

**SAN BENITO COUNTY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SPECIAL MEETING**

February 15, 2012 1:00 P.M.

FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tony Mercado, MV Transportation; Pauline Valdivia, Jovenes De Antaño

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Emerson called the meeting to order at 1:02 P.M.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

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

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS:

1. Unmet Transit Needs Hearing – Lezama

- a. **RECEIVE** Presentation on Unmet Transit Needs Hearing
- b. **OPEN** Public Hearing.
- c. **CLOSE** Public Hearing.
- d. **DIRECT** Staff to Return to the Council of Governments with Recommendation.

Ms. Lezama provided a presentation on the Unmet Transit Needs. Ms. LiOwen provided a brief overview of County Express and Jovenes De Antaño services.

Chair Emerson opened the Public Hearing at 1:12 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Samuel Molina
Hollister, CA**

Mr. Molina stated that he was not happy with the County Express services. Mr. Molina stated that there should be emergency service transportation because it is not possible to schedule a ride ahead of time when there is an emergency. He suggested that two vehicles be used specifically to provide these types of services. He mentioned that he has scheduled rides in the past and the bus arrives 30 minutes to 1 hour

late, but there have also been times where the bus arrives and honks and if you are not immediately outside the bus leaves. He asked if there is a way for the dispatchers to explain that they are outside.

**Abelina Bonilla
Hollister, CA**

Ms. Bonilla stated that she has been using the services for many years and was happy with the services that are provided.

**Marina
Hollister, CA**

Marina stated that she has been a resident of Hollister for 2 ½ years and this was the first time she had noticed information about the transportation services in the area. She stated that it would be helpful to have local transportation information, schedules included as part of a “Welcome to Hollister Package” as done by the Chamber of Commerce. She suggested using smaller vehicles when possible to conserve resources because she has observed buses with only 1-2 passengers at a time.

**Ms. Jaurigue
Hollister, CA**

Ms. Jaurigue stated that it was unreasonable to have to schedule appointments according to the bus schedule. She suggested announcing services on the Spanish radio and newspapers so people know when to schedule their appointments. She stated that there is no service available on Saturday and one must call Thursday by 1pm to schedule a ride for service

**Maria Antunez
Hollister, CA**

Ms. Antunez inquired if it would be possible to extend the Fixed Route service to 12:00 p.m. Since the bus stops running at 10:00 a.m., she has to walk from Miller Road to Ladd Lane School, which is quite a distance. Ms. Antunez commented that Saturday service to Gilroy is also needed.

Chair Emerson closed the Public Hearing at 1:32 p.m.

Chair Emerson noted that Director Gomez was the president of the Chamber of Commerce and he would be forwarding the comments that were received to the Chamber.

Ms. LiOwen responded to Ms. Antunez’ comment and stated that there is currently a gap in the Red, Green, and Blue service from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. because of the cut in transit funds. However, individuals may use the Dial-A-Ride service from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. for a slightly higher fee.

The COG Board stated that they are faced with a challenge due to State Budget cuts which cause implications to the services provided. However, they try to be as flexible as possible to meet the needs of the community. This is why it is very important that individuals voice their concerns or suggestions about the services so that they are able to provide the most needed services. They thanked everyone for their comments and encouraged them to call them or COG staff if they have additional comments.

Upon a motion made by Director Gomez, and seconded by Director De La Cruz, the Director’s voted to adjourn the COG meeting.

ADJOURN TO COG MEETING FEBRUARY 16, 2012.