

# Napa Valley Transportation Authority

625 Burnell Street  
Napa, CA 94559

## Meeting Minutes - Final Paratransit Coordinating Council (PCC)

---

Thursday, January 11, 2024

10:00 AM

JoAnn Busenbark Board Room

---

### 1. Call To Order

Chair Sweigert called the meeting to order at 10:20 am

### 2. Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Tom Collette  
Ellen Sweigert  
Lisa DeRose-Hernandez  
**Absent:** 2 - Jeannie Smith  
Devereaux Smith

### 3. Public Comment

None

### 4. Committee Member Comments

None

### 5. Staff Comments

Rebecca Schenck announced with great sadness that PCC member Betty Rhodes passed away on January 9. Ms. Schenck noted Member Rhodes was considered a champion for seniors in Napa County and highlighted some of her work including her regular columns in local newspapers that focused on seniors and their needs.

## PRESENTATIONS

#### 6.1 Napa Older Adults Assessment Survey Results Presentation (Celine Regalia/BJ Bischoff)

BJ Bischoff and Erica Tavakoli reviewed the respondents' demographics and results on the transportation portion of the Napa Older Adults Assessment (NOAA) Survey. They offered to send the transportation portion survey results with comments for distribution to the Committee.

#### 6.2 Vine Trail Accessibility Presentation (T.C. Hulsey)

TC Hulsey, Chairman of the Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition Programs Committee, shared the accessibility of the Vine Trail for those with mobility issues, and asked the PCC to provide input on communicating to the public the accessibility of the Vine Trail to people with mobility issues.

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

#### 7.1 Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2023 Paratransit Coordinating Council (Kathy

**Alexander) (Pages 7-9)**

MOTION by DEROSE HERNANDEZ, SECOND by COLLETTE to APPROVE the November 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

**8.1 Public Transit Fare Adjustments (Rebecca Schenck) (Pages 10-31)**

Rebecca Schenck reported that NVTA staff will be recommending the NVTA Board approve a fare increase for the Vine Transit system. The current fares have been in place since 2015. Staff postponed a fare increase in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Schenck also noted that Vine operating costs have risen 40% over the last eight fiscal years.

NVTA is required by State law to attain a 15% farebox ratio for the Vine to receive Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds. This threshold was relaxed starting in 2020, but NVTA will once again be required to meet that ratio in 2026. NVTA's farebox recovery ratio has been well below 15% the past four years.

The current and proposed fares are as follows:

Fare type	Current Cash Fare	Proposed Cash Fare
Adult (19-64)*	\$1.60	\$2.00
Youth (6-18)	\$1.10	\$1.25
Senior (65+), Disabled and Medicare	\$0.80	\$1.00
Route 21	\$3.00	\$3.50
Route 29	\$5.50	\$6.00
VineGo – Single Zone	\$3.20	\$4.00
VineGo – Multi Zone	\$6.40	\$8.00

Low-income riders ages 19-64 will continue to be able to apply to the Clipper START program for 50% off fares throughout the Bay Area.

MOTION by DEROSE HERNANDEZ, SECOND by SWEIGERT to RECOMMEND the NVTA Board approve the proposed public transit fare adjustments. Motion passed unanimously.

**8.2 Paratransit Eligibility Standardization (Rebecca Schenck) (Pages 32-64)**

Rebecca Schenck reported that Action 25 of the Bay Area Transit Transformation Action Plan (“Action Plan”) requires that “standardized eligibility practices for programs that benefit people with disabilities (ADA paratransit)” be established for the Bay Area. After documenting current practices and nationwide best practices, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) drafted recommendations cooperatively with the Bay Area Partnership Accessibility Committee. To adhere with the other Bay Area paratransit providers on the first two Tier 1 recommendations, NVTA staff is recommending that the Transit Policies be updated to add a medical verification and phone interview to the eligibility determination process and standardize the renewal timeline for eligibility to five (5) years.

MOTION by DEROSE HERNANDEZ, SECOND by COLLETTE to recommend that the Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) Board update NVTA’s Transit Policies for paratransit service to add a medical verification and phone interview to the eligibility determination process and standardize the renewal timeline for eligibility to five (5) years in conjunction with all other Bay Area paratransit providers at its February 21, 2024 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**10.1 The next regularly scheduled meeting for the NVTA Paratransit Coordinating Council is March 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.**

Chair Sweigert adjourned the meeting at 11:26 am.

Kathy Alexander

---

Kathy Alexander, Deputy Board Secretary