



**AGENDA**  
**REGIONAL TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, July 20, 2023**  
**2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**  
**253 Elks Lane, Cerro Conference Room**  
**San Luis Obispo, CA 93401**

**Chair: Mark Dariz** (Runabout/DAR)

**Vice-Chair: Omar McPherson** (SoCo Transit)

Other RTAC Members:

Alicia King (Atascadero Transit)

Marlene Cramer (Cal Poly)

Josh Roberts (County of SLO)

Dan Troy (Cuesta College)

Janeen Burlingame (Morro Bay Transit)

Ryan Cornell (Paso Express)

Austin O’Dell (SLO Transit)

Eric Greening (Fixed-Route Transit)

Todd Katz (Fixed-Route Transit alternative)

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 (including Limited English Proficiency) by contacting the RTA offices at 805-541-2228 x4833. Please note that 48 hours advance notice will be necessary to honor your request.

RTA, de acuerdo con la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA), acomodará a las personas que requieran una modificación de la adaptación para participar en esta reunión. RTA también se compromete a ayudar a las personas con dominio limitado del inglés a acceder a los servicios públicos esenciales de la agencia y a la información pública en español. Para solicitar una adaptación, por favor llame al (805)541-2228 x4833. Requerimos al menos 48 horas de anticipación para proporcionar adaptaciones razonables.

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** This portion of the agenda is set aside for any members of the public to directly address the Regional Transit Advisory 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. A. INFORMATION AGENDA ITEMS:**

A-1 Executive Director’s Report (Verbal update)

A-2 Member Comments / Reports from Jurisdictions (Verbal)

A-3 Discuss Short Range Transit Plan potential joint meeting dates with SLO Transit  
MTC

**B. ACTION AGENDA ITEMS: None**

**C. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

The following item is considered routine and non-controversial by staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the RTAC or public wishes the item be removed. If discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately. Questions of clarification may be made by RTAC members, without the removal of the item from the Consent Agenda. Staff recommendations for each item are noted following the item.

C-1 RTAC Minutes of January 19, 2023 (Approve)

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Meeting: October 19, 2023; Future Meeting Dates: January 18, 2024**

SAN LUIS OBISPO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
REGIONAL TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 20, 2023  
**DRAFT** MINUTES  
C-1

**Members Present:**

Ryan Cornell	City of Paso Robles
Marlene Cramer	Cal Poly
Mark Dariz ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )	Runabout/DAR Representative
Eric Greening ( <i>Chair</i> )	Fixed Route Representative
Todd Katz	Fixed Route Alternate Rep.
Alicia King	Atascadero Transit
Omar McPherson	South County Transit (SCT)

**Members Absent:**

Janeen Burlingame	Morro Bay Transit
Austin O’Dell	SLO Transit
Josh Roberts	County of San Luis Obispo
Dan Troy	Cuesta College

**Staff Present:**

Tania Arnold	RTA
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**Guests:**

Sarah Woolsey	SLOCOG
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1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER, ROLL CALL** Mr. Eric Greening called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM and roll call was taken. There was a quorum present.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
3. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Elect RTAC Chair & Vice Chair 2023**  
Mr. Omar McPherson nominated Mr. Mark Dariz for Chairperson and Mr. Greening seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.  
  
Mr. Greening nominated Mr. Omar McPherson for Vice Chairperson and Ms. Marlene Cramer seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.
4. **Annual ADA Appeal Committee Assignment**  
Mr. Greening moved to have the appeals committee members remain the same as last year which was, Mr. Mark Dariz, Mr. Todd Katz, and Ms. Janeen Burlingame and Mr. McPherson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

There was a discussion on what this Committee does and the ADA application process.

A. INFORMATION AGENDA ITEMS:

A-1 Executive Director's Report (Verbal, Receive)

**Ms. Tania Arnold** discussed current staffing levels for Bus Operators, noting there are currently only four part time positions open. Staff is reviewing options to add back some of the express trips, which would include a public outreach effort to inform the public of the increase in service. Labor negotiations are ongoing and progress is being made. The agreement covers Bus Operators, Mechanics, Utility Workers, and Parts Clerk. There are no current concerns that we are aware of from the workforce due to the prior agreement ending on December 31, 2022. On January 31<sup>st</sup> the RTA will be hosting the Central Coast Transit Agency Summit which is a great opportunity for staff to have discussions with peers from other agencies. Ridership continues to recover but are still below pre-pandemic level. Budget results are strong and under budget overall although fuel does continue to be over that budget line item.

**Ms. Arnold** noted the Board did approve updates to the EEO plan, as well as a number of resolutions to apply for various grants. Staff has been busy preparing the response to the request for information as part of the FTA Triennial Review process. That response is due on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Ms. Cramer** noted there are a lot of grant opportunities that Cal Poly cannot apply for but if there are any opportunities to partner with the RTA to apply of those funds, please let them know. **Ms. Arnold** noted that staff will do so and appreciates the partnership with Cal Poly.

**Ms. Arnold** discussed the concerns that staff has with rolling out the new technology and will be taking a measured approach and looking to our peers for information. The first two electric buses being delivered in September 2023 will give us the first data for our community and will provide information on the actual vehicle performance in our service area. This information will also be valuable for the short-range transit plan.

There was some discussion regarding the charging times, the distance per charge, and the options that will be reviewed in order to address the charging needs as well as route impacts.

A-2 Member Comments / Reports from Jurisdictions (Receive)

**Mr. McPherson** shared information about the impacts on service on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> due to the severe weather. Staffing is getting back up to the desired level and the hope is to increase service levels.

**Ms. Cramer** shared the impacts the storm had on the Cal Poly campus. There were a number of tanks that were used to hold water pumped out water of the water reservoirs that were already full. There are still some areas closed on campus.

**Mr. Todd Katz** had nothing for the group.

**Ms. Alicia King** share impacts on service due to the storms, noting that students were still off on winter break which was helpful. There are still a couple of road closures but nothing that impacts service.

**Mr. Greening** did hear from other riders who were riding during the severe weather and they said the changes were handled well with a large number of resources being used. **Mr. McPherson** noted there are currently no routes being re-routed and no stops are inaccessible although a number of stops still need to be cleaned.

**Mr. Ryan Cornell** noted the City was interested in having the RTA management present to the City management staff a summary of the services the RTA provides and the relationship between the RTA and the City. The storm impacts on the Salinas River in the City continue.

**Ms. Cramer** mentioned that Cal Poly is currently working on a Transit Demand Management Study and some of the preliminary data, they were able to see that there is growth in the staff and faculty coming from outside the region. The average commute for the group is 13 – 15 miles, which is emphasizing the need for regional service. As recommendations are received, the information will be brought back and shared with the group. The hope is to encourage those groups to use transit and how the agency can grow.

A-3 SRTP Discussion & Draft Scope of Work (Verbal update from Omar McPherson)

**Mr. McPherson** discussed the timing of the short-range transit plan and the coordination with the City of San Luis Obispo. There has been a delay due to the impact of COVID but we are anxious to get this plan moving forward. It was noted the Mr. Geoff Straw of the RTA will be the project manager. The objectives of the plan were reviewed as well as the tasks that will be included in the plan. The role of RTAC and the committee members was discussed.

**Mr. Greening** asked financially constrained options and the uncertainty with a potential sales tax measure being placed on the ballot in November 2024 and if that would be factored into the options. **Mr. McPherson** discussed that the timing of the plan would be good in helping determine the transit funding needs for that measure but the base model will assume the funding that is currently available.

**Mr. Katz** noted a staff report to support the discussion would have been appreciated. It was also discussed if further consolidation would be reviewed as part of the process and making sure Cal Poly and the community colleges are involved in the process in order to ensure their service needs are addressed.

**Ms. Cramer** noted the importance of long range planning and the role that Cal Poly has on not only RTAC but the MTC.

There was a discussion on the timing of when to provide feedback to staff and that was roughly by February 15<sup>th</sup>. There was also a discussion on why the plan is just the RTA and SLO Transit which is due to the timing of each agency's plan but that all services in the region will be considered during the review.

**Mr. Greening** recommended that under the demographic analysis, that in addition to percentage of zero-car households, percentage of households with an unreliable vehicle be included.

A-4 Review FY22-23 Budget Assumptions and Discuss FY23-24 Budget Calendar (Receive)  
**Ms. Arnold** reviewed the budget calendar. The budget assumptions that were adopted by the Board in March 2022 were also discussed with the key items highlighted, especially noting the higher than expected volatility with fuel.

There was some discussion on the status of the labor negotiation and if that would be settled prior to the adoption of the budget assumption and **Ms. Arnold** noted yes, that is anticipated.

B. ACTION AGENDA ITEMS:  
None

C. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

C-1 RTAC Minutes of April 21, 2022 (Approve)

**Mr. Greening** made a motion to approve the minutes, **Ms. Cramer** seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

D. ADJOURNMENT AND COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

**Chairperson Dariz** adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m.

**Next Meeting: April 20, 2023**

**Future Meeting Date: July 20, 2023, October 19, 2023, January 18, 2024**

Respectfully Submitted,

Acknowledged by,

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Tania Arnold  
Deputy Director/CFO

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Mark Dariz  
RTAC Chairperson 2023