

REDDING AREA BUS AUTHORITY
 Regular Meeting
 City Council Chambers
 777 Cypress Avenue
 Redding CA 96001
 December 17, 2007 5:15 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Chair Connick with the following Board Members present: Dickerson, Jones, Kehoe, Lindsay, Murray, and Stegall. Board Member Bosetti was absent.

Also present were City Manager Starman, Assistant City Manager/Police Chief Moty, City Attorney Duvernay, Transportation and Engineering Director Tippin, Municipal Utilities Manager Duryee, Transportation Planner Hanson, City Clerk Strohmayer, and Executive Assistant Stockwell.

Board Members welcomed newly-appointed City of Shasta Lake member Rod Lindsay to the RABA Board.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE REDDING AREA BUS AUTHORITY (RABA)

(R-010)

It is recommended that the Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA) Board reorganize by selecting a new Chair and Vice Chair in accordance with RABA policy No. 121.

MOTION: Made by Board Member Kehoe, seconded by Board Member Murray, appointing Board Member Stegall as Chair and Board Member Jones as Vice Chair of the Redding Area Bus Authority. The Vote: Unanimous Ayes

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - Chair Connick reported that she received a letter from People of Progress' (POP) Executive Director Melinda Brown, requesting an increased allotment of 1,500 monthly RABA one-ride passes for distribution to their clients and 17 other agencies. Transportation and Engineering Director Tippin said staff would review the letter and provide a cost analysis for the Board's consideration at the next meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following matters were considered inclusively under the Consent Calendar:

Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting of October 15, 2007

Approval of Cash Report, Accounts Payable Register and Staff Authorized Expenditures for October 2007

R-010-250-025 & R-010-250-350)

It is recommended that the October 2007 Cash Report, including RABA investments totaling \$1,831,027.22, and Accounts Payable Register No. 4, check numbers 111590 through 111607 inclusive, in the amount of \$499,541.91 be approved.

Approval of Cash Report, Accounts Payable Register and Staff Authorized Expenditures for November 2007

R-010-250-025 & R-010-250-350)

It is recommended that the November 2007 Cash Report, including RABA investments totaling \$1,904,358.35, and Accounts Payable Register No. 5, check numbers 111608 through 111617 inclusive, in the amount of \$415,189.46 be approved.

First Quarter Financial Performance Indicators

(R-010-090)

It is recommended that the 1st Quarter Financial Performance Indicators for fiscal year 2007-2008 be accepted. The total farebox ratio was 17.04%, an improvement over 2006-07 farebox ratio of 16.51%, but less than the 19% required by the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for fiscal year 2006-07.

System Report for September 2007

R-010-800)

It is recommended that the System Report for September 2007 be accepted. Fixed Route ridership totaled 52,342, showing a decrease in fixed ridership of 11% over last month and 3,949 less riders than last year. Demand response ridership totaled 6,095, with a paid ridership of 5,676, showing

a 15% decrease over August 2007 and an increase of 4% over last year. Express Route ridership was as follows: Burney Express Contract - 372 riders.

System Report for October 2007

R-010-800)

It is recommended that the System Report for October 2007 be accepted. Fixed Route ridership totaled 57,369, showing an increase in fixed ridership of 10% over last month and a decrease of 653 over last year. Demand response ridership totaled 7,234, with a paid ridership of 6,821, showing a 19% increase over September 2007 and 10% over last year. Express Route ridership was as follows: Burney Express Contract - 441 riders.

Authorization to Solicit Proposals for the Provision of Transit Services

(R-010-075)

It is recommended that a request to solicit proposals for provision of transit services be authorized for circulation in January 2008, and presented to the Board for consideration of service provider selection in March or April 2008.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report - Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2007 and 2006

(R-010-250-225)

It is recommended that the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, be accepted as presented.

MOTION: Made by Board Member Jones, seconded by Board Member Cornnick, that all the foregoing items on the Consent Calendar be approved and adopted as recommended.

The Vote:

AYES:	Board Members:	Cornnick, Dickerson, Jones, Kehoe, Murray, and Stegall
NOES:	Board Members:	None
ABSTAIN:	Board Members:	Lindsay
ABSENT:	Board Members:	Bosetti

SHORT-RANGE TRANSIT PLAN - Alternatives A and A-1

(R-010/R-010-225/R-010-350)

Transportation and Engineering Director Tippin recalled that at the public hearing held October 15, 2007, staff presented Alternative B of the Short-Range Transit Plan (STRP) prepared by Moore & Associates for consideration. He said that the Board declined approval of Alternative B at that time, in large part, because the Dial-a-Ride services proposed for Anderson and the City of Shasta Lake were not favored. Mr. Tippin said Alternative C also contained a Dial-a-Ride component, so staff concentrated on developing information for Alternative A.

Mr. Tippin presented Alternative A of the SRTP for the Board's consideration as well as a modified version of Alternative A (Alternative A-1) to address recent comments received from the public and the Board.

Mr. Tippin outlined the main components of Alternatives A and A-1:

- 1) Alternatives A and A-1 would utilize both Fixed Route and Demand Response services in RABA's service area. Fixed Route alignments would be modified to focus service on the most productive route segments. Under Alternative A-1, Route 8 would be eliminated and Route 7, which provides service to Shasta College, would be enhanced by an additional four to six hours a day during the week to provide 30-minute headways. In addition, Alternative A-1 would leave the service in the City of Anderson as it exists today.
- 2) Implement a targeted marketing effort to support the revised services and allocate 5% of RABA's operations budget for 2007-08, but not less than 3% every year thereafter.
- 3) Increase capital investment to replace or purchase vehicles for both the Fixed Route and Demand Response services and to expand the transit maintenance center.
- 4) Amend the current Demand Response patron certification process. Require a functional assessment to determine the extent of a mobility impairment and the potential to utilize Fixed Route service.

Mr. Tippin explained that Alternative A-1 is Moore's Alternative A with three specific deviations as follows: 1) Route modifications in Anderson approved by the Board in September 2007 for a 6-month trial period would remain in place, 2) City of Shasta Lake east- and west-side routes would be modified to one bus with a circular route that would move clockwise one hour and counter-clockwise the next hour, and 3) Assuming the Shasta Lake route was modified to one bus only, route 7 would be modified to allow for an extra bus at 30-minute headways in the mornings and evenings, Monday through Friday, thus providing better access to Shasta College and the commercial center around Masonic Avenue.

Mr. Tippin said that staff has met with representatives of the cities of Anderson and Shasta Lake regarding these alternatives, and while there was no definitive discussion of either scenario, there was consensus to merit proceeding with the development of additional information for further consideration.

Mr. Tippin recommended that the Board direct staff to prepare additional analyses and conduct additional public meetings on Alternatives A and A-1 for the January 2008 meeting, at which time the Board may consider setting a public hearing on one of the SRTP alternatives.

Board Member Cornick expressed support for Alternative A-1, citing an overall reduction in rider complaints with the exception of individuals residing in two mobile home parks near the Anderson River Park who complained that the closest service is about a mile away, near Stingy Lane.

Board Member Jones favored Alternative A as opposed to A-1, but was willing to move forward on either.

John Mathena, former Redding Mayor, said that for RABA to succeed, the timeliness of bus routes has to improve with additional connections to allow riders to change buses more easily, and with more routes starting outside the City of Redding's downtown hub. He urged RABA to explore the untapped ridership of the workforce.

Board Members Murray and Stegall supported Mr. Mathena's suggestion of starting routes outside the central downtown hub to provide transportation for working people so long as it facilitates moving toward a 19% farebox ratio.

Dola Baker, City of Shasta Lake resident, believed that this evening's meeting was insufficiently advertised and recommended that a public meeting be scheduled during the day on Saturday. Ms. Baker stressed that 45-minute headways cause confusion for riders and that bus driver's suggestions for route modifications should be sought. She made several suggestions with regard to route reconfiguration and also opined that the Dial-A-Ride system is a disservice to the City of Shasta Lake City, and Anderson-fixed routes are necessary for these two communities.

Both Board Members Cornick and Stegall concurred that conducting future public meetings on Saturdays would be a good idea and asked staff to consider that suggestion. Board Member Murray also suggested providing free bus service so more people could attend the public meetings.

MOTION: Made by Board Member Dickerson, seconded by Board Member Murray directing staff to prepare further analyses, conduct additional public meetings, and present a more definitive budget scenario on Alternatives A and A-1 for the January 2008 meeting.

The Vote:

AYES: Board Members: Cornick, Dickerson, Jones, Kehoe, Lindsay, Murray, and Stegall

NOES: Board Members: None

ABSTAIN: Board Members: None

ABSENT: Board Members: Bosetti

MAINTENANCE FACILITY EXPANSION - Proposition 1B Funds (R-010-475)

Transportation and Engineering Director Tippin explained that expansion of the RABA Maintenance Facility is necessary to optimize operations, pointing to the lack of a sufficient number of maintenance bays, a restricted service vehicle parking area, and a less-than-optimal vehicle sequencing. He added that subsequent performance and financial audits have highlighted this expansion as a way to increase operating efficiencies and reduce associated operating costs. Mr. Tippin recalled that in 2003, the Board approved acquisition of the parcel adjacent to the facility (the former El Rancho Motel) noting that funding for the project in the amount of \$1,500,000 was

obligated in fiscal year 2004-05 from a Federal Section 5307 grant, (\$300,000 in local matching funds), and the Board then authorized staff to begin design and preparation of construction drawings and bid documents, which have been completed.

Mr. Tippin explained that expansion plans include addition of three maintenance bays, increased employee and RABA vehicle parking areas, and completion of the vacuum portion or the vehicle cleaning station. He said that recent increases in construction and material have caused the estimated project cost to escalate to \$2,805,600 with approximately \$150,000 already expended on the design efforts to date.

Mr. Tippin said that with passage of State Proposition 1B in 2007, \$1.5 million in transit funds are available for application with a deadline of December 28, 2007. If the award is successful, the funds would provide the balance of necessary funding to move forward with the expansion project and construction could begin in late spring or early summer 2008.

Mr. Tippin recommended that the Board authorize the submission of an application for Proposition 1B funds for construction of the maintenance facility expansion located at 3333 South Market Street.

MOTION: Made by Board Member Kehoe, seconded by Board Member Jones authorizing submission of an application for State of California Proposition 1B funds in the amount of \$1.5 million for construction of the RABA maintenance facility expansion located at 3333 South Market Street.

The Vote:

AYES: Board Members: Comnick, Dickerson, Jones, Kehoe, Lindsay, Murray, and Stegall

NOES: Board Members: None

ABSTAIN: Board Members: None

ABSENT: Board Members: Bosetti

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at the hour of 5:59 p.m., Chair Stegall declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

Chair Stegall

ATTEST:

Connie Strohmayer, City Clerk