

Solano Transit 2030 Policy Committee

March 13, 2024

Agenda

- 1- Roll Call (Clerk) (5)
- 2- Consent Agenda (Chair Young) (5)
 - 2.1 2-14 Meeting Notes
 - 2.2 Interviews Summary
- 3- Solano's Transit 2030 Vision (Kinsey) (20)
- 4- Focus Area- Fare Integration
 - 4.1 MTC perspective (Melanie Choy / Jason Weinstein) (15)
 - 4.2 Operators' perspective (Diane Feinstein / ?) (15)
 - 4.3 STA perspective (Daryl Halls) (5)
 - 4.4 Committee Discussion (Chair Young)(15)
- 5- Public Comment (Chair Young) (5)
- 6- Meeting Summary / Next Steps (Kinsey) (5)

Solano Transit 2030 Policy Committee February 14, 2024 Meeting Notes

March 13, 2024

Following opening remarks on behalf of STA board Chair Kott and by Committee Chair Steve Young, the initial meeting of the Solano Transit 2030 Policy Committee started by reviewing the Committee's Purpose. Members considered a primary scope based on six customer-oriented Focus Areas drawn from MTC's Blue Ribbon Task Force Transit Transformation Action Plan (TTAP). Policy leaders' consensus is an aspiration, acknowledging that recommendations may reflect substantial majority rather than unanimous support.

The Committee asked that the work scope be expanded to address three additional areas:

- Water Transit connectivity (Ferry)
- Defining a Solano Vision for Transit
- Clarify interagency communication and partner roles and responsibilities to achieve greater collaboration

Facilitator, Steve Kinsey, presented the Committee process and timeline. Ninety minute meetings will be scheduled monthly through October, with the exception of August. Items presented and a discussed at a meeting will be briefly reviewed at the subsequent meeting to ensure Committee input was accurately captured. Draft Recommendations will be presented in September, with Final Recommendations in October 2024. The Committee's adopted Recommendations will be transmitted to individual agencies for consideration and potential action.

Greater specificity for Individual Focus Areas was requested as each issue is presented, including consideration of:

- Its relationship to MTC's Regional Network Management (RNM) efforts
- Opportunities for Innovation
- Associated land use policies, if any
- Performance evaluation metrics
- Express bus service and operational issues

STA Deputy Executive Director / Planning Director, Robert Guerrero, presented a slide show depicting concurrent, related planning efforts underway, including:

- Update of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Each Transit Agency's Short-Range Transit Plans
- Community-Based Transportation Plans in Equity-priority communities
- Water Transit and Rail studies
- Corridor Plans
- SR12, SR29, SR37, and I-8- /I-780 / I-680 Transit Corridor Plans
- A Connected Mobility Implementation Plan

A draft Vision Statement should be presented at the March 2024 Policy Committee meeting.

Solano Transit 2030 Policy Committee Interviews Summary

March 13, 2024

The STA and SolTrans Boards approved a Solano Transit 2020 work plan that assigned CivicKnit with responsibility for interviewing Board members and transit agency staff throughout the County to receive candid background on the Committee's purpose, its relationship to ongoing transit planning at the different agencies, and any unique considerations offered by individuals being interviewed. To date, 17 interviews have been completed, reaching both staff and policy leaders in STA and all transit agencies. Interviews with the Fairfield Mayor and Dixon DPW Director are currently being scheduled. All interviewees were open, helpful, and willing to participate, though some expressed concern about the underlying purpose of the Committee.

There is a widely held view that transit service planning, funding, and operational oversight will benefit from greater transparency and review prior to budget actions, clarity on partnering roles and responsibilities, and delineation of accountability of independent agency decisions without micromanagement. A number of agency staff view the Intercity Transit Consortium as a worthwhile body that should utilize this effort to help reduce a sense of discord that has arisen in the recent past.

Given the Policy Committee's focus areas, commenters supported pausing work on the CTP and Connected Mobility Plan to allow for the Committee's recommendations to be determined before proceeding. A number of respondents believe that the Connected Mobility Guidelines should be revisited following Committee's work.

There is wide agreement that the Solano Express program warrants broader discussion pertaining to the service area, provider, funding, and division of responsibility. Other issues raised through the interviews include challenges associated with electrification of transit fleets, increasing potential for water transit,

The use of micro-transit to serve lower density areas is widely supported as the best strategy, with STA given credit for supporting smaller jurisdictions' programs. Many persons expressed a high priority for focusing on Solano's vulnerable populations, including school access, senior mobility, and lower income riders. Reaching non-English speakers was noted as a current weakness in outreach.

Most of those interviewed spoke of the individuality of their community's programs, while also acknowledging that there is pressure from state and region to consolidate services. Some felt that more integrated planning and service to reflect best practices and an economy of scale would benefit Solano transit customers.