

**West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes: June 22, 2012**

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

Staff Present: Christina Atienza, Valerie Jenkins, Joanna Pallock, Linda Young; Ben Reyes, Legal Counsel;

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 8:15 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
2. **Public Comment.** None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION: *Director Butt* motioned to APPROVE; Seconded by *Director Peebles* and passed with one abstention from *Director Chavez*.

3. **Minutes and Summary of June 22 Board Meeting**
4. **Monthly Program and Projects Status Report**
5. **Financial Report for May 2012**
6. **Clarification on Roles & Responsibilities of Second Alternate to CCTA.**
7. **Administrative Amendment to TAC Bylaws**
8. **AC Transit & WestCAT's FY 12-13 Claims for Measure J Program 19b, Additional Bus Service Enhancements**
9. **East Bay Paratransit Consortium (EBPC), El Cerrito, Richmond Paratransit, and WestCAT's FY 12-13 Claims for Measure J Program 20b, Additional Transportation for Seniors and People with Disabilities.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. **Update on Ferry Expansion Plans in West County.**

ACTION: Discussion item. No action taken.

DISCUSSION: Executive Director, *Ms. Atienza*, gave a brief background on this discussion item. She explained that the Board requested an update on the status of proposed ferry projects in Richmond and Hercules. She introduced *Ms. Nina Rannells*, Executive Director of WETA, and *Mr. Chad Mason*, a planner at WETA. *Mr. Chad*

Smalley from the City of Richmond was also on hand to answer questions as was *Mr. Steve Duran*, City Manager of Hercules and *Mr. William Silva*, consultant to Hercules. *Ms. Rannells* gave a powerpoint presentation on WETA's background. *Mr. Mason* followed up with a more in-depth look at the Richmond and Hercules sites. *Mr. Smalley* explained the issues around the Marina Bay underpass funding being held up by the State and reassured the Board that this would not affect the actual ferry site in Richmond. *Ms. Atienza* also refreshed the Board on the original fund swap in 2008 to fund the Marina Bay underpass.

Director Swearingen asked if there are adequate matching funds for this project and *Ms. Atienza* explained that the Measure J funds are stable. He asked about RDA funds and then said he would wait until after the presentations are completed.

After *Mr. Mason* completed his presentation, *Ms. Atienza* directed the Board's attention to the TRANSPAC letter requesting WETA to form a committee to enhance communication between the many agencies affected by ferry service and to help guide ferry service in east County and the rest of the County. She explained that CCTA has endorsed this concept and she recommends the Board select an RTPC representative to form a countywide TAC working group with CCTA and WETA. *Ms. Atienza* also explained the overlap of ferry service development and the possible renewal of Measure J requiring greater attention to future ferry projects.

Mr. Steve Duran addressed the Board to discuss the phasing of the Hercules ITC project and that the ferry piece was pulled out of the overall rail/transit ITC at this time. By pulling the ferry piece out, the City can proceed with the completion of the ITC EIR for the bus and rail portion of the ITC.

Director Peebles asked if the old technology of a hovercraft had been considered. *Ms. Rannells* commented that hovercraft technology does not offer a comfortable ride. *Director Peebles* added that there was a ferry once in Richmond and AC Transit created service to meet it but it never got much ridership. *Ms. Rannells'* commented that it was run by Red and White fleet at a time when the area had very little development.

Director Peebles commented that the Golden Gate ferries are very car dependent for riders who drive to the ferry, thus creating the need for large parking lots. *Ms. Rannells* stated that feeder service from shuttles, bike access and bus connections are all essential components of a ferry's ridership success. *Mr. Mason* added that the City of Richmond has mobility studies to support service as well as the addition of LBNL coming in 2016.

Director Chavez asked about including staff from the transit operators on a working group to help coordinate services. She added that operating dollars are need in order for transit operators to add or expand service.

Director Swearingen asked how many years it will take to get a ferry up and running. He clarified that he meant Hercules ferry service. *Ms. Rannells'* comment was that it would take at least two to three years for an EIR and then depending on funding, another five to

seven years for development depending on funding. She explained how Richmond is in a better position since they are ready with the EIR and costs are moderate; \$10 million versus \$40 million for Hercules. She also noted that the Hercules terminal might be cost prohibitive.

Director Swearingen asked about the draft off a hovercraft. *Ms. Rannells* stated there is zero draft. *Director Swearingen* asked if WETA is using ABAG data and data from the Regional Transportation Plan. *Ms. Rannells* responded yes they are and recognized that they are imperfect sources. *Director Swearingen* noted that Redevelopment funds are no longer available. If an EIR is completed there is concern that there is no funding available. *Director Swearingen* asked if the Blue and Gold fleet is privately operated. *Ms. Rannells* noted that yes they are privately operated.

Director Wilkins asked about ridership estimates in 2035 being 400-600 riders and WestCAT has that ridership now for Hercules to SF. He asked if the data could be checked for accuracy. *Director Wilkins* asked where the subsidies come from for WETA. She noted ferry services receive 40-45% fare box recovery.

Director Butt informed the Board on the previous Richmond ferry and that it lacked a subsidy. He noted that the area has added the Rosie the Riveter Center with an expected patronage of 100,000 visitors per year. He also reminded that the LBNL site is a mile away and the Bay Trail has been substantially completed.

Ms. Rannells stated that RM2 and RM1 Bridge toll funds are used for WETA funding but the funds are spoken for and new funds are needed from Measure J.

Director Swearingen noted that if fewer drivers on the bridges, there will be less toll funds. *Ms. Rannells* noted that the bridges have capacity constraints.

Ms. Atienza noted that the Board has asked to add the transit operators to the working group and highlighted the importance of Measure J operating subsidy.

Director Peebles noted there is a need for close communication to make sure AC Transit, WCCTAC, CCCTA and WestCAT can make the link between transit and water transportation.

11. FY 2012-13 Agency Work Plan, Dues, and Budget

ACTION: Motion by *Director Calloway* to adopt Resolution 12-01 for the FY 2012-13 Agency Work Program, Member Dues and Budget and form an ad hoc subcommittee to address issues related to staffing and the work plan as well as a possible dues reduction; seconded by *Director Chavez*. Passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: *Ms Atienza* provided a powerpoint presentation in addressing issues related to last month approved the subject documents for circulation and review by the member agencies. She directed the Board to Pinole's comments in the letter handed out.

9:50 *Director Butt* left.

Director Chavez commented that WCCTAC is functioning with a small staff while she also understands Pinole's concerns. She is in favor of supporting a new position and asked for WCCTAC to use the fund balance to off-set any dues increase.

Director Calloway asked what is being voted on and noted that she has not brought this to her Council.

Ms. Atienza stated the action is to approve Resolution 12-01 and noted that the creation of a Deputy Director position was conceptually approved last month. Discussion led to asking Legal Counsel, *Mr. Ben Reyes* if the Board had to take action today to be in compliance with budget adoption guideline. *Mr. Reyes* noted that it was advisable to take a vote as close to the beginning of the fiscal year as possible. *Director Chavez* noted she needed to leave at 10:00 and WCCTAC could lose a quorum. She was able to delay her departure in order to maintain a quorum.

Director Swearingen explained the state of Pinole has required cuts as well as cities like San Pablo and Richmond are experiencing declines in revenue. San Pablo Finance Director, *Bradley Ward*, noted that the city is receiving more casino revenues as well as doing cost cutting reorganizations. *Director Swearingen* said the city will not pay dues if the utility tax does not pass. He asked for a reduction of 10% in dues to every agency and that the Deputy Director position could be paid out of the consultant fees. The budget should have concessions and ways to reduce costs and reduce annual dues. He asked if the other RPTC pay dues and stated that they meet infrequently.

Ms. Atienza asked to make clarifications regarding the funds to pay dues. Up to 100% of Measure J can be used for paying dues. The return-to-source funds can be used and the City's General Fund does not need to be used.

Director Swearingen noted that Pinole could drop membership in WCCTAC and still receive return to source funds but not the other grant funds. *Ms. Atienza* noted that this is inconsistent with CCTA staff's interpretation, which had been communicated to Pinole.

Ms. Atienza is not proposing the funds for the Study be used for the Deputy Director position and that if there were no Deputy Director position, the Study would not be performed.

Director Chavez asked if WCCTAC could consider savings could be gained from a cut in benefits and still get the position.

Director Calloway stated that there doesn't seem to be a consensus and that WCCTAC should not let Pinole's fiscal problems affect this group of cities. She suggested a subcommittee to analyze this discussion further. She asked if the Board needs to meet before July 1 to adopt a budget before July 1.

Mr. Reyes advised a subcommittee and noted that the Board needs to adopt a budget on or about July 1 according to the bylaws.

Chairperson Abelson asked if the Board could adopt a preliminary workplan and budget and then address the dues issue. She asked how to deal with the dues.

Ms Atienza stated that dues could be collected and return the funds as a refund after the subcommittee convenes and the Board adopts the recommendations.

Director Calloway made a motion to adopt the budget in the packet.

Ms. Atienza stated that an amended workplan could be created to look at dues and budget. Revision to the workplan over the course of the year, an amendment will be made based on the outcome of the Subcommittee.

Director Swearingen stated that the Deputy Director position be put on hold and place that in the motion. He also asked that the subcommittee meetings be made open to the public.

Director Peebles asked if there is no Deputy Director position, will items in the workplan be put on hold. *Ms. Atienza* stated that is possible and the Board will understand why after this discussion.

Director Calloway asked to start the subcommittee right away.

The Board selected *Directors Calloway, Abelson, Swearingen and Wilkins* to serve on the subcommittee and to add a Richmond representative to be determined.

Chair Abelson noted that the subcommittee will be set up and meetings will noticed to the public. *Director Calloway* asked other members could send *Ms. Atienza* ideas.

STANDING ITEMS

12. Correspondence/Other Information

1. Incoming

- none

b. Outgoing

- May 25, to Hon. Fiona Ma, Notice of Opposition to AB 2200 As Amended 5/1/2012
- May 30, to WCCTAC Member Agencies, Draft Agency Work Plan, Dues, and Budget (attachments included under item 11)
- June 4, to Contra Costa Health Services, Response to Funding Request for Project Homeless Connect 8

- c. **Workshops/Conferences/Events**
 - none

13. Board and Staff Comments

- Board Member Comments, Conference/Meeting Reports (AB 1234 Requirement), and Announcements - none
- Report of CCTA Representatives (*Chair Abelson & Director Calloway; Vice-Chair Wilkins, alternate; Dir. Swearingen, second alternate*)
Chair Abelson noted CCTA Board met and discussed the Executive Director's evaluation and are still working that.
- Executive Director's Report. At the last meeting we set we would meet at 8:30 so the Board can return to the 8:00 time. *Ms. Atienza* stated that the MTC intern is beginning in June.

14. Other Business - none

Adjourn with a moment of silence in memory of:

Joe Eddy MacDonald, former Hercules City Council Members; and
Cory LaVigne, AC Transit Director of Service Development and a friend.