Agenda Item	:

San Benito County LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING

April 18, 2013 3:00 P.M.

FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Botelho, Director Boch, Director De La Cruz, Director Scattini, and Director Gomez

STAFF PRESENT:

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy; Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer; Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Gilbert; Transportation Planner, Betty LiOwen; Transportation Planner, Veronica Lezama; Secretary, Monica Gomez

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Olejnik, Mark McCumsey, Caltrans District 5; Tony Mercado, MV Transportation Inc.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Botelho called the meeting to order at 3:49 p.m.

A. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

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

B. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Approve LTA Transaction Report (Financial Claims) dated March 2013 Postigo
- 2. Approve Local Transportation Authority Draft Meeting Minutes Dated March 21, 2013 Gomez
- **3. Receive** Jovenes de Antaño Specialized Transportation Services Monthly Service Report for the Month of February 2013 Jovenes de Antaño
- **4. Receive** County Express Monthly Service Report for the Month of February 2013 MV Transportation, Inc.
- **5. Receive** 2nd Quarter County Express and Specialized Transportation Performance Indicators for Fiscal Year 2012/2013 LiOwen

Upon a motion duly made by Director Scattini, and seconded by Director Gomez, the Directors approved Items 1-5 of the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA:

- 6. Fare Increase for County Express and Medical Shopping Assistance Program LiOwen
 - a. **RECEIVE** Presentation on Fare Increase Scenarios for County Express Services and Medical Shopping Assistance Program.
 - b. **RECEIVE** Public Comment Regarding Fare Increase.
 - c. **OPEN** Public Hearing

- d. **CLOSE** Public Hearing
- e. **ADOPT** Resolution 13-01 Increasing County Express and Medical Shopping Assistance Program Fares.

Ms. LiOwen provided a Power-Point presentation on fare increase scenarios for County Express Services and the Medical Shopping Assistance Program.

The last fare increase for County Express services was approved in July 2009. The Medical Shopping Assistance fare was increased in January 2011. Due to increased costs of operations, staff recommended increasing the fares.

Ms. LiOwen stated that staff analyzed six different scenarios incorporated in the Advisory Council's recommendation and presented two preferred scenarios that had the least impact on riders while maximizing fare revenues. The Advisory Council selected Scenario A as its preferred scenario because Scenario A has the least financial impact on riders and the additional revenue is comparable to Scenario B.

Ms. LiOwen stated that under Scenario A, cash fares would increase 5% annually for two years. Unlike the first scenario, Scenario B would be a one-time fare increase of 25%.

Director Gomez inquired about the possibility of applying a CPI adjustment and scheduling out fare increases perhaps, every two years.

Staff explained that anytime there is a fare increase it must go through the Fare Equity Analysis. Also, if something is added to these scenarios it must go before the public for comment.

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy, stated that because the fare increase is under its own federal statutory and regulatory process, staff would have to research whether a CPI adjustment is something that could be built in to it.

Ms. LiOwen stated that the public comment period opened February 21, 2013. Overall, the comments that were received are not in favor of any of the fare increase scenarios. The next steps would be to open the public hearing, adopt the Board's preferred scenario, and notify riders of changes, if any. The start date of new fares would be effective July 1, 2013.

Chair Botelho opened the Public Hearing at 4:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Monica Rivera

Ms. Rivera stated that she as well as her two children has used County Express to get to and from Gavilan College. Currently, her grandson is using County Express to get to Gavilan College to attend the GECA Program. Ms. Rivera stated that she is opposed to an increase in fares. She said she understands that costs have gone up, however fuel prices have recently gone down and it should be taken into consideration. She stated that an increase of a couple dollars would put a strain on her budget as she is retired and on a fixed income.

Ms. Rivera added that the County Express drivers are "top rate, exemplary drivers". She also commended the administration staff for providing an extra bus run to Gavilan College to accommodate the GECA students.

Ms. Rivera closed by saying that an increase in fees could possibly impact students' educational endeavors. She encouraged the Board to not increase the fares. She stated that there must be some way to find funds to help the agency survive.

Chair Botelho closed the public hearing at 4:09 p.m.

Director Scattini and De La Cruz stated that they were not in favor of increasing fares.

Director Gomez asked if there has been any cooperation from Gavilan College to help fund transportation for students.

Ms. LiOwen stated that she contacted Gavilan College a couple years ago and attended a meeting, but did not receive much cooperation from them.

There was discussion about increasing fares without increasing fares for students.

Director Boch asked if it was possible to create a student bus pass at a discounted rate or keeping the current rate, with or without Gavilan College cooperation. Students would have to provide proof that they're registered students at Gavilan College.

Chair Botelho stated that he was leaning towards Scenario B because it isn't much of an increase, however, he also concurred with Director Boch's comments.

After some discussion the Board continued the item and directed staff to contact Gavilan College to begin a partnership on funding public transit services to the College. Director Gomez volunteered to accompany staff in attending a Gavilan College Board meeting.

Director De La Cruz recommended that staff attend a Gavilan College Student Body Council meeting prior to going before the Gavilan Board.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Gomez, and seconded by Director Boch, the Directors voted to continue Item 6 to a date uncertain and direct staff to contact Gavilan College.

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

ADJOURN TO LTA MEETING MAY 16, 2013.