

MINUTES
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
June 4, 2003

CALL TO ORDER

Called to order by Chairperson Joe Dutra at 2:06 pm.

ROLL CALL

Members Costa, Dutra, Gillespie, Iversen and Rouch were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of April 2, 2003
Approved on motion by Gillespie, second by Rouch and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Transit Reports for March and April 2003
Motion by Costa, second by Iversen to accept reports as presented. Passed unanimously.
2. Route C Expansion
Committee member Gillespie presented the ridership statistics for Route C. The numbers have nearly doubled since the start date of March 2002. She also reported that the dispatchers are spending additional time with customers to encourage the use of Route C to get to Twin Cities and mitigate their fears of transferring from DAR to CATS. Older riders are concerned about missing buses and missed appointments. A general concern was raised about improving rider knowledge about connecting with Atascadero fixed route service and the connection at both Twin Cities and Cuesta College.

The report on the ridership numbers for Route C was approved on motion by Iversen, second by Rouch and passed unanimously.

3. Performance Audit

Staff reviewed the executive summary of the audit with the Committee, noting that the audit is required by CALTRANS every three years as a recipient of TDA funding. The report was favorable and contained the following findings:

- a. Standardize the reporting of TDA reporting and collection.
- b. Increase management oversight of transit services.
- c. Improve marketing with the possibility of bringing in an outside person to handle the advertising.
- d. Determine the ridership numbers of each route ie: days and times to determine if the current stops are being utilized to their greatest potential or if changes need to be made.

Motion by Costa, second by Rouch to accept the Performance Audit was passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Committee member Rouch brought to staff's attention that there is not a bench or shelter at the actual bus stop at the Transit Center. The benches provided by the beautification project are located on Pine Street and face the sidewalk rather than the street. Staff reported that the benches at the interim Amtrak Station were supposed to have been moved sometime ago to the northern side of the circle next to Hayward Lumber (the bus stop). Staff will follow up with Public Works regarding these benches as well as getting the Pine Street benches turned towards the street.

Committee member Rouch reported that the red zones at bus stops are too short. The area at Paso Robles High School and the one at City Hall are only 40 feet and need to be at least 60 to accommodate the transit buses. The owner of J&J's on north Spring Street has requested a red curb in front of his business to allow for the safe loading of passengers. As this is one of the busiest stop on the route, the request will be forwarded to the appropriate committee for action.

Committee member Gillespie reported that the buses should not be forced to stop on Spring Street or any other street, in front of bus stops and use flashers because it creates a dangerous condition. She supports the need for a longer red curbs. The bus stops on north Spring Street at 34th instead of 32nd are also particularly bad.

Committee member Iversen suggested that a list of "hot spots" be brought back as an agenda item to the next meeting. A vote will be taken and the list forwarded to the Street and Utilities Committee for their action.

Committee member Rouch raised the issue of requiring new development to install shelters or benches when new construction occurs close to existing routes. It was

further discussed that there are to be a fee assessed towards all new development for bus stop amenities even if they were not close to existing routes.

Committee member Costa expressed concern about problems that will be caused for transit during the construction of the 13th Street Bridge expansion.

Committee chair Dutra brought up the need to serve Oak Park area and the new senior housing project being constructed in this area. Committee member Gillespie noted the danger of buses having to turn against traffic onto Spring Street, particularly the speeding vehicles coming into town from the north. She suggested that a four-way stop be installed at 36th and Spring Street to allow for safer turns. She also noted that such a diversion would require route changes elsewhere in order to maintain 30 minute “head-ins”.

It was brought to the Committee’s attention that the receptionist desk at TCCH is not giving out information on PRCATS or DAR. It was suggested that transit brochures be delivered to the hospital to get the route information to the patrons. A problem with access of the transit buses to the parking lot at the hospital was discussed. Staff will contact the administrator to determine the problem and solution.

Committee member Iversen suggested that the signage on the transit stops needs to be improved. If signs were placed on the transit shelters in colors that coordinated with the bus colors, it would be much easier for the customer to identify which bus was associated with which route. A possibility of using the “paw print” showing the route number in the center was suggested.

Staff was asked about the ridership on the extended hour cab service. Staff did not have ridership data but advised that the cab companies would be contacted to obtain ridership.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Staff reported the approval by the Paso Robles and Atascadero City Councils of the FTA 5307 MOU. The MOU will be approved by SLOCOG and SLORTA soon. It will then be sent to the Board of Supervisors. The final version of the Operator’s Agreement will go to the transit operators on June 9, 2003 and will appear on the first City Council agenda in July 2003 designating Paso Robles as applicant for 5307 funding. A copy of the agreement will be included in the packet for the next TAC meeting.

Staff reported that there is a possibility of fixed route service starting an hour earlier in the morning (6:00am) and operating an hour later in the evening (7:00pm.).

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 3:33 pm to the next regular meeting of September 3, 2003 on motion by Gillespie, second by Costa and passed unanimously.