

**COUNCIL OF SAN BENITO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

FINAL MINUTES

DATE: Friday, January 23, 2008
9:30 AM

LOCATION: **San Benito Bank**
Conference Room (Upstairs)
300 Tres Pinos Road
Hollister, CA 95023

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Pauline Valdivia called the meeting to order at 9:39 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pauline Valdivia, Charles Scott, Mary Margaret Bilich, Joy Rice, Clay Kempf

STAFF PRESENT

Mary Dinkuhn, Transportation Planning Manager; Betty LiOwen, Transportation Planner

OTHERS PRESENT

Esther Alva, Health and Human Services Agency; Eva Dalton

A. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Upon a motion duly made by Clay Kempf, and seconded by Mary Margaret Bilich, the Committee unanimously acknowledged the Certificate of Posting.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

C. ELECT SSTAC Chairperson for 2009

Upon a motion duly made by Charles Scott, and seconded by Mary Margaret Bilich, the Committee unanimously elected Tony Mercado as Chairperson for the Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee.

D. ELECT SSTAC Vice-Chairperson for 2009

Upon a motion duly made by Charles Scott, and seconded by Clay Kempf, the Committee unanimously elected Mary Margaret Bilich as Vice-Chairperson for the Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee.

E. MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Bilich noted that she was concerned with people bringing large luggage on board the Intercounty buses. Ms. Bilich stated that it is a safety concern because there are a lot of people standing on these buses. Ms. Bilich suggested that passengers who are bringing large luggage should call dispatch in advance to warn that they are doing so, and dispatch should then mention it to passengers.

Ms. Bilich inquired about the Jovenes De Antaño service and why they use larger buses to transport a few passengers to medical appointments outside of Hollister.

Ms. Valdivia explained that often times the larger bus is used because it has the wheel chair lift which is required for some passengers.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Lisa Rheinheimer was not able to attend this meeting as she was attending a meeting in Sacramento.

Ms. Dinkuhn announced that the Highway 25 Bypass Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be taking place January 26, 2009 at 3:00p.m. between East Park Street and Hillcrest Road. Ms. Dinkuhn noted that people should enter along Hillcrest Road.

CONSENT AGENDA

1) Approve SSTAC Meeting Minutes dated December 5, 2008

2) Receive Customer Comments and Incidents Report

Upon a motion duly made by Charles Scott, and seconded by Mary Margaret Bilich, the Committee approved Items 1 and 2.

REGULAR AGENDA:

3) Receive MV Transportation, Inc. Monthly Management Reports for the Months of November 2008 and December 2008

The Committee received the report.

Mr. Scott inquired about the high numbers of no-shows and cancellations.

Ms. LiOwen stated that typically, cancellation numbers are from people who call to cancel in advance; no-shows are from people who do not call to cancel their rides in advance.

Ms. LiOwen noted that the number of no-shows have decreased since a strict "No-Show/Cancellation Policy" was implemented.

4) Receive Jovenes de Antaño Monthly Management Reports for the Month November 2008.

The Committee received the report.

5) Receive Update on County Express Service Reductions

Ms. LiOwen reviewed the County Express Service Reductions that will become effective February 1, 2009.

The Dial-A-Ride Service will run Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Fixed Route Service will run Monday through Friday, 6:20 a.m. to 5:40 p.m. and there will not be service available on the Fixed Route from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. also, the Fourth Street line was eliminated.

With regard to Intercounty Routes, the early morning return trips from Gavilan College have been eliminated. Two routes were eliminated from the Intercounty Saturday only service.

Staff will be finalizing an 11x17 flyer of the County Express Service Reductions and will be distributing these flyers to several social services agencies.

There was brief discussion regarding the proposed reduction in transit funding.

6) County Express Proposed Fare Increases

- a) **Discuss** Fare Increase Options for Intercounty, Dial-A-Ride, Sunnyslope-Southside Discount Area Reservation, and Paratransit Services
- b) **Recommend** Preferred Fare Increase Option to the Local Transportation Authority

Ms. LiOwen reported that due to the State of California's budget deficit, the Local Transportation Authority will be receiving less funding for County Express operations. The Local Transportation Authority is considering service reductions, raising fares for its Intercounty, Dial-A-Ride, Sunnyslope-Southside Discount Area Reservation Service, and Paratransit services.

Staff conducted a service reduction survey for riders during the week of November 17, 2008. Using the results from the survey, staff proposed the following two fare increase options:

- Option 1: Increase one-way fare by 10¢
- Option 2: Increase one-way fare by 25¢

In addition, staff proposed to increase the fare for Paratransit service by 50¢.

There was extensive discussion amongst the Advisory Council and staff regarding the fare increase options.

There was a suggestion from the Advisory Council to increase the one-way fare by 25¢, but leave the monthly pass fare, as is (no increase). This would still double the revenue increase from option 1, but it would not impact the regular users as much.

Staff suggested increasing the monthly pass by \$4.00, from \$56 to \$60 and the discounted pass to \$35, and increasing the one-way fare by 25¢.

Upon a motion duly made by Clay Kempf, and seconded by Joy Rice, the Advisory Council voted to oppose the fare increase due to the financial hardship it imposes on users, with Mary Margaret Bilich and Charles Scott voting no.

Footnote: The Advisory Council requested that staff bring this item back for discussion at a time when the funding cuts are actually known.

7) Adjourn to Meeting of March 27, 2009

Upon a motion made by Mary Margaret Bilich, and seconded by Clay Kempf, the Committee unanimously adjourned the meeting.