

**San Benito County
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MEETING**

January 15, 2009 2:30 P.M.

FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Botelho, Director De La Cruz, Director Edge, Director Emerson, Director Gomez

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

A. ACKNOWLEDGE Certificate of Posting

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Directors unanimously acknowledged the Certificate of Posting.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Arabella Rhodes
Hollister, CA**

Ms. Rhodes commented on County Express service reductions and stated that County Express services are truly needed. Ms. Rhodes requested that County Express services be provided at least five day a week. The most convenient hours are preferably between 9am to 11am and 2pm to 6pm, which is when the service is used the most.

**Joe Thompson
Tres Pinos, CA**

Mr. Thompson stated that COG is an unmitigated failure and it is time for change.

**Ruth Erickson
Hollister, CA**

Ms. Erickson's comments were in regards to County Express weekend service cuts. Ms. Erickson stated that weekends are when most County activities occur and people require transportation to their place of employment or to medical clinics. Ms. Erickson suggested that staff examine the days and hours of services that are being used the most prior to making any cuts, since weekend cuts will affect a lot of people.

Joyce Young

Ms. Young mentioned that she was the cashier for the Library book sales and will be greatly affected by

the weekend cuts because she works on Saturday's and does not have any other means of transportation. Ms. Young mentioned that she does not have any family or friends that can provide transportation for her and her wheelchair. Ms. Young stated that the bus scheduling needs to be improved and complimented the County Express drivers for doing a good job.

Nelida Contreras

Hollister, CA

Spanish Speaking

Veronica Lezama interpreted for Ms. Contreras

Ms. Contreras mentioned that she was speaking for herself and also on behalf of some of her elderly friends who were not able to attend. Ms. Contreras stated that they are very satisfied with County Express services and are also okay with the fare increase, but asked that services not be cut because they rely on the service to get to medical appointments and to go grocery shopping.

Marvin Jones

Hollister, CA

Mr. Jones stated that he observed six buses with a combined total of 9 passengers last week. Mr. Jones stated that the taxpayers need a relief and added that it would be more efficient to have Dial-A-Ride service, although that would be illegal.

Vice-Chair Botelho closed public comment and stated that the comments will be noted as part of the Special LTA meeting at 6:00 p.m.

C. ELECT LTA Chairperson for 2009

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Edge, the Directors elected Anthony Botelho as LTA Chairperson for 2009.

D. ELECT LTA Vice Chairperson for 2009

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Directors elected Rick Edge as LTA Vice Chairperson for 2009.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Approve** LTA Transactions Report (Financial Claims) dated December 2008 – Postigo
- 2. Approve** LTA Special Meeting Minutes dated December 11, 2008 – Gomez
- 3. Approve** County Express Monthly Management Report for the Month November 2008 – LiOwen
- 4. Approve** Jovenes de Antaño Monthly Management Report for the Month of November 2008 – LiOwen
- 5. Adopt** Resolution 09-02 and Resolution 09-03 Authorizing the Executive Director, Transportation Planning Manager, and Transportation Planner to Apply for and Accept Financial Assistance from the State of California's Office of Homeland Security – LiOwen
- 6. Approve** Contract Between the Local Transportation Authority and Pacific Municipal Consulting (PMC) for Design Services for County Express Maps, Schedules, and Brochure – LiOwen
- 7. Invitations for Bids** – LiOwen
 - a) Release** IFB #2009 – 001 for Bus Stop Signs, Hardware, and Poles
 - b) Release** IFB #2009 – 002 for Automatic Token Packaging Machine and Packaging Pouches

The Directors pulled consent items 3,5,6,7 for discussion.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Gomez, the Directors unanimously approved Items 1, 2, and 4 from the Consent Agenda.

Public Comment
Item #3

Joe Thompson

Mr. Thompson stated that the numbers on the report are not prepared according to the legal accounting principles.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Edge, the Directors unanimously approved Item 3.

Public Comment
Item #5

Joe Thompson

Mr. Thompson stated that the Board never hears about Transportation, they only hear about “transit and bike paths”, which is a small segment of the pie. Mr. Thompson asked the Board to think about the cost benefit analysis of spending the money that the UP has already been offering to match for ten years.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Emerson, and seconded by Director Gomez, the Directors unanimously approved Item 5.

Item #6

Director Gomez inquired about other avenues that are being used to advertise and promote an increase in ridership. Director Gomez also inquired if the maps, schedules, and brochures are advertised to the Latino and lower income communities.

Transportation Planner, Betty LiOwen stated that the design services were used to update the new maps schedules and brochures which should be easier for passengers to read and understand. The new maps and brochures will be posted on the website and will be distributed to County Departments, Social Services Agencies and schools, and posted on the bus stop shelters and buses.

Executive Director Lisa Rheinheimer stated that staff has done some Spanish speaking outreach in the past and mentioned that all the brochures are in English and Spanish, however staff will try to do a better job of advertising to the Latino and lower income communities.

Public Comment:
Ruth Erickson
Hollister, CA

Ms. Erickson suggested that the maps and brochures be distributed to City Hall, Library, Chamber of Commerce, etc., because she had not observed any brochures.

Director De La Cruz inquired if any local design firms had been solicited.

Ms. LiOwen stated that staff completed a Request for Proposals however; there were no responses from local design firms.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Edge, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Directors unanimously approved Item 6.

Item #7

Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Dinkuhn pulled this item and reviewed the modifications that had been made to the contract and asked that the Board approve the contract noting these modifications.

Public Comment:

Marvin Jones

Mr. Jones stated that it seems “backwards” for the Board to approve the contract prior to staff making the correct noted modifications.

Chair Botelho directed staff to go through and note all the modifications to the contract.

Executive Director Lisa Rheinheimer recommended that Item 7 be continued to the February meeting due to the extent of modifications noted by County Counsel, Shirley Murphy.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Directors voted to continue Item 7 to the February meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA:

8. Priority Seating Policy – LiOwen

- a) **Discuss** Priority Seating Policy for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities
- b) **Adopt** Resolution 09-01 to Establish Priority Seating Policy for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities

Transportation Planner Betty LiOwen reviewed Resolution 09-01 which establishes a priority seating policy for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

There was discussion amongst Board members and staff with regards to the policy and how it will be conveyed to the passengers.

Ms. LiOwen stated that the drivers will be educated on the policy and notices will be posted on the buses.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Emerson, and seconded by Director Edge, the Directors approved Item 8.

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

ADJOURN TO REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2009. AGENDA DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 10, 2009 AT 12:00 P.M.