

Approved January minutes at MTC Meeting March 12, 2008

**CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
MASS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Jean Knox called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Jean Knox, D. Gregg Doyle, Susan Rains, Margaret Crockett, and Denise Martinez

Absent: Tracy Amundson, Christine Batteate and Kathy Howard

Staff: John Webster, Tim Bochum

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Knox announced that there were two vacant MTC slots available: Senior and Business rep.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Diana Schmidt, 305 Ramona, asked for the contact information for the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

**A. CONSENT ITEMS**

**A-1 Approval November 7, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

It was agreed that since the minutes were not distributed with the agenda, approval would be tabled until the next meeting.

**B. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**B-1 Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) Special Meeting**

Approved January minutes at MTC Meeting March 12, 2008

It was determined that the special meeting to receive an update on the SRTP from Urbitrans and to receive further public comment would be held February 13, 2008. Location TBD.

The Committee requested that the Ramona Drive route item be agendaized with staff commentary and analysis for the January 9, 2008 MTC meeting.

Mr. Doyle suggested looking into alternatives re Tassajara/Foothill.

Mr. Webster reiterated that based on his observations and experience, the vehicles were not exceeding the speed limit but based on vehicular size, allowed that the residents' perceptions may well be that the buses are speeding.

Mr. Blakeman noted that a speed limit monitor sign would be installed.

Mr. Bochum noted that the issues of property devaluation will not be addressed in returning staff report/analysis.

## **C. ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items.

## **D. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **D-1 Transit Manager's Report**

Mr. Webster and Mr. Bochum recapped key points in the report.

### **D-2 Operating and Performance Reports and New Schedule/maps**

Mr. Webster and Mr. Bochum recapped several points in the report for discussion.

They specifically discussed that October ridership numbers represented the highest level ever documented and that the evening services were doing well, especially Rts. 4A and 6A/B. They noted that Route 2 was not performing well in the evening and that Rts. 2 and 3 may need to be modified, with Rt. 2 possibly being eliminated. They would bring more information to meetings as available.

Mr. Bochum reported that staff intended to carefully scrutinize the effectiveness of Routes 2 & 3 evening services and perform cost analysis vs. service uses.

Ms. Martinez requested staff investigate adding more street lights on Tassajara, along the bus route/stop.

Mr. Bochum reported that the Unmet Needs hearings were starting up for counties that use federal funds and that this was a good time to receive MTC feedback. He agreed to bring back city issues for upcoming review.

He also reported that past Transit Manager Austin O'Dell was having health issues and he would keep the MTC posted.

### **D-3 Ramona Drive Service Issues**

- Mr. Bochum discussed recent updates re the Ramona Drive transit issues and made a presentation which included detailed discussion on:
  - Reasons for re-routing the buses to Ramona
  - 2004 bus stop locations/volumes
  - Turning radius and utility equipment issues at the Tassajara/Foothill corner vs. the Foothill/La Entrada corner
  - Public issues raised at the 11/7/07 MTC meeting and staff follow-up re mitigation

Mr. Bochum requested that the item be tabled for 30 days to allow staff more time to explore mitigations and alternatives for discussion and resolution purposes.

He stated that the new property owner at the corner of Tassajara and Foothill had requested re-development permit and staff was intending to discuss the possibility of right-of-ways or property easements to allow expansion of the turning radius at that location.

Staff needed time to contact the new property owner and to do cost estimations, investigate CIP funding, and right-of-way issues.

There was general discussion regarding the presentation. Staff recapped the request to:

- Receive additional time to discuss right-of-way issues with the property owner and review 2008 boardings and on-time performance data of the routes involved
- Return to MTC at the special February 13, 2008 meeting with issue updates and possible modifications.

Mr. Webster reported that the smaller bus running during the low-peak holiday season had taken video on the speed and audio aspects of the route driving and

Approved January minutes at MTC Meeting March 12, 2008

he reported that the average speed was 22 mph and that the noise was possibly less, due to the smaller size of the bus. Mr. Webster noted that using smaller buses did not work due to capacity/volume needs in this area.

Kim Blakeman reported that the "smaller buses" had the same engine and rev speed, but were simply shorter in length.

Diane Schmidt, 305 Ramona, was concerned with the additional residences built on the corner of Tassajara and Foothill and the parking space taken up. She felt that the delays encountered in schedules when using the Tassajara/Foothill corner routing were due to high volume of use and not time lost in negotiating the tight turn.

Mr. Doyle determined that the parcel at the Tassajara/Foothill corner was neighborhood/commercial zoned and the new proposed developed is mixed use.

Mr. Bochum noted that moving the power pole at that corner would be expensive.

Christine Mulholland, MTC Council rep, noted that the past property owners at that site had been in violation of code on several occasions with their property developments.

Ms Rains said she favored giving staff the additional 30 days they requested.

Ms. Knox also agreed with allowing the 30 day deferral period staff requested; she suggested that staff investigate the possibilities of pathways from Ramona to Foothill and felt that riders north of Foothill were not well served. She asked that staff focus on which bus routes could be re-configured and/or utilizing a walkway system so non-student riders could not be as affected by high volumes all the time.

The MTC and staff agreed to take all of the residents' comments under strict advisement and stated that the matter would be full addressed in the upcoming SRTP.

## **E. MEMBER COMMENTS**

Member discussion regarding various Ramona Drive options. Tim Bochum stated willing to look at headway times and vehicle size. Also if the intersection of Tassajarra needs to be expanded willing to take that to Council.

Ms. Knox (Chair) indicated primary issue on the agenda for February 13<sup>th</sup> Special MTC meeting was for the SRTP presentation and not much time for Ramona Drive issue.

John Webster indicated he will pass along resident emails to SRTP consultants.

Approved January minutes at MTC Meeting March 12, 2008

Council Member Mulholland apologized for arriving late and that she is the newly appointed Council Liaison and will do her best to attend future meetings as her schedule allows. She also stated how pleased she is to be part of the committee and to be able to work on transportation issues for the benefit of the community.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. to the Wednesday, February 13, 2008 Special meeting at the SLO Council Hearing Room, SLO City Hall, 990 Palm Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Woske, Recording Secretary