

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

August 16, 2012 2:00 P.M.

FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Emerson, Director Boch, Director De La Cruz, and Director Gomez

STAFF PRESENT:

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy; Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer; Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Gilbert; Transportation Planner, Veronica Lezama; Secretary, Monica Gomez; Transportation Interns, Regina Valentine and Virginia Murillo

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Emerson called the meeting to order at 3:28 p.m.

A. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

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

B. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Approve** LTA Transaction Report (Financial Claims) Dated July 2012 – Postigo
- 2. Approve** Local Transportation Authority Draft Meeting Minutes Dated July 19, 2012 – Gomez
- 3. Receive** Jovenes de Antaño Specialized Transportation Services Monthly Service Report for the Month of June 2012 – LiOwen
- 4. Receive** County Express Monthly Service Report for the Month of July 2012 – LiOwen
- 5. Adopt** Resolution 12-05, Accepting a Grant Deed for Dedication of Real Property from the Hollister Elementary School District – Gilbert

Ms. Rheinheimer asked to pull Item 5 to note a correction to the item.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Gomez, the Directors unanimously approved Items 1-4 from the Consent Agenda.

Regarding Item 5:

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy, noted for the record that the Resolution 12-05 does not actually accept a Grant Deed because staff does not have the executed Grant Deed yet. Also, Ms. Murphy noted a correction to the staff report stating that the School District didn't prepare an Acceptance of Dedication; they prepared an Offer of Dedication and Grant Deed.

The Resolution approves the form of the Offer of Dedication as Grant Deeds for the properties and it authorizes the Executive Director to accept the offer and grant deed and to sign and record the documents.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Gomez, the Directors unanimously approved Item 5, to adopt Resolution 12-05 from the Consent Agenda, with noted clarification from County Counsel.

REGULAR AGENDA:

6. Receive San Benito County Express Passenger Survey Analysis – Murillo/Valentine

Ms. Rheinheimer reported that the Local Transportation Authority's (LTA) transportation interns administered an on board survey of County Express passengers from April to May 2012. The goal of the survey was to gather information on passenger origins and destinations, passenger accessibility and usage of County Express services, passenger opinions of current services and suggestions for future service improvements. Staff time for the LTA's transportation interns was funded by a transportation planning grant from Caltrans.

Ms. Rheinheimer introduced Transportation Interns, Virginia Murillo and Regina Valentine, who provided a Power-Point on the San Benito County Local Transportation Authority Passenger Survey Analysis.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Betty LiOwen
Hollister, CA**

Ms. LiOwen wanted to recognize and congratulate the interns on their efforts in completing the County Express Passenger Survey Analysis. She stated that the results from the survey were very informative and will assist the LTA in planning future bus services and making improvements to existing services.

The Board also congratulated Ms. Murillo and Ms. Valentine on their efforts.

7. Discuss and Provide Direction on Taxicabs for Dial-A-Ride Service – Rheinheimer

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that at the last meeting, Director Gomez requested an analysis of using local taxicabs to supplement or replace the Dial-a-Ride service. Ms. Rheinheimer provided an overview of the analysis which included a description of the existing Dial-a-Ride service, comparison of Dial-a-Ride and taxi service, and steps to implement a taxi service.

Ms. Rheinheimer reported that a preliminary financial analysis of the option to transfer the Dial-a-Ride service from existing contracted services to taxicab shows the following benefits:

- provide longer hours for transit riders at no additional cost to LTA
- save the agency money
- raise the farebox recovery ratio
- move the Dial-a-Ride service cost from a per hour basis to a per ride basis
- transfer the cost of maintenance and fuel to a taxi company

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that when doing a side-by-side comparison of taxi and Dial-a-Ride services, the main differences are in the fare structure and regulations. The taxi service could work on a reimbursable voucher basis. Passengers could either purchase a voucher from the LTA or pay the taxi driver the preset fare. The taxi provider would then invoice the LTA monthly for reimbursement of all vouchers received. More details would need to be analyzed if the Board decides to move forward with this change.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that implementation of taxi service would require the following actions by the Local Transportation Authority:

1. Meet with local taxi providers to ascertain interest

2. Develop a Request for Proposals/Invitation for Bids
3. Review and Rank Proposals
4. Award Contract

Director De La Cruz inquired about the potential for fraud with using the voucher system.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that there is concern about misuse of the system, such as potential duplication of a voucher, whether it is by the passenger or the taxi driver. She stated that staff has great resources with other agencies, such as Monterey Salinas Transit and San Francisco Muni, who are currently using taxi service to supplement their transit system.

Director De La Cruz stated that it is a good idea and if it can provide business to local taxi companies, a service to the public, and provide a savings, he would support it.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that there is concern about being able to provide lift assisted trips. However, she stated that this accommodation could be made by leasing an accessible mini-van to the taxi company through a lease agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Elizabeth Arrizon Hollister Taxi

Ms. Arrizon stated that Hollister Taxi Company is very interested in working with LTA. She mentioned that Hollister Taxi has been in the area for 25 years and is currently going through a difficult time, as two other taxi agencies were approved in town. Ms. Arrizon stated that she has contacted staff and expressed interest in leasing or purchasing an accessible mini-van. She added, often times they come across people who need rides after 6pm and an \$8 fare is difficult for most people to have to pay. Ms. Arrizon stated that her drivers work off of commission and they are currently experiencing very difficult times. Ms. Arrizon reiterated that she is very interested in leasing or purchasing a mini-van and is willing to work with staff to proceed with the process.

Director Gomez stated that he was very pleased to hear that taxi companies are interested in this option and he looks forward to continuing with the process.

It was mentioned that there are two other taxi companies servicing the area that are not local companies. There was discussion about providing local preference if possible.

County Counsel, Shirley Murphy, stated that the prohibition on providing a local preference is in the invitation for bid process when doing construction, not in providing a service contract. However, staff would have to review adopted policies to ensure proper procedure.

Director Gomez inquired if other agencies contract with one or more taxi companies to provide service.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that San Francisco works with several taxi companies and it may be an option here as well.

There was consensus from the Board to have staff move forward with the taxi option for Dial-a-Ride.

Upon a motion made by Director Gomez, and seconded by Director De La Cruz, the Directors unanimously voted to adjourn the LTA meeting.

ADJOURN TO LTA MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 2012.