

**San Benito County
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING**

July 17, 2008 5:00 P.M.

FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Pike, Vice-Chair Botelho, Director Edge, Director Emerson, Director Marcus

STAFF PRESENT:

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy; Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer; Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Dinkuhn; Secretary, Monica Gomez

OTHERS PRESENT:

MV Transportation Manager, Tony Mercado

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Pike called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance**
- B. Certificate of Posting**

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. FARE INCREASE AND FARE STRUCTURE FOR COUNTY EXPRESS

- a. **RECEIVE** Report on Preferred Fare Increase Option for County Express
- b. **OPEN** Public Hearing
- c. **CLOSE** Public Hearing
- d. **ADOPT** Resolution 08-07 for County Express Fare Increase Effective January 5, 2009.

Transportation Planning Manager Mary Dinkuhn stated that the Board selected its preferred fare increase option on April 17, 2008. The preferred fare increase option included a fare increase for Fixed Route services and a fare restructure. In addition to the fare increase and restructure, a Day Pass is also being introduced for the Fixed Route and Intercounty services. The new fare structure would become effective January 5, 2009.

Chair Pike opened the Public Hearing at 5:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Joe Thompson
Tres Pinos, CA**

Mr. Thompson stated that the Board should look at the Farebox Recovery rate because they need to know what the entire cost of the transit system is. Mr. Thompson stated that something different has to be done because the way transit is being run today will not provide transit for the disadvantaged in the future.

Marty Richman
Hollister, CA

Mr. Richman stated that although he is not particularly pleased with the transit system, he would like it to work as efficient as possible. This means better and more frequent management reports, analysis reports, and cost reductions are required. Mr. Richman stated, “make believe you are running a private company and every buck saved is a buck you put in your pocket.”

Chair Pike closed the Public Hearing at 5:12 p.m.

Board members acknowledged that both speakers brought up some good points.

Director Botelho stated that the Board and staff are responsible for making sure that the transit system is working as efficiently as possible and continue to meet to ensure that this happens.

Chair Pike inquired if there have been further discussions between staff and the school district working collaboratively to provide transportation.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that the Federal Transit Administration does not allow LTA to operate a school bus system. They have very specific rules on what a school bus operation can do and what a public transit operation can do. However, the Fixed Route is based primarily around shopping trips, school trips, and employment trips.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that the comments made about running the system more as you would a business are well understood, however the transit system is not a “for profit agency”, the sole purpose of the transit system is to provide transportation.

Discussion continued amongst the Board and staff.

The Board recommended scaling back on the Fixed Route during the summer as is done with the Intercounty Route during the summer. This might provide a savings to the system as a whole. The Board also stated that due to the increase in fuel, increasing the fares will have to be revisited and adjusted sooner than originally expected.

Ms. Rheinheimer noted that in the last year the transit system transported about 153,000 passengers and the number of no-shows on the Dial-A-Ride system was reduced by about 1,000, which helped in increasing the transit system’s efficiency.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Marcus, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Directors unanimously voted to adopt Resolution 08-07 for County Express fare increase effective January 5, 2009.

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

ADJOURN TO REGULAR MEETING OF THURSDAY AUGUST 21, 2008
AGENDA DEADLINE IS AUGUST 13, 2008 AT 12:00 P.M