

WCCTAC
West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, 26 March 2010

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

Staff Present: Christina Atienza, Nancy Cuneo, Valerie Jenkins, 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. *Vice-Chair Swearingen* convened the meeting at 8:03 a.m. Board and audience members introduced themselves. *Chair Viramontes* arrived after adoption of the Consent Calendar at 8:06 a.m.

2. Public Comment. No public comment.

CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION: *Director Abelson* moved to adopt all items of the Consent Calendar, except #8, seconded by *Director Wallace*, and passed unanimously.

3. **Minutes and Summary of Feb. 26, 2010 Board meeting.**
4. **Summary of Mar. 11, 2010 TAC meeting.**
5. **Staff Report for Mar. 2010.**
6. **Welcome to Randy Iwasaki, new CCTA Executive Director.**
7. **Payment of Invoice Over \$10,000 – Student Bus Pass Program.**
9. **AC Transit Service Adjustments.**
10. **Update on Richmond’s TIGER Grant Request for Cybertran.**
11. **Update on I-80 ICM Project.**
12. **Del Norte Parking Toolbox.**
13. **Letters of Support for Regional Transportation for Livable Communities Grant Applications.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. **Reduction in Projected Measure J Sales Tax Revenue.**

ACTION: *Director Swearingen* moved to adopt #8, seconded by *Director Abelson*, and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Director Swearingen* commented that because revenues are down at all public agencies, WCCTAC will need to be mindful of these reductions in considering funding items.

14. Hercules Intermodal Transit Center.

ACTION: The Board received a presentation on the project from Lisa Hammon and Jesse Harder, Hercules.

DISCUSSION: *Director Abelson* expressed enthusiasm for the project and inquired about provisions for wheelchair accessibility. *Director Swearingen* inquired about the alignment of railroad tracks, improvements to the Bay Trail, and the schedule of phasing.

Mr. Harder stated that the sidewalks are 14' wide, the entire facility is accessible, the tracks will be spread to provide for the station, environmental certification is expected in June 2010, construction is expected to begin by the end of the year, and the station is expected to be open for service by early 2013. *Director Abelson* called attention to MTC-sponsored legislation to support wheelchair-accessible housing.

15. El Cerrito's Request for Measure J TLC Funds to Use as Local Match for a CMA Block Grant/TLC Grant Application.

ACTION: *Director Wallace* moved to approve El Cerrito's request for advanced programming of \$204,000 of West County's share of Measure J Countywide TLC funds to use as a local match for their CMA Block Grant/TLC application for streetscape improvements on Central and Liberty Avenues, seconded by *Director Abelson*, and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Ms. Yvetteh Ortiz*, El Cerrito, provided a description of the project. *Director Abelson* commented that this project will increase pedestrian safety in a dangerous area. In responding to inquiries from members of the Board, *Chair Viramontes* and *Ms. Atienza* provided information and clarification regarding the different TLC programs. *Chair Viramontes* thanked El Cerrito for advancing projects that improve regional access to BART.

16. Point Molate Casino Resort DEIS/DEIR.

ACTION: *Director Abelson* moved that an ad hoc subcommittee of the TAC meet to review technical options, that legal counsel be consulted, and that WCCTAC send a request to Richmond to include several transportation-related amendments in the City's Land Disposition Agreement/Municipal Services Agreement for the project, seconded by *Director Swearingen*, and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Mr. Michael Rodriquez* noted that *Director Hansen* recused himself from this discussion due to a conflict of interest, and that *Director Chavez* would take WestCAT's chair at the table.

Director Butt asked if Richmond representatives were free to speak on the matter. *Mr. Rodriquez* stated that the decision-making by members of the WCCTAC Board, as a JPA, are separate and distinct from decisions each member would make as a representative of an

individual jurisdiction; that at some point in the future there may be a need to step back, but at this point members are free to speak.

Ms. Atienza reviewed WCCTAC's two responsibilities with respect to the Measure J Growth Management Plan: to make sure all jurisdictions are in compliance with the Action Plan, and to review General Plan Amendments, both of which processes occur in addition to CEQA analysis. *Ms. Atienza* outlined the Action Plan and STMP consequences to this proposed project's traffic impacts, the indeterminate nature of these impacts, and the responsibilities of Richmond with respect to establishing agreements for monitoring these impacts over time.

Chair Viramontes suggested that the history of Casino San Pablo should be analyzed with respect to STMP payment.

Director Butt stated that the MSA is exempt from tribal sovereignty and therefore the appropriate place to include WCCTAC's requests, including mitigation monitoring. *Director Butt* reviewed the schedule of Richmond City Council meetings with respect to acting on the developer's requests for extensions in approving its Land Disposition Agreement.

Chair Viramontes suggested that an ad hoc subcommittee of the TAC provide a technical review of options, and directed staff to work with the TAC and legal counsel to generate a request to Richmond. *Ms. Atienza* clarified that the request to Richmond may be denied, while WCCTAC may incur legal costs in preparing the request.

Ms. Atienza presented options with respect to the project's relationship to the STMP, including development of an STMP strategic plan, a potential reassessment of all projects and inclusion of additional projects, and insertion of relevant, flexible provisions in the STMP to accommodate projects such as Point Molate.

Director Abelson suggested that the economic climate is not encouraging. *Ms. Atienza* clarified that a strategic plan for a 25-year revenue projection will need to be updated on a cyclical basis. *Chair Viramontes* suggested that pending development of a strategic plan, that the project be included in the "Other" STMP category; that the traffic study in the EIR will become the baseline for measuring future impacts; and that provisions be included in the MSA to allow WCCTAC the right to have the impacts measured over time and to hold the city, Tribe, or developer accountable.

17. Potential November 2010 Ballot Measure for a Vehicle Registration Fee Increase to Fund Transportation Program and Projects.

ACTION: *Director Abelson* moved to direct staff to generate a list of eligible projects for the expenditure plan through the TAC, seconded by *Director Butt*, and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Hisham Noeimi*, CCTA, reviewed the Authority's approach and timing. Polling and the creation of an advisory committee have been approved. The schedule will require public meetings and regular actions by the Authority, including development of a nexus study by May, an expenditure plan by June, and ballot language by July for submittal to the County Clerk by August. *Director Swearingen* commented on the high cost of placing a measure on the ballot.

STANDING ITEMS

18. Correspondence/Other Information: **a. Incoming:**

- Feb. 18, Paul Maxwell, CCTA; Items Approved by the Authority on Feb. 17, 2010
 - Mar. 5, Paul Maxwell, CCTA; Invitation to Serve on SB 83 Advisory Committee
 - Mar. 18, Paul Maxwell, CCTA; Items Approved by the Authority on Mar. 17, 2010
- b. Outgoing:**
- Mar. 2, to Peter Engel, CCTA, WCCTAC's Recommendation on Regional Transit Sustainability Project
- c. Workshops/Conferences/Events:**
- CalACT Spring Conference and Expo, San Francisco, April 20-20.
- 19. WCCTAC Board and Staff Comments:** *Ms. Atienza* announced that posters were available from the WCCUSD promoting the West County Student Bus Pass Program, and that directors were required to submit their Form 700 to WCCTAC staff by April 1, 2010.
- 20. Other Business:** none
- 21. Adjournment** in memory of Jim Gleich, AC Transit Deputy General Manager, until April 30, 2010 at 8:00 a.m.