative. *Ms. Atienza* explained that there was no recommendation from the TAC but the Board can make a nomination to CCTA and the CCTA Board will make the selection.

Director Butt asked what position was open. *Ms. Atienza* referred to page 6-5 in their packets. *Director Butt* asked if one of the nominations could be the citizen representative and one be the senior representative. *Ms. Atienza* explained that the Board can accept the TAC recommendations or make one of their own.

Director Butt asked if Mr. Pinkham would want to be the CBPAC senior representative. *Mr. Pinkham* explained that he felt his experience is best suited for the citizen representative. *Director Butt* asked if the voting power with each position is the same - do each have one vote? *Ms. Atienza* pointed to page 6-9 in the packet and that explained that each member has one vote. *Director Butt* asked if Mr. Pinkham could be the citizen representative and Ms. Harris could be the senior representative. *Ms. Atienza* explained that Ms. Harris had not expressed interest in the position.

Director Boozé noted that Ms. Harris had contacted him and he will follow Director Butt's lead.

Director Hansen asked if he is correct in understanding that there is only one spot WCCTAC gets to select and the other nomination will be brought to the CCTA Board. *Ms. Atienza* confirmed that this was correct.

Director Wilkins asked if there is an age related to the youth representative. *Ms. Atienza* explained that as long as they understood youth issues, they did not need to be a youth. *Chair Abelson* followed up with a question on what basis is the person being recommended. *Ms. Atienza* explained Ms. Ladner-Beasley's experience in her role with the County Health Services Department and the West County Safe Routes to School program.

8. SB 375 Implementation Update

ACTION: Board accepted report.

DISCUSSION: CCTA staff, *Martin Engelmann*, provided an update on recent meetings and events pertaining to the implementation of SB 375 and the development of a Sustainable Communities Strategy for the Bay Area.

Director Ritterman asked why the price of parking near transit was higher if we are trying to get people to use transit. *Mr. Engelmann* responded that the parking near transit reflects the density, so that parking in the City is higher than in outlying areas. He mentioned that this encourages people to take transit to a high priced parking destination like the City.

Director Boozé stated his concerns like the City of Richmond's Bicycle Master Plan that looks to reduce the number of lanes on certain streets and how that impacts the speeds on the streets and thus the carbon emissions. *Mr. Engelmann* stated that the sweet spot for traffic speed is 40 miles per hour. *Director Boozé* thanked Mr. Engelmann for that important piece of data and asked Ms. Atienza to get him the specific information. *Director Boozé* followed with a question regarding where the data for housing numbers comes from. *Mr. Engelmann* referred to the staff at ABAG and their experts who he noted are experts but they also admit that none of them predicted the 2008 Recession.

Director Ritterman asked about the household growth projections in Richmond PDAs and asked what a 48% increase in housing starts could create in terms of greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions. He proceeded to ask if they should be asking for more housing starts and is this something that can realistically be accomplished. *Mr. Engelmann* noted that the impact of housing in the PDA is very small and the margin of impact is also small. *Director Ritterman* asked if this number is used internally by the city and *Mr. Engelmann* explained that the numbers are used for allocating money for programs such as OBAG and places 70% of the OBAG allocation in PDAs.

Director Wallace asked how much money is in the 2013 Transportation Plan for public transit. *Mr. Engelmann* stated there were big numbers for capital and operations.

Director Swearingen stated that there is a 15% goal in reducing GHG but this was a goal based on a low economy. *Mr. Engelmann* noted that the goals were based on 2005 levels so as to ensure they were realistic. *Director Swearingen* explained how Pinole is built out and the population actually decreased slightly between this census and the 2000 census. He noted that there is not the infrastructure to add more housing and stated he did not like ABAG's projections.

Director Wallace asked Mr. Engelmann what portion of the funds are set aside for rail and what is set aside for bus operators. *Mr. Engelmann* stated he did not have that information but he could get it to him.

9. Real-Time Ridesharing Pilot Program.

ACTION: Board accepted report.

DISCUSSION: *Mr. Martin Engelmann* provided a presentation to the Board on the project. The Congestion Management Agencies of Solano, Contra Costa, and Marin Counties in collaboration have embarked on a pilot program aimed at demonstrating how smart phones can enable drivers of private autos to spontaneously link up with riders to form carpools. The objective of the project is to deploy a smart phone application with ridesharing software that can match drivers and riders in as little as a few minutes or as much as a few days prior to travel. If successful, the pilot program would be instrumental in mainstreaming real-time ridesharing (RTR) as an accepted mode of transportation that could help to ease the overall demand on our congested roadways.

Director Boozé mentioned that the issue of cell sites has become a hot button in Richmond because there is resistance to cell sites.

Director Wallace also mentioned that this information can be used by criminals who could use the information on who is leaving their home.

Director Calloway shared that she attended a demonstration. She explained that there is a pre-registered element and not just anyone will be viewing the data. She also noted that this would be a cashless transaction.

Chair Abelson said El Cerrito has had problems with casual carpools. She asked if these issues are being addressed including people meeting a carpool and parking blocking driveways. The second problem is that someone will carpool in the morning but in the evening they rely on transit and put a strain on the service.

Vice-Chair Wilkins noted that not everyone has a smart phone. He also mentioned that cell service is not consistent in Hercules. He also referred to the problems with Craigslist and the dangers of using a service that brings people together and security. *Mr. Engelmann* responded that in Seattle they tried a similar program and then realized when they asked for specific information, people drop out. If the safety issue is taken to the full extent, people drop off. The liability and establishing a safety net are all part of the challenges of the pilot program.

Director Ritterman stated that this is similar to information exchange like the internet, but in this case we are moving people around. It benefits transit as well with fewer cars. A similar program was used for at-risk youth by issuing referrals. He is excited by this use of technology and we need to pursue this.

Director Calloway asked where the pilot will be done. *Mr. Engelmann* said Central County near BART stations and the I-80 corridor and Highway 4 possibly.

Director Boozé why is there not more BART parking. There is also a program to rebuild bus shelters in North Richmond. He has received numerous requests from seniors looking for shelters up near Hilltop. The Men & Women of Valor have a welding program, which could be used on rebuilding bus shelters and generating jobs.

Director Wallace responded to the request for bus shelters. He said there is not enough money for service, let alone shelters. Money is needed from advertising in the shelters. So the money or lack of, places limits for advertising that would pay for maintenance. A solution should come forward to help the transit dependent. Keep the poor dry while they are looking for work. *Director Boozé* noted wheelchair transit users should be added. *Director Wallace* noted that the ADA does not design shelters to cover people in wheelchairs. *Director Boozé* asked Ms. Atienza to work with CCTA for future agenda item on this issue. *Chair Abelson* noted that there were bus shelters with advertising that paid for maintenance. The role for WCCTAC is to see if a contract could be issued to establish rules about how shelters are installed and maintained. *Ms. Atienza* discussed a

meeting between Richmond and WestCAT and AC Transit yesterday. There are issues around cost and challenge. She suggested a study session on this particular topic. *Director Wallace* suggested WCCTAC look at the shelter at Kaiser Richmond since it is resistant to vandalism. *Director Calloway* noted that she approves of a study session, and that the graffiti problem could be discussed as one of the topics. *Director Boozé* volunteered to sit on a subcommittee if one is created.

STANDING ITEMS

10. Correspondence/Other Information

- a. **Incoming**
 - None
- b. **Outgoing**
 - Feb. 28, to CCTA, Support for Richmond Lifeline Transportation Program Application for Easy-Go Transportation
 - Mar. 6, to CCTA, Support for Hercules' Measure J Allocation Request for the Intermodal Transit Center
 - Mar. 13, to American Planning Association California Chapter Northern, Support for San Pablo's San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan for Comprehensive Planning Award for Small Jurisdictions
- c. **Workshops/Conferences/Events**
 - Rail~Volution – Building Livable Communities with Transit – Oct 14-17, 2012, Los Angeles. Call for Speakers: Proposals due Mar. 30 (<http://railvolution.org>)

11. Board and Staff Comments

- a. Board Member Comments, Conference/Meeting Reports (AB 1234 Requirement), and Announcements – *Director Ritterman* gave an update on recent efforts relating to CyberTran, which WCCTAC has gone on record as supporting. They are now in partnership with iGATE, which has taken a keen interest in LBNL and several other sites. He noted that it was still a long way to go, but that this was promising.
- b. Report of CCTA Representatives (*Chair Abelson & Director Calloway; Vice-Chair Wilkins, alternate*). *Chair Abelson* reported that this was west County week at CCTA, which gave unanimous support for the Hercules ITC and celebrated the approvals of all the jurisdictions of the I-80 ICM MOU. *Director Wallace* noted that he and Chair Abelson attended the Richmond Council meeting for the ICM MOU, and lamented that the City Clerk would not allow Chair Abelson to speak. *Director Ritterman* apologized on behalf on Richmond.
- c. Executive Director's Report - none

12. Other Business - None

13. Adjourn – Chair Abelson adjourned the meeting.