

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

FINAL MINUTES

DATE: Friday, January 22, 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 9:35 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Margaret Bilich, Joy Rice, Esther Alva, Charles Scott, Pauline Valdivia

STAFF PRESENT

Lisa Rheinheimer, Executive Director, Betty LiOwen, Transportation Planner; Monica Gomez, Secretary

A. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

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

B. ELECT SSTAC Chairperson for 2010

Upon a motion duly made by Pauline Valdivia, and seconded by Charles Scott, the Committee unanimously elected Tony Mercado as SSTAC Chairperson for 2010.

C. ELECT SSTAC Vice-Chairperson for 2010

Upon a motion duly made by Pauline Valdivia, and seconded by Joy Rice, the Committee unanimously elected Mary Margaret Bilich as SSTAC Vice-Chairperson for 2010.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

E. MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joy Rice announced that the HOPE Services office is relocating to the Hollister downtown area at 650 San Benito Street on March 1, 2010.

F. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Rheinheimer announced that the Council of Governments was awarded the 2010 Project of the Year Award for the Highway 25 Bypass Project. The Project will be forwarded to the American Public Works Association at a national level to compete with other projects for project of the year as well.

Ms. LiOwen announced that COG will be holding the Unmet Transit Needs Hearings on the following dates:

February 18, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Board of Supervisors Chambers
481 Fourth St., Hollister, CA 95023

February 19, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.
Senior Center
300 West Street, Hollister, CA 95023

A public notice was posted in the Freelance newspaper and flyers will be distributed as well. Staff will email the Flyers to SSTAC members for distribution.

Ms. Rheinheimer announced that the Local Transportation Authority will be discussing the Dial-A-Ride service as compared to Taxi service at its next meeting on February 18, 2010, and invited SSTAC members to attend if interested.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) **Approve** SSTAC Meeting Minutes dated July 24, 2009 – Gomez
- 2) **Receive** Passenger Complaints – LiOwen
- 3) **Receive** Transit Operations Performance Report for the 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2008/2009 – LiOwen
- 4) **Receive** Specialized Transportation Operations Performance Report for 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2008/2009 – LiOwen
- 5) **Receive** 1st Quarter Transit and Specialized Transportation Operations Report for Fiscal Year 2009/2010 – LiOwen
- 6) **Receive** County Express Monthly Operations Reports Fiscal Year 08/09 for the Months of July - November 2009 – LiOwen
- 7) **Receive** Jovenes de Antaño Specialized Transportation Services Monthly Service Reports for the Months of July - November 2009 – LiOwen

Upon a motion duly made by Pauline Valdivia, and seconded by Mary Margaret Bilich, the Committee unanimously approved Items 1-7, with an abstention from Pauline Valdivia on Item 7.

REGULAR AGENDA:

- 8) **APPROVE** Letter of Support for Funding Transit Planning Student Internship Program Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Transportation Planning Grant Program – LiOwen

Ms. LiOwen reported that Caltrans will be accepting applications from transit agencies for transportation planning grants for Fiscal Year 2010-2011. Approximately, \$9.25 million will be available statewide for transportation planning activities. Staff proposed to apply for one Transit Planning Student Internship Grant for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Applications are due to Caltrans on March 1, 2010. Grant award notices will be announced during the summer, or fall of 2010, upon approval of the State Budget.

Ms. Rheinheimer inquired if Jovenes de Antaño could use the assistance of an intern for their services.

Ms. Valdivia stated that although she could not think of anything specific for an intern at the time, she would contact Ms. LiOwen if something comes to mind in the future.

Ms. Valdivia asked about the duration of the internship.

Ms. LiOwen stated that the grant would fund two part-time interns for a total of 3,000 hours and they cannot work more than 1,000 hours per calendar year.

Upon a motion duly made by Mary Margaret Bilich, and seconded by Charles Scott, the Committee unanimously approved Item 8.

9) Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan – LiOwen

- a. **RECEIVE** Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan
- b. **COMMENT** on Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan

Ms. LiOwen reported that the Council of Governments is working on updating its Regional Transportation Plan, which sets forth goals, policies, and list of planned short-term and long-term transportation projects for the San Benito County region.

Ms. LiOwen noted that the Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan and Environmental Impact Report will be released for a 45-day public review period in February. The Advisory Council will have an opportunity to provide additional comments on the Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Report at the public hearing in March and during the Public Review period.

Ms. Valdivia inquired about updating the list of projects.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that a “purpose and need” section will be added under the Plan Project List, for the San Juan Road Interchange Project and the Highway 152 Route Realignment. The Meridian Street Project will be included as well; however, it has to be included in the City of Hollister’s General Plan before it can be adopted into the Council of Governments Regional Transportation Plan.

Ms. Rice inquired about the possibility of installing crosswalks at the intersections at 6th Street and San Benito Street and 7th Street and San Benito Street, since HOPE Services will be relocating in that area.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that COG is in the process of putting together the Highway 25 Route transfer report which will set in motion the transfer of Highway 25 in the downtown area to the City of Hollister and the new Highway 25 Bypass to Caltrans. Ms. Rheinheimer mentioned that the City of Hollister and the Hollister Downtown Association have plans for downtown improvements and they are looking at various options for crosswalks.

Mr. Scott mentioned that as a member of the Planning Commission, they are looking at the improvements of crosswalks in the downtown area as first and foremost importance.

Ms. Bilich stated that she would like to see the equivalent of an Outreach Program in San Benito County

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that such a program would be incorporated under the Transit Service Operations, which is on the project list.

Ms. Rice asked if Calistoga Drive could be included on the list of projects since it ends at a field and there is not a connection to the surrounding streets.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff will verify if Calistoga Drive is included in the City’s General Plan, if it is staff will add it to the unconstrained project list.

10) DISCUSS Meeting Date Conflicts for May 2010 and November 2010 – LiOwen

Ms. LiOwen reported that the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council regularly meets every two months on the fourth Friday. However, there are scheduling conflicts in May and November 2010 due to a furlough and a holiday.

Staff proposed changing the regular meeting date scheduled on May 28, 2010 to June 4, 2010 and the regular meeting date scheduled on November 26, 2010, to December 3, 2010.

Upon a motion duly made by Mary Margaret Bilich, and seconded by Pauline Valdivia, the Committee unanimously approved the new meeting dates as noted above.

11) ADJOURN to Meeting of March 26, 2010

Upon a motion duly made by Mary Margaret Bilich, and seconded by Pauline Valdivia, the Committee unanimously adjourned the meeting.