

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

MINUTES

DATE: Friday, July 27, 2007
9:30 AM

LOCATION: Board of Supervisors Chambers, 481 Fourth Street
Hollister, CA 95023

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Pauline Valdivia called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Clay Kempf, Dolly De Vasier, Pauline Valdivia, Tony Mercado,
Carmen Betancourt

STAFF PRESENT

Lisa Rheinheimer, Executive Director; Veronica Lezama, Transportation Planner;
Betty Li, Transportation Planner

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Upon a motion duly made by Dolly DeVasier and seconded by Tony Mercado,
the Committee unanimously acknowledged the Certificate of Posting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Dinkuhn announced that Ms. Rheinheimer is on vacation and she provided a
brief report on her behalf.

Ms. Dinkuhn recognized Monica Gomez for her one-year anniversary with the
Council of Governments.

Ms. Dinkuhn introduced Betty Li, who was hired as the new Transportation
Planner and will be mainly focusing on transit. Ms. Dinkuhn stated that Ms. Li
graduated from UC Berkeley in May. Ms. Dinkuhn mentioned that Ms. Li has a
lot of experience using the transit system in the Bay area, and has some great
ideas for County Express.

SSTAC members welcomed Ms. Li to SSTAC and the Council of Governments.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Approve SSTAC Meeting Minutes dated December 15, 2006

2) Receive Transit Ridership and Operations Report for the quarter ending March 31, 2007

Upon a motion duly made by Clay Kempf and seconded by Tony Mercado, the Committee unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

3) MV Transportation, Inc. Monthly Management Reports for the Months of November 2006 and February 2007

Upon a motion duly made by Dolly De Vasier and seconded by Clay Kempf, the Committee approved Item #3 with an abstention from Tony Mercado.

4) Receive Jovenes de Antaño Monthly Management Report for the Months of February 2007 and April 2007

Upon a motion duly made by Dolly De Vasier and seconded by Tony Mercado, the Committee approved Item #4 with an abstention from Pauline Valdivia.

5) Discuss American's with Disabilities Act Paratransit Eligibility during Pregnancy

Catherine Farnham from San Benito County Public Health provided handouts and a presentation to inform and illustrate the need to resume access to ADA Paratransit transportation services for women throughout pregnancy and for them and their infants for a full year after the baby is born.

Ms. Farnham stated that the action taken by the Board last June to restrict access to ADA Paratransit transportation services for women is very unfortunate. Ms. Farnham stated that by limiting services to women in their last three months of pregnancy and first three months after delivery, many women are not receiving the long-term postpartum care they need for medical issues such as diabetes and high blood pressure, and their children are not receiving their immunizations.

Ms. Farnham stated that she met with COG staff to evaluate the effectiveness of the new policy; however, there was little data available. Ms. Farnham stated that she has worked with COG staff to develop a client satisfaction survey (which is planned for this month) to better track these services.

Ms. Farnham asked SSTAC members to consider re-expanding County Express' definition of disability to women throughout pregnancy and through the infants' first year.

Mr. Kempf asked if it is possible to show the overall impact of providing these services. Mr. Kempf asked if it is also possible to provide data to show how

many women and infants are missing medical appointments because of lack of transportation.

Ms. Farnham stated that the best data she could provide was from the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program, where a cost analysis was done when they started their maternal health care project about 10 years ago. At that point in time it was a 7 to 1 return on the county tax dollar to pay for the care of a woman vs. preventing preterm labor, complications of pregnancy, and neonatal intensive care costs.

Ms. Valdivia stated that Jovenes de Antaño provides medical and shopping transportation for people who have a disability and who live in rural areas and asked if the Jovenes de Antaño service may be a possibility for women throughout their pregnancy.

Ms. Dinkuhn stated that Jovenes de Antaño services would be appropriate if these women require additional services and care beyond the three months allowed through ADA services.

After some discussion amongst SSTAC members and staff it was decided to wait until the September SSTAC meeting so that the surveys are completed and the Short Range Transit Plan is in place. This will allow for more concrete data to make an informed decision.

Ms. Valdivia suggested that Ms. Farnham research the California Health Trust Fund which is a great resource and can provide grants to help track the information that is required.

Mr. Kempf encouraged Ms. Farnham to also research a major foundation like the California Health Care foundation. Mr. Kempf stated that he believes this is an innovative pilot project that could have national significance.

Upon a motion made by Clay Kempf and seconded by Carmen Betancourt, the committee unanimously voted that County Express track the amount of use of pregnant and postpartum women and ADA services and have staff members and SSTAC members investigate alternative funding sources and report back at the September SSTAC meeting.

6) Discussion of Incidents Received

Ms. Dinkuhn stated that there were several incidents attached in the agenda packets because of the adjournment of one meeting. Ms. Dinkuhn asked if SSTAC members had any questions or comments with regards to the incidents.

Ms. Dinkuhn noted that the incidents are now logged through MV Transit's tracking program. Staff has access to the program and is able to log all complaints/compliments and email the incident to MV's Operations Manager, Tony Mercado, who can investigate and respond to the complaint(s).

SSTAC members were pleased with the new format.

Ms. Valdivia questioned incident #3203 regarding Driver Attitude/Conduct.

Mr. Mercado stated that the driver was counseled on how to handle these types of situations; however, the driver was commended on identifying an unsafe situation.

Mr. Mercado noted that another benefit to having this tracking system is staff is able to address drivers when complaints are received. This is especially important if the complaints are for a specific driver on a regular basis.

7) Receive Report on San Benito County Short Range Transit Plan and Transit Operations Request for Proposals

Ms. Dinkuhn stated that the contract with MV Transportation expires June 30, 2007; however, we have three, one-month extensions to the contract so the contract will expire September 30, 2007. Staff has developed a request for proposals for transit operation services which was just approved by the LTA Board and will be released today.

Ms. Dinkuhn stated that there will be a pre-bid meeting in approximately two weeks and proposals will be due in July with a final operations contract approval in August.

Ms. Dinkuhn noted that the request for proposals includes some of the recommendations from the Short Range Transit Plan.

Ms. Valdivia recommended having a representative from SSTAC on the request for proposals interview committee. Ms. Valdivia suggested that Mr. Kempf participate on the committee.

Ms. Kempf stated that he would verify whether or not he is available to participate.

Ms. Li will coordinate with Mr. Kempf on whether he will be able to attend the interviews.

Ms. Lezama stated that over the last six months Moore & Associates has been working on the evaluation of County Express and Jovenes de Antaño's transit systems.

Ms. Lezama stated that staff received the Short Range Transit Plan and will provide SSTAC members with a copy next week. Ms. Lezama encouraged SSTAC members to provide comments at the July meeting. Staff anticipates that the LTA Board will approve and adopt the plan sometime in August.

The consultant found that most of the transit vehicles and fees were outdated, they found some customer service issues. They also found that the previous service that was based on color routes vs. the current clockwise and counter clockwise was preferred by passengers.

Ms. Valdivia asked SSTAC members to provide their comments at the next SSTAC meeting.

8) Receive Performance Audit Report

Ms. Dinkuhn recommended that this item be continued to the next SSTAC meeting to allow SSTAC members to review the Performance Audit Report, which was not attached to SSTAC member's packets this month.

9) Member Announcements

Mr. Kempf announced that he attended a Caltrans Section 5310 Advisory Committee meeting last week and stated that some changes to the 5310 application were proposed.

Mr. Kempf stated that there were two items that he thought would be of interest to SSTAC members. He stated that a new funding category for "mobility management services" is being allowed in 5310 applications.

The other item was in regards to some comments made at the meeting that SSTAC members and staff should try to follow. Mr. Kempf stated that a couple members on the committee made the suggestion to look at different ways of disbursing funds and consider the change to allocating based on a population formula so that rural and small counties are not facing the disadvantage of competing with areas like San Bernardino County and will make it a more level playing field.

Mr. Kempf stated that this is a topic that SSTAC members might have to get involved with and he will let SSTAC members and LTA staff know if he hears of any movement to try to change the allocation of 5310 funds.

10) Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Dolly DeVasier and seconded by Carmen Betancourt, the Committee unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.