

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

**FINAL MINUTES**

**DATE:** Friday, April 16, 2010  
9:30 AM

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Tony Mercado called the meeting to order at 9:39 A.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tony Mercado, Mary Margaret Bilich, Joy Rice, Charles Scott, Pauline Valdivia

**STAFF PRESENT**

Lisa Rheinheimer, Executive Director, Mary Dinkuhn, Transportation Planning Manager; Betty LiOwen, Transportation Planner

**A. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

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

**B. D. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Catherine Farnham**  
**San Benito County Public Health**

Ms. Farnham announced that San Benito County Public Health reprinted the pocket resource guide, which was designed to fit in a wallet. The guides are available in bundles of 50 at Public Health. Ms. Farnham suggested keeping some guides in the COG office and on the transit vehicles.

Ms. Farnham asked if SSTAC would approve posting public service posters on transit vehicles announcing the Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies March of Dimes and March for Babies event.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff would meet with Ms. Farnham after the meeting to try to coordinate posting the event posters on the vehicles.

**E. MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**F. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Rheinheimer announced that the LTA Board approved the purchase of vehicles for Jovenes de Antaño and County Express Operations. Ms. Rheinheimer stated that Jovenes de Antaño and County

Express can expect delivery of these vehicles in 120-150 days. Ms. Rheinheimer noted that staff is trying to expedite the delivery of one of the much needed replacement vehicles to Jovenes de Antaño.

Ms. Rheinheimer announced that the LTA Board approved a contract for Orta & Sons for the replacement of the existing security gates and fence over at the transit facility and Public Works yard.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1) Approve** SSTAC Meeting Minutes dated January 22, 2010 – Gomez
- 2) Receive** County Express Monthly Operations Reports Fiscal Year 08/09 for the Months of December 2009 – January 22, 2010 – LiOwen
- 3) Receive** Jovenes de Antaño Specialized Transportation Services Monthly Service Reports for the Months of December 2009 – February 2010 – LiOwen

*Upon a motion duly made by Mary Margaret Bilich, and seconded by Charles Scott, the Committee approved Consent Items 1-3, with an abstention from Pauline Valdivia on Item 3, and an abstention from Tony Mercado on Item 2.*

### **REGULAR AGENDA:**

- 4) Receive** 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Transit and Specialized Transportation Operations Report for Fiscal Year 2009/2010 – LiOwen

Ms. LiOwen provided the Committee with an overview on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Specialized Transportation Operations Report.

The report analyzes all of the public transportation services that the Local Transportation Authority administers and operates for San Benito County. The Authority contracts with MV Transportation, Inc. for public transit operations (County Express) and Jovenes de Antaño for specialized transportation.

There were no questions or comments from the Committee.

- 5) Receive and Comment** on Draft 2010 Unmet Transit Needs Annual Report – LiOwen

Ms. LiOwen provided a Power-Point presentation on the 2010 Unmet Transit Needs Annual Report and reviewed the Unmet Needs requests that were received.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

#### **Regarding Unmet Needs Request Item 1**

#### **Eva Dalton**

Ms. Dalton stated that monthly passes would be easier to use for Dial-A-Ride services because it is difficult to get to the office to purchase tokens.

Ms. Valdivia inquired if a monthly pass would be difficult to develop.

Ms. Mercado noted a concern with a monthly pass when it comes to same day service requests and the \$1 convenience fee that is applied. Mr. Mercado stated that the service would become less efficient.

Ms. LiOwen stated that staff will look into it.

Ms. Rice noted that customers also have the option to purchase tokens by mailing a check or money order to the office and receiving their tokens by mail.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
**Regarding Unmet Needs Request Item 2**

**Betty Rosati**  
**Hollister School District**  
**Homeless Ed. Liaison**

Ms. Rosati stated that she purchases tokens and passes in bulk for the District's homeless students and wanted to be present to answer any questions from Committee members.

Ms. Rosati stated that there are limited times when the parents have to accompany a younger child (kindergartner) to and from school, which snowballs into more transportation needs for the adults.

Ms. Rosati noted that they are noticing an increased need for services due to foreclosures. Currently, the School District has identified 600 students as being homeless.

Ms. Farnham inquired why this item was not considered an Unmet Need.

Ms. LiOwen stated that this request falls into the Equity and Feasibility criteria: The proposed service  
A1. Shall not unreasonably discriminate against nor favor any particular area or segment of the community  
A3. Shall require a subsidy per passenger generally equivalent to other parts of the transit system unless overriding reasons to justify.

Ms. Rheinheimer noted that under Feasibility C3. it states that: The proposed service shall not unduly affect the operator's ability to maintain the required fare to operating cost ratio.

Ms. Rosati inquired if the Hollister School District's youth are receiving the discount fare.

Ms. LiOwen confirmed that all youth (ages 5-17) pay a discounted fare.

There was no discussion for Items 3, 4, and 5 of the Unmet Needs Requests.

There was discussion regarding Item 6 (Offer transit connections to Monterey County) of the Unmet Needs Requests.

Mr. Scott inquired whether it is feasible to add a stop at the Caltrain Station on the Gavilan Route for midday service.

Staff will follow up on Mr. Scott's inquiry and report back.

Ms. Rheinheimer added that she has had discussions with colleagues from Monterey Salinas Transit about bringing the Monterey Salinas Transit Line 55 service route into San Juan Bautista. However, funding would have to be determined for this connectivity. Staff will look at the possibility of using AB2766 Grant funds for this service and then provide a proposal to the Committee sometime next year.

There was discussion regarding Item 7 (Offer transit connections to Santa Clara County) of the Unmet Needs Requests.

Staff will look at ways to improve Santa Clara County and Monterey County connections to reduce wait times for return trips to San Benito County. Staff will report back at the May SSTAC meeting.

Ms. LiOwen stated that the Final Unmet Needs Report will be presented to the Board on May 20, 2010.

*Upon a motion duly made by Pauline Valdivia, and seconded by Mary Margaret Bilich, the Committee unanimously approved Item 5, to forward staffs recommendations and analysis of the Unmet Needs Requests to the Board.*

**6) Receive** Report of Taxi and County Express' Paratransit and Dial-A-Ride Services – LiOwen

Ms. LiOwen provided a Power Point presentation comparing taxi and County Express' Paratransit and Dial-A-Ride Services.

Ms. Valdivia inquired if County Express drivers are required to be fingerprinted.

Mr. Mercado stated that the County Express drivers are fingerprinted when they receive their General Public Paratransit Vehicle (GPPV) certificate. Drivers take a written test with the California Highway Patrol and are fingerprinted. Once the fingerprints have cleared they return and take the driving test.

There was discussion of limits for taxi service vs. Dial-A-Ride, etc.

Ms. Rice stated that she has received some complaints when using the taxi service because the waiting period is substantial. She usually recommends the Dial-A-Ride service.

**7) Approve** Letter of Support for Economic Stimulus Transit Projects for San Benito County Local Transportation Authority – LiOwen

Ms. LiOwen reported that the Local Transportation Authority Board of Directors approved a list of transit projects that would be eligible for a second round of economic stimulus funding. Some of the projects were preventative maintenance, Paratransit operations, and replacement vehicles.

*Upon a motion duly made by Pauline Valdivia, and seconded by Charles Scott, the Committee unanimously approved Item 7.*

**8) APPROVE** Letters of Support for Funding for Two Applications to the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District for Consideration of Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Assembly Bill 2766 Vehicle Emissions Reduction Grant Program – LiOwen

Ms. LiOwen reported that the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District is accepting grant applications for the AB2766 Emission Reduction Grant Program. The funds are to be used by Air Districts solely for the purposes of reducing air pollution from motor vehicles and other related purposes needed to implement the California Clean Air Act.

Staff proposed the submittal of two applications to the Air District for consideration of Fiscal Year 2010/2011 AB2766 Vehicle Emission Reduction Grant Program funding for the following projects:

1. Bicycle Racks on County Express Vehicles - \$10,000
2. Sunday Intercounty Greyhound and Weekday Gavilan Service - \$50,000

*Upon a motion duly made by Pauline Valdivia, and seconded by Joy Rice, the Committee unanimously approved Item 8.*

**9) ADJOURN** to Meeting of May 6, 2010

*Upon a motion duly made by Charles Scott, and seconded by Joy Rice, the Committee unanimously adjourned the meeting.*

