

MINUTES FOR THE HUMBOLDT TRANSIT AUTHORITY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 1, 2023

PRESENT

Board Members

Natalie, Arroyo, County of Humboldt

Steve Ladwig, City of Trinidad

Mike Wilson, County of Humboldt

Tami Trent, City of Fortuna

Julie Woodall, City of Rio Dell

Alex Stillman, City of Arcata

ABSENT

Leslie Castellano, City of Eureka

Staff

Greg Pratt, General Manager

Consuelo Espinosa, Transit Planner

Katie Collender, Finance Manager

Carolann Aggeler, Administration and Finance Assistant

Andi Evans, Bookkeeper

Jim Wilson, Director of Maintenance

Jerome Qiriazzi, Transit Planner (Part Time)

Brian Connors, Operations Manager

Sherry Dunlap, Safety & ADA Coordinator

Also, in attendance was Nancy Diamond; HTA Legal Counsel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ladwig called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

ROLL CALL & Introductions

Introductions were made.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the beginning of the year, new officers are elected to the following positions:

Chair, Vice-Chair, and Finance & Operations Committee.

The HTA Chair also serves on the Policy Advisory Committee for HCAOG.

Chair: Councilmember Arroyo, Vice-Chair: Councilmember Ladwig

Finance & Operations Committee: Ladwig, Wilson, and Trent

Motion by Councilmember Stillman, second by Supervisor Wilson for Councilmember Arroyo as HTA Chair and Councilmember Ladwig for HTA Vice-Chair. Members of the Finance & Operations Committee will be:

Councilmember Ladwig, Supervisor Wilson and Councilmember Trent.

Motion carries unanimously.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS COMMUNICATION

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

By motion, recommended the approval of the following items considered to be routine and enacted in one motion. Items may be removed from the Consent Calendar upon request and will be heard separately.

Motion by Councilmember Stillman, second by Supervisor Wilson to approve the Consent Calendar.

Motion carries unanimously.

A. Consent Calendar

By motion, recommend the approval of the following items considered to be routine and enacted in one motion. Items may be removed from the consent calendar upon request and will be heard separately.

1. Minutes from November 2, 2012, December 7, 2022, Regular Board Meetings, and the December 19, 2022, Special Meeting.

Action Recommended: Approve Minutes

2. Remote Teleconference Meetings

Resolution to Implement Teleconferencing Requirements During a Proclaimed State of Emergency Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361

Action Recommended: Approve Resolution 23-01 Implementing Teleconferencing Requirements During a Proclaimed State of Emergency

Items removed from the Consent Calendar

None

REPORTS

1. Draft November statistics and financial statements for all systems operated by HTA

Finance Manager Katie Collender presented HTA's Comparative Performance Activity Reports and reported that the farebox ratio for all systems is looking good. The finance manager also added that the Dial-a-Ride system was not meeting farebox however, that system reporting was exempt for this year. Additionally, she commended her staff, Carolann Aggeller, HTA's Administrative Assistant, and Andi Evans, Bookkeeper for a great job in taking the lead in upgrading HTA's payroll system.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution to Approve Required Engineering and the Purchase of up to 11 Hydrogen Fuel Cell Buses

General Manager Greg Pratt reported that in July of 2022 HTA was awarded a grant from the California Transportation Agency's Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCIP), for the purchase of eleven (11) New Flyer fuel cell electric buses, a hydrogen fueling station at HTA's facility, bus service to Ukiah, and an intermodal transit center in downtown Eureka.

The General Manager also reported that Staff and the Schatz Energy Research Center evaluated, and road tested two HFCB's and found that New Flyer performed well in a rural setting and added that the team had several meetings with New Flyer engineers with concerns about the majority of our routes are over 300 miles. Additionally, for the bus order, the New Flyer team agreed to engineer the buses to add additional fuel tanks to extend the range to 400 miles. Board members and staff also discussed safety issue incidents that could trace back to the re-design of additional fuel tank storage to extend the range, and that HTA have modified protection in place should the re-design not function as intended.

Motion by Councilmember Stillman, second by Supervisor Wilson to Adopt Resolution 23-02 Approving the Piggyback Purchase from New Flyer of America, Inc. of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Buses, and a Soul Source Agreement to Engineer Extended Range Capacity Bus Modification, with amendment to review the existing

contract language to include modified protection in place should the re-design of the additional fuel tank storage not function as intended, at the March Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Stillman inquired about chartering a Dial-a-Ride bus and seating capacity.

Councilmember Arroyo gave board an update about the Weott Tribe expressing interest in bus service from Table Bluff to the closest bus stop. Supervisor Wilson suggested that the option of zip cars may provide people the ability to move and added that the Weott Tribe has limited resources. Councilmember Arroyo made mention that the possibility of allowing on demand service may be an option however, that meeting farebox is key. Councilmember Arroyo also added the possibilities of building a partnership opportunity with the Weott Tribe, that hasn't been explored. General Manager Greg Pratt, and Councilmember Arroyo will be meeting with the Weott Tribe and will report the outcome at the next meeting.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

General Manager Greg Pratt shared that Jim Wilson, HTA's Director of Maintenance attended a workshop at Sunline Transit Agency for hydrogen buses, as well as explored what other agencies are currently doing. Sunline Transit Agency has a mixed fleet and runs a 900-kilogram hydrogen plant. Several other agencies were also present from the North coast.

The Director of Maintenance Jim Wilson gave board an update that the AMRTS electric bus will be placed in service at the end of the month.

HTA's Transit Planner Jerome Qiriazzi gave board an update on HTA's TIRCP Cycle 6 application due on February 10th, 2023, which includes the following project elements:

- The Yurok Tribe will deploy battery electric buses on the Yurok Tribal Transit Service which serves three Tribal Nations in remote northeastern Humboldt County, connecting them to statewide transit and rail systems.
- Redwood Coast Transit in Del Norte County will deploy zero-emission vehicles on the existing intercity route to Arcata, extend service to Eureka, and construct a new transit center in Crescent City.
- HTA will modernize its corporation yard to support planned growth and the transition to zero-emission fleets and establish the North Coast Zero-Emission Training Center to support workforce training. This will be the only such center north of the Bay Area.
- HTA will solicit bids to design a prototype over-the-road fuel cell electric coach, addressing immediate demand by transportation service providers across the State and throughout the U.S.
- HTA will continue and expand collaborative and coordinated outreach to increase regional ridership.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.