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Public Comments for May 22, 2020 RTA Special Board of Directors Meeting

Below are comments received verbatim if by email, or summarized if verbally provided by telephone. Note that the sender's email address has been redacted. These comments will be posted on the RTA website as soon as possible.

Comments received as of May 22, 2020 at 9:30 AM:

From: Eric Greening <**REDACTED**>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 11:51 AM
To: Info <Info@slorta.org>
Subject: **Public comment from Eric Greening for the Special RTA Board meeting of May 22nd**

Hello!

Although it is unfortunate that the present bids must be rejected, stretching the timeline of a needed project, I can understand the reasoning behind the staff recommendation to do so, and fully trust staff to carry out its ambitious proposed timeline for a re-bidding process which we can hope will bring in responsible bids at least one of which is worthy of acceptance.

Given that there will be a special RTA Board meeting on June 3rd for a budget adjustment, I would like to request that on that date there also be a staff presentation on, and board discussion about (with the possibility of direction, although I think staff will probably be on top of it without the explicit need for such) the criteria or benchmarks which would allow for the return to a "new normal" and to what extent they might or might not align with the numbered phases in the State's plan for reopening. Current practices such as charging zero fares, rear door entry, rationing seating to promote social distancing, and limiting service to people with "essential" purposes for their travel must be sustained as long as protection of the safety of employees and passengers require them; the two questions that will need to be answered in finding our way forward are: at what point will it be genuinely safe to step away from these emergency measures (and, if so, all of them at once, or different ones at different times, and for each one, all the way, or partway, or in stages), and, once we have determined a return to some sort of "new normal" is safe, how do we create the PERCEPTION of safety so that previously loyal passengers can confidently return? Criteria or benchmarks for a return to or toward "normal" from the present reduced level of service could also be discussed.

In the meantime, my compliments to the entire RTA family for navigating these difficult times with such professionalism, courage, and devotion to public service!!

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

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