



REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION:

Wednesday, August 7, 2013

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

****Please note location***

Immediately following SLOCOG Board Meeting

**Conference Room 271
1055 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, California**

This agenda is available/posted at: <http://www.slorta.org/board/rta-board-meetings>

Individuals wishing accessibility accommodations at this meeting under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may request such accommodations to aid hearing, visual, or mobility impairment by contacting the SLORTA offices at 781-4833. Please note that 48 hours advance notice will be necessary to honor a request.

- 1. Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call**
- 2. Public Comment:** The Committee reserves this portion of the agenda for members of the public to address the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority Executive Committee on any items not on the agenda and within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. The Committee will listen to all communication, but in compliance with the Brown Act, will not take any action on items that are not on the agenda.
- 3. Information Items**
 - A-1 Executive Director's Report (Information)
- 4. Action Items**
 - None
- 5. Consent Items**
 - C-1 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of June 12, 2013 (Approve)

The Regional Transit Authority is a Joint Powers Agency serving the residents and visitors of:

Arroyo Grande Atascadero Grover Beach Morro Bay Paso Robles Pismo Beach San Luis Obispo County of San Luis Obispo

6. **RTA Board Agenda Review** – below are items that will be presented at the September 4, 2013 RTA Board meeting:

Information Items

A-1 Executive Director's Report (Information)

Action Items

None

Consent Items

C-1 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of June 12, 2013 (Approve)

C-2 RTA Board Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2013 (Approve)

Closed Session Items

D-1 It is the intention of the Board to meet in closed session concerning the following items:

D-1-1 Conference with Labor Negotiator Geoff Straw concerning the following labor organization: Teamsters Local Union No. 986

D-1-2 It is the intention of the Board to meet in closed session concerning the following items:

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Gov. Code Sec. 54956.8):

Agency Negotiators: Geoff Straw (RTA), Ronald De Carli (SLOCOG), Peter Rodgers (SLOCOG)

Under Negotiation/Discussion: Price and Terms of Payment

Properties:

179 Cross Street, San Luis Obispo, CA (APN: 053-257-032)
Negotiating Party: LTC of SLO, Ltd.

40 Prado Road, San Luis Obispo, CA (APN: 053-022-014)
Negotiating Party: Rescal SLO193 LLC

7. **Closed Session Items**

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8. Adjournment

Next Executive Committee Meeting: **October 16, 2013**

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Arroyo Grande Atascadero Grover Beach Morro Bay Paso Robles Pismo Beach San Luis Obispo County of San Luis Obispo

SAN LUIS OBISPO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

August 7, 2013

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM: A-1

TOPIC: Executive Director's Report for Executive Committee

PRESENTED BY: Geoff Straw

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Information

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Operations:

All six remaining (of seven total) RTA replacement buses, as well as all three South County Transit replacement buses, are on the Gillig production line. The picture at the right is provided by our on-line inspection contractor (First Transit), who has helped us make running improvements based on our experience with the "pilot bus" that was delivered in May 2013. The picture shows the bus about 75% completed. It is expected that the remaining nine RTA and SCT buses will be delivered by the middle of August.



We are planning a ribbon-cutting at the Government Center passenger facility prior to the September 4 RTA Board meeting to celebrate this new era in RTA's history, and we hope that all RTA Board members can participate.

RTA has completed planning and public outreach in planning Route 9 service disruptions due to the planned Highway 58/101 ramp closures. Specifically, the southbound 101 on/off ramps at State Route 58 in Santa Margarita will be closed during the overnight hours from 8 pm to 6 am through Friday morning August 9 – and this will not impact RTA Route 9 service. However, a 24/7 full closure of the southbound Highway 101 on/off-ramps from/to Highway 58 will begin on Sunday night, August 11 at 7 pm for 1-2 weeks for ramp reconstruction. During the full closure, southbound Route 9 will skip all bus stops south of El Camino at Santa Barbara; riders wishing to access these areas will be required to travel to the SLO Government Center and complete a timed-transfer to a northbound Route 9 bus.

RTA conducted its quarterly Employee of the Quarter barbecue lunch on July 19, and bus operator Rey Gonzalez was selected by his peers as the winner. Rey primarily drives the Route 10, and he received nominations from both fellow workers and his riders. In total, we received 18 nominations for 11 RTA employees. Rey will join us at our September 4 Board meeting. To further recognize the achieves of past winners, RTA is finalizing the design of a large decal with pictures of the Employee of the Quarter winners and their first names that will be placed on the side of several RTA buses.

Due to a lack of pending issues, the quarterly July 17 RTAC meeting was cancelled.

Maintenance:

As part of the bus replacement project, RTA has sent all technicians (two at a time) to the Gillig factory in Hayward to see how the buses are assembled, to ask Gillig technicians and engineers questions about the best methods to maintain and repair damaged buses, and to better understand why certain components are assembled in the manner Gillig has chosen. The picture to the right shows the RTA bus #1302 chassis being pulled into the body line portion of the factory. We are also currently scheduling on-site training in the coming months on major components; that training was funded through the grants used to purchase the vehicles. We also included specialized tooling and a spare parts inventory for long lead-time components as part of the grant-funded purchase.



Service Planning & Marketing:

RTA staff continues to participate with stakeholders and the consultants engaged in the North County Transit Plan, which has recommended the possible consolidation of Atascadero fixed route and Paso Robles transit services with RTA. SLOCOG continues to refine cost models for the Plan. RTA will participate in developing an operating agreement (similar to the RTA/County agreement) in the coming weeks and to bring it to the RTA Board in November.

RTA participated with SLOCOG for the July 11th SLOCOG Social Services Transportation Summit at the Madonna Inn. We presented facts and figures about RTA services, including the relatively high cost of Runabout service on a per passenger basis. Approximately 80 staff members from specialized transportation providers and social service agencies attended.

The STA-funded North County Summer Beach service was officially launched on June 7, and will operate through August 24th. The preliminary ridership results are as follows:

- Average of 34 boardings per day, with a record of 89 on July 26. The goal is 90.

- Roughly 75% youth. Other notable riders:
 - 10 seniors (age 65 to 79)
 - 11 VIP riders (age 80 and older)
 - 27 disabled riders
- We carried 121 bikes (~ 12% - pretty high percentage).

Staff expects word from Caltrans in August whether or not our FTA Section 5304 planning grant application to conduct a joint Short Range Transit Plan study effort with SLO Transit will be funded. This joint effort would permit us to better coordinate our service and capital plans, while also studying some of the impediments of travel between our two agencies' routes.

Finance and Administration:

Preliminary year to date financial and operating data through June 30 will be presented to the Board at its September 4 meeting. It should be noted that RTA set a new annual ridership record in FY12-13, in which we boarded over 700,000 fixed route riders.

RTA recently celebrated our 4-year anniversary of taking the operations and maintenance programs in-house, which officially began on August 1, 2009. As part of the celebration, senior RTA staff members met bus operators in-route and announced to riders the safety awards achieved by their driver. We also provided him or her with lunch, a certificate and a safety pin. The safety award is based on no preventable vehicle collisions (Bus Operators only) and no preventable work comp injuries (both Bus Operators and Maintenance Staff). A summary of the awards is provided below:

- 4-Year Awards: nine Bus Operators and five Maintenance Staff
- 3-Year Awards: four Bus Operators and three Maintenance Staff
- 2-Year Awards: eight Bus Operators and one Maintenance Staff
- 1-Year Awards: fifteen Bus Operators and one Maintenance Staff

Staff recently completed the benefits review process, including review of the Affordable Care Act, and is preparing for Open Enrollment meetings that will occur in mid August. Benefits cost are in line with budgeted amounts and will take affect September 1st.

The next Employee of the Quarter barbecue is scheduled for October 19 from 11:30AM until 1:00PM. We hope that all RTA Board members can join us – the Bus Operators really enjoy the chance to meet the RTA decision-makers in an informal setting.

RTA Facility Planning

Staff is still working with area real estate professionals to develop long-term operations/maintenance facility solutions.

Labor Relations & Closed Sessions

As you know, RTA's collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with Teamsters Local 986 expires on January 31, 2014. The CBA specifies that negotiations to renew can begin 90 days in advance. As such, staff will present a CBA proposal at the August 7 Executive Committee meeting in closed session, and to the full Board in closed session at its September 4 meeting.



San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority
Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes 6/12/2013
C-1

Members Present: Shelly Higginbotham, Vice President
Fred Strong, Past President

Members Absent: Frank Mecham, President

Staff Present: Geoff Straw, Executive Director
Anna Mafort-Lacy, Administrative Assistant
Nina Negranti, County Counsel

Also Present: Pete Rodgers, SLOCOG
Eric Greening, Atascadero

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Vice President Shelly Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Silent Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

2. Public Comments:

Mr. Eric Greening, Atascadero, raised concerns about the ramp closure at Highway 58 and 101 in Santa Margarita and stressed the importance of interagency coordination. Caltrans states the closures will last two weeks northbound, followed by two-weeks southbound. Passengers need to know what to expect. How will buses serve south Atascadero and Santa Margarita passengers? Something must be done to alert riders as the closure begins in four days.

Mr. Geoff Straw said staff conducted on/off surveys run-by-run, hour-by-hour on all of the stops from Santa Margarita to Bocina at the Bordeaux apartments. There were 25 northbound and 17 southbound riders on a daily bases. During the day, that is not many riders. We committed to doing an afternoon trip with a van that would drop those people off. The closure affects the northbound off-ramp but not the southbound on-ramp. The closure begins Sunday, June 16 at 7

p.m., and Caltrans believes it will conclude Wednesday. We are grappling with whether or not it will be worthwhile to run a separate bus for one run. People can still get to their destination but they would have to go out of direction. It's not ideal, but they are still served. Southbound riders in this area are unaffected.

3. Information Items

A. Information Items:

A-1 Executive Director's Report

Mr. Straw highlighted a couple of action items on the agenda. We have seven trainees going through the program and should finish up early July. The California Highway Patrol just did their annual terminal inspection. Both RTA and South County Area Transit passed with flying colors. We lost an engine in bus 155, which is a 1999 Gillig. This is squeezing our spare ratio again. Staff is talking with San Luis Obispo Transit, who will loan us a bus if necessary. **Vice President Higginbotham** asked how much SLO Transit will charge RTA for a loaner. **Mr. Straw** said hard numbers are not finalized, but RTA would need to reimburse them on a per-mile basis.

RTA is working with San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, Regional Rideshare and others to help plan the July 11 Social Services Transportation Summit at the Madonna Inn. This will be held from 11:30 to 2:30.

July 19 is the next Employee of the Quarter barbeque. Drivers appreciate it when Board members participate. It begins at 11:30 a.m. and the award winner will be announced at noon.

The North County Beach Shuttle began last Friday and averaged about 25 boardings per day. **Mr. Straw** noted 3-4 passengers are traveling east. **Vice President Higginbotham** praised staff for getting the word out. She said she has heard it on multiple radio stations, in the Tribune newspaper and other media forms.

Mr. Straw concluded the Executive Directors report.

4. Action Items

B-1 South County Area Transit Use of RTA Vehicles (Revised; Approve)

Mr. Straw presented a slightly revised staff report for SCAT's use of RTA vehicles. Buses 208 and 169 were procured because new buses were scarce. We were looking for used buses. In March 2007, SCAT bus 208 was put in service. At that time, RTA placed an order for three

hybrid gasoline-electric buses. Bus 169 arrived that December and staff soon discovered these buses would not work for our purposes, such as going up the Cuesta Grade, and could not get up to speed on the highway. RTA halted the order for the two remaining vehicles. The company that built the buses declared bankruptcy in 2010 and we lost all technical support for the vehicles. RTA first parked bus 169 in 2011 and finally parked bus 208 in June 2012. RTA provided SCAT 35 foot vehicles and then leased a 40 ft bus from the Livermore-Amador Transit Authority (LAFTA) for its own use. Staff wants to present an equitable way to charge back the cost of loaning vehicles to SCAT.

Staff reviewed the Daily Vehicle Inspection (DVI) reports completed by SCAT staff for RTA vehicles during the period of July 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013. During that time 39,686 miles were operated. To determine a cost per mile, various cost factors were evaluated, including fuel, parts, maintenance staff time and insurance. Depreciation costs were not considered. Based upon the evaluation, the cost per mile is \$1.70, which would result in a charge of \$67,466.20 through April 2013. RTA vehicles continue to be used at South County Area Transit and will likely to continue until their new vehicles arrive in August.

Past President Strong inquired about how the balance is paid. **Mr. Straw** said RTA is covering the cost because we could not charge it back without a cost-sharing agreement. In comparison, SCAT is budgeted at \$1.82 per mile for their own vehicles because the buses are older and less fuel-efficient. **Vice President Higginbotham** said it was important to point out that RTA vehicles continue to be used for a variety of reasons. It isn't a sole result of purchasing the hybrid bus.

Past President Strong pointed to the zero-emission state mandate as the reason for the purchase. **Mr. Straw** said the state has backed off a bit. All agencies in the county opted for diesel fuel rather than gas alternative fuel, because there were no compressed natural gas fueling stations in 1999 when transit agencies had to choose between the diesel or alternative fuel paths. Hybrid buses were a new technology. The State mandated faster emissions reductions for diesel vehicles than for gas alternative fuel vehicles.

When South County Area Transit gets their new buses, they will keep the existing fleet as spares. There will be no reason for them to continue using RTA buses.

Mr. Straw concluded his report.

Vice President Higginbotham moved to review and approve Item B-1 and **Past President Fred Strong** seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote with **President Mecham absent**.

B-2 Unlimited Access on RTA Fixed Route Services for RTAC Members (Approve)

Mr. Straw briefly reviewed this item, which was originally brought to the RTA Board at the March 6 meeting. The Board adopted an RTA stipend policy that essentially mirrors the one adopted by the SLOCOG Board. The original RTA staff report also recommended giving Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) members in good standing unlimited access on RTA fixed-route service. While Board member comments seemed to provide general support for that motion, a review of the motion indicated it only pertained to Board members. For that reason, staff is seeking the Board's authorization to provide unlimited access to RTAC members on RTA fixed route services.

Vice President Higginbotham opened public comment.

Mr. Greening asked if that means the program would begin on July 10 instead of July 1. **Mr. Straw** said that was correct. **Mr. Greening** confirmed the RTAC will be meeting on July 17.

Vice President Higginbotham closed public comment.

Vice President Higginbotham moved to review and approve Item B-1 and **Past President Fred Strong** seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote with **President Mecham absent**.

5. **Consent Agenda Items**

C-1 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2013

Vice President Higginbotham moved to approve Item C-1 and **Past President Strong** seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote with **President Mecham** absent.

6. **Agenda Review:**

Mr. Straw reviewed the Board agenda, pointing out Items C-3 and C-4. **Vice President Higginbotham** requested a status report on the JPA Amendment. **Mr. Straw** said County Counsel is preparing to submit it to the state sometime in the next week.

7. **Closed Session Items:**

D-1 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Gov. Code Sec. 54956.8)

Property: 179 Cross Street, San Luis Obispo, CA

Agency Negotiator: Geoff Straw

Negotiating Party: LTC of SLO, Ltd.
Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment

The committee went to closed session at 10:27 a.m. and returned to open session at 10:38 a.m.

8. **Adjournment:** Vice President Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Acknowledged by,

Anna Mafort-Lacy
Administrative Assistant

Frank Mecham
RTA President