
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

3:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

Committee Members: Blanquie, Hempel, Henderson, Hurley, Kroll, Pulvirenti, *Torliatt, **Smith

Staff: John Siragusa, Transit Manager

* Chairperson, **Vice Chairperson

ROLL CALL PRESENT: Blanquie, Hempel, Henderson, Hurley, Kroll, Pulvirenti, Torliatt

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion for approval, Hurley, second Kroll. Approved

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mission Statement

Draft of mission statement was reviewed. New draft reads as follows:

Petaluma Transit Advisory Committee mission is to advise and aid the city of Petaluma to create and maintain a transit system with a commitment to enhance the quality of life for the people in Petaluma by providing and promoting transportation choices that support an accessible, sustainable community mobility.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Possible bus stop move from 4th and C Street to Petaluma Blvd. and C Street

Staff reported that a potential move of the bus stop currently at 4th and C Street to Petaluma Blvd. and C Street. Staff shared that the crosswalk at this intersection has been a concern from citizens regarding visibility. To enhance pedestrian the visibility staff has recommended eliminating a parking space.

Ron Downey from Golden Gate Transit (GGT) spoke to the fact that GGT will be adding a 60 foot articulated bus to accommodate a larger rider ship capacity.

Members of the committee questioned the move from 4th and C Street. Would a bus shelter be put up at that location? Staff reported at this time a shelter will not be provided. Questions also arose about would the riders who have traditionally caught the bus at 4th and C Street be able to use the Transit Mall that is being completed. Staff informed the committee that because there will be no parking at the Transit Mall that it is highly unlikely. Staff pointed to the Fair Ground parking lot was established years ago as a park-n-ride location and GGT will begin running route 80 to this stop, staff also hope to encourage more use of this location for commuters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Tagliaferri , 25 Petaluma Blvd. South, Petaluma

He is in a service business and would like to be considered in the decision to move the bus stops directly in front of his place of business. He was not aware that the proposed move, and is very concerned that the current plan would impact parking and his business.

Vince Smith, Basin Street Properties

Vince spoke on behalf of Basin Street tenants and because of the nature of many of the businesses in that area, losing 12 spots would affect them directly. This would reduce 60 % of the parking in this area; most of the businesses have high traffic turn over. Smith asked the committee to reject the request and explore other alternatives.

Staff was instructed by the committee to address the noticing issue and also provide direct communication to the property owners in that area.

Mr. Blaquie asked if it would be possible to move the stop down closer to D Street. Staff felt that may impact a travel lane. He also asked that the more notice be given to those involved.

Mr. Hurley stated that the southbound lane would be less problematic, but the northbound lane narrows are a true concern. Also, consider and make a recommendation that would be appropriate for transit riders.

Mayor Torliatt asked that staff report at the next meeting the issue of crossing safety, loss of parking spaces and present to the committee a larger vision of what the impact of this stop move will have riders, business owners and neighbors.

The committee asked staff to go back, work with the traffic department, and find some alternative to this issue.

2. PARATRANSIT SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Burge from paratransit is currently working on a new riders guidelines. A paratransit subcommittee would be helpful for Ms. Burge in the preparation of the guidelines. The subcommittee would be made up of Ms. Smith and Ms. Pulvirenti and other consumers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MV Transportation

Reported that Ms. Price is no longer with the company. Bill Lewis will be on Petaluma manager. John Murphy spoke on his behalf because Mr. Lewis is on vacation. They have done an on-time performance review and it was not good. April saw a 2,000-ridership increase. MV Transportation is committed to improving on time performance. They will use a GPS/Nextel method to monitor performance.

PPSC Paratransit

Ms. Burge presented copies of performance.

TRANSIT MANAGER'S REPORT,

1. SRTP / Audits

Audits have begun. A draft of the SRTP / Audits will be provided prior to the next meeting. This will need to be presented to MTC in August.

2. Cherry Valley Routes

A press release went out and drivers have new maps.

3. New Technology

GPS demo project from MV Transportation will be mounted in each bus. This will assist in determining where problem areas on the routes are.

MV Transportation Drive Cam, will be installed on buses. This technology will aid in recovering information about accidents and driver behavior.

4. Change of date for July TAC meeting date July 12
Because of the 4th of July holiday we will move the TAC meeting to July 12, and it will be held at the Transit department, 555 North McDowell Blvd.
5. Maintenance Contract will be awarded at the June 18 City Council Meeting.
6. Spare the Air bus has been wrapped.
7. Transit Mall should be completed mid-July.

6. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Ms. Troilatt asked where we get the diesel for the busses. Staff shared that we purchase it from the city school district.

Torilatt also mentioned that city has now signed an agreement with Shell Oil for gas sales, in the hope to reduce the cities investment by increasing the scale of purchase.

Ms. Hempel, shared South County Senior Forum Bus Buddy sign up was successful; we were able to attract over 40 people who are interested in participating.

Ms. Henderson reminded the committed that changes are good and riders do notice the changes.

Staff reported that the Mervyns bus stop will be installed in the next two week.

ADJOURN