

Santa Clarita Transit Accessibility Advisory Committee

May 7, 2009

Meeting Location Santa Clarita Transit Maintenance Facility

Members Present: Ken Schwartz, John Taylor, Anna Martinez, Jim Hogan, Kurt Baldwin, Linda Wood, Sam Sammons, Keith Curry, and Ginny Smutzler,

Others Present: Adrian Aguilar, Hamilton Franco Denise Ware Raychel Martinez, and Al Scullin

Member Comments: Ken Schwartz commented that The ASI and dial-a-ride vans now have exempt license plates and can park at marked curbsides without getting a ticket.

New Business:

John talked about “no Shows” and the letters which were sent as a courtesy. The second round of letters went out within the 8 week time slot. Dispatch have been calling the drivers regarding the cancellations since the rangers are still unreliable, and mapping continues to be an issue.

The rangers are being repaired and inspected by MV specialists. Adrian told Kurt that there are seven vans without rangers, but they came from other areas. The minivans do not have them due to their infrequent use. Linda wood made a comment on the contradictory directions from the ranger.

Al commented on the process of the order in which comments are presented at the meeting. Going alphabetically is unusual, most boards present officer comments first. Jim called for point of order. Al also commented on the topics presented at the meetings, which he feels shouldn't be repeated at each meeting. Kurt stated that this shows those issues continuing to be a problem. Jim also commented that the nominations of officers for the June meeting should have been on the agenda as well.

Kurt then suggested that the high speed rail services become a topic to discuss. Adrian Aguilar replied that the high speed rail services will start in Sacramento, and precede through the Antelope Valley, to downtown Los Angeles and further South. The Mag Lift System, also known as the Orange Line, would go from Los Angeles, through Santa Clarita, to Las Vegas. These are two systems competing for the same funding. The train system proposal is further along. They have already done their Environmental Impact Report and these bonds have been approved.

Adrian clarified the issue that Anna brought up by stating that the systems would share the same right of way along separate tracks and the tracks would be below

street level or accommodate in other ways so as not to compete with cars or people.

Sam asked if both systems would include Santa Clarita. Adrian replied that the High Speed Rail wouldn't come through Santa Clarita, but go along the I-14 corridor, but the station stops would be Sylmar and Palmdale. The Mag Lift would actually have a stop in Santa Clarita. Jim commented that there's still a long way to go in the process.

Ken referred back to a comment Jim made about the elections, and the need for an election committee. Jim did not think this was necessary and that anyone can open up the floor to the positions available and carry it on to next month. Kurt asked if any of those serving would like to continue serving. Jim added that the term does end in June. Each current officer said they would like to continue. Jim said the motion is now to continue to use the same slate and put it on the same agenda for next month.

Anna asked Adrian the progress with Raychel's application for become a Board member. Adrian Aguilar and Darren Hernandez have the information and they will be discussing it at their meeting tomorrow and have an answer at the next ASI meeting.

Kurt commented on the cancellation of the Van Nuys Commuter Bus and it being replaced by a North Hollywood Commuter Bus. Jim commented that Adrian would discuss this issue later.

Old Business:

Jim commented in regards to the FTA complaint that he received more evasive answers from Cheryl Percy who is the Director of the FTA ADA Complaint Division. He contacted Buck McKeon's office and received a letter from Margie Clark, McKeon's secretary, which he read to the Board. Jim did not get his congressional inquiry. So the next step is to contact Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein, to try and take further action.

Ken brought up the issue of Route 8 which was discussed.

Adrian said there is a Transit Community Meeting at the Community Center to discuss the impact of the proposed changes to Route 8. There is also another meeting on the 20th at City Hall. Further discussion was held explaining the connection process and the fare change, and the 796 bus and the 799 bus routes.

MV issues: Denise announced that unlike the rumors that have been circulating, she will not be leaving MV. Denise also stated that they have been working to resolve lots of ranger issues. MV has installed a temporary GPS system so they

can get some kind of on-time tracking on the buses and are now tracking the connectors. Also ASI license Plates have come in.

Transit Issues: Adrian announced that there was training sessions held for The AVL system for the fixed routes with the dispatchers. This went really well. The hardware for the local buses was shipped yesterday and should be here on site at the end of the week. There will also be more training. Adrian also reported that the city, the school district, and the Sheriff's Department are working on eliminating graffiti on the buses, and there's been a slight reduction. Training for drivers and road supervisors in regards to dealing with discipline problems is on-going.

Adrian then introduced TAP Card information. The TAP program is only for local buses and the commuter service. The TAP card is a refillable card and will be available for purchase at City Hall, the Transit Center and possibly the Senior Center.

ASI Issues: Hamilton explained that the Rider's Guide is being revised to reflect the actual fares, in July. On-time performance is stable and customer service and safety continue to be a focus in training.

Keith complained on behalf of Lupe Corrubias in reference to her recertification process, which was a horrible experience for her. It lasted for at least an hour and was like an interrogation. She was embarrassed and insulted. Hamilton agreed that it should not have been that way, and they are moving to have an automatic recertification every 3 years, and that also the Permanently Disabled designation will be taken into account now. Al, Jim, Keith, Kurt and Raychel all spoke about the process and their experiences. Ken asked Hamilton if the 4th transfer trip time had been approved yet, and it has not.

Jim praised Denise and Adrian for their hard work and earning the monthly Incentives reward for \$13,000.00 on behalf of the Committee.

Raychel discussed that she had a twenty minute hold time for making an ASI reservation. Denise told her she would in fact look in to this incident.

General Public Comments (3 minutes): There were no public comments.

Adjournment: Ken called for the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim made the motion, Keith seconded it and it was approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00