

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MARIN COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD
OF DIRECTORS HELD MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M.**

Roll Call

Present: Director Arnold; Director Brown; Director Heller; Director McGlashan;
Director Kellner; Director Moulton-Peters

Absent: Director Adams; Director Kinsey

Director Brown opened the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

1. *Open time for public expression, limited to three minutes per speaker, on items not on the Transit District's agenda.*

No member of the public spoke at this time.

2. *Approval of Minutes for April 20, 2009.*

Vice President Arnold made a motion to approve the minutes. Director Kellner seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

AYES: Director Arnold, Director Brown, Director Heller, Director Kellner, Director McGlashan, Director Moulton-Peters

ABSENT: Director Adams, Director Kinsey

3. *Board of Directors' Matters.*

Director Heller reported on a course offered by the Tamalpais Adult Education Program entitled "Adventure Hiking Meets the Stage," which partners their physical fitness offerings with Marin's rural transit system.

4. *General Manager's Oral Report*

David Rzepinski reported that the Muir Woods Shuttle was successfully launched on May 2nd. This is Marin Transit's first season of overseeing the operation of the

Shuttle in partnership with the National Park Service. He predicted that ridership will increase as the summer unfolds. He noted that the Central Southern Marin Transit Study was nearing completion and the draft report will be presented to the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) Board in June.

Mr. Rzepinski indicated that the West Marin Needs Assessment Study held three public meetings (in San Geronimo, Point Reyes Station, and Stinson Beach) and will hold a fourth meeting in Bolinas. He stated that staff has been very much engaged in the project and will report on the findings and preliminary recommendations at the July board meeting. He reported that Marin Transit was invited to participate in a public meeting of the Stinson Beach Village Association. Residents' concerns centered around parking, traffic congestion, and transit needs. Marin Transit will continue to work with partner agencies on creation of suitable bus stops in Stinson Beach.

He noted that staff went before the Novato City Council in May to present preliminary designs for bus stop improvements along Highway 101 at Rowland and Ignacio/ Bel Marin Keyes. Staff is looking forward to working with the Council, city staff, the public, and the design team to improve the freeway interchange bus stops and the Transit Center downtown. He cautioned that Transit had planning money, but no design or construction funds for the downtown stops. Marin Transit will continue the dialogue with city staff on Novato's planning initiatives and seek additional funding opportunities.

Lastly, Mr. Rzepinski introduced Mr. Derek Toups, the new Senior Transportation Planner, to the Transit Board.

5. Public Hearing on Future of Muir Beach Dial-A-Ride Demonstration Project

General Manager Rzepinski opened this item by stating that this was the public forum started at the last meeting. He referred the Board to the letter concerning the fiscal analysis of the service. Some residents were taking advantage of this transit option, but not enough to justify the expense.

He presented the monitoring data for March, which showed that only 1.5 passengers were served per revenue hour at a subsidy of \$31.46 per trip. He reiterated that this service was the lowest performing service in the District. At the urging of Director Kinsey, staff took another look at the data, which bore out some of the comments received before the Board at the last meeting. Mr. Rzepinski reported that for the month of April, 60% of the 101 trips were school-related, morning trips and 35% of the trips were from Marin City.

Mr. Rzepinski stated that staff has looked at other options for this community and approached TAM's Transportation Demand Manager (TDM) about matching riders with an existing vanpool program or the School Pool Program. He asked the Board's permission to pass along contact information from the public

speakers at both meetings to TAM to facilitate future organization of transit options.

President Brown opened the public hearing. A speaker passed out an email directed to the Board and asked that the vote be postponed or that the Board approve continuing the service for those who were presently using the Muir Beach Dial-A-Ride to travel to the middle school, high school, and Green Gulch.

A speaker expressed frustration that the service did not meet the needs of the community because it only ran during the week from Wednesdays to Fridays. He stated that as it was configured, it was not a transit solution and if there was a bus to bring commuters to the Manzanita Park and Ride lot, he and others would use transit for their daily commute. He cited his statistics that in the future, there will be 32 children that will need transportation to school in East Marin. He would like to see Transit address the needs of commuters, seniors, and visitors with a regular service that all community members and visitors could utilize.

A speaker from Green Gulch talked about their lifestyle and transit needs. He stated that they often have 100 visitors during the weekend and 50 on weekdays and would embrace a regular shuttle system. A speaker thanked staff for their research and willingness to look at alternatives to serve this community. He asked to postpone the decision to discontinue the service until an alternative was in place. He stated that this is an economic decision and only offering service when there was a strong need would reduce the overall subsidy enough to allow a limited service to continue.

President Brown closed the public hearing. He read a statement from Director Kinsey: "I have met with Transit staff and agree that Dial-A-Ride is not sustainable financially. I will continue to work with the community and District staff to look for solutions to assist Muir Beach residents move around in affordable and environmentally-sound ways. Dial-A-Ride does not appear to be that solution. We need to work together to come up with other options. I concur with the staff recommendation that we need to discontinue this configuration of service at the present time."

Director Heller asked how long the service would continue if the Board voted for the cancellation. General Manager Rzepinski responded that it would remain in place until July 1, 2009, which would allow schoolchildren access until the end of the school year.

Director Kellner asked if the Muir Woods Shuttle could serve Muir Beach during its summer schedule. Mr. Rzepinski replied that as the service moves forward under the authority of Marin Transit, it will continue to be a costly service. He noted that Transit intends put this service out to bid in the future. Constraints such as run times, capacity issues, stop safety, ADA compliance, and funding are preventing service to Muir Beach.

Director Moulton-Peters wondered if private operators, such as cab companies, might work in partnership with the District to meet this need. Rzepinski said that the District was fortunate to have a Community Mobility Manager to assist in organizing the residents and working with vendors to meet demand. She further inquired whether Muir Beach was served by any public transit agency. He responded that the Dial-A-Ride was the only service at this time. He also stressed that Transit was finishing up a study of West Marin transit needs and that document would make recommendations that would require resources as a more comprehensive solution for countywide mobility.

Director Arnold stated that she believed this issue had been adequately studied and the painful reality was that the service demand did not warrant the funding required. She lamented that this was one of the first hard choices that the District would be called upon to make over the next few years, since all of Marin's state transportation funds had been taken by Sacramento. She hoped that Director Kinsey would be able to work with TAM to backfill the service.

Vice President Arnold made a motion to discontinue the Muir Beach Dial-A-Ride Service. Director Kellner seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0
AYES: Director Arnold, Director Brown, Director Heller, Director Kellner, Director McGlashan, Director Moulton-Peters
ABSENT: Director Adams; Director Kinsey

6. *College of Marin Sustainability Presentation*

V-Anne Chernock, the Director of the Modernization Program for the Measure C Bond at the College of Marin, gave a presentation on sustainable transit. Her presentation highlighted:

Reducing greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050;
Renewable energy;
Geothermal heat exchange;
LEED certification;
Transportation demand management;
Clean air car courses;
Combustion to electric conversion courses;
Public transportation;
Bicycles & bike racks (Marin County Bicycle Coalition);
HOV/AFV Preferred parking program;
50% financial incentive for public transit riders;
Demographic survey; and
511 Carpool rideshare.

Director Brown asked if the College of Marin was using the County's Guaranteed Ride Home Program. Ms. Chernock confirmed they were. Director Brown requested that employees be reminded that individuals taking transit to work or school have access to an immediate ride home if an emergency occurs. He asked Ms. Chernock to contact him regarding bicycle incentives and the results of the demographic survey.

7. *Set Public Hearing on Marin Transit FY 2009-2010 Preliminary Budget*

Vice President Arnold made a motion to set the public hearing. Director Kellner seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0
AYES: Director Arnold, Director Brown, Director Heller, Director Kellner, Director McGlashan, Director Moulton-Peters
ABSENT: Director Adams; Director Kinsey

8. *Contract to Operate Community Shuttles*

Director Heller made a motion to approve the contract. Vice President Arnold seconded the motion. President Brown abstained.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0
AYES: Director Arnold, Director Heller, Director Kellner, Director McGlashan, Director Moulton-Peters
ABSTAINED: Director Brown
ABSENT: Director Adams; Director Kinsey

9. *Resolution of Support for California Transit Association Regarding a Transit Funding Protection Initiative*

Director McGlashan made a motion to approve the resolution. Vice President Arnold seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0
AYES: Director Arnold, Director Brown, Director Heller, Director Kellner, Director McGlashan, Director Moulton-Peters
ABSENT: Director Adams; Director Kinsey

Director Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m. The next regular Transit District meeting is scheduled on June 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

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PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

BOARD SECRETARY