

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(April 26, 2007)

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority met in regular session at the Port of San Francisco, Bayside Conference Room, Pier 1 on the Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA.

A meeting of the Board of Directors began at 12:30 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

The following Board Directors were present: Albert Boro, Anthony Intintoli, Beverly Johnson, Charlene Haught Johnson, Rocco Mancinelli, Nancy Wagner, and Anthony Withington.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Johnson reviewed the protocol for public comment.

3. REPORT OF BOARD PRESIDENT

President Johnson had no report to make.

4. REPORT OF DIRECTORS

No Directors had a report to make.

5. REPORTS OF STAFF

CEO Steve Castleberry reviewed the CEO report highlighting the following issues:

- South San Francisco –Work is continuing on the 35% design, with cost preliminary estimates due in July.
- Antioch – City is engaged in discussions with staff regarding pursuing a terminal in Antioch.
- Outreach efforts – staff held a CAC meeting on April 18; newsletters have been written and sent out
- The Authority received “Employer of the Year” award by the Northern California Chapter of the Women’s Transportation Seminar. Board members are invited to attend the June 12 Awards Dinner at the Merchants Exchange Building in San Francisco.
- Legislative reports include creation of the Public Ferry Coalition, a cooperative effort for federal funding for ferry operators, and an update on state legislative activities including AB 463, the “Clean Ferries Act” bill, which was withdrawn, and SB 45 which sets aside funding from Proposition 1B for port security and disaster preparedness, although there is nothing set aside for the Authority yet.

6 COMMENT ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no comments on the consent calendar.

7 APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Withington seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

**8 ALBANY/BERKELEY FERRY TERMINAL AND SERVICE PROJECT EIR/EIS
SCOPING AND RELATED COMMENTS (Item 8)**

Mr. John Sindzinski, Manager, Planning and Development, presented this item. He summarized the comments received on the four proposed Albany/Berkeley terminal sites. There was some discussion regarding the comments on dredging, access, and other environmental mitigation issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Norman La Force, representing the Sierra Club and other Berkeley/Albany environmental organizations with an interest in environmental impacts to the shoreline there, opposes both Albany sites but is not opposed to the Berkeley sites for ferry terminal development. He urged the Board of Directors to eliminate both Albany sites from consideration.

Director Mancinelli asked Mr. LaForce what he believes is the biggest issue against the Albany sites.

Mr. La Force answered that the biggest issue is the impact on the East Shore State Park.

9 APPROVAL OF RELEASE OF RFQ FOR EMERGENCY PLANNING SERVICES (Item 9)

Mr. Castleberry presented this item for approval, noting no funds are committed to a consultant for emergency planning services in this year's budget. He further noted the Authority's need for an expert, possibly with prior experience in the Office of Emergency Services or Disaster Relief Coordination, in assisting with preparing the Emergency Response Plan.

Director Withington made a motion to approve the item. Director Johnson seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

**10 APPROVAL OF RELEASE OF RFQ FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND TERMINAL
DESIGN CONSULTING SERVICES (Item 10)**

Mr. Sindzinski presented this item for approval, noting no funds are committed to a consultant for the design services in this year's budget.

Director Secchitano asked if there is a large field of consultants who would respond and what the average cost estimate is. Mr. Sindzinski answered we should expect approximately 8-10 respondents and to pay between \$200,000 and \$500,000 for the EIR.

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the item. Director Mancinelli seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

11 FUEL CELL FERRYBOAT PROJECT UPDATE (Item 11)

Ms. Mary Frances Culnane, Manager, Marine Engineering, presented this item for discussion. She noted that the construction management team will provide options for builders to consider when implementing this technology into the Authority's South San Francisco vessels. The project will incorporate fuel cell, solar panels and batteries as an alternative for some or all of the ship service electric power supply on the SSF vessels.

Director Johnson asked if any type of vessels currently use the fuel cell technology. Ms. Culnane responded that some submarines use it now, but that no high speed passenger ferry runs solely on fuel cell power.

There was much discussion regarding the merits of the fuel cell technology in the Authority's new construction plans and whether or not it is feasible to implement the technology at this time. Director Boro expressed some concern regarding the cost of the vessel with a fuel cell in addition to the diesel engine, adding that it may be more costly, slow down the speed and add sizes and weight to the vessels with a fuel cell. Ms. Culnane noted that the potential construction proposals will have to take into consideration a balance between the cost, weight, and economic benefits to deliver an operational vessel as per the performance specification. The fuel cell, battery, solar array is not a stand alone project – it is required to be incorporated into the vessel's power systems. She added that a cost benefit analysis will be provided for review when the service specifications are completed by consultants who propose to do the work. Staff is also placing an emission reduction benefit standard on the fuel cell, battery, solar array portion of the project.

Director Intintoli asked if the initial grant was conditioned on the Authority building a total fuel cell powered vessel. Mr. Castleberry answered the grant was not specifically for an all-fuel cell powered vessel, but was meant to power a vessel with fuel cell technology, which is what we intend to do with those funds. He noted that delays beginning the project will result in diminishing of the allotted funds for the project and that it is the Authority's desire to implement this technology into the South San Francisco vessel design as soon as possible.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Ruth Gravanis, an individual, commented on the Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island redevelopment projects, noting it is important for the Authority to keep the TIDA Board informed of its progress on the fuel cell ferry project because it was initially intended to be used on a commuter ferry for Treasure Island. She referenced a bill by Assemblyman Leno which creates a parking and transportation district for Treasure Island.

Ms. Teri Shore, Friends of the Earth, commented that more public input is required for the implementation of the fuel cell on a commuter ferry. She noted that Friends of the Earth (formerly Bluewater Network) interprets changes in the way the funding was intended to be used in 2003, noting then it was meant to be used strictly for a fuel cell powered commuter ferry for Treasure Island.

Director Johnson asked if the Treasure Island developer has a set aside funding for a fuel cell ferry or if there is any other possibility of getting funding for the project. Mr. Castleberry answered that a ferry powered solely by a fuel cell is not feasible at this time. The Authority is already providing the highest emission standard available with its 85% clean emission standard, and the addition of the fuel cell and solar panels will only make the vessels cleaner.

Vice President Wagner acknowledged that all concerns raised by the Friends of the Earth letter were addressed in Ms. Culnane's presentation.

12 APPROVAL OF CIRCULATION OF DRAFT DBE PLAN (Item 12)

Ms. Shirley Douglas, Manager, Community Relations, presented this item for approval.

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the item. Director Boro seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

13 SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO SERVICE ASSUMPTIONS (Item 13)

Mrs. Nina Rannells, Grants Manager, presented this item for discussion.

Director Secchitano asked if a reverse commute and weekend travel study was conducted. Mr. Sindzinski said that criteria will be determined in a future study, but that the main concern now is the standard commute and if there is the ridership to maintain a 40% farebox recovery required by MTC to operate.

Director Rapport noted concerns regarding the 80-minute headway, and the difficulty of forecasting ridership when there has never been service there before to prove the model, and that the catchment area would be very broad. He suggested broadening the service area to include United Airlines employees. Ms. Rannells noted that the route serves a very broad area in South San Francisco, not just to the Genentech campus.

It was further noted that the Authority is directed to pursue more frequent headways.

14 APPROVAL OF THE AUTHORITY'S BOAT NAMING PROCESS (Item 14)

Ms. Douglas presented this item for approval. There was much discussion on how to proceed with this process and it was deemed most efficient to bring the matter before a Committee for discussion before bringing it back to the Board for final approval. President Johnson suggested that each Board member submit four names for discussion. President Johnson directed staff to bring this matter back before the Board in May for further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Veronica Sanchez, Masters, Mates and Pilots, indicated that Blue and Gold would be good colors for Berkeley service.

15 OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Teri Shore commented on AB 463, the clean ferries standard legislation, noting that the standards being proposed by the California Air Resources Board for harbor craft are a concern to current operators who may be unable to comply due to funding to refurbish or rebuild to meet those requirements.

16 ADJOURNMENT

All business having concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Shelver,
Board Secretary
