

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MARIN COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M.

Roll Call

Present: Director Adams; Director Arnold; Director Brown; Director Kinsey; Director McGlashan; Director Kellner (Alternate)

Absent: Director Heller

Director Brown opened the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

1. [Organization of Transit District Election of President
Election of Vice President
Election of Second Vice President](#)

Director Kinsey made the motion to nominate Director Brown as the President, Director Arnold as the Vice President, and Director Adams as the Second Vice President of the Marin County Transit District for 2009. Director Adams seconded.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

**AYES: Director Adams, Director Arnold, Director Brown, Director Kinsey,
Director McGlashan, Director Kellner (Alternate)**

ABSENT: Director Heller

2. [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.

3. [Approval of Minutes for December 15, 2008.](#)

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

[December 15, 2008 Draft Minutes](#)

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

**AYES: Director Adams, Director Arnold, Director Brown, Director Kinsey,
Director McGlashan, Director Kellner (Alternate)**

ABSENT: Director Heller

4. [Board of Directors' Matters.](#)

Second Vice President Adams asked the Board to consider having a presentation on hot lanes, including the impact on mobility congestion and bus operations. She would like to hear a Marin Transit perspective. David Rzepinski agreed to agendaize this topic for a future meeting.

Director Kellner informed the Board that the City of Novato has appointed her to serve on both the TAM and SMART Boards. The Marin County Council of Mayors & Councilmembers have nominated her to sit as the representative from Novato on the Marin Transit Board.

Director Kinsey asked David Rzepinski to inform the Board about the issues of passenger safety in the Canal during his General Manager's report.

5. [General Manager's Oral Report.](#)

David Rzepinski noted that thanks to Director Adams, Marin Transit was invited to meet with Dominican University officials to discuss existing transit service, as well as strategies to improve transit service for faculty and students. Marin Transit will conduct a similar meeting with the College of Marin representatives. Marin Transit was asked to go to the City of San Rafael's Americans with Disabilities Act Committee to address issues of transit service and Bus Stop policy. This group was also interested in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) grant funded position for a Special Needs Mobility Manager. The Novato City Manager and Director Kellner invited Marin Transit staff to meet regarding planning for SMART station locations, updates to their General Plan, and funding possibilities. Mr. Rzepinski stated that this was the first of a series of meetings where Marin Transit will participate in Novato transit planning discussions.

General Manager Rzepinski received word from MTC that all Proposition 1-B funded projects that have not started work are slated to be suspended until June, 2009. Marin Transit's Lifeline Grant from the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) for a Shuttle from Marin City to Marin General Hospital is in jeopardy. Staff will continue to work closely with TAM and MTC to determine whether Marin Transit can move forward on the project.

Marin Transit has received all four of the Accessible Taxis for lease to On The Move taxi cooperative. Once the Department of Motor Vehicles paperwork is in order, the remaining two will be placed into service. Staff is organizing a press event for members of the Board and the general public to announce their availability and assist with marketing the service.

Ann Hearty has been hired as our new Board Secretary. Transit is very pleased and excited to have her as part of the team. General Manager Rzepinski wanted

to offer his many thanks to Mary Kennelly for all her help with the minutes and posting of the agendas and minutes.

Marin Transit met with Canal Youth Alliance in December, 2008 concerning sexual harassment and capacity issues. The main issue of the meeting was to determine the procedure for passengers to follow if they have complaints or concerns about their safety. Working with Marin Transit staff, Golden Gate Transit posted interior cards on the buses with the phone number to call and the information needed to file a complaint in Spanish and English. Staff assured community members that Spanish translators are available. Drivers seemed unaware there were harassment issues on the buses and asked that any problems be brought to the attention of the driver immediately.

Marin Transit added another articulated vehicle to deal with capacity issues at 7:30 in the morning, and the meeting attendees recognized that Marin Transit had heard their concerns and did something that helped alleviate the problem. Marin Transit also addressed their questions regarding affordability with the discounted media and Youth Pass options. General Manager Rzepinski stated that better outreach at the school level may publicize these options that school administrators already know exist.

[Monthly Monitoring Report: November 2008](#)

6. [Marin Transit Budget Strategy for Fiscal Year 2009/10](#)

David Rzepinski reported on Marin Transit's response to the State's economic situation. State Transit Assistance dollars have been diverted to the General Fund to offset the looming budget shortfall. The Governor is calling for the elimination of all STA monies for multiple funding cycles. Transit lost \$400,000 in September, 2008 and is bracing to lose all state transit assistance over the next five years, over \$1.2 million in lost revenue each year. Since there is uncertainty regarding property tax revenues, Marin Transit staff have put together a budget strategy that tries to preserve existing service levels and move forward on only the first priority strategies from the strategic marketing plan, including bus stop improvements and a website redesign. Marin Transit will suspend the local initiative program in the interim, targeted marketing called for in the Strategic Marketing Plan, and preparing a guide specific to Marin Transit.

Rzepinski noted that the Mobility Manager position will be converted to a contract hire and will extend beyond 2010 if Marin Transit can secure future grant funding.

Staff will aggressively pursue grant funding sources and work closely with MTC and TAM on strategies to bring in additional revenues. Mr. Rzepinski cautioned that Marin Transit made a commitment last year to proceed forward with no cuts in service and no fare increases. Staff will uphold that commitment.

Vice President Arnold commented that all of these budget strategies were sound, and she made a motion to approve and accept them. Susan Adams seconded the motion.

Director McGlashan was sorry to hear that Marin Transit would have to suspend the local initiatives program, but understood that Marin Transit must do what is necessary to live through this budget squeeze. He is working on another pilot idea through a consultant and hoped it could be funded through other means. He also stated that the Bay Area Council is leading a state effort to support local transit systems through constitutional reform as an essential portion of the greenhouse gas emission reduction AB 32 goals.

President Brown requested that staff come back with more specific options and asked that staff do everything it can to be as fiscally conservative as possible.

[Item 6: Marin Transit Budget Strategy](#)

M/s Director Arnold – Director Adams Recommended Action: Accept and approve budget strategy.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

AYES: Director Adams, Director Arnold, Director Brown, Director Kinsey, Director McGlashan, Director Kellner (Alternate)

ABSENT: Director Heller

7. [Federal Funding for Transit Operations and Maintenance in National Parks](#)

David Rzepinski described the initiative, which reaches out nationally to local transit agencies that provide service to national parks but receive no funding support from the federal government for their efforts. It is an effort to reach out to Congress to find a method to introduce federal funding formulas for transit providers to carry out this function.

[Item 7: Staff Report](#)

David Rzepinski asked the Board to authorize the President to sign a letter of support and join the Mono County Board of Supervisors, the Yosemite Area Regional Transit System, and the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority in sending forth a letter to policy makers regarding this request.

[Item 7: Director Brown Letter](#)

M/s Director McGlashan – Director Adams Recommended Action: Authorize President to sign letter of support for proposal requesting expanded federal funding for transit in the parks.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

AYES: Director Adams, Director Arnold, Director Brown, Director Kinsey,

Director McGlashan, Director Kellner (Alternate)
ABSENT: Director Heller

Director Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m. The next regular Transit District meeting is scheduled on March 16, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

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PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

BOARD SECRETARY