

Mobility Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 27, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Rygg called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. in the conference room of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County.

Present:

Maureen McEachen	VNA
Ronn Rygg	United Way Monterey County
Virginia Murillo (Alternate)	TAMC
Kathleen Murray-Phillips	DSES-AAA
Melissa McKenzie	Carmel Foundation
Olivia Quezada	CCCIL
Aimee Cuda	ITN
Teresa Sullivan	Alliance on Aging

Excused Absent:

George Dixon	Monterey County Military & Veterans Affair
William (Terry) Bare	Veterans Transition Center
Roberto Garcia	Public- Veterans Representative
Laurie Crosby	Consumer
Kasuko Wessendorf	Interim, Inc.

Staff:

Tom Hicks	CTSA Manager
Cristy Sugabo	Senior Mobility Specialist

Guest:

Lisa Rheinheimer	MST
Alvin Johnson	MST
Beronica Carriedo	MST
Nancy Knapp	RIDES Consumer
Jonathan Berke	MV Transportation
Terra Curtis	Nelson\Nygaard Consulting
MacGregor Eddy	Salinas California Columnist

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Minutes of the regular meeting of November 18, 2016.

Member McKenzie made a motion to approve the minutes and Member Murillo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

4. PUBLIC HEARING

None Scheduled

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Recommend approval of the Measure Q Transit Investment Plan by the MST Board of Directors

Ms. Rheinheimer presented the draft of the Measure Q Transit Investment Plan. She stated the plan was developed through community surveys, stakeholder interviews, and the Committee's feedback. The goal of the plan is to honor the commitment of the Measure Q Ordinance; to protect transit services to seniors, veterans, and persons with disability. She stated this fiscal year is limited to protecting these services but a short term lists of projects for the next 5 years has been integrated into the plan. Ms. Rheinheimer then introduced Tara Curtis, a consultant with Nelson|Nygaard.

Ms. Curtis discussed the process for establishing priorities and projects. She stated the results lead to a list of 6 new projects with a five-year implementation schedule. The remaining projects were prioritized in a long-term vision plan. These latter projects are to be considered once additional funding becomes available or when they become urgent.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated the plan was presented to the MST's Board of Directors for review in December. Thereafter, Staff reviewed the Board's comments and subsequently made minor changes to the veteran-focused shuttle project and elsewhere to address seniors, veterans, and persons with disability who are also homeless. Moreover, in anticipation of a future economic downturn that will affect the amount of Measure Q funds available each year, a reserve fund will be established and maintain as needed with yearly deposits.

Member Sullivan asked if the Taxi Voucher Program will be extended to veterans as part of the new projects. In response, Mr. Hicks stated that the new projects will include a Flex Taxi Voucher Program and a Mileage Reimbursement Program that will likely include veterans.

Ms. Eddy stated that the City of Pacific Grove, with a population of 30,000, has 3 voucher distribution sites while the City of Salinas, which has a greater population, has only 1 distribution site. She suggested using libraries as an alternate distribution sites. In response, Mr. Hicks stated that it is possible and will explore the idea. He stated that when the program began, it was a grant funded and the cost was shared by the participating cities who determined for themselves where to distribute the vouchers. Now that the voucher programs are funded entirely with Measure Q funds, MST has more latitude in establishing distribution sites.

Chair Rygg stated that the volunteers for the Navigator Program would no longer be considered volunteers if compensated with a stipend. He requested the consultant look into the matter to determine if stipends might be problematic for MST. Currently, MST Navigators are offered a monthly bus pass with a monetary value but their duties sometimes require bus travel. A stipend is under consideration because some student volunteers are already receiving a MST bus pass from their college or university and do not derive a benefit (incentive) by receiving a second pass.

Ms. Rheinheimer asked Mr. Hicks what role the Committee has in developing a new program. Mr. Hicks stated the Committee makes recommendations to the MST Board of Directors on policies but not generally on the day-to-day operations unless they significantly impact the services offered. However, Staff is always open to ideas and suggestions from the Committee as the members are working professionals serving the same constituent base that MST services.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated the Plan will be presented to the MST Board of Directors for final approval in February and requests the Committee recommend through a resolution to the Board that they approve of the plan.

Member Murray-Phillips made a motion to recommend approval of the Measure Q Transit Investment Plan by the MST Board of Directors and Member Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Mobility Advisory Committee Bylaws

Ms. Rheinheimer explained changes to the Mobility Advisory Committee (MAC) Bylaws as approved by the MST Board of Directors in December. Ms. Murillo stated that changes to the Bylaws were required as part of the new TAMC unmet needs process that she presented to the committee in November.

6.2 Reorganization of the ADAPTR subcommittee

Mr. Hicks stated that, before MST was appointed as the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) in 2007, MST had an advisory group called the RIDES Advisory Committee (RAC). After MST was appointed CTSA, the Mobility Advisory Committee (MAC) was formed to address a wide variety of transportation-related issues, including paratransit. In the process, the MAC designated the RAC as a standing subcommittee to focus on paratransit program issues and change its name the ADA Paratransit RIDES (ADAPT-R).

Mr. Hicks stated, for the last few years, participation on the ADAPT-R has been low and getting a quorum often difficult. He stated that those who do attend and wish to make a contribution are often deprived of an opportunity to do so. He further stated that the MAC Bylaws do not regulate how often the subcommittee meets and that it is at the discretion of the MAC Chair as to when the meeting will be held. In response, Chair Rygg asked the committee for feedback.

Member McKenzie asked if Rena Weaver was the subcommittee chair. In response, Mr. Hicks stated that Ms. Weaver resigned from both the MAC and ADAPT-R committee.

Member Murray-Phillips stated shifting a standing committee to an ad hoc committee may be problematic since as ad hoc committees are not supposed to last for more than a year. She referenced Robert's Rules of Order stating that an ad hoc committee is for discussing a specific topic or issue. In response, Mr. Hicks stated that a standing committee is subject to the Brown Act and an ad hoc is not. Ms. Murray-Phillips suggested having one member of the subcommittee who is member of the MAC to report back or to request items on a subcommittee agenda.

Ms. Knapp stated that, as the elected Chair for 2015, she likes the idea of meetings being called as needed at the discretion of the MAC Chair. She also knows of a consumer who is interested in participating and possibly someone to represent South County. She and member Laurie Crosby talked about changing the meeting date and time to accommodate those who would not be able to attend meetings. Ms. Knapp volunteered to be the liaison between the MAC and the ad hoc subcommittee if participation in meetings is available by phone.

Member McEachen recommend the subcommittee meet at least 3 time per year.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that the transition from a standing committee to becoming an ad hoc committee for specific tasks needs to be formalized, otherwise some may not perceive the changes and will continue to view the ADAPT-R as a standing subcommittee. Subsequently, Chair Rygg entertained a motion to dissolve the ADAPT-R subcommittee and to appoint an ad hoc committee to focus on paratransit issues when they arise.

Member Murray-Phillips made a motion to dissolve the ADAPTR subcommittee and to appoint an ad hoc committee to focus on paratransit issues when a need arises and Member McEachen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6.3 Election of new officers

The committee discussed the 2016 election of MAC Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary positions. Subsequently, the committee agreed to appoint the following members in office.

Ronn Rygg	Chair
Maureen McEachen	Vice Chair
Kathleen Murray-Phillips	Secretary

Member Sullivan made a motion to elect Member Rygg as Chair, Member McKenzie as Vice Chair, and Member Murray-Phillips as the Secretary. Member McKenzie seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

6.4 MAC vacancies

Mr. Hicks stated there are currently 13 of 15 MAC positions filled. Since the MAC also serves as the TAMC Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, there are membership diversity requirements. The current membership represents veterans and seniors well but is somewhat lacking in representation from the disability community. He asked members to think about who might be a good candidate for membership among their peers and constituents and bring feedback to the next meeting. Subsequently, he handed out recruitment flyers to members to be distributed.

Member Sullivan asked if Ms. Weaver, who represented the Blind and Visually Impaired Center, had a replacement and also suggested Wayne Johnson from the Deaf and Hard Of Hearing Center be considered. In response, Mr. Hicks stated there was interest expressed by the Blind and Visually Impaired Center and he would follow up. Chair Rygg stated that Mr. Johnson has been approached but is not available to participate.

Member Cuda suggested contacting Community Action of Monterey County who represents different constituents in the County.

Member Maureen suggested Ms. Knapp become a member and participate remotely, however, Ms. Knapp was no longer on the telephone line.

Chair Rygg ask to continue the discussion at the next MAC meeting.

7. SUBJECT ITEMS TO FOLLOW-UP

This item(s) will be included on a future agenda for follow-up

7.1 Receive update on taxi voucher distribution

Mr. Hicks stated he wants to focus more on Salinas voucher distribution and is interested in exploring the use of libraries for voucher distribution. The residents would produce a picture ID to library staff to validate their age and residency, and the vouchers would then be mailed to them.

Member Sullivan suggested Staff study other cities' practices in distributing vouchers. Also, to consider distribution sites such as El Gavilan Library in North Salinas and Caesar Chavez in East Salinas. She also stated that KSBW community calendar is a great tool for feedback.

Member McEachen stated that the VNA has offices in King City, Hollister, Monterey and Salinas. She will ask her administrative staff if they are interested in becoming a distribution agency.

8. SUBJECT ITEMS TO REQUEST

8.1 Taxi voucher distribution update

8.2 Uber TNC Services Information

9. REPORTS

No action required unless specifically noted

9.1 MV Transit Report

Jonathan Berke introduced himself and stated that, prior to becoming MV's new General Manager, his career was in the Airline business at the Monterey Airport and, prior to that, he was working in the areas of San Jose to Las Vegas. He stated that coming to public transportation is new and challenging but he is thriving with the challenge. He looks forward to working with everyone and has received positive feedback so far.

9.2 Monterey-Salinas Transit Mobility Report

Mr. Hicks stated, in the past, he talked about the pending Interactive Response System (IVR) which allows customers to make or cancel reservations via an automated telephone system as well as receive calls the night before to remind them of their scheduled trip and then again as the vehicle is approaching. He also stated that, due to technical difficulties with the IVR computer, testing has not started. However, the web interface that will allow booking, cancelation and modification of trips on-line has already completed the first phase of testing.

Mr. Hicks stated that MST's taxi driver certification program (TACT) is anticipated to start on April 1st. The program consists of four hours of online training and four hours in a classroom training session. Taxi cab drivers providing services to MST through the RIDES and Taxi Voucher Programs will need to complete the training prior to accepting these trips. Further, after completing the training, drivers will be issued photo identification good for two years after which retraining will be required.

Mr. Hicks handed out copies of statistical reports of Mobility Department activities that he provides to the MST Board of Directors. The report shows information on Navigator volunteer hours, Senior Shuttle ridership, the RIDES Program, and the use of taxi vouchers. Several members state they appreciated the reports and found them insightful.

10. ANNOUNCEMENT AND APPRECIATION

Member Murillo stated that a public hearing for the unmet needs process will be held on February 24th at the TAMC Board of Directors meeting and on March 30st at the Mobility Advisory Committee meeting.

11. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Rygg adjourned the meeting at 2:47p.m.



PREPARED BY: _____
Cristy Sugabo



APPROVED BY: _____
Tom Hicks