

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE MASS TRANSIT DEPARTMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
700 A-SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE ROOM
JANUARY 19, 2010

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Mass Transit Department Board met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. Committee Chair Jane Ratcliff, present and presiding and the following Committee Members answered roll call:

Ms. Jane Ratcliff
Ms. Robin Roberts
Mr. Ernesto Dominguez
Mr. Walt Phillips
Ms. Amy Lechuga
Mr. Lawrence Harley
Mr. Troy Hicks (absent)

Agenda

1. Call to order.

Item 1: The meeting was called to order at 2:05p.m.

2. Public Comments

Item 2: There were no public comments

3. Approval of the minutes of the CAC meeting of December 15, 2009.

Item 3: Motion made by Ernesto Dominguez to approve the minutes of December 15, 2009. Seconded by Robin Roberts. All in favor, motion passes unanimously.

4. Discussion and action on election of a new chairperson for 2010. (CAC)

Item 4: Ernesto Dominguez nominated Jane Ratcliff for chairperson and Robin Roberts seconded. All in favor, motion passes unanimously.

5. Discussion and action on election of a new vice chairperson for 2010. (CAC)

Item 5: Ernesto Dominguez nominated Amy Lechuga for vice chairperson and Robin Roberts seconded. All in favor, motion passes unanimously.

6. Presentation by Mr. Esparza of Fort Bliss Personnel on DOD's policy assisting military and DOD personnel by paying for the use of public transit. (CAC)

Item 6: Robin Roberts made the motion to postpone this item until February 16, 2010. Ernesto Dominguez seconded. All in favor, motion passes unanimously.

7. Presentation and discussion on the placement of a bus shelter at Hercules and Dyer. (Sun Metro.)

Item 7: Angelica Bryant showed a power point presentation. Sun Metro contacted River Oak Properties and Sun Metro is waiting for an answer from River Oak Properties' attorney. No action taken.

8. Presentation and discussion on placement of bus shelter at Hondo Pass and Magnetic. (Sun Metro)

Item 8: Ismael Segovia showed a power point presentation. Staff was sent to evaluate the area and the location scored 66 points out of the 73 needed to qualify for the bus shelter. Apartment complex nearby only houses 110 units, it needs a minimum of 250 units to be awarded points. Robin Roberts wants to know if weather can be considered a factor in determine qualifications for placing a bus shelter. No action taken. Committee requested presentation on policy/standards regarding placement of bus shelters, be included on next agenda.

9. Presentation and discussion of the January 22, 2010 Assessment of ADA Complementary Paratransit Service Capacity Constraints Study by FTA on Paratransit system in El Paso.

Item 9: Norman Shenck gave the presentation. The most recent study was done in 2001. Thought there was a second report, but it was a review done by McCollom Report in 2005 which recommended a management program to help Sun Metro. It didn't specifically study Paratransit under the ADA law. There was discussion on County services and Mr. Phillips suggested that Mr. Bob Geyer come in and give the committee an update on the County bus services. No action taken.

10. Follow up and discussion on feasibility of modifying routes to accommodate a bus stop at 8410 Tigris in front of Woodchase Community Senior Center. (Sun Metro)

Item 10: A power point presentation by Angelica Bryant was made. Route 65 and 67 were discussed. Routes cannot be re routed at this time. Sun Metro needs to write a letter to Woodchase Community Senior Center and let them know that Sun Metro did go out and do an evaluation as to why the routes cannot be changed. No action taken.

11. Status report on 2009 JARC ridership. (Sun Metro)

Item 11: Norman Schenck made a presentation on JARC ridership. JARC ridership has dropped from a peak of about 48500 annual trips to last years approximate 35000 trips due to concerns over continuing funding. Thus we slowed down our service somewhat to stretch the dollars. With the new funding in place we expect service levels to increase. We've added a JARC funded fixed route, SMART 103 which is carrying around 1200 people per week (4800 per month) which basically doubles our JARC ridership (LY Avg of 2915 per month). We expect that route to continue to grow, possibly to 7,000 per month and we are also in the process of purchasing 12 new Vans which is a 50% increase in the number of vans we have available for service and we are also in the process of hiring enough drivers to use those vehicles. We have funding in place through 2011 and expect to get to apply for the next round of dollars in late spring (FY2010 JARC funds). We are just waiting for Congress to appropriate the funds so that the application process managed by the local MPO can begin. No action taken.

12. Follow up and discussion on feasibility of bus stop at Sun Valley and Preston. (CAC)

Item 12: Mr. Ernesto Dominguez made a motion to postpone this item for the February 16, 2010 CAC meeting. Robin Roberts seconded. All in favor, motion passes unanimously.

13. Discussion on a potential application by Sun Metro for the next allocation of Section 5310 (Special Needs for Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities) funding. (CAC)

Item 13: Norman Schenck noted that the last 3 Directors did not apply for this money as they let other agencies that don't have money apply. This is a very small amount of money. Typically this money is used to buy vehicles. No action taken.

14. Presentation and discussion on the next allocation of Section 5316 (Job Access and Reverse Commute) and Section 5317 (New Freedom) funding for El Paso and Sunland Park. (CAC)

Item 14: Robin Roberts requested a quarterly report on Section 5316 (JARC) and 5317 (New Freedom) as to cost and ridership. Item to be placed on the CAC Agenda for February 16, 2010.

15. Presentation and discussion on the feasibility of implementing a mobility training program for riders with disabilities. (CAC)

Item 15: Mr. Manzanares will look into developing a training program and present it at the April 19, 2010 CAC meeting.

16. Opportunity for Committee members to request a staff report on items of interest over which the Board has authority. Discussion of items announced at this meeting will take place during the next regularly scheduled meeting. (CAC)

Item 16: Presentation and discussion on WTEP.

Presentation and discussion on proposed bike-share program
Presentation and discussion on Sun Metro's use of interns to investigate
feasibility of apply for Section 5310 funds.

Motion made by Ernesto Dominguez to adjourn meeting at 3:40 p.m... Seconded by Walt Phillips. All in favor, motion passes unanimously.

Approved as to form:

Department Head/Board Secretary