

MEETING SUMMARY

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

CAC List of attendees attached hereto.

ATTENDEES:

MEETING DATE: December 5, 2007

FROM: Karen Shelver, Board Secretary

DATE: June 10, 2008

The Community Advisory Committee held its meeting on December 5, 2007 from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The meeting began at 10:30 am.

1. Call to Order and Motion to Approve Minutes of (September 12, 2007) CAC Meeting

Chair Howard noted a change to reflect that she echoed President Johnson's hope to continue with the CAC. Mr. Fred Hansson also noted clarification to his comment that when we are scoping out new East Bay ferry locations, some consideration should factor a possible redevelopment/change of use near those streets that may increase ridership. A motion to approve the September 12, 2007 meeting minutes, including the above noted changes, was made by Mr. Arne Simonsen. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hansson and the item was approved unanimously. Mr. Robert Lieber and Ms. Alice Fredericks abstained. There was no opposition.

2. Report of Committee Chair

Chair Diane Howard reported that a letter writing campaign was put into motion to San Mateo County Representatives expressing concerns about the recent legislation transitioning the WTA to the WETA. She noted that clean-up legislation is due to be written in January 2008, and hopes that the concerns submitted to the authors will be addressed.

3. Report of WTA CEO

Mr. Steve Castleberry reported on SB 976 and proposed clean-up legislation of that bill, noting that the transition plan calls for a consolidation of the Alameda and Vallejo ferry services. The legislation mandates that the consolidation occur within a twelve-month period and calls for the creation of an Emergency Water Transit Management Plan. Public input and will be taken for the Plan.

Ms. Barbara Heller, San Rafael, asked if the legislation addresses WTA employees. Mr. Castleberry said the legislation does not address the issue of WTA employees, although it does allow for existing contracts to be transferred to the new agency on January 1, 2008.

Chair Howard urged the Commissioners remain involved in planning for the future of the management plan.

Mr. Robert Lieber, Albany, said he hopes the new WETA Board will create a body similar to the CAC. He mentioned the recent oil spill disaster, noting that relief system became paralyzed because the different modes of transit that would be used in the relief effort were not effectively coordinated. Mr. Castleberry said that the best information given to the effort came from good captains.

Mr. Balico asked when the new Board is scheduled to hold its first meeting. Mr. Castleberry answered that the legislation mandates Board appointments will begin January 1, 2008 and the first meeting will be held no later than April 2008.

Mr. Paul Albritton, Sausalito, asked how the Emergency Plan would coordinate with private operators and GGBHTD ferry operators. Mr. Castleberry answered that the agency would coordinate with operators using charter amendments.

Chair Howard asked how the WETA will be involved if there is another oil spill in the Bay. Mr. Castleberry answered that the legislation will be revised by Senator Perata and should include provisions for emergency response.

Mr. Albritton asked if there is a funding risk associated with the transition of the Alameda and Vallejo services. Mr. Castleberry answered that the WTA intends to make the transition as seamless as possible during the transition, noting that it is anticipated that additional expenditures will not be required during the transition.

Ms. Heller asked how the new Board will be appointed. Mr. Castleberry answered that three members will be appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger, one will be appointed by Senator Pro Tem Don Perata and one will be appointed by California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez, noting that the only requirement of the new Board members is that they be Bay Area residents. President Charlene Haught Johnson added that the three Governor appointments must be approved by the Senate Rules Committee.

4. Service Updates

A. SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO and REDWOOD CITY – Chair Howard reported on the \$30 million made available for ferries in a reauthorization of the San Mateo County Measure A sales tax bill. She noted that the funds will be split equally, at \$15 million apiece, between Redwood City and South San Francisco for each of those cities' ferry service plans. Mr. Pedro Gonzalez, South San Francisco, added that the San Mateo County Water Transit Advocates, made up of local businesses, were instrumental in aiding the campaign for funding for ferry service in San Mateo County.

Mr. John Sindzinski, Manager of Planning and Development, reported on the progress of the South San Francisco terminal project. He reviewed the pending agreement with the San Mateo County Harbor District, terminal design with regard to the float and gangway, and the schedule for delivery in mid-2009. Although it is expected that additional funding of \$5 million is needed to complete the terminal, it is anticipated that funding can be obtained from sources outside of Measure A.

Mr. Albritton asked if the agency is coordinating with landside operators and if an airport shuttle is planned. Mr. Sindzinski said coordination efforts have been discussed with the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance and with SamTrans, but that no airport shuttle is planned today although it will be looked at in the future along with the possibility of water taxi service to SFO. Ms. Shirley Douglas, Manager of Community Relations, added that input is being sought from United Airlines' maintenance facility employees as well.

B. BERKELEY/ALBANY and HERCULES – Mr. Sindzinski reported on the status of Berkeley service, noting that an administrative environmental impact report was received and that the report recommends the best site chosen as south of the Berkeley pier. He said the final certified document should be received by Summer 2008.

Mr. Robert Lieber, Albany, commented that the City of Albany vigorously opposes the Gilman and Buchanan terminal sites.

Mr. Sindzinski continued his status update on Hercules service, noting that an administrative environmental impact report will be available in March 2008. Approval of the final EIR is scheduled for Summer 2008. The terminal site will be located north of Refugio Creek.

Mr. Ed Balico, Hercules, commented that Highway 4 has been extended to the waterfront and funding has been made available to extend Highway 2 as well.

C. ANTIOCH – Mr. Castleberry gave a PowerPoint Presentation on Antioch service as the intended presenter, Mr. Victor Carniglia, was unavailable.

Mr. Arne Simonsen, Antioch, commented that the City is planning to amend zoning to include ferry service in its General Plan.

D. MARTINEZ – Martinez Mayor Rob Schroeder gave a PowerPoint Presentation on Martinez. He mentioned the passing this year of the CAC's former Martinez representative, Mr. Nello Bianco, and proceeded to give an update on Antioch service.

Ms. Heller asked the population of Antioch.

Mr. Schroeder answered that Antioch has a population of 40,000.

Chair Howard introduced Mr. Mike Giari, Director of the Port of Redwood City, and noted that Redwood City is the county seat for San Mateo County.

5. Community Outreach and Marketing

Ms. Douglas gave an update on the WTA's community outreach and marketing efforts. She noted attending events to increase awareness at the Health Fair and Oyster Point Marina Plaza, and said there continues to be positive support for ferry service in the South Bay. Mr. Gonzalez added that 62,000 who work in South San Francisco live in the East Bay and that new service would help them a great deal.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

President Charlene Haught Johnson thanked everyone on the CAC for their input and dedication throughout the seven years that the WTA has been in existence and hoped they would continue to advocate for the continued efforts of the new agency for expanded ferry service in the Bay Area.

Chair Howard directed staff to continue keeping the CAC members informed of the agency's progress as it goes forward through the transition.

The Committee acknowledged the work of Ms. Culnane in successfully negotiating contracts for the building of the first boats for the new South San Francisco service.

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

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