

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT
March 17, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Armenta called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Monterey-Salinas Transit Conference Room.

Present:	Karen Sharp	City of Carmel-By-The-Sea
	Kristin Clark	City of Del Rey Oaks
	James Ford	City of Marina
	Libby Downey	City of Monterey
	Vicki Stilwell	City of Pacific Grove
	Sergio Sanchez	City of Salinas
	Thomas Mancini	City of Seaside
	Fernando Armenta	County of Monterey
	Lisa Senkir	City of Gonzales (Ex-Officio)

Absent:: None

Staff:	Carl Sedoryk	General Manager/CEO
	Lyn Owens	Director of Human Resources
	Hunter Harvath	Director of Administration
	Michael Hernandez	Chief Operating Officer
	Robert Weber	Dir. Transportation Services
	Sonia Bannister	Office Administrator
	Dave Sobotka	Controller
	Angelina Ruiz	Human Resources Administrator
	William Morris	Contract/Transportation Manager
	Zoe Smallwood	Marketing Analyst
	Tom Hicks	Contract Transportation Services A Manager

Others:	Dave Laredo	DeLay & Laredo
	Dean Knox	Coach Operator
	Tiziano Minelli	Coach Operator
	Debbie Hale	TAMC

Apology is made for any misspelling of a name.

2-2. – 2-6. CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda items consisted of the following:

- 2-2. Adopt Resolution 2008-14 recognizing Dean Knox, Coach Operator, as Employee of the Month for March 2008.
- 2-3. Disposal of property left aboard buses.
- 2-4. Minutes of the regular meeting of February 11, 2008.
- 2-5. Financial Report – February 2008.
- 2-6. Schedule public hearing for federally funded Program of Projects.

Director Sanchez moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Director Mancini seconded and the motion carried with Director Sanchez abstaining on the Minutes.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Robert Weber, Dir. Transportation Services, introduced Dean Knox, Coach Operator, as MST Employee of the Month for March 2008. On January 11, 2008, the interlock system on MST coach #2004 was inadvertently disengaged causing the coach to roll backwards approximately 45 feet from the Tyler Street gate at the Monterey Transit Plaza. Dean witnessed the coach rolling backwards and immediately reacted by running across the rear of, and into the path of the moving coach, approached the driver side window, reached into the driver's compartment, and activated the parking brake – bringing the vehicle to rest before it could roll any further. Dean's prompt and decisive reaction to this situation clearly resulted in the prevention of serious damage, injuries, or potential loss of life. Dean has earned MST's sincere appreciation for his actions that day as he prevented this incident from becoming a truly tragic event.

The MST Board presented Tiziano Minelli, Coach Operator with a 20-Year Service Award.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5-1. RIDES ADVICORY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Board accepted and filed the MST RIDES Advisory Committee Minutes – January 23, 2008.

6-1. MONTEREY MOBILITY MANAGEMENT CENTER

This item was pulled for further evaluation.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

8-1. RETIREMENT OF BUS DEBT

At the September 2006 Board meeting, the Board authorized staff to procure 15 new buses from Gillig Corporation. The Board further authorized staff to enter into an agreement with Municipal Services Group (MSG) to finance the purchase over the 12-year life of the vehicles at a cost of principal and interest not to exceed \$8.2M. In September 2007, the California Transportation Commission allocated \$7.5M of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds to reimburse MST for costs to complete the purchase of these buses. The Master Agreement between MST and the State of California allows for the reimbursement of costs related to the financing of transit equipment.

MST would fund an escrow account to defease, or retire, MST's \$6.2M loan using funds reimbursed to MST through the STIP allocation. The defeasance process includes calculating and certifying the exact amount of funds to deposit into an irrevocable escrow account and paying the related transaction costs.

Director Mancini authorized staff to establish an escrow account and execute all necessary documentation to retire outstanding debt for 15 buses acquired in FY 2008. Director Ford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9-1. LOCAL FUNDING INITIATIVES

Debbie Hale, TAMC Executive Director, gave a brief presentation on local funding initiatives targeted for transit.

She reported that programs that support alternatives to driving will receive 25% of the transportation sales tax funds, estimated at a total of \$245 million over 25 years. The transit program will receive 20% of the transportation sales tax funds. Seventy-five percent of the transit program funding shall be devoted to rapid bus corridor projects and the remaining 25% will be devoted to other transit programs and projects. Projects eligible for transit program funding include: commuter bus service between Monterey and Salinas; transit service for the elderly and persons with disabilities; 511 traveler information; new transit facilities; and rapid bus corridor.

This was for information only. No action was required.

9-2. CALTRAIN FUNDING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Hunter Harvath, Director of Administration, reported that the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) is in the process of planning an extension of Caltrain commuter rail from its current terminus in Gilroy to Monterey County, including stations in Pajaro, Castroville and downtown Salinas. The proposed extension of Caltrain to Salinas would provide an alternative means of commuter travel between Monterey County and southern Santa Cruz County to the San Francisco Bay Area.

In addition to lowering congestion on the roadways, the commuter rail extension has the potential to expand job opportunities, to provide more transportation alternatives for senior citizens and those with physical disabilities, to increase access by students to educational resources, and to spur economic development opportunities along the train route. As currently scheduled, Caltrain service to Salinas could start as soon as 2011.

As a part of this MOU, TAMC and MST would agree to fund Caltrain service operations through available STA and LTF as permitted by the state Transportation Development Act, "with little to no impact on bus transit funding."

Director Mancini moved to approve the execution of the Caltrain funding Memorandum Of Understanding with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County. Director Stilwell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9-3. VETERANS CEMETARY MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mr. Harvath reported that preliminary planning is underway for a Veterans Cemetery on the former Fort Ord. At its November 9, 2007, meeting, the FORA Board of Directors authorized the Executive Officer to execute a reimbursement agreement with the County of Monterey for a loan up to \$191,000 for the preparation of a Veterans Cemetery Master Development Plan. The FORA Board also authorized FORA staff to coordinate with its member jurisdictions and other interested parties to obtain financial participation.

Director Sanchez commented that MST has benefited from FORA in the past, and if possible, this would be a good thing to support. Director Ford agreed and noted that a lot of veterans ride the bus as well.

It was noted that any monetary donation would have to come out of MST's operating budget.

Director Sanchez moved to direct staff to research the feasibility of making a contribution. Director Downey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

10-1. – 10-6. REPORTS & INFORMATION ITEMS

The reports consisted of the General Manager/CEO Report; TAMC Highlights – February 27, 2008; Washington DC Lobbyist Report – March 3, 2008; Sacramento Lobbyist report – March 1, 2008; Quarterly performance results report – 2nd Quarter FY 2008; and Referral log.

11. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Armenta and Director Clark gave a brief report on the APTA Legislative Conference.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Armenta adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Prepared by: 

Sonia AR Bannister