

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(April 4, 2013)

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session at the WETA offices at Pier 9, Suite 111, San Francisco, CA.

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Anthony Intintoli chaired and called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Directors present were and Director Gerald Bellows and Director Timothy Donovan. Vice Chair Intintoli led the pledge of allegiance.

2. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

No report.

3. REPORT OF DIRECTORS

No report.

4. REPORTS OF STAFF

Executive Director Rannells referred the Board to her written monthly report. Ms. Rannells then drew the Board's attention to a written State Legislative Report from WETA representative Barry Broad of Broad & Gusman, LLP which reviewed recent amendments to Assembly Bill 935.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Bellows made a motion to approve the consent calendar which included the minutes from the March 14, 2013 Board of Directors meeting and an overview of the FY 2012/13 financial audit scope and process. Director Donovan seconded the motion and the consent calendar carried unanimously.

6. APPROVE SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

Manager of Planning and Development Kevin Connolly presented this item requesting Board approval of modifications to the South San Francisco ferry service for a 12-month demonstration period which would add an additional evening trip returning to the East Bay as well as a midday trip from South San Francisco to San Francisco on Wednesdays and Fridays with a \$7.00 regular one-way fare.

Mr. Connolly reminded the Board that this item followed an informational overview on the South San Francisco presentation at the previous Board meeting and that these recommendations had been developed with a focus on increasing ridership. He added that the recommended improvements had been informed by surveys of the existing riders as well as the general travel market in the area and noted that a significant part of the 12 month demonstration would focus on marketing and outreach to employers and potential riders.

Director Donovan asked if additional changes could be made after the demonstration project was implemented. He also asked how the need for added service to San Francisco had been determined.

Mr. Connolly replied that there would be flexibility, noting that it would also be important not to rush to conclusions on the demonstration's success and that staff would keep tabs on progress. Manager of Public Information and marketing Ernest Sanchez responded regarding the added mid-day service to San Francisco, noting that these trips would take advantage of an existing deadhead run on Wednesdays and Fridays that had historically been the most popular days for school groups and seniors on the Alameda/Oakland service. He further indicated that the schedule would allow return trips to South San Francisco on Wednesdays by 2:45 p.m.

Public Comment

The Hon. Pedro Gonzales, Mayor of South San Francisco, member of the WETA Community Advisory Committee and co-chair of the Water Transit Advocates of San Mateo County, noted a Water Transit Advocates meeting to follow the next day with Mr. Sanchez to discuss the program and that while the Advocates supported the enhancements they would be providing additional comments on the schedule specifics. Mayor Gonzales suggested that Saturday service to San Francisco would be desirable.

Mr. Sanchez responded, noting that the added Wednesday and Friday San Francisco trips would turn deadhead hours into revenue hours but that a Saturday service would come at significant operational expense. Mr. Sanchez noted that this could be revisited in the future but that it is not a part of the staff proposal at this time.

Vice Chair Intintoli recalled challenges with the Vallejo ferry service 25 years earlier, noting that now was the time to invest the effort in making the service successful. He pointed out that South San Francisco ridership was already at over half of the ridership projections and that WETA had three years to meet MTC's farebox recovery requirements for the service. He suggested that existing South San Francisco ferry riders were WETA's allies in promotion of the service and that they should be utilized.

Director Bellows asked why the added service to San Francisco was only on Wednesday and Friday if there was a deadhead run every day. Ms. Rannells replied that the success of the added Wednesday/Friday service would be monitored and that expanding to other days was possible if ridership looked promising.

Director Bellows made a motion to approve the item. Director Donovan seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

**7. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION ON SAN FRANCISCO WATERFRONT
TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT STUDY**

Peter Albert the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development delivered an informational presentation to the Board on the current state of the Waterfront Transportation Assessment, which included overviews of projects such as the Golden State Warriors Arena at Piers 30/32, the Mission Rock development by the San Francisco Giants, and Pier 70. He noted that the goal of the Waterfront Transportation Assessment was to provide a strategic analysis of land use and transportation projects over the next 25 years.

Ms. Rannells asked if there was any talk of a parking fee at facilities surrounding the development which would support transit operations. Mr. Albert responded that it had not yet been determined but that it was being addressed as part of the conversation with private operators of the parking facilities. He added that a concern had been expressed regarding parking for Giants games and that any additional fees might keep people home.

Public Comment

Veronica Sanchez of Masters, Mates & Pilots said that MMP along with the IBU had been actively advocating for a ferry terminal at Piers 30/32 and that it was a tremendous opportunity should the Warriors project move forward.

8. DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO FERRY TERMINAL EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE

Senior Planner Michael Gougherty presented this informational item regarding the Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal Expansion project to expand and improve facilities at the existing ferry terminal in downtown San Francisco. He noted that the project would include construction of up to three new ferry gates, landside pedestrian circulation improvements, installation of amenities such as weather-protected areas for queuing, and covering of the current lagoon area south of the Ferry Building for future use as a staging area for evacuees in the event of a major emergency.

Public Comment

Ms. Sanchez asked if plans for the berthing facility for Treasure Island service had changed, stating that she had previously understood that it would need to be much larger to accommodate the high-capacity Treasure Island vessels.

Mr. Gougherty replied that WETA had made preliminary assumptions as to which services would operate out of which gates but that it would not fully commit to those assumptions until it became clear which services would come online at what time. Mr. Gougherty then added that the Treasure Island developers were no longer considering the previously planned 800 capacity, bow-loading boats and that the berthing for Treasure Island would likely be in line with the other WETA facilities.

Public Comment

Mr. Albert added that if funding gaps existed at the end of WETA's environmental process in April 2014, his office may be able to act as a conduit to access additional developer funding to study low-cost fixes in the area of \$1 to \$2 million.

Mr. Gougherty made a copy of the final concept design available to the Board, adding that it would also be posted online and available to the public at www.watertransit.org.

9. AUTHORIZE THE RELEASE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PHASE 0 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE NORTH BAY MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS FACILITY

Planner/Analyst Chad Mason presented this item requesting Board authorization to release a Requests for Proposals for the Phase 0 construction contract for the North Bay Maintenance and Operations Facility. He noted that this was the first of three construction phases for the facility.

Director Bellows noted that Packages 1 and 2 were design/build and asked if WETA already had an idea of what the design would be.

Mr. Mason replied affirmatively, adding that that WETA was approaching the project in a different way than the City of Vallejo had, with above-ground fuel tanks and other measures intended to reduce the risk of encountering contamination issues.

Ms. Rannells added that the City had been working on the project for a number of years and that the design work for the project could readily be modified at this point if better ideas were proposed during the RFP process.

Director Bellows made a motion to approve the item. Director Donovan seconded the motion and the item carried unanimously.

10. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION AND REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chair Intintoli called the meeting into closed session at 1:25 p.m. Upon reopening of the meeting at 2:05 p.m. he reported that no action had been taken.

11. ADJOURNMENT

All business having concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board Secretary
