

**San Benito County
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MEETING**

January 17, 2008 2:00 P.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Pike, Director Botelho, Director Edge, Director Marcus, and AlternateValdivia

STAFF PRESENT:

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy; Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer; Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Dinkuhn; Administrative Services Specialist, Kathy Postigo; Transportation Planner, Veronica Lezama; Transportation Planner, Betty Li; Secretary, Monica Gomez

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tony Mercado, MV Transportation Manager

A. Certificate of Posting

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

B. Public Comment:

C. Elect LTA Chairperson for 2008

D. Elect LTA Vice Chairperson for 2008

Upon a motion duly made by Director Marcus, and seconded by Director Edge, the Directors elected Brad Pike as LTA Chairperson for 2008 and Anthony Botelho as LTA Vice Chairperson for 2008.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Approve LTA Meeting Minutes dated December 13, 2007**
- 2. Approve LTA Transactions Report dated December 1, to December 31, 2007**
- 3. Approve County Express Monthly Management Report for the Month of October 2007 – December 2007 – Li**
- 4. Approve Jovenes de Antaño Monthly Management Report for the Month of November 2007 – Li**

Chair Pike pulled Item #3 for public comment.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Marcus, and seconded by Director Edge, the Directors unanimously approved Items # 1, 2, 4 from the Consent Agenda, with an abstention from Director Valdivia on Item # 4.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Joe Thompson
Tres Pinos, CA**

Mr. Thompson commented on Item # 3.

Mr. Thompson inquired why the LTA is not considering private sector options. The LTA should have a “sound, sustainable transportation policy”.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Botelho, and seconded by Director Edge, the Directors unanimously approved Items # 3, from the Consent Agenda.

5. Receive Update on the Short Range Transit Plan – Li

Transportation Planner Betty Li provided an updated overview on the Short Range Transit Plan.

On December 13, 2007, the Local Transportation Authority held a public hearing on the Short Range Transit Plan. During the hearing, the Board discussed two Fixed Route fare increase options:

- 1) Annual fare increases for 5 years
- 2) One-time fare increase for 5 years

Ms. Li reviewed the pros and cons for both options which also include switching the fare media from tickets to tokens. However with Options 1 and 2, the initial cost of switching to tokens maybe expensive. As a result, staff proposed a third option of restructuring fares.

Ms. Li provided an overview of staff’s proposed Option 3 restructure. Ms. Li noted that in addition to the benefit of reducing the initial cost of switching from tickets to tokens, the overall County Express fare structure would be more user friendly.

Once the Short Range Transit Plan is finalized and adopted, staff will hold public hearings on fare increase options as required by the Transportation Development Act.

There was discussion amongst the Board and staff regarding the three different options.

The Board expressed concerns about the fare increase options being locked in for five years. The Board considered Option 2 or Option 3 to be better options however, they inquired about being able to amend fares in two or three years versus five years.

Staff confirmed that Option 2 and Option 3 did not preclude the Board from amending fares prior to five years.

6. Discuss County Express Bus Stop Shelter Locations and Designs – Li

Transportation Planner Betty Li reported that the Local Transportation Authority received a grant of \$20,400 for Bus Stop Improvements from Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Capital Assistance Program. The grant is for three (3) bus stop shelters, as well as replacement bus stop signs and schedule holders.

Staff presented potential bus stop replacement options to the Technical Advisory Committee on January 3, 2008. At the meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee recommended Option B. However, the Committee recommended replacing the shelter on Memorial Drive instead of the 4th Street location. The City of Hollister’s Redevelopment Agency offered to look into the possibility of funding replacement of the 4th Street shelter. The Committee preferred to install the new bus stops in front of Hazel Hawkins

Hospital in Hollister and Abbe Park in San Juan Bautista. The Tres Pinos Road location was eliminated because of the Highway 25 Bypass that is scheduled for completion at the end of 2008.

Ms. Li noted that staff has identified two other potential shelter locations:

- San Benito Street and 4th Street next to the Brigg's Lawn
- Across the street from Hazel Hawkins

Ms. Li provided a few bus shelter designs for the Boards review and recommendation and reviewed the Technical Advisory Committees recommendations.

The Committee noted that shelters throughout the system should be consistent in design. Staff will also meet with the Downtown Hollister Association and the City of San Juan Bautista on bus shelter designs.

Chair Pike inquired about waste and recycle receptacles being placed near the bus shelters.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff will work with Integrated Waste Management to make sure that waste and recycle receptacles are installed at the bus shelter locations.

Directors inquired about the cost of the different shelters that were provided and noted that the shelter and bench least likely of being vandalized would be most favorable.

Director Botelho suggested another shelter location in San Juan Bautista near Abbe Park and possibly another bus stop near the school.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff will research further and report back to the Board.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Marcus, and seconded by Director Botelho, the Directors unanimously voted to adjourn the LTA meeting.

ADJOURN TO LTA MEETING ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2008 at 2:00 P.M. AGENDA DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 13, 2008 AT 12:00 P.M.