



Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Ward and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development
Rob Osborne, Management Analyst

DATE: June 20, 2006

SUBJECT: Status Report Regarding Implementation of a Fixed Route Weekend and Summer Trolley Service

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council accept presentation of a status report on implementing a weekend and summer trolley service.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

The estimated cost of operating a shuttle system with one bus in service is approximately \$100,000 per year. Start-up costs for implementing a system are estimated at \$20,000. The Finance Department estimates that the Proposition A Fund can support an additional cost burden of \$55,000 per year beyond the Dial-A-Ride program and other commitments.

BACKGROUND:

The City Council's 2005-2007 Work Plan includes the following task:

Trolley Service - Consider developing an east/west trolley service that would target Manhattan Beach residents. As a first step develop cost estimates for a weekend and summer service and return to City Council for discussion and direction.

On March 7, 2006, staff reported to Council that no proposals were received in response to a Request for Proposals issued by the City. The Council appointed a subcommittee to meet with potential vendors to attempt to define a shuttle system that would be of interest to operators and meet the City's objectives. The subcommittee, which includes Councilmembers Tell and Montgomery, held meetings on May 3 and June 1.

DISCUSSION:

Beach Cities Transit (BCT) is a community-based transit system that operates out of the City of Redondo Beach. The subcommittee has concluded that BCT is the most likely candidate to

provide a shuttle system that would meet the needs of the City at a manageable cost. Incorporating a Manhattan Beach shuttle into BCT's locally-operated system would allow for costs savings that are not available to other operators. The subcommittee feels operators that do not currently provide services in the area would require costs that are prohibitive.

At the June 1 meeting Terisa Price of BCT had planned to present a detailed proposal for providing a fixed-route service in Manhattan Beach. However, Ms. Price indicated that the MTA has announced it will be discontinuing the 125 and 126 bus lines in the coming months. Both of these lines run east/west through Manhattan Beach, the 125 on Rosecrans and 126 on Manhattan Beach Boulevard. BCT has been asked to consider providing replacements for these lines, as they will soon be doing for the 439 line. As expanding their bus system would have various impacts on BCT providing a shuttle service in Manhattan Beach, they can not provide a proposal at this time. Ms. Price requested more time to evaluate the impacts and opportunities of providing replacements for the MTA lines.

BCT providing the 125 and 126 replacement lines may present an opportunity for the City. MTA buses that currently operate on those routes would be replaced with smaller, more locally-recognized vehicles. In addition, the east/west routes could possibly provide connectivity to a circulator route implemented in Manhattan Beach. The subcommittee suggests that the City wait to see how the 125 and 126 bus line situation develops before making any further decisions about a shuttle service.

Attachments: A. Minutes extract from 3/7/06 Council meeting

Councilmember Fahey agreed with a member of the public that there are some intersections that are a problem but she does not believe this is the solution to the problem. She added that there are no statistics to justify the cameras and that the residents are not asking for it.

Councilmember Aldinger stated that he is more open to this type of enforcement on Sepulveda Boulevard than Councilmember Fahey, stating his belief that anything that can be done to improve safety would be a good thing.

Mayor Ward pointed out that CALTRANS would have to approve any cameras installed on Sepulveda Boulevard.

Mayor Pro Tem Tell agreed that there is no justification for cameras at this time and noted that it may detract from neighborhood enforcement due to the requirement for an officer to review the citations.

Councilmember Montgomery pointed out that 32 traffic collisions are only the reported ones and that this only affects residents who break the law. He asked whether a survey could be taken, without choosing a vendor, in order to show what the need is, and agreed that losing an officer to be on the desk is a no-win situation.

Mayor Ward stated that he does not support the program in Manhattan Beach or any other city, finding it to be over-intrusive. He pointed out that, given the City's statistics, it could increase congestion and cause rear-end collisions and that he does not see any benefit from this program.

City Manager Dolan stated that this was only brought before Council as a Work Plan item and he has clear direction that this item will not move forward.

05/1101.15-13 Status Report Regarding Implementation of a Fixed Route Weekend and Summer Trolley Service

City Manager Geoff Dolan introduced Management Analyst Rob Osborne, who addressed Council regarding the Fixed Route Weekend and Summer Trolley Service. He reported that a Request For Proposals (RFP) was sent out to a list of vendors in February and, unfortunately, no proposals were received. He explained that the reasons given by vendors for not responding included: the project is too small; the program is seen as experimental in nature; vendors don't see long-term profits; the seasonal nature poses scheduling problems; vendors prefer using their standard fleet vehicles rather than customized buses; and bad timing. He noted that a couple of vendors have indicated some interest in discussing what might be done to make it feasible for both sides. Management Analyst Osborne reviewed background information from the previous attempt at a trolley system in 1986 noting that the biggest problem was operator reliability and problems with scheduling leading to distrust among potential users which lead to ridership problems which caused the discontinuance after six months.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Tell's inquiry regarding the companies that indicated they would be interested in working with the City, Management Analyst Osborne stated that they would be interested in presenting what might work for them to see if that would fit the City's needs.

The following individuals spoke on this item:

- Gary Osterhout, 500 Block of 31st Street
- Yuri Gurvich, No Address Provided
- Viet Ngo, No Address Provided
- Bill Victor, No Address Provided

Mayor Pro Tem Tell pointed out that there are a lot of complaints about congestion and

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expressed his support of doing something about it. He suggested reaching out to those interested in running a trolley system to see what they would be willing to do, then go out to residents and see if it is something they want.

Councilmember Aldinger stated that he envisions something like they have in Mammoth, where they have a shuttle because of the lack of parking near the slopes. He expressed support of using the system during the school year and continuing to refine the system until it will work.

Councilmember Fahey stated that since some of the vendors are willing to work with the City, she suggested forming a subcommittee of Council and staff to find out whether or not the community would use it.

Councilmember Montgomery suggested keeping it simple, with routes in two directions for the purpose of moving people across Sepulveda Boulevard.

City Manager Dolan clarified that staff will ask one or two of the best vendors for a proposal of what they would charge for the service and attempt to convince them to set-up a program for the City.

Following some discussion regarding at what point Council should become involved in the process, City Manager Dolan agreed to include Councilmember Fahey and Mayor Pro Tem Tell in the discussions with vendors.

Mayor Ward concurred that this is a program worth pursuing in order to relieve some of the traffic congestion.

06/0307-4 Consideration of an Ordinance Clarifying Business License Tax Sections 6.01.010 and 6.01.020 of the Manhattan Beach Municipal Code

Commenting that there is no staff presentation on this item, City Manager Geoff Dolan offered to answer any questions.

Hearing none, the following action was taken.

City Attorney Wadden read aloud the title of Ordinance No. 2083.

The following individual spoke on this item:

- **Bill Victor, No Address Provided**

In response to **Mr. Victor's** comment, Mayor Ward read from the staff report explaining that the ordinance incorporates the personal liability of owners of corporations.

MOTION: Councilmember Aldinger moved to waive further reading and introduce Ordinance No. 2083. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Montgomery and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote:

Ayes: Aldinger, Montgomery, Fahey, Tell and Mayor Ward
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR