

# SAN MARCOS TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2017 – 9:30 a.m.

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### Committee Members Present

Carina Pinales  
Steven Herrera  
Joseph Ptak  
Charles O'Neil  
Sara Lee Underwood-Myers

### CARTS Staff & City of San Marcos Present

Dana Platt, Community Services Director  
Lyle Nelson, Chief of Staff  
Oscar Hairell, City of San Marcos Liaison  
Pete Binion, City of San Marcos Liaison  
Donna Aaron, Committee Secretary

#### I. Roll Call

The meeting came to order at 9:32 a.m. with roll call.

#### II. Public Comment Period

No public comments were offered.

#### III. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Charles to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2017 meeting with a correction to the spelling of Joe's name under agenda item VI, paragraph two. The motion was seconded by Steve. The motion carried with all in favor.

#### IV. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Joe expressed his desire to serve as Chair to the Committee another term and was nominated as such by Charles. Steve seconded the nomination and it carried with all in favor. Charles was nominated to a second term as Vice-Chair by Steve which was seconded by Joe. His nomination carried with all in favor.

#### V. Staff Updates

##### A. Ridership Report

The Ridership Reports for April and May were presented by Lyle who pointed out the significant rise in the month of May. The rise was attributed to marketing campaigns and Dana shared the current marketing campaign underway which offers free rides through the summer months of June, July and August from the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. She stated that the purpose of the campaign is to service the City's Summer In The Park events and, in addition, targets low ridership hours.

##### B. On-Time Performance

The On-Time Performance Reports for April and May were also presented by Lyle who noted that the percentages were holding at just above 95% in spite of the continued problems with trains and traffic.

VI. Report on Goals Accomplished

Lyle stated that he had presented the Transit Advisory Committee's suggestion to develop a report on goals accomplished to the CARTS Board but that the Board expressed their desire to first observe the format that will be utilized in order to ensure that the fiscal year report that is presented to the City of San Marcos will take priority. He further reported that he has visited with Oscar in regards to developing a report jointly, outside of the City Council, to ensure that appropriate governing bodies will have the reports they need and a report on goals accomplished for the purposes of the Committee will be built from that. Joe asked for an estimation of a completion date and Lyle replied that it would likely not be until the end of the upcoming fiscal year after budgets have been developed. He added that he would try to have something official ready for the August Transit Advisory Committee meeting.

VII. Waco Transit System

Sara Lee opened discussion by presenting information gathered from her trip to Waco on the Waco transit system as an example of system services that could be emulated in San Marcos. The data presented included ridership reports, daily cost reports and a map of Waco's downtown trolley service. Discussion followed regarding the feasibility of a downtown trolley service in San Marcos. Lyle stated that suggestions for a downtown shuttle came out of a previous public comment process so the possibility has been discussed and that the possible implementation of such was in a long range plan set for the fourth year of operation. Further discussion included the pros and cons of various types of vehicles and fuels that would be most beneficial for the service as well as weight restrictions on downtown streets.

A motion was made by Charles to add as an agenda item the continuation of the conversation for downtown shuttle service with the City and the Downtown Association included at the next scheduled Transit Advisory Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Sara Lee and passed with all in favor.

VIII. San Marcos City Council 214 Sub-Committee

Joe passed around maps showing a variety of options for the planned Transit Plaza on Hutchison St. Charles asked for an explanation of the 214 Sub-Committee and Joe explained that conversation has been underway for the last six to eight months in regards to making use of the vacant lot on Hutchison St. as a transit hub and that the City Council has formed a Sub-Committee to further the planning of it. He gave a list of persons and entities involved with the Sub-Committee and stated that one of the members, Kevin Burke, had requested representation of the Transit Advisory Committee at the next planned meeting. Lyle stated that it is outside of the purview of the Transit Advisory Committee members to represent CARTS to the City Council and asked that Joe decline the invitation to become involved in the planning. He added that there is work being done and open conversations between CARTS and the City that could come into conflict with his involvement. Oscar added that the transit element to the project requires consideration of a variety of issues such as safety, accessibility and maneuverability.

Joe continued to state that the Sub-Committee had put together a wish list for discussion at their next meeting and suggested that the Transit Advisory Committee offer shelters from CARTS as added amenities to the site. Oscar replied that the City was working in partnership with CARTS and following proper channels of communication through the CARTS Board and City Council in regards to route realignment and amenity placements. He reaffirmed Lyle's concern that the Transit Advisory Committee member's involvement could create conflict.

IX. New Business

Under New Business Carina asked about the possible coordination between CARTS and the Village Main social services at Reimer and Hunter Rd. to provide fixed route access to the site.

Sara Lee asked about the procedure for requesting a stop addition and stated that a couple living in the El Camino Real subdivision on Redwood Road had presented a request to her for a stop at the Valero station. Lyle directed her to [info@ridecarts.com](mailto:info@ridecarts.com) as the avenue for requesting stops.

In addition conversation included grant opportunities, the accessibility of the library stop due to the ditch and a request from Sara Lee for an agenda item at the next meeting to discuss an addition of staff to fuel and wash buses. Lyle stated that plans were already in place to hire a hostler and it would not be necessary to add the discussion to the agenda.

X. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made by Charles. It was seconded by Carina and the meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m. with all in favor.