

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2009**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, July 7, 2009, commencing at 7:04 a.m.

Present: Council Member Hitchcock, Council Member Johnson, and Council Member Mounce
Absent: Mayor Pro Tempore Katzakian, and Mayor Hansen
Also Present: City Manager King, City Attorney Schwabauer, and City Clerk Johl

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Report on Transit Services (PW)

City Manager King provided a brief introduction to the status of the transit services.

Transportation Manager/Senior Traffic Engineer Paula Fernandez provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the subject matter of transit services. Specific topics of discussion included an overview, history of services, fleet, replacement criteria, passenger statistics, trends, fixed routes, Dial-A-Ride, VineLine, funding sources, financial statistics, and related projects.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Fernandez stated the current 30% spare ratio is somewhat high as typically the ratio is about 10 to 20 percent. Ms. Fernandez stated the buses are older compressed natural gas vehicles with high miles.

In response to Myrna Wetzel, Ms. Fernandez stated the youth pass was publicly advertised through the newspaper and summer youth programs.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Ms. Fernandez stated the 17% ridership decline may be due to a variety of reasons including the population not increasing, economic conditions, unemployment, and there was a fare increase in 2005-2006, which provided a better return on fare box recovery.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Ms. Fernandez stated VineLine is intended to complement a fixed-route system per federal guidelines and the major difference between the two is the priority system based on reservations for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) certified riders.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Fernandez stated for Dial-A-Ride there is an attempt to meet needs of riders within the hour. She stated for VineLine, which is based on a reservation system, under federal regulations the window is within the hour.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Ms. Fernandez stated MV Transportation has an extensive software program that tracks complaints and compliments received from riders and there does not appear to be a lot of complaints based on the reports. The most recent trend of complaints received, pertaining to the lack of air conditioning in hot weather, was last year. Council Member Johnson requested copies of a few reports from various months showing the complaints.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Fernandez stated staff is continuing to watch the

State funding situation; although, fortunately the program does not rely too heavily on State funding as other agencies do.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Fernandez stated the fare box recovery includes operating costs that come from other sources than the General Fund.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Ms. Fernandez stated the existing stored bus shelters are in the process of being installed.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Fernandez confirmed there will be some modifications to routes in light of public interest although the routes with the greatest ridership will remain the same.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Ms. Fernandez stated she is aware of concerns brought forth by Mr. Cliff Weaver and the Council will be receiving a memo through the City Manager's office addressing those concerns.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Ms. Fernandez stated there are some Proposition 1B funds available to purchase a shorter bus to test prior to purchasing others.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Fernandez confirmed that spare buses do impact fare box recovery some and the primary benefit of the shorter bus is that it does not have to be replaced as often. Mr. King stated the shorter bus also has less of an impact on streets and bus stops because it weighs less.

In response to Myrna Wetzel, the representative from MV Transportation stated the taxi company recently changed its hours to provide 24-hour service but the taxi cab company does not impact the bus service because it is more expensive and not ADA convenient.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randi Johl
City Clerk