

**CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
MASS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
990 PALM ST.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Jean Knox called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jean Knox, D. Gregg Doyle, Bob Johnson, Denise Martinez, Susan Rains, Kathy Howard, and Emily Avery

Alternates: Absent

Absent: Angela Strohn, Vacant

Staff: Austin O'Dell, Tim Bochum, Jay Walter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Knox stated that as of this meeting, alternate Kathy Howard was now designated as a member-at-large.

The City Clerk swore in Emily Avery as the student representative on the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cesar Guzman, 2074 Loomis, stated in his capacity as an ASI member, that Cal Poly students reported to favor the enhanced services to campus that were contained in the Service Review document before the Committee.

Todd Maki, 531 Cuesta, ASI Board of Director member, reported that student concerns regarding bus service included being left behind at bus stops, insufficient headways, and the lack of evening service.

Thomas Athanasion, 420 Grant St., #B, CCLVC representative, did not favor the City cutting back bus services during the Cal Poly break and requested that the routes ran as scheduled consistently. He also did not favor the proposed changes to Route 1, which would eliminate the Casa Street stop that disabled and seniors relied upon to get to their medical appointments.

A. CONSENT ITEMS

A-1 Approval of Minutes of November 9, 2005

Motion made by D. Gregg Doyle, seconded by Ms. Howard, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B1. Update of Possible Revenue Ballot Measure

Bill Statler, City Director of Finance, made a briefing presentation in support of a ballot that was proposed which would increase the local sales tax. He discussed the financial future of the city and the city services that were threatened by General Fund fiscal cuts and state take-aways. He outlined the budget gaps within the past three years within the balanced budget and the services that were reduced to accommodate.

He detailed the resources that would be served by the slight sales tax increase from 7.25% to 7.75%, noting that most California cities were making similar increases to offset the fiscal cuts. He felt the MTC should be briefed on the rationale so they could better address any public concerns that might be shared with them.

He also distributed surveys, requesting information on which services and priorities were of concern to the members and the audience, e.g. infrastructure and street maintenance, police and fire services, etc.

B2. Review of the Financial Capacity Analysis for the Recommendations from the Service Review Ad Hoc Committee

Ms. Knox discussed a possible Brown Act violation incident that was questioned in past discussions regarding this item and reported that the City Attorney had determined there was no violation. She discussed the need for discussion discretion and following Brown Act ordinance requirements.

Ms. Knox summarized the last meeting regarding the Committee's request for staff to analyze the financial impact of the Service Review Ad Hoc Committee's (SRC) recommendations.

Mr. O'Dell presented a report and noted that the information on Route 5 had been updated and was correct in the handout distributed at the meeting.

Mr. O'Dell provided a synopsis of the Mass Transportation Committee's (MTC) directive to staff and discussed the current logistics of service status and improvements, noting the following: ridership is up; there will be an increase of 30% in the proposed variable costs; vehicle replacements to comply with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) requirements will have an impact on the

financial analysis; the Cal Poly subsidy agreement is moving forward, but is an unknown. He also reported that fare revenues remained at current levels, TDA and expenses assume a 3% CPI increase, and fuel costs are increasing.

Mr. O'Dell led a detailed discussion on the Financial Capacity Comparisons and Overviews between the current level of service (Option A) and the proposed level of service with changes as suggested by the Service Review Ad Hoc Committee (Option B). He also noted Option C, which incorporated Option B with additional revenue from the Trolley fare increases.

In summary, the financial capacity of Option C was equivalent to the service/cost levels of Option A.

The staff recommended that the MTC approve either Option A or Option C and then outlined procedural timeline for implementing Option C, if that's the direction MTC chose.

Mr. Doyle clarified the cost differentials between the options, noting that Option B did not include the Trolley service extension and should be referred to as Option B1. He also recapped the changes made to Routes 1 through 8. The net result is that Option B and Option C have the same financial impact to the current level of service.

Mr. Johnson stated he opposed making a large number of changes all at once and felt doing so would adversely affect the revenue and create confusion for riders, which would discourage them from riding the busses. He favored uniform bus stop times (e.g. on the half hour, every hour) and felt the system should be kept as simple as possible and user friendly to increase ridership.

Ms. Rains agreed and was concerned with changes to Routes 6A and 6B, feeling they might discourage students riding the bus.

Mr. Doyle felt the proposed changes actually increased service frequency to Cal Poly, e.g. providing three busses within an hour, with even 20-minute headways. He felt changes could be made without significant fiscal impact.

Ms. Howard and Ms. Martinez did not agree with eliminating Casa Street from Route 1, as seniors and disabled riders relied on that access to get to the medical offices on Casa.

Kim Blakeman, First Transit manager, discussed vehicle modifications as solutions to the leave-behind concerns.

Mr. Athanasion reiterated his request to keep the Casa Street stop as part of Route 1. He also felt that there were too many changes made to schedules already, suggesting alterations happened almost every six months.

Motion made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Ms. Knox, to approve SRC recommendations, which includes changes to Routes 1, 2, 6a, and 6b, and maintaining the current trolley service.

Ms. Avery felt she could support the motion, but noted that since she was new to the Committee, some of the details were still not clear to her.

Ms. Martinez stated she supported increased ridership, but did not agree with changes to Route 1.

Ms. Howard felt the Casa Street corridor should not be eliminated from Route 1 and while she supported the needs of students to get to/from campus, she felt other sections of the community (e.g. seniors, disabled, low income) needed to be served as well.

Mr. Johnson stated he favored aspects of the proposal, but did not think the schedules were workable due to timing inconsistencies. He felt the changes proposed were too broad and he favored Option A.

Ms. Rains agreed with Mr. Johnson and favored Option A at this time. Ms. Rains inquired with staff about the impact of the number of trips and service on campus. Mr. O'Dell reported that the number of trips would decrease by 27% and 31% for Routes 6a and 6b, respectfully. Route 6a would no longer serve on campus and would require passengers to walk from Mustang Village. Route 6b would no longer service Mott Gym, and would require student to walk from Mustang Stadium on California. Ms. Rains expressed her concern that of the decrease in the number of trips and that the new service would not be attractive to students. Mr. Guzman concurred with Ms. Rains concern, favored 20-minute headways on Route 6A and 6B.

Mr. Doyle pointed out that the schedule timings were rough draft at this stage and could be worked on by staff if the proposal moved forward to a public input phase, which he felt should happen and if the public did not favor the changes.

Mr. Bochum reminded the Committee that the ad hoc committee has exhaustively reviewed the scenarios and that it is time for the full Committee to make a decision.

Ms. Knox agreed with the changes to have buses go where the student riders were (Route 6A and 6B), but she felt the current system worked well enough and felt

more time should be spent on determining exactly why students (and public) are not riding the buses in general and make changes based on that input.

A call for the vote was made.

VOTING: **Ayes: Mr. Doyle and Ms. Avery**
 Noes: Mr. Johnson, Ms. Knox, Ms. Rains, Ms. Martinez, and
 Ms. Howard

The motion did not carry.

The Committee agreed to continue discussion and a motion on the Trolley service changes to a date uncertain.

C. ACTION ITEMS

C1. Recommendations to Revoke Central Coast Taxi Cab Certificate of Necessity and Convenience

Mr. O'Dell reported that the Central Coast Taxi Cab Company had gone out of business and that staff needs to go to Council for a public hearing to revoke their Certificate of Necessity and Convenience.

Motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Howard, to recommend a resolution to City Council revoking the Certificate of Necessity and Convenience from the Central Coast Taxi Cab company. The motion passed unanimously.

C2. Request from Beach Cities Cab Company to Modify Their Rates

Mr. O'Dell reported that Beach Cities Cab had increased their fleet to 16 vehicles and were requesting a mileage rate increase of 35 cents/mile.

Mr. Doyle was not convinced that the increase was justified and reminded the MTC that the company had previously requested and received a rate increase recently. Ms. Rains, as a previous business owner, understood Beach Cities' request since they will incur additional costs due to labor, benefits, insurance and taxes.

Motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Rains, to approve the rate increase request. The motion carried, with Mr. Doyle abstaining.

C3. Extend Trolley Service for One Day on February 23, 2006 for the "Tour of California" Event

Ms. Knox discussed the special event and the desire for longer Trolley service hours on that date. She noted service would be extended by three hours.

Motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Doyle, to approve the three-hour service extension request. The motion passed unanimously.

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

D-1 Transit Manager's Report

Ms. Knox inquired about the status of the new buses. Mr. O'Dell reported that they have been received. In addition, staff is informing the Easy Pay Outlets, and is preparing the public notification.

D-2 Operating and Performance

There was no discussion on the item.

E. MEMBER'S COMMENTS

E1. Comments from Any Member

There were no comments.

E2. Committee Field Report

There was no discussion on this item.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. to the next regular meeting on March 8, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Woske
Recording Secretary