



SOLANO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Board Minutes for Meeting of
July 14, 2010

I. CLOSED SESSION

There were no matters to report.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sanchez called the regular meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was confirmed.

MEMBERS

PRESENT:	Pete Sanchez, Chair	City of Suisun City
	Harry Price, Vice-Chair	City of Fairfield
	Elizabeth Patterson	City of Benicia
	Jack Batchelor, Jr.	City of Dixon
	Jan Vick	City of Rio Vista
	Len Augustine	City of Vacaville
	Osby Davis	City of Vallejo
	Jim Spering	County of Solano

MEMBERS

ABSENT: None.

STAFF

PRESENT:	Daryl K. Halls	Executive Director
	Bernadette Curry	Deputy Legal Counsel
	Johanna Masiclat	Clerk of the Board
	Janet Adams	Deputy Executive Director/Director of Projects
	Robert Macaulay	Director of Planning
	Elizabeth Richards	Director of Transit and Rideshare Services
	Jayne Bauer	Marketing and Legislative Program Manager
	Susan Furtado	Accountant and Administrative Services Manager
	Liz Niedziela	Transit Manager
	Sam Shelton	Project Manager
	Robert Guerrero	Senior Planner
	Sara Woo	Associate Planner

ALSO

PRESENT:

In Alphabetical Order by Last Name:

Mark Ackerman	Member of the Public
Jack Batson	Member of the Public
Monica Brown	Member of the Public
Catherine Bowen	The Reporter
Vern Van Buskirk	Resident City of Fairfield
Robin Cox	County of Solano
Bob Charbonea	Resident, Fairfield
Gary Cullen	City of Vacaville, Public Works
Les Darbison	Member of the Public
Christine Ducoing	Resident, Vallejo
Barry Eberling	The Daily Republic
Alex Evans	EMC Research, Inc.
Rod Forroggiaro	Member of the Public
Bill Gray	Gray-Bowen, Inc.
George Gwynn Jr.	Resident, City of Fairfield
Kurt Hahn	Member of the Public
Mike Hudson	Councilmember, City of Suisun City and STA Board Alternate Member
Dan Kasperson	City of Suisun City, Public Works
Jeff Knight	Member of the Public
Jeff Knowles	City of Vacaville, Public Works
Gary Leach	City of Vallejo, Public Works
Wayne Lewis	City of Fairfield, Public Works
Paul McKay	Member of the Public
Alysa Majer	City of Suisun City, Public Works
Brian McLean	City of Vacaville, City Coach
Rod Moresco	City of Vacaville, Public Works
Melissa Morton	City of Benicia, Public Works
Tracy Nachland	County of Solano, Office of Public Health
Jared Reiziz	Member of the Public
Rochelle Sherlock	Senior Coalition
Jay Speck	Superintendent, County Office of Education
Tracee Stacy	Member of the Public
Pat Stansby	Resident, City of Fairfield
Roger Straw	County of Solano
Glen Takahara	Member of the Public
Steve Talbert	Member of the Public
Sandy Way	Member of the Public
Jeanine Wooley	City of Vallejo, Vallejo Transit
Paul Wiese	County of Solano

III. CONFIRM QUORUM/STATEMENT OF CONFLICT

A quorum was confirmed by the Clerk of the Board. There was no Statement of Conflict declared at this time.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Vice Chair Price, and a second by Board Member Batchelor, the STA Board unanimously approved the agenda with the exception to table Agenda Item IX.C, at the request of STA staff, until the next Board meeting in September.

V. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

George Gwynn, Rod Forrogiaro, and Jeff Knight came forward to address the Board on the proposed Vehicle Registration Fee Expenditure Plan:

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Daryl Halls provided an update on the following topics:

- SB 83 Vehicle Registration Fee – Public Input Meeting
- Selection of Locally Preferred Option for I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange
- California Transportation Commission Approves CMIA Savings for Interchange
- CTC Approved Allocation of Jepson Parkway Project Funds
- Solano County Transit Joint Powers Agreement
- Approval of STA's FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12 Budgets

VII. COMMENTS FROM METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (MTC), CALTRANS, AND STAFF:

A. MTC Report:

Commissioner Spring provided an update of MTC activities.

B. Caltrans Report:

None presented.

C. STA Reports:

1. Overview of Bike to Work Day on May 13, 2010 presented by Judy Leaks

2. Directors Reports:

- a. **Planning:** Robert Macaulay provided an update on SR 12 public outreach and meetings.
- b. **Projects:** Janet Adams noted that Caltrans has signed the SR 12/Church Road Project Study Report.
- c. **Transit and Rideshare:** Elizabeth Richards reported on the development of SNCI services on line as well as the 4th Annual Commute Challenge is underway.

VIII. CONSENT CALENDAR

On a motion by Board Member Patterson, and a second by Board Member Vick, the STA Board approved Consent Calendar Items A through W.

A. STA Board Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2010

Recommendation:

Approve STA Board Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2010.

B. Review Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Draft Minutes for the Meeting of June 30, 2010

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

C. Eastern Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ): SNCI Climate Initiatives Funding

Recommendation:

Approve the Solano Napa Commuter Information Program for \$445,000 from MTC's Climate Initiative ECMAQ Program.

- D. Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11 Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) 40% Program Manager Funds**
Recommendation:
Adopt Resolution No. 2010-08 approving the following projects and TFCA funding amounts for FY 2010-11:
1. A reduced amount of \$205,929 for the Solano Napa Commuter Information Program; and
 2. \$88,000 for the Solano Bikeway Extension/McGary Road Project jointly sponsored by the City of Vallejo and County of Solano.
- E. STA Grant Proposals: MTC Climate Initiatives Grant Program**
Recommendation:
Authorize the Executive Director to submit a grant application to MTC for a total request of \$500,000 to implement the STA Safe Routes to School Program as specified in Attachment A.
- F. Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 Bicycle Projects**
Recommendation:
Approve FY 2010-11 TDA Article 3 Resolution No. 2010-07.
- G. Solano Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Funding Amendment**
Recommendation:
Amend the City of Fairfield's Linear Park Alternate Route Nightingale Drive project by reprogramming \$29,000 of TDA Article 3 funds from preliminary engineering (PE) to the construction phase.
- H. Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) Member Appointment**
Recommendation:
Appoint David Pyle as City of Fairfield's representative to the STA Bicycle Advisory Committee for a three-year term.
- I. Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Member Appointment**
Recommendation:
Appoint Stephen Sikes as City of Dixon's representative to the STA Pedestrian Advisory Committee for a three-year term.
- J. I-780 Overcrossing Dedication**
Recommendation:
Support the City of Benicia nomination to dedicate the Benicia I-780 Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing in the name of "Austin Howard Gibbon."
- K. Countywide Bicycle Plan Project List Amendment: Dixon West B Street Undercrossing Project**
Recommendation:
Amend the Solano Bicycle Plan Project List to include the City of Dixon West B Street Undercrossing as shown in Attachment A.

- L Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11 & FY 2011-12 Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Programming Update**
Recommendation:
Approve the STA's SR2S Program's revised FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12 Final Workscope to reduce the Education and Encouragement activities by \$35,000 over the next two years in exchange for funding \$35,000 in SR2S planning activities.
- M Contract Amendment for Jepson Parkway Project Environmental Document and Preliminary Engineering**
Recommendation:
Authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract with PBS&J for \$75,000 for the additional work required to complete the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and preliminary engineering.
- N Contract Amendment for the Mark Thomas & Co./Nolte Joint Venture for the Gordon Waterline Relocation Project**
Recommendation:
Approve a contract amendment for MTCo/Nolte in the amount of \$235,000 for construction support services for the Gordon Water Line (Rockville Road Water Main) Relocation Project.
- O Award Construction Contract for the Mitigation Planting and Irrigation Project for the North Connector Project**
Recommendation:
Approve Resolution No. 2010-10 for the Mitigation Planting and Irrigation Project for the North Connector.
- P Approve Modification to the North Connector Phase 2 Project**
Recommendation:
Approve a modification to the North Connector Project increasing the contingency budget of \$1,157,000 to cover the increased cost of the 30" water line, for a revised contingency budget of \$2,566,212 and a revised total construction budget of \$11,960,960.
- Q Contract Amendment for Associated Right of Way Services (ARWS) for North Connector Project**
Recommendation:
Approve a contract amendment with ARWS for \$2,000 and an extended term to April 2011 to complete the Right-of-Way relocation services for the North Connector Project.
- R Contract Amendment for HDR for the I-80 Eastbound Cordelia Truck Scales Relocation Project**
Recommendation:
Approve a contract amendment for HDR in the amount of \$1,400,000, to complete the PS&E and R/W engineering for the I-80 Eastbound Cordelia Truck Scales Relocation Project.

S. Mitigation Agreements for I-80 Eastbound Truck Scales Relocation Project

Recommendation:

Authorize the Executive Director to finalize and execute separate agreements with Elsie Gridley Mitigation Bank for \$14,000 for seasonal wetland mitigation and Jenny Farms Mitigation Bank for \$95,950 for Swainson's Hawk mitigation for the I-80 Eastbound Truck Scales Relocation Project.

T. Advertise and Award Tree Removal Contracts for I-80 Eastbound Truck Scales Relocation Project

Recommendation:

Approve Resolution No. 2010-11 authorizing the Executive Director to advertise and award one or more tree removal contract(s) for the I-80 Eastbound Cordelia Truck Scales Relocation Project for a total amount not-to-exceed \$120,000 plus a 20% contingency.

U. Utility Relocation Agreements for I-80 Eastbound Truck Scales Relocation Project

Recommendation:

Approve the following:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to finalize and execute separate agreements between STA, PG&E and Solano Irrigation District (SID) as required; and
2. Approve Resolution No. 2010-12 authorizing the Executive Director to advertise and award one or more construction contracts for the SID Utility Relocations for a total amount not to exceed \$900,000 plus 20% contingency.

V. Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Matrix – July 2010

Recommendation:

Approve the FY 2010-11 TDA Matrix – July 2010 as shown in Attachment A for the County of Solano and Vallejo Transit.

W. 2010 Congestion Management Program (CMP)

Recommendation:

Adopt the revised 2010 Solano CMP as specified in Attachment A.

IX. ACTION – NON FINANCIAL ITEMS

A. Public Input for Proposed Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF) Expenditure Plan Categories

Recommendation:

Receive public comment and provide staff with direction regarding the eligible categories for VRF expenditures and options for allocation of VRF funds for each category.

Daryl Halls provided an overview of the development of an Expenditure Plan for a proposed vehicle registration fee. He stated that staff has been obtaining public input from various advisory committees and stakeholders on the options and specifics for this plan.

Bill Gray, Gray-Bowen, reviewed and addressed the STA Board on comments and input received from various advisory committees and stakeholders to the draft Expenditure Plan.

Board Comments:

Chair Sanchez asked what the comparisons were on polling results with the other counties. Bill Gray responded that Solano County came in at 50% in favor and Contra Costa was at 54% and others were at or above 60%.

Chair Sanchez asked about the past sales tax polls. Alex Evans, EMC Research, responded he did not conduct the past sales tax polls for Solano County. Chair Sanchez asked what the amount of the Vehicle Registration Fees (VRF) is in other counties. Bill Gray responded that they are all proposed at \$10.00. Chair Sanchez asked if the usage of revenues of their VRF the same as our proposed usage. Bill Gray responded that it varies; some counties are heavily focused on their local streets and roads maintenance, while others like Marin County and Contra Costa County have their main focus on Safe Routes to Schools Program, and Sonoma's emphasis is on transit.

Chair Sanchez proceeded to say how much he appreciates all the work being done, but he cited that the timing could not be worse for this VFR and suggested to wait three to four years when the economy gets better.

Board Member Patterson stated that she supports the initiative however she is concerned about two aspects that deal with flexibility. She noted that she is interested in the flexibility in the repair of roads to include the public right of way and the use of sidewalks. She also addressed her interest in the flexibility within the jurisdiction on the allocation of the funds. She added that she would like to make sure that the Safe Routes to Schools program include engineering solutions. She indicated that she wants to make sure that there is enough flexibility in the language to utilize these funds. Lastly, in terms of the Senior and Disabled, she indicated that their city has a low ridership because funding was not available to them. She stated that with this program they would be able to conduct a major outreach and get the seniors in a more comfortable position to use the service.

Daryl Halls commented that the Board provided staff with direction to prepare options to allocate the funds from the proposed fee to each of the three categories and options for flexibility within and between the categories based on local community needs. He indicated that the draft expenditure plan has some language that provides flexibility, but limits expenditures to these three categories.

Robert Macaulay explained that there were comments made by the BAC and TAC in the initial plan to include the gutter to gutter and shoulder to shoulder but not including the sidewalks with the intent to have more width on the streets to be expanded and rehabilitated.

Board Member Augustine stated that he is opposed to the proposed VFR increased plan. He stated that the City of Vacaville's polling result was at 38% in favor. He also raised concerns about the message we are sending to the state legislators when we do this. He added that with the polling results, it is clear that the city is satisfied with their streets and roads and with their estimated share, this amount is just not enough to repair the potholes.

Chairman Sanchez opened this item for public input.

The following members of the Public addressed comments to the Board:

Mark Ackerman, Fairfield resident, stated that he is opposed to the proposed VRF increased plan. He cited that he cannot afford to give a few more dollars to the government. He stated that the taxpayers are already paying for the maintenance of the streets and highways through the highway usage tax assessments, gas taxes, and sales taxes. He commented that the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) and the Senior and Disabled programs are already covered by other sources of federal and state grants.

Monica Brown, Solano County teacher, stated support for the fee and the plan and that she would campaign to be more self-help and not depend on the state and federal government.

Robin Cox, Solano County Public Health, offered a public health perspective on the benefits of Safe Routes to School and support for the SR2S program.

George Gwynn opposed the proposed VRF increased plan.

Kurt Hahn, President of Solano Taxpayer Group, addressed his opposition to STA's expanded authority proposed developer's fee and the proposed VRF increased plan.

Rod Forroggiaro commented on the impacts the proposed fee increase would have on fixed- and low-income people (senior and disabled), the people who cannot afford the tax burden.

Mike Hudson commented that the proposed fee increase is a temporary solution to a temporary problem. He cited that this is the wrong time for the measure.

Rochelle Sherlock, Senior Coalition and a resident and a bicyclist of Solano County, addressed her support in putting the proposed increased in vehicle registration fee on the November ballot. She shared her perspective on all the categories specifically for the senior population. She stated that the seniors face many challenges in the transportation system and she believes that it would be cheaper for seniors to pay an extra \$10 to allow them to be in a more livable community, have improved quality of life, and to live independently.

Les Darbison, Vacaville resident, opposed the proposed VRF increase plan and stated that it is not cost effective.

Jack Batson, City of Fairfield resident and former Councilmember, asked several questions and indicated his support for the VRF plan and need to fix local streets.

Tracee Stacy, a Vacaville resident, echoed Rochelle Sherlock's comments and stating that the \$10 vehicle registration fee increase would be the best investment to improve the quality of life in Solano County.

Additional Board Comments:

Board Member Augustine clarified a comment made by Monica Brown regarding school buses. He clarified that school buses are not a part of the Safe Routes to School element in the Expenditure Plan. He also noted that it's not a good time to put the vehicle registration fee on the ballot because of the number of other tax initiatives that are on the ballot. He stated we will lose public trust.

Board Member Vick explained that Rio Vista does not have the money to repair their roads. She stated that pavement and management inventory is the lowest in the county and is in poor condition. Streets and roads are Rio Vista's highest priority. In addition, she stated that Safe Routes to School is an issue because Highway 12 comes through the town. She proposed the option for Rio Vista to receive \$20,000, not the \$8,000. She indicated that she is conflicted, the timing is not the best, particularly for Rio Vista, because they are facing other initiatives (water and sewer), but supports the issue because of the great needs and if the public does not like it, they will not vote for it.

Board Member Batchelor stated he supports the proposal, specially the Safe Routes to School Program due to three major road crossings in Dixon which need to have protection for the school kids. He cited that the City of Dixon supplements the school district in funding for the crossing guards, but because of the fiscal situation, there is no money for that. He stated that as an elected official, he has the responsibility to provide a safe environment for everybody. He cited that we need to start taking action for ourselves and start doing things local; more local control. He added that the City of Dixon also has a high senior population who travels in and out of town for medical care. He wants to make sure that all these services are made available to Dixon residents. In closing, he stated that he would like to move forward in putting this measure on the ballot.

Vice Chair Price commented on three categories of the plan. He stated that our infrastructure will continue to deteriorate. He suggested that we pay careful attention to the proposal that is before us to be self-help. He indicated that his real concern is the senior and disabled. He stated that as our population continues to age, the county needs to provide more for the seniors. He cited that the Safe Routes to School Program is a given and we shouldn't have to debate the need for that.

Board Member Spering echoed the comments made by Board Member Batchelor and Vice Chair Price. He thanked all the speakers for addressing good points. He proceeded by providing a brief history of what State Legislators has done in the past including when they reduced vehicle licensing fees causing the state to lose 4-5 billion dollars to the cities. He noted the transfer of the sales tax on gasoline. He stated that in 2002, Governor Davis in the TDA statute created a \$6.5 billion program diverting funds and institutionalizing Prop. 42 which caused another \$1.4 billion loss to the cities and counties. Then he commented that the signing of Governor Davis in 2000 approving dramatic increases in pension benefit costs which caused another shift of billions. He asked what does all of this do, it causes us locally to fight over \$10.00. He continued by commenting on the State Legislators spending general funds on the very thing that we are trying to accomplish. He stated that the tax payer groups are right on target, but they are preaching to the wrong audience. He cited that the cities and counties are in survival mode. He concluded by stating that if the infrastructure continues to deteriorate in our

county, which it will, we will lose property value which would be a greater loss than investing on the proposed VRF fee increase of \$10.00. He concluded by addressing his support to place the measure on the ballot for the voters to decide.

At the conclusion of the Board comments, Daryl Halls cited that the next step is for the STA Board to schedule a Special Board Meeting before the August 6th to decide whether to place the measure on the ballot or not. He also stated that the other purpose of the Special Meeting is to get further direction from the Board on the Expenditure Plan if they to go forward or not.

Board Member Sperring requested that staff bring back an option of the lower rate for the Senior and Disabled only to provide the Board a clearer understanding of the different options. He stated that he would like to see more discussion on this.

Board Member Patterson cited that the Senior and Disabled polled the least and received the lowest support in Benicia. She thanked the public for addressing their issues but she asked that they give democracy a chance. She stated that there are successful local ballot measures being passed throughout the State of California. She cited that people understand that now is the time to do the investment on education and infrastructure and some public health issues that can be the responsibility on a local level. She noted that she is confident that a fair case will be made through a democratic process as we go out to the public with a majority of the vote.

Board Member Augustine stated that the issue still is the fact that the State continues to take our money and we need to send a strong signal to Sacramento that we are not happy about it.

Board Member Davis commented on the frustrations generated by the general public when it comes to increased taxes. He stated that he does not usually support higher taxes but he feels the need to do what is best for the citizens of his community and their quality of living and their ability to navigate their streets and roads and whatever else is involved. He also cited that Sacramento is out of control and that it filters down to the local level and is willing to take the ire of his constituents in doing what he thinks is in the best interest of his community. He also stated that he still doesn't know if he supports putting the measure on the ballot only because the City of Vallejo is struggling itself in putting a separate tax measure on the ballot right now and he doesn't know if he wants to be struggling with two tax measures in his community at the same time. He concluded by stating that he general feels that if you talk about transparency and the public right to participate, putting it on the ballot is the best way.

Chair Sanchez called for a 10-minute recess at 8:15 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

B. Locally Preferred Alternative for the I-80/I-680/State Route (SR) 12 Interchange Project

Janet Adams provided an overview of the locally preferred alternative for the I-80/I-680/State Route (SR) 12 Interchange Project. She noted that Caltrans is preparing to release this document for public review and comment in July or August of this year. She stated that staff is recommending the STA Board inform Caltrans that Alternative C (and Alternative C-1), which would realign I-680 with SR 12 west, as the locally preferred alternative for this project.

Public Comments:

Monica Brown noted her opposition to this alternative.

Board Comments:

Board Member Spering commented on the benefits of the project alignment with SR 12 which would reduce congestion. He noted that this project would improve air quality.

Board Member Patterson commented on the noise impacts and its tradeoffs.

Recommendation:

Authorize the Executive Director to send a letter to Caltrans to inform them STA has identified Alternative C (and Alternative C-1) as the locally preferred alternative and to include this information in the Draft EIS/EIR for public review and comment.

On a motion by Board Member Patterson, and a second by Vice Chair Price, the STA Board unanimously approved the recommendation.

C. Solano County Transit Joint Powers Agreement – Consolidation of Benicia and Vallejo Transit Services

At the request of STA staff, this item was pulled until the next meeting in September.

X. ACTION FINANCIAL ITEMS

A. STA' Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11 Budget Revision and FY 2011-12 Proposed Budget

Daryl Halls presented the proposed budget revision for FY 2010-11 and the proposed budget for FY 2011-12. He reported that the FY 2010-11 Budget Revision is balanced, with the proposed changes to the approved budget modified from \$42.66 million to \$41.14 million, a \$1.53 (3.6%) million reduction. He added that this is due to new funds and anticipated amount of funds carryover from FY 2009-10 for the continuation of projects and anticipated project delivery expenditures.

Public Comments:

None presented.

Board Comments:

None presented.

Recommendation:

Approve the following:

1. Adopt the STA's FY 2010-11 Budget Revision as shown in Attachment A; and
2. Adopt the STA's FY 2011-12 Proposed Budget as shown in Attachment B.

On a motion by Vice Chair Price, and a second by Board Batchelor, the STA Board unanimously approved the recommendation.

I. INFORMATIONAL – NO DISCUSSION

A. Regional Transportation Improvement Fee (RTIF) Update

Public Comment:

George Gwynn commented he is opposed to any more fees.

B. PM 2.5 Hotspot Analysis Follow-up

C. Legislative Update

D. Funding Opportunities Summary

E. STA Board Meeting Schedule for 2010

XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next regular meeting of the STA Board is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 8, 2010, 6:00 p.m., Suisun City Hall Council Chambers.**

Attested by:



Johanna Masielat
Clerk of the Board

Date