

MEETING SUMMARY

San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority Community Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

CAC List of attendees attached hereto.

ATTENDEES:

MEETING DATE: February 8, 2006

FROM: Karen Shelver, Board Secretary

DATE: September 18, 2006

—▶ **NEXT MEETING: May 24, 2006 – 10am-12pm, Ferry Bldg. Port Commission Room, SF CA**

The Community Advisory Committee held its meeting on February 8, 2006 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The meeting began at 10:00 am.

1. Call to Order and Report of Committee Chair

Chair Diane Howard had no report to make.

2. Report of WTA CEO

CEO Steve Castleberry reported on recent new hires at the Authority and described their roles in the agency. He then reported briefly on the status of the Authority's projects including new service at South San Francisco and Berkeley, noting that RM2 funding has been made available for advancing the SSF service and that a draft screening of terminal sites in Berkeley is being done.

Mr. Allan Maris (Albany) asked if meetings are being held in Albany as a potential site. Mr. Castleberry answered that meetings will be held in Albany as well as Berkeley.

Mr. Castleberry continued with his, noting that funding is available for an Environmental Impact Report in Richmond/Hercules, the Authority is working with developers and the City of San Francisco on service to Treasure Island, and the Authority is working with state legislators on language for an infrastructure bond on the June 2006 ballot.

3. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION: Federal and State Legislative Update

Mr. Castleberry gave an update on the Authority's Federal and State legislative activities, noting that the SAFETEA-LU, passed in late summer, has an earmark of \$4 million for a South San Francisco terminal and \$2 million over four years allocated by the Authority for top priority projects like Berkeley. He added that the majority of funds in the bill were allocated for Alaska ferry service and that the t-bill was expanded from \$38 million to \$50 million, increasing annually.

Mr. Arne Simonsen (City of Antioch) asked if a guaranteed dollar amount for the Authority was allocated and if there will be any co-mingling of these funds with other transit agencies. Mr. Castleberry answered that the Authority receives a \$2.5 million annual allocation which is larger than what New York, Washington and Alaska ferries.

Ms. Kathy Hartzell (City of Larkspur) asked for status on Port Sonoma service. Mr. Castleberry responded that lobbying has been done for funding for studying viability of service at Port Sonoma but the route was determined to not be viable due to environmental issues, noting that the issues involved will have to be solved on a local level.

Ms. Jeanne MacLeamy (City of Novato) asked if the Authority is required to specify how the \$2.5 million is allocated. Mr. Castleberry answered that a budget will be done for the funds.

4. Informational Presentation: Draft Regional Maritime Contingency Plan

Mr. Keith Stahnke, Operations Manager, (WTA) gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Authority's draft Regional Maritime Contingency Plan.

Mr. Castleberry added that the Authority is working at the state level on the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and with the Bay Area Council on emergency response. A request for additional funding for docking capabilities is being made.

Mr. Miles Berger (Tiburon) asked if BCDC has been contacted for input on the plan. Mr. Castleberry answered that they have not but would be concerned about new dock locations.

Ms. Hartzell asked about existing industrial documents and dredging related to new docks. Mr. Castleberry answered that dredging requirements vary from site to site; noting that a temporary dock would be used in a previously dredged channel.

Chair Howard asked how close the plan is to being complete and staff will request Board approval when it is finished. Mr. Castleberry answered that it should be complete in spring 2006 and will be a living document approved by the Board. Ms. Mary Frances Cunnane added that staff has met with OES, police and sheriffs to coordinate efforts for the Regional Transportation Response which also includes airports as well as local transportation.

Mr. Simonsen said he is concerned that there is a limited amount of funding for the regional plan. Mr. Castleberry answered that the Authority's focus is on routes that receive RM2 funding.

Mr. Paul Albritton (City of Sausalito) asked what the Authority's role is in the plan. Ms. Cunnane answered that the Authority has a seat at the OES in San Francisco and would rely now on the Marine Exchange setting the plan in motion.

5. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION: Spare Vessel Procurement Update

Ms. Cunnane (WTA) gave an update on the procurement of two spare vessels for the Authority's new service, noting the boats will be used primarily for South San Francisco but could be put to use on other routes as needed and described the general design plan.

Mr. Maris asked if the vessel designer had been selected. Ms. Cunnane answered that staff will bring its recommended selection to the Board in March.

Mr. Tom Butt (City of Richmond) asked why the vessels are spares. Mr. Castleberry responded that the term "spare" is a specified line item in RM2 and that these vessels will be built first for environmental clearance on the SSF route.

Mr. Berger asked how many seats each vessel has. Ms. Cunnane answered the boats each carry 149 passengers as well as hold 25 bikes.

Mr. Ed Balico (Hercules) asked what the maintenance budget is. Ms. Cunnane answered that a program will be created from OEM. Mr. Castleberry added that the Authority's operations budget includes payments to captain, crew and for maintenance.

Mr. Simonsen requested a summary of the budget.

Chair Howard asked how fare collection will be handled. Mr. Sindzinski answered that a revenue collection study is currently being conducted, and noted that TransLink is not yet available but may be in the future.

6. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION: Terminals and Service Update: South San Francisco and Berkeley

Mr. Sindzinski (WTA) gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing the current status of the SSF and Berkeley terminals and services.

Mr. Berger asked if the SSF landside improvements will include parking. Mr. Sindzinski answered that the site currently includes bus facilities and 20 parking spaces. Additional parking would require and additional EIR.

Mr. Pedro Gonzalez (South San Francisco) commented that he is glad this project is moving forward and will be up and running by 2009 and requested a presentation to the South San Francisco City Council.

Mr. Maris asked if staff plans to meet with Albany stakeholders regarding the Albany/Berkeley terminal. Mr. Sindzinski answered that the meetings will be held jointly.

7. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION: Update on the Authority's Berthing and Maintenance Facility

Mr. Sindzinski (WTA) gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing the status of the Authority's berthing and maintenance facility. Mr. Castleberry added that the current plans are still conceptual.

8. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION: Fuel Cell Ferryboat Update

Ms. Culnane (WTA) gave a brief update on the status of the fuel cell ferryboat.

Chair Howard asked when the decision will be made regarding the fuel cell boat. Ms. Culnane answered that if the XX is approved in October, staff can release an RFP by the end of the year and have the boat up and running in one year.

Mr. Albritton asked how much the boat will cost. Ms. Culnane answered that because it will be a modular design with a focus on hydrogen platform and will cost about \$1.2 million. The vessel will hold approximately 100 passengers, but if the fuel cell is removed, the passenger count would reach 149.

Ms. MacLeamy asked what the cost comparison is with the T-Boat. Ms. Culnane answered that 20% of the cost is for propulsion.

9. OUTREACH UPDATE

Ms. Shirley Douglas, Manager of Community Relations, gave a brief update on the status of the Authority's outreach and marketing efforts, highlighting the June 23, 2006 symposium "XXX". Mr. Castleberry also mentioned the Vallejo Waterfront Plan.

Chair Howard commented that awareness needs to be raised on transit oriented development and noted the recent failed development project in Redwood City.

Mr. Anthony Intintoli (City of Vallejo/WTA Board of Directors) commented that the period for collecting public input on EIRs and hearings for such projects takes a long time.

10. NEXT MEETING

The CAC will hold its next meeting on May 24, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at a location to be determined.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Anita Franzi of Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey's office commented that although the North Bay is not a big player in expanded ferry service, that Congresswoman Woolsey is still interested in the progress of the Authority.

Chair Howard adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

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