



Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, October 09, 2025
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor – Coastlines Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
PRESENT: John Daugherty (*1st District*), Tymothie Hale (*2nd District*), Becky Taylor (*3rd District*),
Richard Gubash (*3rd District*), Jessica Liddy Hayford (*4th District*), David Molina (*5th District Co-Chair*),
EXCUSED: Brenda Gutierrez Baeza (*4th District Co-Chair*), Mitali Weiglein (*5th District*)
ABSENT: Jonathan Zinnanti (*2nd District*)
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)
GUESTS: Rina Solorio (*Assistant Operations Manager, METRO ParaCruz*), Art Hulscher
(*CEO/President, ADARide*), Michael Bois (*METRO Communications & Marketing Manager*), Margo Ross (*METRO Chief Operations Manager*), Daniel Zaragoza (*METRO Operations Deputy Director*), and Gina De Martini-Kuhns (*CEO Senior Administrative Analyst*). No members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
Meeting convened at 12:43 PM.
2. Agenda Review
3. Approve September 11, 2025 Minutes
Motion to approve minutes as written
Motion/Second: Daugherty/Hale
Motion passed unanimously.
4. Public Comment: None
5. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:

5.1. METRO ParaCruz Eligibility Process Presentation

Solorio and Hulscher presented an overview of the ParaCruz eligibility process. Applications can be submitted online or on paper and require two forms: the application and medical verification of disability, with a 21-day processing period beginning once both have been received. The WAG2-compliant website provides accessibility accommodations for a range of disabilities. Eligibility is determined by specially trained ADA Paratransit medical staff who consider both physical and cognitive barriers a specific rider could experience across the entire transit system if using the regular bus service. Verification requires documentation from an appropriate medical professional, such as a physician, therapist, or other licensed provider, including Regional Center staff in Santa Cruz County. Spanish language support is available. Once eligible, riders may access services nationwide with proof of eligibility.

provided in onboarding packets. The current denial rate is 4%, with abandoned application rates not specified. Current fares are set at \$4 each way (\$8 for premium service), and recertification is generally every three years, with automatic renewal for riders with permanent disabilities. METRO is recruiting for a mobility trainer position who will meet riders in the field to assist them with accessing the bus system. Commissioners are encouraged to send follow-up questions to Staff.

6. Commission Reports

6.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report:

Gubash reported that the next meeting is not until May of 2026. Molina requested that the item be removed from the agenda until the June meeting.

7. Commission Priority Reports:

7.1. Accessibility Awareness Priority Report: No Report

7.2. Accessible Recreation Priority Report: No Report

7.3. Affordable Accessible Housing Report: No Report

7.4. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report

Hale reported that he is waiting to apply to serve on the METRO Board at the request of Supervisor De Serpa.

8. Correspondence: None

9. Staff Report: None

10. Announcements/Emerging Matters:

De Martini-Kuhns updated the Commission on the County's Strategic Planning efforts including a focus on affordable transportation. Unfortunately, the survey did not capture disability data. The CEO's office will send a representative to the Commission to share objectives and collect feedback.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*