

CTSA Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 25, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Andy Cook called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. in the conference room of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County.

Present:

Maureen McEachen	VNA
Kathleen Murray-Phillips	DSES-AAA
Nancy Budd-Garvan	ITN Monterey
Kasuko Wessendorf	Interim, Inc. (Alternate)
Rena Weaver Wyant	Blind & Visually Impaired Center
Andy Cook	TAMC Transportation Planner
Ronn Rygg	United Way Monterey County
Genie Jimenez	Alliance on Aging (Alternate)

Excused Absent:

Melissa McKenzie	Carmel Foundation
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Staff:	Tom Hicks	CTSA Manager
	Cristy Sugabo	Senior Mobility Specialist

Guest:	Laurie Crosby	CSUMB
	Elizabeth Pope	CCCIL

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Minutes of the regular meeting of July 31, 2013.

Member Nancy Budd-Garvan made a motion to approve the minutes on the consent agenda, and was seconded by Maureen McEachen. The motion carried unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

4.1 Central Coast Outreach Office of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC) (Wayne Johnson)

Presenter Wayne Johnson was not present at the meeting.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

No public hearing was scheduled.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 MAC membership recruitment

Tom Hicks, MST staff, informed the committee of the following: Laurie Crosby, Elizabeth Pope, Cheryl Wilson, and Gwen Foote previously attended a MAC meeting(s) and expressed interest in becoming a member of the Mobility Advisory Committee. Mr. Hicks requested the committee formally endorse their candidacy to the MST Board of Directors. Member Nancy Budd-Garvan requested the candidates who were present to provide information about them. Candidate Laurie Crosby informed the committee she works with the CSUMB Student Disability Office and is interested in sharing information about CSUMB student experiences riding the MST bus system. Candidate Elizabeth Pope informed the committee she is a community organizer for the Central Coast Center for Independent Living. Her duties include advocating and promoting transportation accessibility. Thereafter, the members discussed and agreed to nominate Laurie Crosby and Elizabeth Pope while holding off on forwarding the names of Cheryl Wilson and Gwen Foote pending a similar opportunity for the Committee to interview them.

Member Rena Wyant moved recommendation of Laurie Crosby and Elizabeth Pope for MAC membership. Member Andy Cook seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6.2 Review Proposed RIDES Policy

Mr. Hicks reminded the committee that Staff previously discussed recommended changes to the existing RIDES Operational Policies. Mr. Hicks requested that the committee review the recommendations before they are presented to the MST Board of Directors. These changes will improve customer service, ensure compliance with changes to the federal Department of Transportation regulations, and improve operational

efficiency. Staff recommendations include: change curbside-to-curbside service to last-door-to-first door service for all RIDES customers, change the RIDES reservation window from fourteen to seven days, and change No-Show and Late Cancellation penalties from static to percentage-based suspensions (*see attachment to minutes*).

Member Nancy Budd-Garvan moved recommendation of RIDES policy changes to MST Board of Directors. Member Rygg seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 November MAC meeting date

Mr. Hicks explained MST has eight furlough days this year, six mandatory and two floating days, and that the November MAC meeting date is scheduled on one of the mandatory furlough days. Mr. Hicks informed the committee that the regular MST meeting can still occur on November 27, 2013, as scheduled, however, MST support staff will not be present. Mr. Hicks presented two possible options to the committee; change the meeting to another date, or cancel the November meeting. Member Nancy Budd-Garvan stated she would be OK with changing the meeting date to November 20, 2013. Subsequently, the committee agreed to reschedule the November MAC meeting to Wednesday, November 20, 2013.

Member Nancy Budd-Garvan moved to reschedule the November MAC meeting to Wednesday, November 20, 2013. Member Rygg seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

8. SUBJECT ITEM FOLLOW-UP

8.1 Fixed route bicycle rack

Mr. Hicks consulted with Robert Weber, MST Director of Transportation, regarding the bike rack issue expressed by consumer Gwen Foote during the MAC meeting on July 31, 2013. In response, Mr. Weber referenced MST Coach Operator Manuel stating "*Operators are not required to assist passengers with loading and unloading their bicycles. However, Operators shall provide assistance to release or store bike racks when needed. If passengers have difficulty securing their bicycle, Operators shall assist them. Bike racks will be in the raised or "stored" position when not in use.*" Mr. Hicks then informed the committee that, in response to Ms. Foote, a copy of the policy language was mailed to her and emailed to all MAC members.

8.2 MST RIDES fare structure

Mr. Hicks informed the committee that structuring MST bus fare required research, staff analysis and recommendations, and approval of the MST Board of Directors. A couple of years ago, MST went through a major change in establishing a new bus fare system and developed a four tier fare system as follow: Commuter, Primary, Regional, and Local. The MST RIDES fare was based upon the distance the passenger travelled from origin to destination per one-way trip compared to the average distance of the new bus fare system. RIDES passengers are now paying less for shorter trips and more for longer trips but fares do not exceed more than twice as much as the fixed-route fare. Federal law mandates and ties paratransit fares directly to fixed-route fares.

9. SUBJECT ITEM REQUEST

9.1 Member Andy Cook requested information for the MAC on proposed MST service changes prior to public announcement.

9.2 Guest Laurie Crosby requested the Marina On Call service be on the agenda at the next MAC meeting.

9.3 Guest Elizabeth Pope requested information on the Monterey Airbus regarding accessibility for persons with disability.

10. REPORTS

10.1 TAMC Staff Andy Cook explained one of TAMC's responsibilities is to allocate Federal, State, and local funding to MST for transportation. For informational purposes, he informed the committee that during the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Board of Directors most recent monthly meeting, the Board took action to allocate 2.6 million dollars from the State (Transportation Development Act Fund) and Local Transportation Funding (Local Sales Tax tied to diesel fuel) to MST.

Mr. Cook informed the committee that TAMC will again conduct the unmet transit needs process. Therefore, during the November MAC meeting, TAMC Staff will hold a public hearing to receive public comments on unmet transit needs. Mr. Cook explained that the unmet transit needs process will include unmet transit needs from last year's process as well as new unidentified unmet transit needs. Mr. Cook informed the committee that, effective this year, TAMC will prioritize unmet needs. In addition, Mr.

Cook will email all members a copy TAMC's public hearing notice so that each members can provide the information to the community they represent prior to the MAC meeting.

10.2 ADAPTR liaison report

Member Rena Weaver Wyant was not present to report.

10.3 MV Transit report

MV Transit Staff Lance Atencio was not present to report.

10.4 Monterey-Salinas Transit report

Mr. Hicks informed the committee that the new Salinas Senior Shuttle Line 95 will start operating soon. He explained that the new line was designed to serve areas were surveyed seniors said they wanted to go, and is open to the public. Seniors will pay a discounted senior fare. Line 95 will also serve a few fixed-route bus stops eliminated from the most recent MST service change. The new Line 95 will serve the following: East Salinas Area, Natividad Medical Center, Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, some Medical Offices and Northridge Shopping Center.

Mr. Hicks informed the committee that he is currently working with the Monterey County Behavioral Health Department, who recently opened a clinic in Marina on the old Fort Ord. He explained that their clients are having difficulty getting to and from their appointments using MST fixed-route transit. Mr. Hicks, along with Hunter Harvath, is working with the County to develop a special taxi voucher program and contract with Yellow Cab, who is licensed to operate taxi service in the City of Marina, to provide the service. In addition, Mr. Hicks is working with the CSUMB Student Disability Office in identifying student transportation needs on campus. He states, once the needs are identified, the next step would be to expand the special taxi voucher program to CSUMB students.

Mr. Hicks informed the committee that October will be the MST RIDES Program's third year of completing the in-person interview process with its applicants. Mr. Hicks explained that the in-person interview determines the applicant's functional abilities and disabilities.


11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APPRECIATIONS

Member Genie Jimenez informed the committee that MST provided senior transportation to the Monterey County Fair as part of the MST Travel Training Program. She expressed her gratitude to the MST mobility staff for providing the service.

12. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Andy Cook adjourned the meeting at 2.05p.m.

PREPARED BY _____
Cristy Sugabo

APPROVED BY _____

Tom Hicks