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Meeting Notice and Agenda

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council may take action on any item appearing on this agenda.

Monday, May 13, 2019

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

San Diego State University
 Calpulli Center - 4th Floor Conference Room
 5500 Campanile Drive
 San Diego, CA 92182

Staff Contact: Jack Christensen
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 jack.christensen@sandag.org

Agenda Highlights

- **Public Hearing**

Please silence all electronic devices during the meeting

Mission Statement

The 18 cities and county government are SANDAG serving as the forum for regional decision-making. SANDAG builds consensus; makes strategic plans; obtains and allocates resources; plans, engineers, and builds public transit; and provides information on a broad range of topics pertinent to the region's quality of life.

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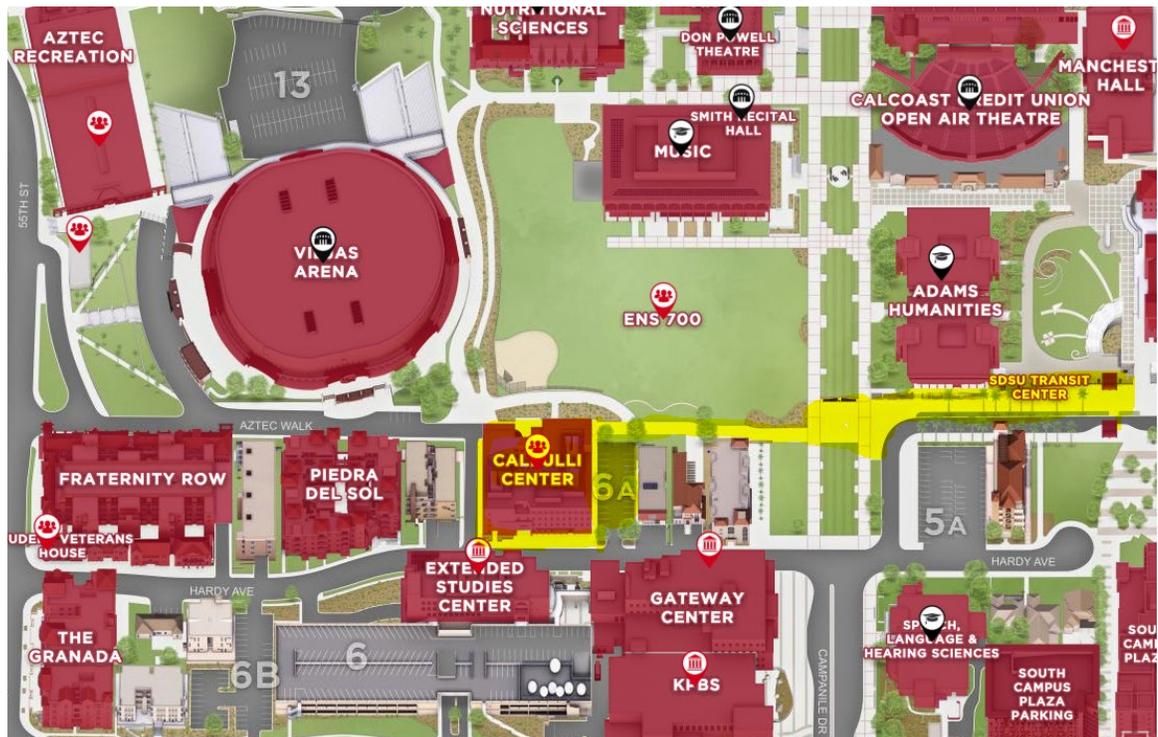
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Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Monday, May 13, 2019

Item No.		Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
+2.	Approval of Meeting Minutes The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is asked to review and approve the minutes from its March 18, 2019, meeting.	Approve
3.	Public Comments/Communications/Member Comments Members of the public shall have the opportunity to address the SSTAC on any issue within the jurisdiction of SANDAG that is not on this agenda. Anyone desiring to speak shall reserve time by completing a Request to Comment form and giving it to the meeting coordinator prior to speaking. Public speakers should notify the meeting coordinator if they have a handout for distribution to SSTAC members. Public speakers are limited to three minutes or less per person. SSTAC members also may provide information and announcements under this agenda item.	
Reports		
4.	San Diego State University's Student Ability Success Center (SASC) (Pamela J. Starr, Director of the Student Ability Success Center, San Diego State University) Pamela J. Starr will discuss the mission of SASC and how it provides accommodations for students with disabilities around campus.	Information
5.	County of San Diego Age Well Initiative County of San Diego staff will present an overview of the Age Well work effort and discuss the various goals related to making transportation options age-friendly and accessible to all. Staff will also present the Ride Well to Age Well Guide created by Age Well team members.	Information
6.	Metropolitan Transit System and North County Transit District Performance Report SANDAG staff will present a brief introduction to the Transportation Development Act productivity improvements, and the efforts of Metropolitan Transit System and North County Transit District to implement productivity improvements during FY 2019.	Information
7.	Public Hearing As required by Public Utilities Codes 99238.5, the SSTAC will hold a public hearing to solicit the input of transit dependent and transit disadvantaged persons, including the elderly, disabled, and persons of limited means, on public transportation needs in San Diego County.	Information

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| 8. | Staff Report
Staff will report on notable activity within the SANDAG Short Range Transit section. | Information |
| 9. | Transit Operator Update
Representatives from the Metropolitan Transit System and North County Transit District will provide an update on proposed service changes and any notable activity. | Information |
| 10. | Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation Update
Recent developments of the Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation Update and the Council on Access and Mobility will be presented. | Information |
| 11. | Upcoming Meetings
The next SSTAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 22, 2019, at 10 a.m. | Information |
| 12. | Adjournment | |

+ next to an item indicates an attachment



Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Item: **2**

May 13, 2019

Action Requested: **Approve**

March 18, 2019, Meeting Minutes

Chair Meagan Schmidt (Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation [FACT]) called the meeting of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) to order at 10:03 a.m. at the SANDAG offices.

1. Introductions

The attendance sheet for this meeting is included. Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director, introduced himself to the SSTAC members, outlining his vision for San Diego's transportation system.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Approve)

Action: Upon a motion by Ted Kagan (At-large Voting Member – Seat B) and a second by Wayne Landon (Special Interest Voting Member – Seat B), the SSTAC approved the minutes from its January 23, 2019, meeting. Yes: Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Jay Washburn (MTS Paratransit), Amy Kalivas (Access to Independence), Mary Birdine (At Large Voting Member – Seat A), Rebecca Steiner (At-Large Voting Member – Seat B), Mr. Kagan, Arun Prem (FACT – Seat A), Elsa Caballero (San Diego Center for the Blind), Sharon Beckas (Special Interest Voting Member – 1st Alternate), Mr. Landon, Melanie McCoy (The ARC of San Diego), Vassy Lerinska (Metropolitan Transit System [MTS] – Fixed Route), Chris Duddy (North County Transit District [NCTD] Fixed Route), Robert Gebo (NCTD Paratransit). No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Special Interest Voting Member – Seat A; Survivors of Torture, International; and International Rescue Committee.

3. Public Comments/Communications/Member Comments

Sharlene Ornelas (At-Large Member – 2nd Alternate) expressed concern that NCTD bus drivers continue to insufficiently call out bus stops, noting that during a recent 45-minute trip on Route 303, she heard only two call-outs. Ms. Ornelas and Ms. Beckas expressed the need for bus drivers to pull up closer to curbs so that ambulatory and paratransit passengers can more easily access the bus doors at curb level.

Ms. Beckas suggested that MTS revisit its message to encourage bus riders to exit through the rear doors to speed up the on-boarding process, stating that senior riders may be unsteady and have difficulty exiting from the rear door, which is typically farther from the curb than the front door is. Tamara Airhart (Special Interest Voting Member – 2nd Alternate) stated that due to unforeseen obstacles such as parked cars or large trash receptacles, bus drivers might be unable to pull-up close to curbs. However, she recommended that buses be equipped with a lower step that could be deployed at the bus door to make the distance between the bus exit and the ground less cumbersome for those with mobility difficulties.

Clytie Koehler, a member of the public, reported that a curb at Fourth Avenue and Broadway Avenue was in disrepair, making exiting the Route 235 bus hazardous at that stop. Regarding designing future bus interiors, Ms. Koehler recommended that the transit operators consider removing a few bus seats to allow space for riders with strollers, carts, or other larger belongings. Ms. Koehler also asked the transit operators to clarify their policies on paratransit transfer points between the two transit systems. Ms. Airhart reported that a taxi driver through the MTS Taxi Pilot Program was transporting a client when the taxi broke down on a freeway. According to Ms. Airhart, the taxi driver immediately notified MTS of the taxi's mechanical failures, but it took MTS over an hour to locate the taxi because the MTS system did not contain freeway addresses.

Reports

4. 2019 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting Calendar Changes (Approve)

Action: Upon a motion by Mr. Landon and a second by Ms. Beckas, the SSTAC approved changes to its meeting calendar. Yes: Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Washburn, Ms. Kalivas, Ms. Birdine, Ms. Steiner, Mr. Kagan, Mr. Prem, Ms. Caballero, Ms. Beckas, Mr. Landon, Ms. McCoy, Ms. Lerinska, Mr. Duddy, Mr. Gebo. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Special Interest Voting Member – Seat A; Survivors of Torture, International; and International Rescue Committee.

5. Uptown Bikeways: Park Boulevard Bikeway (Discussion)

Chris Romano, Associate Regional Planner, presented an overview of the Park Boulevard Bikeway Project, one of five segments planned as part of the Uptown Bikeways. The project consists of a modified protected intersection, buffered bike lanes, traffic calming measures, and improvements for people walking, such as high visibility crosswalks, curb extensions, and traffic signal enhancements. Mr. Romano sought the SSTAC's input on the project, including improvements slated for the intersection of Park Boulevard and Robinson Avenue.

Mr. Romano confirmed for Ms. Ornelas that there are not any improvements proposed for the northwest corner of Park Boulevard and Robinson Avenue since a separate project has already updated that corner to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and since there is insufficient space to include a protected intersection. Ms. Ornelas asked how a blind person would know how to navigate the bikeway and intersection. Mr. Romano stated that the project is proposed to employ detectable edges and truncated domes through the bikeway and intersection. Ms. Ornelas expressed concern that using two sets of truncated domes might be disorienting for blind pedestrians who might be confused as to whether they are crossing the bikeway or the intersection. Ms. Ornelas suggested including parkways with planter-lined edges indicating where pedestrians are not to cross and leaving an opening only for the area pedestrians can cross. Mr. Romano stated that staff would consider Ms. Ornelas' suggestion as well as other applications including above-grade rocks that would be cemented in to guide blind pedestrians. Ms. Ornelas also inquired about improvements to the intersection of Park Avenue and Upas Street to mitigate multiple conflicts between drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Mr. Romano concurred that the intersection needs improvements, stating that the intersection is slated for improvements in Phase 2. Ms. Ornelas recommended that guide strips with four thermoplastic layers be added to the crosswalks akin to what currently exists at the intersection of Park Avenue and Upas Street.

David Jackson, a member of the public, asked how the proposed design will mitigate conflicts between bicyclists and vehicles. Mr. Romano stated that the proposed design includes protected bike lanes and bike boxes so that novice and experienced bicyclists alike would feel comfortable navigating the intersection. The bike box is a rectangular-shaped box delineated by green paint ahead of a traffic lane at a signalized intersection.

Mr. Duddy expressed concern that since bicyclists waiting in the protected intersections would have their backs to vehicles, they would be unaware of the vehicular traffic behind them. Mr. Romano stated that the proposed design includes "wait here" signage for vehicles and green paint for the protected intersections to notify drivers of potential conflicts with bicyclists. By design, bicyclists could either use the protected intersection or the bike box to navigate the intersection. Mr. Romano stated that the proposed design also features leading pedestrian intervals and audible crosswalk timers. Ms. Birdine lauded the proposed design and advocated for robust education and outreach so that all users are informed of the proposed changes.

Mr. Romano concluded with a timeline of the project's progress, stating that the project's final design period is between March 2019 and Summer 2020. Construction is anticipated to take between six and eight months. Because ample coordination between stakeholders and the City of San Diego is required to mitigate the disruption caused by construction, the final project completion date has yet to be determined.

6. Senate Bill 1376 Transportation Network Companies Access for All Act (Information)

Jack Christensen, Grants Administrator, provided an overview of Senate Bill 1376: Transportation Network Companies: Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities. The overview of this pilot program included the rationale for the state legislation, the stipulations of the law, and the framework the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is developing to implement the law. Ms. Ornelas asked why the law contains an automatic repeal. Mr. Christensen speculated that the sunset provision was included so that legislators can evaluate the law's effectiveness in providing wheelchair-accessible service. Mr. Christensen noted that per the requirements of the law, CPUC will hold five public workshops throughout the state to gather public input on the best ways to implement the law. Mr. Christensen is advocating for one of the three remaining workshops to be held in San Diego.

7. Staff Report (Information)

Mr. Christensen shared a clip of a video shown to the SANDAG Board of Directors that highlighted the SANDAG Specialized Transportation Grant Program (STGP). Regarding the STGP, Audrey Porcella, Associate Regional Planner, updated the SSTAC on the Cycle 10 Call for Projects. The Board will vote on the recommended funding levels on March 22, 2019. Pending approval, Senior Mini Grant-funded projects are expected to start July 1, 2019, and Section 5310 Grant-funded projects are expected to start October 1, 2019. In her discussions with Mr. Christensen, Chair Schmidt stated that Cycle 10-funded grantees will have an opportunity to discuss their projects at future SSTAC meetings so that SSTAC members can better understand the types of services grantees provide and the overall value of the STGP.

8. Transit Operator Update

Vice Chair Washburn reported that MTS' Taxi Pilot Program has provided 36,000 trips in the past eight months, which was the goal for the program's first year. Due to the overall success of the program, MTS has decided to continue the taxi program beyond the pilot phase. Mr. Washburn stated that due to fare payment vendor issues, the implementation date of the approved fare changes has not been set but could be as early as June 2019. Once the implementation date is confirmed, ample notice will be given. Additionally, MTS and NCTD have procured a next-generation fare system to replace the Compass Card in preparation for the launch of the Mid-Coast Trolley Extension service in 2021. Mr. Washburn notified the SSTAC that he has provided their contact information so that members of the disability community can provide input early on as the transit operators and vendor design the specifications of the new system.

Ms. Lerinska announced that the South Bay *Rapid* bus service between Otay Mesa and Downtown San Diego is fully operational with dedicated lanes west of Heritage Road. Construction of dedicated lanes east of Heritage Road is expected to be completed in June 2019. Ms. Lerinska informed the SSTAC that MTS has seen ridership increase on the Trolley, though decrease on MTS bus. However, bus routes with increased frequencies through the MTS Transit Optimization Plan have seen increased ridership.

Mr. Duddy notified the SSTAC that NCTD's schedule change will occur on April 7, 2019, though there are no changes to the COASTER and only minor schedule adjustments for the BREEZE. Mr. Duddy noted that all Amtrak routes are Rail-to-Rail for monthly and day pass holders, meaning these pass holders can use the Amtrak service in addition to NCTD's services. Once the new fare changes are implemented, Senior/Disabled/Medicare riders will be able to buy a day pass, which qualifies them to ride Amtrak in the NCTD service area. Mr. Duddy stated that NCTD expects to remove certain NCTD bus stops on April 21, 2019, and welcomes continued feedback from the SSTAC on those bus stop removals. In response to Ms. Beckas' comment on where to view the list of the proposed bus stop removals, Mr. Duddy stated he would check on that issue and ensure the list is available on NCTD's website.

Mr. Gebo reported that NCTD is working to better integrate paratransit and fixed-route scheduling. Regarding NCTD's interactive voice recognition system and web system for booking paratransit trips, Mr. Gebo stated that those systems are fully operational. Mr. Gebo noted that both NCTD's certification module and NCTD's EZ Wallet cashless fare payment system are currently being tested. Mr. Gebo assured SSTAC that NCTD will communicate any roll-outs of those programs well in advance to riders and members of the public. Mr. Gebo also announced that NCTD's Eligibility Center is fully operational and NCTD aims to have 100% in-person assessments by October 2019.

9. Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation Update

Chair Schmidt announced that FACT added Top State Transportation, a new provider, to its brokerage. Top State Transportation covers ambulatory trips throughout San Diego County. Additionally, FACT will participate in the City of San Marcos' Resource Fair on March 27, 2019, from 9 to 11 a.m. to promote the City of San Marcos' Catch a Ride Program. Chair Schmidt also announced that FACT's board retreat will be on April 18, 2019. FACT's newest board member, Kellie Hinze, is a councilmember of the City of Encinitas. FACT has scheduled its 2019 annual meeting for December 17, 2019, at the Braille Institute. Chair Schmidt informed the SSTAC that FACT will be presenting on two panels at the 2019 CalACT Conference on April 23, 2019 through April 25, 2019, at the Loews Coronado Hotel. The next Council on Access and Mobility meeting is tentatively scheduled for early to mid-May with details to be determined.

10. Upcoming Meetings and Adjournment

The next SSTAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2019, at 10 a.m. at San Diego State University's Student Ability Success Center. Chair Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Confirmed Attendance at SANDAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting

March 18, 2019

Jurisdiction/Organization	Name	Attended	Comments
Access to Independence	Amy Kalivas	Yes	
At-Large Voting Member (Seat A)	Mary Birdine	Yes	
At-Large Voting Member (Seat B)	Rebecca Steiner	Yes	
At-Large Voting Member (Seat C)	Ted Kagan	Yes	
At-Large Voting Member (Seats A through C) Alternates	Linda Haddock, 1st Alternate	No	
	Sharlene Ornelas, 2nd Alternate	Yes	
	Kathleen Baldwin, 3rd Alternate	No	
Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation (Seat A)	Arun Prem	Yes	
Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation (Seat B)	Meagan Schmidt	Yes	Chair
International Rescue Committee	Gayle Obrecht	No	
Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Fixed Route	Vassy Lerinska	Yes	
MTS Paratransit	Jay Washburn	Yes	Vice Chair
North County Transit District (NCTD) Fixed Route	Chris Duddy	Yes	
NCTD Paratransit	Robert Gebo	Yes	
San Diego Center for the Blind	Elsa Caballero	Yes	
	Sharon Beckas, Alternate	Yes	
	Wayne Landon	Yes	
Special Interest Voting Member (Seat B)	Tamara Airhart, Alternate	Yes	
	Alicia DeLeon-Torres	No	
Survivors of Torture, International	Alicia DeLeon-Torres	No	
The ARC of San Diego	Melanie McCoy	Yes	

Other Attendees

Arturo Ayala

Clive Richard

Clytie Koehler

David Jackson

Kacie Rodril

Mark McCumsey

Noela Rios

Tom Riis

SANDAG Staff

Audrey Porcella

Brian Lane

Chris Romano

Hasan Ikhata

Jack Christensen

Lisa Madsen

Zachary Rivera