

**San Benito County
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING**

July 15, 2010 2:30 P.M.

FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Gomez, Director Bilich, Director Botelho, Director De La Cruz, and Director Emerson

STAFF PRESENT:

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy; Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer; Administrative Services Specialist, Kathy Postigo; Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Dinkuhn; Transportation Planner, Veronica Lezama

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Gomez called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M.

A. ACKNOWLEDGE Certificate of Posting

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Director's unanimously acknowledged the Certificate of Posting.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Approve** LTA Transactions Report (Financial Claims) dated June 2010 – Postigo
- 2. Approve** Local Transportation Authority Draft Meeting Minutes Dated June 17, 2010 – Gomez
- 3. Receive** Jovenes de Antaño Specialized Transportation Services Monthly Service Report for the Month of May 2010 – LiOwen
- 4. Receive** County Express Monthly Service Report for the Month of May 2010 – LiOwen

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz and seconded by Director Emerson, the Director's approved Items 1-4.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Draft Transit Design Guidelines – Lezama

- a. Receive** Presentation and **Comment** on the Draft San Benito County Transit Design Guidelines; and
- b. Conduct** Public Hearing on Notice of Intent to Approve a Notice of Exemption and Notice of Availability for Public Review.

Ms. Lezama provided a Power-Point presentation on the Draft Transit Design Guidelines.

Ms. Lezama stated that over the last several months, the Local Transportation Authority has been working on developing the San Benito County Transit Design Guidelines. The Draft Guidelines are now available for public comment. A public hearing has been scheduled for the July 15, 2010 in order to receive input

from the public on the Notice of Intent to Approve a Notice of Exemption and Notice of Availability for Public Review. The public comment period for the Draft Transit Design Guidelines and Draft Notice of Exemption documents opened June 18, 2010 and closes July 19, 2010.

Ms. Lezama stated that as part of the Transit Design Guidelines public participation process, the Local Transportation Authority conducted two public workshops on June 30, 2010 to solicit input from transit riders on their transit facility needs, fifteen people attended the workshops. Input from the workshops will be included in the final design guidelines.

The Local Transportation Authority will be conducting a Public Hearing on July 15, 2010 to solicit public comments on the Draft San Benito County Transit Design Guidelines and the Notice of Intent to Approve a Notice of Exemption.

Director De La Cruz asked staff for an update on his request to look into installing a bus stop at Graf Road.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff went out and looked at the area that Director De La Cruz was referring to and determined that it is private property.

After consulting with County Counsel, Ms. Rheinheimer requested that the Board continue the Public Hearing to the August 19th meeting.

Director Botelho stated that the document will be very useful for the County.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Botelho, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Director's motioned to continue Item 5b to the August 19th meeting.

6. Replace Previously Donated Surplus 1992 Ford Van (Last 5 VIN 85460) with Recently Surplused 2002 Chevrolet Van (Last 5 VIN 87797) to Bull Dog Boxing Gym – Lezama

Ms. Lezama stated that in October 2009, the Board donated a 1992 Ford vanpool van to Bulldog Boxing Gym, a local non-profit organization. Bulldog Boxing Gym has been unable to register the vehicle due to an error in the submittal of the Certificate of Title to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Staff has been working on resolving the issue with the California Department of Motor Vehicles; however, the issue might not be resolved for at least another 6 months. Replacing the older 1992 Ford with one of the 2002 Chevrolets will take a shorter amount of time to register through the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Staff recommended that the Board replace the previously donated surplus 1992 Ford van (Last 5 Vin 85460) with recently surplused 2002 Chevrolet van (Last 5 VIN 87797) to Bull Dog Boxing Gym.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Bilich, the Director's unanimously approved Item 6.

7. Receive Update on Caltrain Service Reductions in January 2011 – LiOwen

Ms. Gilbert reported that Caltrain, the primary commuter rail service between Santa Clara County and the City and County of San Francisco, will have a \$12.5 million operating budget deficit in Fiscal Year 2010/2011. As a result, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) is considering reductions in service and fare increases.

Ms. Gilbert stated that at the June 15, 2010 Local Transportation Authority Board of Directors meeting, a letter opposing the elimination of the Caltrain Gilroy service was approved and sent to the JPB.

Since that meeting, the JPB has tentatively set a public hearing date regarding the service reductions and fee increases at 10:00 a.m. on September 2, 2010 at: Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, 1250 San

Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070, Bracciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor.

Service reductions and fare increases are anticipated by JPB staff to begin in January 2011. Staff plans to attend the public hearing.

Ms. Gilbert stated that staff brought the issue to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) at its June 25, 2010 meeting. The SSTAC recommended that County Express connect with the Santa Clara County Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)'s Express Lines 121 and 168. These routes provide Gilroy connections to San Jose and Sunnyvale. However, only one route will provide a direct Caltrain service connection at the San Jose Diridon station. The Advisory Council recommended continuing to offer three transit connections in Gilroy. Staff will work on a survey to be distributed to the Intercounty Caltrain riders to find their preferred connections to the VTA service.

8. Specialized Transportation Fares – LiOwen

- a. Receive** Report on Proposed Fares for Out-of-County Non-Emergency Medical Transportation and Medical Shopping Assistance Program.
- b. Receive** Report on Proposed Policies for Personal Care Attendant and Companions for Specialized Transportation Services.
- c. Set** Date for Public Hearing Regarding Fares for Out-of-County Non-Emergency Medical Transportation and Medical Shopping Assistance Program in September 2010.

Ms. Gilbert provided a Power-Point presentation on the Specialized Transportation Fares.

Ms. Gilbert stated that staff has been in the process of implementing its Short Range Transit Plan for transit services. County Express fares have been raised in order to achieve the minimum required farebox recovery for its various services and raise revenue. The fares for the Out-of-County Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (OOCMT) are currently donation based and the Medical-Shopping Assistance Program fare has not been raised since 2002.

In addition to the establishment of the OOCMT fare, staff is also proposing to raise the fare of the Medical-Shopping Assistance Program (MSAP) this service primarily serves seniors over the age of 60 and persons with disabilities. The one-way cash fare for MSAP is \$1.00. The fare is kept by the Contractor to offset operations costs.

The fare for a like service in San Benito County is \$1.25 for an eligible ADA Paratransit client on the County Express service. However, the Paratransit service only provides the minimum required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The MSAP provides the services beyond ADA, as mentioned above. Staff proposed to increase the MSAP fare by either (a) 25¢, making the fare \$1.25 one way or (b) 50¢, making the fare \$1.50 one way.

Ms. Gilbert stated that the proposed fares were presented to the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council on June 25, 2010. The following was the Advisory Council's actions:

1. Concurred with staff's Out-of-County Non-Emergency Medical Transportation fare structure.
2. Raise the Medical-Shopping Assistance Fares by 25¢.
3. Establish personal care attendant and companion policies to mirror County Express' related policies.

Staff proposed a hearing date for the public to comment on the fares and the policies. At the public hearing, a draft resolution will be presented to the Board to consider. Once the public hearing has been concluded and comments are received, the Board may adopt the draft resolution or direct staff to make modifications to the resolution pending public comment. Staff proposed to have a public hearing at its September 16, 2010 meeting at: Board of Supervisors Chambers, 481 - 4th Street, Hollister, CA 95023, 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Gilbert noted that the proposed fares and policies would be effective January 1, 2011.

Director Botelho inquired if an increase of 25 cents would make a difference in solving the problem.

Ms. Gilbert stated that the biggest impact would be seen in the Out of County Medical-Shopping Assistance Program.

Director De La Cruz stated that he would not support an increase in fares.

Director Bilich recommended scheduling Dialysis trips separately because these appointments can take all day.

Chair Gomez stated that he would support a fare increase to \$1.50 for the local Medical-Shopping Assistance Program. In addition, he would support establishing a “minimum donation amount” for the Out-of-County Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Program.

Director Emerson clarified that the only action being made at the meeting was setting a public hearing date and added that he would prefer listening to the public’s comments before making any recommendations to staff.

Chair Gomez informed staff that he would not be attending the September 16th meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Director’s unanimously approved Item 8c, setting the Public Hearing date for September 16, 2010.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Director’s unanimously voted to adjourn the LTA meeting.

ADJOURN TO LTA MEETING AUGUST 19, 2010.