



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.
Yolo Transportation District Board Room
350 Industrial Way, Woodland, CA

1. Roll Call - Determination of Quorum

Chair Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Directors Present:

Josh Chapman, Chair, City of Davis
Lucas Frerichs, Yolo County
Tom Stallard, City of Woodland

Dawntè Early, Vice Chair, City of West Sacramento
Jesse Loren, City of Winters

Staff Present:

Autumn Bernstein, Executive Director
Daisy Romero, Director of Transit Operations
Greg

Kimberly Hood, Legal Counsel
Brian

2. Closed Session

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Director Stallard made a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion was seconded by Director Early. The motion was approved by a 5 Yes/0 No vote.

4. Report Back from Closed Session

Kimberly Hood reported no reportable actions taken.

5. Public Comments

Michael Barnbaum commented about service disruptions affecting SacRT services due to the Ironman California triathlon on October 27, 2024.

Alan Hirsch commented on bus service layovers, the impact of commercial property zoning changes, and concerns about residential developments near freeways without sound walls.

6. Consent Calendar

- 6a. Approve Board Minutes for Regular Meeting of September 9, 2024
- 6b. Approve Resolution 2024-21 Authorizing the Executive Director to Sign Subrecipient Agreement with SACOG for the Sacramento Region Cal-ITP Implementation Project
- 6c. Approve Board Resolution 2024-22 Authorizing the Executive Director to Program 2024-25 State of Good Repair (SGR) Funds and Reconcile Prior Year SGR Balances

Motion: Director Stallard made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, removing item 6c for further discussion. Motion was seconded by Director Loren. The motion was approved by a 5 Yes/0 No vote.

Chair Chapman acknowledged Indigenous Peoples' Day and the traditional lands of the Patwin people and thanked the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation for their support.

Chair Chapman returned to item 6c for discussion.

Executive Director Bernstein explained that, after SACOG reconciled balances, \$400,000 in state of good repair funds needed to be reprogrammed. These funds were intended for the purchase of three compressed natural gas buses.

Director Early questioned the use of future dollars for current-year projects, and Executive Director Bernstein clarified that those funds will be programmed in March of 2025, making them available for us to commit within the current fiscal year.

Motion: Director Early made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar item 6c. Motion was seconded by Director Stallard. The motion was approved by a 5 Yes/0 No vote.

Regular Calendar

7. Open Public Hearing on Planned Service Changes to Restore and Expand Express Routes in Davis, including Routes 43, 43R, 44, and 230

Director of Transit Operations Romero summarized the staff report and opened the public hearing on planned service changes to restore and expand access in the City of Davis, providing an overview of the proposed changes.

Ms. Romero reported that the proposal, which includes input from ride-a-longs and a travel survey, aims to address overcrowding and improve commute times for Davis residents.

Chair Chapman called for public comment.

Alan Hirsch suggested that board members and staff take the bus to meetings to experience the service.

Michael Barnbaum supported the proposal, emphasizing the need for additional options for commuters.

Seeing no further comments, Chair Chapman closed public comments.

Director Loren expressed support for the staff's proposal. However, they highlighted that, for the record, someone traveling from Winters to Sacramento using public transportation wouldn't benefit from this proposal because, without Route 220, they can't reach Davis.

Director Frerichs expressed enthusiasm about the effort to restore services lost during the COVID pandemic and appreciated Director Loren's comments regarding the City of Winters. They noted strong public support for restoring specific routes, as seen in public comments, written feedback, and continued outreach and future discussions.

Director Early expressed appreciation for the workshop and the discussions about restoring routes. They suggested that the district engage more with each community in the District, including conducting surveys to gather input.

Chair Chapman thanked everyone for bringing the issue forward and opening a 30-day comment period. They asked for clarification on what the outreach process will look like during this period.

Director of Transit Operations Romero outlined the outreach plan, which includes placing an ad in the newspaper, posting information on its website and social media, and riding buses to engage with riders.

Chair Chapman suggested the use of QR codes to the flyers placed on buses and bus stops. Staff confirmed that we currently use QR codes.

Director Early suggested that elected officials could help amplify outreach efforts by sharing information on social media platforms. They recommend creating a " toolkit" to make it easier for these officials to post updates.

Seeing no further comments, Chair Chapman closed the agenda item. The board plans to revisit it on November 18.

8. Receive an Update and Provide Feedback on Yolo Active Transportation Corridors (YATC) Project

Director or Planning Brian Abbanat provided an update on the YATC Project, which aims to create a network of multi-use trails connecting unincorporated communities and cities in Yolo County. The project, funded by a \$1.2 million federal RAISE grant, focuses on intra- and inter-community connections.

Mr. Abbanat acknowledged the project's progress. To raise awareness and gather input, the outreach included flyers, social media, and online tools, as well as attending local events such as food distribution and cultural celebrations.

Mr. Abbanat highlighted that Phase One outreach is complete. The team is now developing preliminary transportation corridors and draft prioritization criteria based on community feedback. The next outreach phase will begin in November, and a plan is expected by spring.

Consultant Greg Behrens outlined three main types of improvements being considered: inter-community connections, intra-community improvements, and regionally significant projects.

Mr. Behrens discussed the prioritization criteria being developed to rank the proposed projects. These criteria focus on factors like safety, access, connectivity, demand, feasibility, and community support to ensure the projects can be prioritized effectively and positioned to compete for funding.

Brian shared that the team continue developing draft recommendations. They plan to return early next year to begin designing the corridors and complete the plan by 2025.

Director Stallard appreciated the presentation and acknowledged the thoroughness and speed of the delivery. They asked if it would be possible to consider creating a Class A bikeway paralleling the railroad right-of-way between Davis and Woodland.

Mr. Behrens confirmed the team is looking at that option and noted that the area already has separated crossings of major roads and freeways, making this alignment attractive. They confirmed that this option is being considered.

Director Loren raised concerns about the Winters area, specifically related to the development near Highway 505.

Chair Chapman sought clarification on the budget for the project, confirming that it involves a \$1.2 million RAISE grant.

Mr. Abbanat noted that about half is dedicated to the planning and outreach phase, while the other half is for engineering and design.

Chair Chapman asked if there is a mechanism or criteria for evaluating projects that ensure the selected projects receive sufficient funds to complete them.

Mr. Abbanat explained that the decision to allocate the project funds would be brought back to the board for discussion. The board's preferences will determine the implementation strategy.

Chair Chapman called for public comment.

Alan Hirsch raised concerns about the project's focus and the need for a clear definition of success. Director Frerichs highlighted the need for adjustments and prioritization. They agree with the last public comment about some areas needing more focus and emphasize that prioritization is key.

Mr. Abbanat clarified that the lines on the current maps are draft proposals. Based on community and board feedback, revisions will be made to determine which routes make the most sense.

Mr. Behrens raised a minor point of clarification. They acknowledged the reasoning behind why some of the proposed routes don't pass through cities due to jurisdictional differences.

Director Early asked whether working with cities on projects that connect them is possible, even if they retain jurisdiction.

Brian noted that the boundaries of West Sacramento and Sacramento are adjacent, which might have influenced the decision to limit the project to Yolo County and not extend into Sacramento.

Director Early asked whether city staff from neighboring cities were involved in discussions about connecting local projects to more extensive county plans.

Brian emphasizes the goal is to ensure logical, effective connections between the county's and cities' infrastructure and noted that each of the cities in Yolo County has an assigned staff person who has been involved throughout the development of this draft plan.

Seeing no further comments, Chair Chapman closed the agenda item. During the 30-day comment period, the board plans to continue outreach and gather feedback, and a final plan is expected by spring 2025.

9. Approve Resolution 2024-23 Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Silicon Transportation Consultants for Tolling Advance Planning for Yolo 80 Managed Lanes Project

Mr. Abbanat explained the background, noting that the project was awarded a \$2 million grant in June 2023, and the board was informed about the need to rebid the initial contract selection process, directed at the July meeting.

Mr. Abbanat highlighted the project's scope, noting significant items completed under budget and the need for further work over the next 12 to 18 months.

Mr. Abbanat detailed the consultant selection process, including the release of the RFP, evaluation of proposals, and negotiations with Silicon Transportation Consultants, the preferred consulting team. He explained the importance of DBE participation in ensuring disadvantaged businesses have opportunities for federally funded projects.

Director Early appreciated the item being discussed as part of the agenda rather than as a consent item, emphasizing the importance of transparency.

Chair Chapman called for public comment.

Alan Hirsch expressed concern about the need for more funding for social equity aspects and residents' difficulty participating in meetings held in Sacramento.

Seeing no further comments, Chair Chapman closed public comments.

Motion: Director Frerichs made a motion to approve the item. Motion was seconded by Director Loren. The motion was approved by a 5 Yes/0 No vote.

10. Administrative Reports

A. Board Members' Verbal Reports

Director Loren announced an upcoming SACOG online meeting on October 22, 2024, at 6 p.m., to focus on unmet transportation needs.

Chair Chapman mentioned SACOG's presence at the Davis Farmer's Market on November 2 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. to address unmet transit needs, in addition to the online meeting.

B. Transdev's Verbal Report

Transdev Representative Michael Klein provided a brief update on recruitment and training for new operators, with plans to start another class on the 28th.

C. Executive Director's Verbal Report

Executive Director Bernstein reported on the monthly written report, including ridership reports for July and August, and mentioned productive meetings with city managers and the interim county administrator regarding special budget workshops planned to start in January or February 2025.

Executive Director Bernstein also noted that they had their FTA Triennial Review this month, with auditors reviewing financial and procedural aspects. While some findings were made, they were all procedural rather than financial, which is a success. Once the final report is ready, it will be presented.

Executive Director Bernstein also announced the start of a new senior planner and a finalist for the clerk of the board executive assistant position.

Chair Chapman called for public comment.

Alan Hirsch raised concerns about bus ridership figures' accuracy and suggested including error estimates in reports.

Michael Barnbaum thanked Executive Director Bernstein for the report, discussed their proposed cost-sharing agreements, and mentioned the importance of monitoring upcoming ballot measures.

Seeing no further comments, Chair Chapman closed public comments.

D. Long Range Calendar

Executive Director Bernstein outlined the long-range calendar, including discussions on express bus service changes in Davis, budget workshops, and a request for authorization for the 100% design of the Woodland Transit Center.

11. Adjournment

Seeing no further business, Chair Chapman adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Silva

Denise Silva, Board Clerk