



**Special Needs Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2010
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Orange County Transportation Authority
600 S. Main Street, Orange, CA
Conference Room 103/104**

Committee Members Present

Diana Burkhardt, <i>Braille Institute</i>	Paul Miller, <i>California State, Fullerton</i>
Patricia Estrella, <i>City of Tustin</i>	Charles Mitchell, <i>American Legion</i>
Alice Grant, <i>Community Organizations of Anaheim</i>	Judi Murray, <i>Program Director, Fairview Development Center</i>
Sue Lau, <i>Polio Survivors Plus (AARP)</i>	Ronald Salda, <i>Hall Family Homes, LLC</i>
Elizabeth Lee, <i>Alzheimer's Family Services</i>	Denise Simpson, <i>N.O.C. Community College District</i>
Pethuru Lourthu, <i>Westview Services, Inc.</i>	Bob Tiezzi, <i>Intake Coordinator, OCARC</i>
Sylvia Mann, <i>Orange County Office on Aging</i>	Bill Turner, <i>Demiurgic Living Solutions</i>
Kathryn McCullough, <i>Lake Forest City Council</i>	Mallory Vega, <i>Acacia Adult Day Services</i>
Henry Michaels, <i>California Elwyn</i>	Janis White, <i>RCOC</i>

Committee Members Absent

Penny Hinds, <i>Circle of Friends</i>	Ellen Schenk, <i>State of California Department of Rehabilitation</i>
Madeline Rae Jensen, <i>Office on Aging, Santa Ana</i>	Denise Welch, <i>South County Seniors' Services</i>
Jane Neglia, <i>Dayle McIntosh Center</i>	Gary Wisser, <i>Vocational Visions</i>
Sue Ray, <i>City of Anaheim Council Services</i>	Minaya Wright, <i>Integrity House</i>

1. Call to Order/Welcome

Vice Chair Charles Mitchell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Committee members, OCTA staff and guests introduced themselves. Vice Chair Mitchell led the pledge of allegiance. A motion was made and seconded to approve the August 24, 2010 meeting minutes as presented. Chair Mallory Vega deferred the Chair's report.

2. February 2011 Service Change

Mr. Edmund Buckley, Manager, Service Planning and Customer Advocacy, gave an overview of the February 13, 2011 Bus Service Change Program.

Mr. Buckley stated the West County Connectors (WCC) Project (which will link HOV lanes/carpool lanes with those on the SR-22/I-405/I-605) will have a significant impact on Route 60 as this route operates between Leisure World and the VA Hospital/Cal State Long Beach. The 7th Street bridge is going to be torn down and rebuilt, which is going to cause the route to operate on a detour for a minimum of one year.

He also stated there had been anticipation of significant impacts to three other routes as the Placentia Grade Separation project was to have begun in spring 2011, but has now been pushed back to the fall.

According to Mr. Buckley, additional February service changes include a couple of realignments, a few new permanent stops and new schedules with revised trip times to improve on time performance will be implemented on 18 schedules.

3. **ACCESS Driver “Exceptional Service Awards”**

Chair Vega presented ACCESS Driver Exception Service Awards to four ACCESS drivers: Laura Guzman and Robert Grimmer who work for American Logistics, and Jose Rosas and Raul Sanchez who work for Veolia.

4. **Election Results**

Andrea West, Local Government Relations Representative, provided the results of the City Selection Committee meeting held on November 13, 2010, which met to vote on the OCTA Board seats that expired and on the results on the State of California proposition initiatives.

Ms. West stated there were six seats on the OCTA Board up for selection and the City Selection Committee made the following selections:

- Tustin Mayor Jerry Amante, representing the 3rd District was re-elected for another 2-year term.
- Santa Ana Mayor Miguel Pulido, representing the 1st District was re-elected for another 2-year term.
- Fullerton Mayor Don Bankhead, representing the 4th District was elected to replace Art Brown who had termed out.
- Tom Tait, elected as the new mayor of Anaheim, replaced outgoing Mayor Curt Pringle who represented the 4th District.
- Lake Forest Mayor Peter Herzog was elected to represent the 5th District, which had been previously held by Director Richard Dixon.

Passed Propositions:

- Proposition 20
Requires the 14 member Citizens Redistricting Commission created by Proposition 11 to be responsible for redrawing the redistricting lines for the state’s congressional seats, as a result of the 2010 United States Census. Prior to Proposition 20’s passage, this would have been the responsibility of the State Legislature.
- Proposition 22
Reduces or eliminates the state’s ability to use state fuel tax revenues to pay debt service on transportation bonds, borrow or change the distribution of state fuel tax revenues, redirect redevelopment property tax revenues or temporarily shift these funds, and use vehicle license fee revenues to cover state-imposed mandate costs. Repeals any conflicting state laws enacted after October 20, 2009.

- Proposition 26 – Yes
It expands the two-thirds vote requirement by the state legislature to include specific fees and charges which are currently authorized by a majority vote. It requires that fees or charges adopted by the legislature that conflict with this measure between January 1, 2010 and November 2, 2010, to be repealed within one year unless the previously adopted fee is reaffirmed by a two-thirds vote.

Failed Propositions:

- Proposition 19 – No
Would have legalized the possession and cultivation of limited amounts of marijuana for personal use by those 21 years of age and older, and allowed various commercial related activities.
- Proposition 21 – No
It would have increased the vehicle registration fee by \$18, with revenues used to fund the state park system. A small portion of revenues would have also been used for wildlife conservation. In return, vehicles subject to the increased fee would be allowed entry into the state parks for free.
- Proposition 23 – No
It would have suspended the implementation of AB 32 until the state's unemployment rate reached 5.5 percent for four consecutive quarters. It likely would have impacted the state's cap-and-trade system, as well as implementation of renewable energy standards and low carbon fuel standards. Unlikely that it would have impacted implementation of SB 375.
- Proposition 24 – No
It would have repealed various corporate tax modifications implemented as part of the state budget agreements in 2008 and 2009. This would have included portions of the net operating loss provision, "single sales" tax factor, and sharing of tax credits.
- Proposition 27 – No
Would have repealed the Citizens Redistricting Commission and returned the authority to draw district boundaries for the State Assembly, State Budget, and Board of Equalization to the State Legislature.

Ms. West indicated Orange County was not affected on the federal level.

Chair Vega pointed out that the local elections impact the Special Needs Committee because each member is appointed by an OCTA Board member. Ms. West stated that each new Board member was to be briefed in December and said that if any of the Special Needs Committee members were appointed by directors no longer serving on the OCTA Board that they would probably want to introduce themselves to their respective new Director sometime in January.

5. Transit System Study Update

Mr. Gordon Robinson, Project Manager, Strategic Planning, gave an update on the Transit System Study. He provided a hand-out of which showed the study's schedule and key milestones.

Mr. Robinson said that approximately 20 outreach meetings had been conducted since June, a website with an online discussion board had been created and comment cards and interior bus cards would be made available in mid-December.

He also discussed some of the key items accomplished within the study, which included:

- Framework and Approach
 - Obtained input and feedback on guiding principles from the Executive and Transit committees
 - Finalizing comprehensive service evaluation of each of OCTA's 77 bus routes
 - Finalizing market assessment to identify opportunity to serve unmet transit needs
 - Working to integrate MSRP, Go Local, Project V community shuttles, SB 375 aspects for the Sustainable Communities Strategy, and OCTA Strategic Plan
 - Closely tracking financial status and forecasted budget levels
- Research and Data Collection
- Transportation Center Site Study near the Brea Mall
- ACCESS Alternative Service Evaluation and Recommendations
 - Conducted Ad-Hoc Special Needs in Transit Advisory Committee meeting on September 28 and looked at ways to manage growth of ACCESS service and ways to obtain more revenue for ACCESS service. The committee also looked at developing cost effective recommendations if OCTA has to move forward within constraints of another budget shortfall.

Mr. Robinson then turned the discussion over to Ms. Dana Wiemiller, Department Manager of Community Transportation Services, to provide an update on additional outreach efforts.

Ms. Wiemiller, indicated that preliminary analysis and results of the ACCESS portion of the Transit System Study would be released this month – ways to improve efficiencies of the service, service methodology, reduce cost, etc. Ms. Wiemiller said that individual meetings would be conducted with paratransit stakeholder agencies and various constituencies of ACCESS service to define service alternative strategies and get recommendations from the users' perspectives probably in the beginning of the next year.

Mr. Robinson said the next steps involve:

- Meet with the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting to discuss the guiding principles of the framework and approach of the Transit System Study

- Present the Transit System Study to the Orange County Business Council
- Kick off the City Involvement Program where the Transit System Study team will meet with every city in Orange County
- Meet with ACCESS community
- Return to the OCTA Board with the framework and approach of the study

6. OC Bridges

Ms. Tresa Oliveri, Senior Community Relations Specialist, External Affairs, presented an overview of the status of the OC Bridges project currently in development.

Ms. Oliveri identified the OC Bridges project as grade separations in which road traffic is separated from rail traffic. The OCTA Bridges project is building a series of underpasses and overpasses to relieve back up traffic congestion when trains have to travel along the BFSF rail corridor.

The five OC Bridges projects are:

- Placentia Avenue undercrossing
- Kraemer Boulevard undercrossing
- Orangethorpe Avenue overcrossing
- Tustin Avenue overcrossing
- Lakeview Avenue overcrossing

Ms. Oliveri said that construction was originally going to begin by spring 2011, but it is now more likely to be in summer 2011. The first two projects to begin will be the Placentia Avenue and Kraemer Avenue undercrossings. She said Placentia Avenue will have a bypass road so it would still be accessible; however Kraemer Avenue would have to be closed for 30 months. Ms. Oliveri said the anticipated schedule for Orangethorpe Avenue and Tustin Avenue is mid-2012 and Lakeview Avenue is scheduled for summer 2013.

She said for additional information regarding the OC Bridges project, individuals could visit OCTA's website as well as follow her on Twitter and find OC Bridges on facebook. If anyone was interested in having her speak at any of their organizations, they could contact her via her email or telephone number.

7. Members' Organizational Affiliations

Ms. Elizabeth Lee, Alzheimer's Family Services, provided an overview of her organization, Alzheimer's Family Services Center.

Alzheimer's Family Services Center mission is to help improve the quality of life for families challenged by Alzheimer's disease or another dementia through services tailored to meet individual needs. The organization is located in Huntington Beach and is affiliated with Hoag Neurosciences Institute. Ms. Lee indicated less than 3 percent of Alzheimer's Family Services Center's total annual budget is funded through government sources.

Some of the ways Alzheimer's Family Services Center helps families:

Caregiver Support

- Information and referral
- Care management and consultation
- Short term counseling
- Support groups

Participant Care

- Physical and occupational therapy
- Medication management
- Transportation arranged and/or provided (this where OCTA plays a role)

8. Measure M2 Project U

Ms. Wiemiller provided an update on Project U. She said that Project U is a program to meet the transportation needs of seniors and persons with disabilities.

Currently, there is funding available as follows:

- One percent of net revenues will stabilize fares and provide fare discounts for bus services and specialized ACCESS services
- One percent of net revenues will be available to continue to expand local community van service for seniors through the Senior Mobility Program
- One percent of net revenues will supplement existing countywide senior non-emergency medical transportation services

Ms. Wiemiller said they are putting together the programs guidelines for each of the programs to lay out the implementation parameters for OCTA Board approval.

9. Update Reports

Eligibility Update

Ms. Weimiller said that CARE Evaluators, the OCTA ACCESS certification contractor, moved to a new and larger location. Nothing has changed; transportation services to and from the facility have remained the same for eligibility assessments.

Office on Aging

Ms. Sylvia Mann, Orange County Office on Aging, indicated the Senior Non-emergency Medical Transportation program was at 100 percent capacity.

2011 Recruitment

Ms. Gaile Raymer, OCTA Customer Relations Specialist, announced recruitment had been completed and the OCTA Board made their selections. All current SNAC members had been reappointed. She noted that Bobby Menn decided not to return to the committee due to a career change, but that a former member, Vicki Connelly, would be returning. A new member, Gloria Reyes, with ABRAZAR would be joining the committee.

10. Public Comments

A committee member wanted to say how much he appreciated ACCESS services and how impactful its services have been on the lives of the individuals it has serviced.

Chair Vega announced the Council on Aging received a grant and put together a senior resource guide. She said to contact the Council on Aging to receive copies of the resource guide.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.