

WCCTAC
West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, 11 December 2009

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

Staff Present: Christina Atienza, Nancy Cuneo, Valerie Lipscomb, Joanna Pallock, John Rudolph, Linda Young; Hisham Noeimi, CCTA; Michael Rodriquez, 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 8:02 a.m.

2. Public Comment. *Ms. Nancy Baer*, County Health Services, thanked WCCTAC for its assistance in submitting a federal grant application for funds to support physical activity.

CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION: *Director Balico* moved to adopt all items of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by *Director Hansen*, and passed unanimously.

- 3. Minutes and Summary of Oct. 30, 2009 Board meeting.**
- 4. Summary of November 19, 2009 TAC Meeting.**
- 5. Monthly Status Report.**
- 6. AC Transit 2009 Revised Service Adjustments Plan (SAP).**
- 7. I-80 Integrated Corridor Mobility (ICM) Subcommittee Meeting Summary.**
- 8. Adoption of Measure J 2009 Strategic Plan.**
- 9. CCTA's New Mission, Vision, and Values Statements.**
- 10. Proposed Appointment to CCTA's Technical Coordinating Committee.**
- 11. Update on Roll-Out of Richmond Commuter Benefit Ordinance.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 12. Richmond Ultra Light Rail Transit (ULRT) Demonstration Project.**

ACTION: *Director Abelson* moved to support Cybertran's application for a federal grant; seconded by *Director Balico*, and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Chair Viramontes* and *Executive Director Christina Atienza* introduced *Mr. Dexter Vizinou* of De Viz Enterprises. *Mr. Vizinou* identified himself as an El Sobrante resident and an Oakland businessman with a commitment to recruiting businesses and jobs to the East Bay. *Mr. Vizinou* introduced *Mr. Neil Sinclair* of Cybertran International. *Mr. Sinclair* provided

an overview of the Cybertran International firm, its vision for cost-effective and innovative public transit, and the application of its technology in a proposed demonstration project in Richmond. *Mr. Sinclair* said that Cybertran is applying for a federal grant to develop a one-quarter scale model of its ULRT system in order to run tests pertaining to control and safety, preliminary to establishing a manufacturing facility for full-size vehicles, guideways, and other physical assets. *Mr. Sinclair* described the benefits of the ULRT system, including capacity, speed, safety, flexibility, electrical propulsion, and lightweight and inexpensive structures; the off-line stations eliminate delay due to dwell time; and the networked system enhances mobility among destinations.

Director Butt asked about the physical characteristics of the first phase of the project. *Mr. Sinclair* said that the grant request of \$20 million in the first round of funding would provide about 200 jobs in 240,000 square feet of leased space in Marina Bay for product engineering. *Mr. Vizinou* stated that included in the grant request is \$3 million for Richmond's planning efforts to select a site for eventual implementation, if Richmond should choose to implement the system. *Chair Viramontes* noted that Cybertran is one step away from building a manufacturing facility in the city; that Richmond could have a light rail system for the city and for connectivity to BART; and that WCCTAC in its commitment to transit could bring in an additional provider of service to create direct linkages among West County destinations and to alleviate congestion on I-80. *Director Abelson* noted that the large ULRT vehicles are about the size of a paratransit bus, and asked whether the ULRT fixed guideway system would replace buses. *Mr. Sinclair* answered that while the ULRT system would not replace buses in residential neighborhoods, the ULRT could provide feeder service to the BART stations, offer capacity improvements over BART, and enhance Transit Oriented Development opportunities.

13. Update on Measure J Student Bus Pass Program Implementation in West Contra Costa Unified School District.

ACTION: WCCTAC received the update. *Chair Viramontes* asked the SBPP subcommittee to present a recommendation in February on whether to include middle schools in the program.

DISCUSSION: *Ms. Atienza* introduced *Mr. Marin Trujillo*, Community Engagement Coordinator for the West Contra Costa Unified School District, who has also been responsible for administering a portion of the Student Bus Pass Program. *Mr. Trujillo* described SBPP operations, including distribution of passes and eligibility standards for participants; and presented information on use of the program by neighborhood, school, grade level, and transit operator. Answering questions from Board members, *Mr. Trujillo* described current efforts to include charter schools and to integrate the SBPP with Translink. *Director Abelson* observed that AC Transit's need for revenue may cause the agency to raise student fares, while the resources of the SBPP are limited. *Ms. Atienza* recognized *Mr. Trujillo's* tireless and cost-effective work on this project.

14. Request for Annual Contribution to Maintenance of Pacheco Transit Hub.

ACTION: *Director Balico* moved to provide a contribution of \$5,000 per year for three years; seconded by *Chair Viramontes*, and passed 4-2. Ayes: *Balico, Calloway, Hansen, Viramontes*. Noes: *Abelson, Butt*.

DISCUSSION: *Ms. Atienza* introduced *Ms. Cindy Dahlgren* from Central Costa County Transit Authority (CCCTA). *Ms. Dahlgren* presented information pertaining to the proposed Pacheco Transit Hub, a multi-jurisdictional effort building on CCTA’s 2000 Express Bus Study, located at the NW corner of State Route 4 and Interstate 680. The plan is to expand the existing Park and Ride lot and add amenities for transit passengers transferring from one operator to another. Construction funding has already been identified; project sponsors are seeking Operations and Maintenance funding from all Regional Transportation Planning Committees that may benefit from this project while the search for other sources of O&M funding continues.

Director Butt inquired as to the benefits to West County residents from this facility, especially in the context of declining local bus service, and in the absence of supportive services at the Pacheco location. *Ms. Dahlgren* replied that the transit hub will provide more expeditious transit trips between West County and Central and East County destinations. *Director Balico* stated that planning for connectivity among the county’s regions is a necessary first step toward the goal of enhancing regional transit. *Director Abelson* observed that she would be concerned about waiting for a transfer in a location that lacks amenities and security.

15. Richmond Paratransit Program Changes.

ACTION: *Director Butt* moved that WCCTAC staff contact Richmond staff and offer to help with the city’s Paratransit Program; seconded by *Director Balico*, and carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Ms. Atienza* provided an update. Richmond’s Paratransit Program is funded through Measure J and a subsidy from the Richmond General Fund. As a result of the economic downturn, the city is looking for ways to lower the General Fund subsidy while retaining as much service as possible.

Richmond Paratransit provides “beyond-ADA” service. Qualifying Richmond residents who are not served by AC Transit’s parallel ADA service (provided by the East Bay Paratransit Consortium) are served by Richmond Paratransit. *Ms. Atienza* suggested that WCCTAC staff contact Richmond City Manager *Bill Lindsay* to ask that WCCTAC be included in discussions about paratransit service in Richmond. *Ms. Atienza* suggested that WCCTAC staff can provide experience in working with an array of transit and paratransit service providers, and expertise in helping the city to understand and comply with Measure J terminology and funding requirements. *Chair Viramontes* said that the Richmond Paratransit Program, while critically important and working socially, does not work financially, costing the city approximately \$100 per ride. *Director Abelson* remarked on the growing need for paratransit service in the cities and the subregion.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

16. Correspondence/Other Information:

- a. **Incoming:**
 - Oct. 23, from Mr. Robert McCleary, CCTA, Items approved by CCTA on Oct. 21

- Nov. 20, from Mr. Robert McCleary, CCTA, Items approved by CCTA on Nov. 18
- b. **Outgoing:**
 - Oct. 27, to Mr. Brad Beck, CCTA, Support for Richmond/Ohlone Greenway Gap Closure Application for TE Funds
 - Nov. 9, to Dr. William Walker, CCHS, Support for Application for Grant Funding from Communities Putting Prevention to Work Initiative
- c. **Workshops/Conferences/Events:**
 - *Director Butt* announced that the New Partners for Smart Growth conference, his last conference as Chair of the Local Government Commission, will be in Seattle February 4-6, 2010.

17. WCCTAC Board and Staff Comments:

- *Chair Viramontes* announced that a legal opinion is being developed as to how CCTA will use its discretionary authority with respect to jurisdictions that choose to develop outside the Urban Limit Line.
- *Director Abelson* reported on her attendance and presentation at Rail~Volution held October 29 – November 1, 2009, in Boston.
- *Ms. Atienza* announced that construction on the HOV Lanes on EB I-80 between SR 4 and Carquinez is about to begin, and Caltrans will attend the January meeting to explain the construction schedule and detours.
- *Ms. Atienza* noted the significant retirements of *Mr. Rich Davidson*, the City Engineer for Richmond, and *Mr. Robert McCleary*, the Executive Director of CCTA. *Ms. Atienza* expressed gratitude and good wishes to Rich and Bob.

18. Other Business

19. Adjourn. The Board adjourned until January 29, 2010, at 8:00 a.m.