



COUNCIL OF SAN BENITO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

DATE: Friday, March 24, 2023
10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Council of San Benito County Governments
Conference Room
330 Tres Pinos Road, Suite C7
Hollister, CA 95023

MEMBERS: Leona Medearis-Peacher, Chair
Paulette Cobb, Vice-Chair
Clay Kempf
Connie Padron
Joshua Mercier
Maria Magaña
Stacy Romo
Regina Valentine

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1. Call to Order and Introductions
 2. Verification of Certificate of Posting
 3. **Public Comment** (*Opportunity to address the committee on items of interest not appearing on the agenda. No action may be taken unless provided by Govt. Code Sec. 56954.2. Speakers are limited to 3 minutes.*)
 4. Member Announcements

ACTION ITEMS:

5. ELECT SSTAC Chair and Vice-Chair for 2023
6. DISCUSS the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments' (AMBAG) 2023 Public Participation Plan (PPP) Development Process – Valentine/AMBAG
7. 2023 Unmet Transit Needs Report – Lezama
 - a. COMMENT on the Public Feedback Received During the 2023 Unmet Transit Needs Process.

Council of San Benito County Governments (COG)

Local Transportation Authority • Airport Land Use Commission • Service Authority for Freeways & Expressways
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- b. RECOMMEND to the COG Board the Unmet Transit Needs Found Reasonable to Meet for Implementation in Fiscal Year 2023/2024 by the Local Transportation Authority.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(These matters shall be considered as a whole and without discussion unless a particular item is removed from the consent agenda. A member of the public should seek recognition by the Chair if comment is desired. Approval of a consent item means approval of recommended as specified on the Staff Report.)

8. **APPROVE** Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Regular Meeting Minutes dated March 25, 2022 – Gomez
9. **RECEIVE** the 2023 Council of Governments Board of Directors and Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting Calendar - Gomez

INFORMATION ITEMS:

10. Executive Director Report/Announcements – Abraham

Adjourn to Regular Meeting of June 23, 2023

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if requested, the Agenda can be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. If an individual wishes to request an alternative agenda format, please contact the Clerk of the Council four (4) days prior to the meeting at (831) 637-7665. The Council of Governments Board of Directors meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board's office at (831) 637-7665 at least 48 hours before the meeting to enable the Council of Governments to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

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CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Pursuant to Government Code Section #54954.2(a) the Regular Meeting Agenda for the Council of San Benito County Governments Social Services Transportation Advisory Council on **March 24, 2023**, at **10:00 a.m.** was posted at the following locations freely accessible to the public:

The front entrance of the Old San Benito County Courthouse, Monterey Street, Hollister, CA 95023, and the Council of Governments Office, 330 Tres Pinos Road, Suite C-7, Hollister, CA 95023, at the following date and time:

On the 20th day of March 2023, on or before 5:00 p.m.

The meeting agenda was also posted on the Council of San Benito County Governments website, www.sanbenitocog.org, under Meetings, SSTAC, 2022 Meeting Schedule.

I, Monica Gomez, swear under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

BY:



Monica Gomez, Secretary II
Council of San Benito County Governments



STAFF REPORT

Information

Prepared By: Regina Valentine,
Transportation Planner
Subject: AMBAG's 2023 Public Participation
Plan

Agenda Item No. 6

Approved By: Binu Abraham, Executive
Director
Meeting Date: March 24, 2023

Recommendation:

DISCUSS AMBAG's 2023 Public Participation Plan Development Process.

Summary:

Staff is seeking feedback on the planned development of AMBAG's 2023 Public Participation Plan.

Background/ Discussion:

AMBAG (Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments) staff will provide an overview of the development process and schedule for the 2023 Public Participation Plan.

Alternatives:

Not applicable.

Financial Impact:

None.

Attachments:

1. AMBAG 2023 Public Participation Plan Staff Memo and Timeline

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: SBTCOG Social Service Transportation Advisory Council

FROM: Miranda Taylor, Planner

SUBJECT: 2023 Public Participation Plan Development Process

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff will provide an overview of the 2023 Public Participation Plan (PPP) development process. Council members are asked to provide feedback on the development of the 2023 Public Participation Plan.

BACKGROUND/ DISCUSSION:

The federally required *2023 Public Participation Plan* is a comprehensive document that guides regional planning agencies and local jurisdictions in the public participation process for the tri-county Monterey Bay region that either receive federal funds or are subject to a federally required action.

AMBAG, as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Monterey Bay region, prepares and adopts the Public Participation Plan at least once every four years. The prior Public Participation Plan, the *2019 Monterey Bay Area Public Participation Plan*, was adopted in October 2019 to comply with the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) legislation. The *2023 Public Participation Plan* will cover the four-year period from 2023-2026 and must comply with the current Federal Surface Transportation Act, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), which was enacted in 2015. The *2023 Public Participation Plan* emphasizes the transportation decision making process, including the expanded use of visualization techniques and innovative online marketing strategies in public outreach.

AMBAG is required to update the Public Participation Plan every four years. The requirements for the Public Participation Plan under the FAST Act include increased

involvement and collaboration with members of the public, decision makers and staff from the local jurisdictions and partner agencies within the region.

Key sections of the *2023 Public Participation Plan* are listed below:

- Public Participation Plan Guiding Principles
- 2023 Public Participation Plan Timeline
- Incorporating Limited-English Proficiency (LEP) Populations into the PPP
- PPP Procedures and Development Process
- Interested Parties and Public Engagement
- Online and Visualization Outreach Strategies

An updated Public Participation Plan is the required guide for all public involvement activities conducted by AMBAG. As such, the PPP contains the procedures, strategies and techniques used by AMBAG for public involvement in all programs and projects that use federal funds.

A number of appendices will be included in the 2023 PPP. For example, Appendix G will include the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Public Involvement Program. This appendix outlines how AMBAG will engage the public and stakeholders throughout the development of the 2050 MTP/SCS.

Below are key dates for developing the *2023 Public Participation Plan*:

- **March - April 2023:** Present an overview of the 2023 Public Participation Plan development process to regional Advisory Committees/Councils, Planning Directors Forum, and to the AMBAG Board of Directors
- **February - May 2023:** Develop the Draft Public Participation Plan
- **May - July 2023:** Present the Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan to Advisory Committees/Councils, Planning Directors Forum, and to the AMBAG Board of Directors
- **June 14, 2023 - August 23, 2023:** 70-Day Public Comment Period
- **August - September 2023:** Prepare the Final 2023 Public Participation Plan
- **October 11, 2023:** AMBAG Board of Directors will be asked to adopt the Final 2023 Public Participation Plan

A detailed timeline is also included as Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENT:

1. 2023 Public Participation Plan Timeline

**AMBAG 2023 Public Participation Plan Update
Final Schedule & Process**

Date	Tasks/Objective	Due Dates
January/early February 2023	Outreach to RTPAs by email and confirm point of contacts	2/3/2023
	Draft Schedule and Process Reviewed by RTPAs	2/28/2023
February/March 2023	Publish PPP Survey	2/28/2023
March/April 2023	Present 2023 PPP Update Process to all RTPA TAC/SSTAC meetings and AMBAG Board	
	<i>3/16/23 - Present 2023 PPP Update Process at SCCRTC ITAC Meeting</i>	3/16/2023
	<i>3/24/23 - Present 2023 PPP Update Process at SBtCOG SSTAC</i>	3/24/2023
	<i>3/27/23 - Present 2023 PPP Update Process at AMBAG PDF</i>	3/27/2023
	<i>3/29/23 - Present 2023 PPP Update Process at TAMC/MST MAC</i>	3/29/2023
	<i>4/6/23 - Present 2023 PPP Update Process at TAMC and SBtCOG TAC Meetings</i>	4/6/2023
	<i>4/11/23 - Present 2023 PPP Update Process at SCCRTC E&D TAC</i>	4/11/2023
	<i>4/12/23 - Present 2023 PPP Update Process at AMBAG Board Meeting</i>	4/12/2023
April/ May 2023	Develop Administrative Draft 2023 PPP	3/30/2023
	Email Administrative Draft PPP document to RTPAs for review	4/13/2023
	Edits/Changes on Administrative Draft 2023 PPP from RTPAs due on 5/8/2023 to AMBAG	5/8/2023
	Develop Draft 2023 PPP	5/31/2023
June 2023	Present Draft 2023 PPP to Committees/Boards, Release Public Notice (70 days) and Start Public Comment Period	Open Comment Period on: 06/14/2023
	<i>5/31/23 - Present Draft 2023 PPP at TAMC/MST MAC</i>	Close Comment Period on: 8/23/2023
	<i>6/1/23 - Present Draft 2023 PPP at TAMC TAC Meeting</i>	
	<i>6/1/23 - SCCRTC Board Meeting</i>	
	<i>6/13/23 - Present Draft 2023 PPP at SCCRTC E&D TAC</i>	
	<i>6/14/23: AMBAG Board Meeting</i>	
	<i>6/15/23 - Present Draft 2023 PPP at SCCRTC ITAC Meeting</i>	
	<i>6/15/23 -SBtCOG Board Meeting</i>	
	<i>6/23/23 - Present Draft 2023 PPP at SBtCOG SSTAC</i>	
	<i>6/26/23: AMBAG PDF</i>	
	<i>6/28/23 - TAMC Board Meeting</i>	
<i>7/6/23 - Present Draft 2023 PPP at SBtCOG TAC Meeting</i>		
August 2023	Public Hearing on 2023 PPP at AMBAG's August Board Meeting	8/9/2023
	RTPAs to Also Hold Public Hearings (if using AMBAG PPP as their plan)	
	8/1/23 - SCCRTC Public Hearing	8/1/2023
	8/17/23 - SBtCOG Public Hearing	8/17/2023
	8/23/23 TAMC Public Hearing	8/23/2023
	Summarize comments and make revisions for Final 2023 PPP	9/8/2023
September/October 2023	Adoption of PPP by SBtCOG (if using AMBAG PPP as their plan)	9/21/2023
	Adoption of PPP by TAMC (if using AMBAG PPP as their plan)	9/27/2023
	Adoption of PPP by SCCRTC (if using AMBAG as their plan)	10/5/2023
	Final 2023 PPP for adoption by AMBAG Board	10/11/2023



STAFF REPORT

Action

Prepared By: Veronica Lezama,
Transportation Planning Manager
Subject: Unmet Transit Needs Report

Agenda Item No. 7

Approved By: Binu Abraham, Executive Director
Meeting Date: March 24, 2023

Recommendation:

1. COMMENT on the Public Feedback Received During the 2023 Unmet Transit Needs Process.
2. RECOMMEND to the COG Board the Unmet Transit Needs Found Reasonable to Meet for Implementation in Fiscal Year 2023/2024 by the Local Transportation Authority.

Summary:

The Council of Governments (COG) conducts an Unmet Transit Needs hearing every year to provide a forum for residents, transit users, and community members to comment on the local bus service.

Background/ Discussion:

The Council of San Benito County Governments (COG) is responsible for allocating Transportation Development Act funds for public transportation services within the San Benito region. Each year, the Unmet Transit Needs process is carried out to identify and evaluate any potential needs that are not being met through existing public transit services.

The Unmet Transit Need process consists of the following three key steps:

1. COG staff solicits testimony from the public on the Unmet Transit Needs of the community. A public hearing on the Unmet Transit Needs was held by the COG Board at their regularly scheduled meeting of Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. Opportunity for submittal of public comment was provided through the following options: public hearing, email, social media, telephone, letter, online survey, and by comment cards made available onboard all transit buses. COG received a total of 20 comments from the public.
2. COG staff must then analyze the Unmet Transit Needs expressed by the public, in accordance with COG adopted definition of an Unmet Transit Need and Reasonable to Meet criterion (Attachment 1). All comments received are discussed with the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC), which provides feedback and recommendations to the COG Board of Directors on the Unmet Transit Needs of the community. COG staff has prepared responses to all comments received for review and feedback from the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (Attachment 2). The purpose of SSTAC is to review the input of transit-

dependent and transit disadvantaged persons, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, low-income persons, and youths regarding transit needs in San Benito County.

3. The COG Board of Directors then adopts Unmet Transit Needs Report, which includes all comments received and identifies which Unmet Transit Needs were classified as Reasonable to Meet for implementation in the upcoming fiscal year by the Local Transportation Authority.

The draft Unmet Transit Needs Report will be presented to the COG Board at their April and May 2023 meeting for comment. The final report will be considered by the Board for adoption at their June meeting. The final report is then submitted to Caltrans by the August 15, 2023 deadline.

Financial Impact:

There are no financial impact.

Attachments:

1. Unmet Transit Needs and “Reasonable to Meet” Criteria
2. 2023 Public Comments and COG Responses

ADOPTED DEFINITIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR NOTICING AND CONDUCTING THE ANNUAL UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS HEARING



As required by PUC section 9940 1.5, the Council of San Benito County Governments must adopt formal definitions of "unmet transit need" and "reasonable to meet." The first definition is the primary tool used to evaluate the public testimony received during the initial hearing.

The second definition is used to evaluate the reasonableness of meeting those requests. State law (PUC Section 994015(c)) has been modified to clarify that..."the fact that an identified transit need cannot fully be met based on available resources shall not be the sole reason for finding that a transit need is not reasonable to meet."

Additionally, the Act specifies that..." An agency's determination of needs that are reasonable to meet shall not be made by comparing unmet transit needs with the need of streets and roads. "

I. The "unmet needs" definition adopted by Council of San Benito County Governments:

"Unmet needs are defined as expressed or identified needs of a significant segment of the community for public transportation services to meet basic mobility needs which are not currently being met through existing transit services or other means of transportation.

Included, at a minimum, are those public transportation or specialized services that are identified in the Regional Transportation Plan, Short Range Transit Plan and/or Transit Development Plan, which have not been implemented or funded."

II. The "unmet needs" threshold criteria adopted by the Council of San Benito County Governments:

The following criteria must be true for the COG to consider a request an "unmet need". If a request **fails** to satisfy any of the criteria below, the request is **not** an unmet need.

1. The request fills a gap in transit service, or is identified as a deficiency in the Regional Transportation Plan.
2. Sufficient *broad-based* community support exists.
3. Request is a *current* rather than *future* need.
4. Request is not operational in nature (i.e. minor route change, bus stop change, etc.)

III. Adopted Definition of "Transit Needs That Are Reasonable To Meet Determination."

In making the reasonableness determination, an analysis will be conducted on existing transit services, available options, likely demand and general costs based on similar services in the area and available studies. Once completed, the following criteria shall be considered.

REASONABLE TO MEET CRITERIA

In making a reasonableness determination, an analysis will be conducted on existing transit services, available options, likely demand and general costs based on similar services in the area and available studies. An Unmet Transit Need would be considered reasonable to meet if the proposed service is in general compliance with the following criteria:

A. EQUITY

The proposed service would:

1. Benefit the general public.
2. Not unreasonably discriminate against nor favor any particular area or segment of the community at the exclusion of any other.
3. Not result in adversely affect existing services in other parts of the transit system that have an equal or higher priority immediately or within the foreseeable future.
4. Require a subsidy per passenger generally equivalent to other parts of the transit system, unless overriding reasons so justify.

B. TIMING

The proposed service would:

1. Be in response to an existing rather than a future need.
2. Be implemented consistent with federal, state, or regional funding approval schedules, if such funds are the most appropriate primary method of funding.

C. COST EFFECTIVENESS

The proposed service would:

1. Not cause the responsible operator or service claimant to incur expenses in excess of the maximum allocated funds.
2. Not set a precedent for other service expansions without a reasonable expectation of available funding.
3. Have available funding on a long-term basis to maintain the service.

D. SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

1. The efficiency of the new, expanded or revised transit service, excluding specialized transportation services, shall be measured on efficiency, such as:
 - Cost per passenger trip,
 - Cost per vehicle service hour,
 - Passenger trips per vehicle service hour,
 - Passenger trips per service mile,
 - On-time performance.
2. The proposed service would have a reasonable expectation of future increase in ridership.

E. OPERATIONAL FEASIBILITY

1. The new, expanded or revised transit service must be safe to operate and there must be adequate roadways and turnouts for transit vehicles.
2. The new service would be provided with the existing vehicle fleet or with vehicles that can be acquired with available funds.
3. The new service would have the available maintenance staff to cover the additional vehicle maintenance hours incurred as a result of the proposed service.

F. COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE

A significant level of community support exists for the public subsidy of transit services designed to address the unmet transit need. Including but not limited to, community groups, community leaders, and community meetings reflecting support for the unmet transit need.

G. ADA CONFORMITY

The new, expanded or modified service, excluding specialized transportation services, would conform to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The COG shall consider the financial impact on the TDA claimant if complementary paratransit services are required as a result of the new, expanded, or modified service.

H. OTHER FACTORS

Other specific, formulated components that COG determines to affect the reasonableness of meeting an unmet transit need.

2023 Unmet Transit Needs Report
For Implementation in FY 2023/2024

County Express								
No.	Media	Language	Service	Comment Category	Public Comment	Determination	Reasonable To Meet Criteria	COG Response
1	Bus Survey	English	Intercounty	Gap in Service	They need to have more flexible schedule going to Gilroy on the morning and evening. They need to provide better services to other people the used. More schedule on winter time.	Unmet Transit Need: Reasonable to Meet	Not applicable	The Short Range Transit Plan provides an analysis of transit services recommendations that factor capital and financial feasibility for all service improvements. Specifically, the Plan identifies additional and direct transit services between Hollister and Gilroy. The Local Transportation Authority is able accommodate this request with existing revenue sources. However, as a national trend, transit agencies are experiencing post COVID transit driver shortages. All future services will be implemented dependent on available drivers. MV Transportation, County Express' contracted operator, currently employs 13 drivers, three are on Leave of Absence. In order to implement the Short Range Transit Plan, seven additional drivers are needed. MV Transportation is actively recruiting drivers.
2	Bus Survey	English	Unknown	Customer Service	Have better bus drivers, be more kind with the passengers. Your bus drivers ask to many questions to people.	Not an Unmet Transit Need	Not applicable	Thank you for your feedback, the matter has been addressed with the MV Transportation General Manager.
3	Bus Survey	English	Unknown	Other	Car Service	Unmet Transit Need: Reasonable to Meet	Not applicable	N/A
4	Bus Survey	English	Intercounty	Operational	A bus with more seats on the Intercounty line in the morning. Specifically leaving Hollister around 7 AM. There have been times when there are 17-25 people on the bus that can really only fit 16. Its unsafe.	Not an Unmet Transit Need	Not applicable	County Express implemented a shadow bus, which is a secondary vehicle to accommodate additional ridership overflow.
5	Email	English	Intercounty	Other	Can you please send me a brief description of transit routes/schedules for the service to SJB? And any routes that use 156 that do not stop in SJB?	Not an Unmet Transit Need	Not applicable	A summary of local transit services was provided.
6	Email	English	Intercounty	Gap in Service	More service for those taking night classes at Gavilan College. I am most interested in any route to Gavilan College.	Not an Unmet Transit Need	Not applicable	The Local Transportation Authority has not received requests for evening transit services to and from Gavilan College. During the Short range Transit Plan outreach, the request for evening transit services to and from Gavilan College was not identified as a need.

No.	Media	Language	Service	Comment Category	Public Comment	Determination	Reasonable To Meet Criteria	COG Response
7	Bus Survey	English	Intercounty	Gap in Service	A bus that goes to Salinas, Santa Cruz, Watsonville, and to go to Gilroy. Also San Jose. Make it as a Caltrain because we have appointments out of town. We can't make it. No bus no transportation.	Unmet Transit Need: Not Reasonable to Meet	Cost Effectiveness	The Short Range Transit Plan provides an analysis of transit services recommendations that factor capital and financial feasibility for all service improvements. The Short Range Transit Plan analyzed the feasibility of services to Salinas, Santa Cruz, and Watsonville. The Plan does not identify services to the above-mentioned cities as feasible options for services expansion due to the LTA's available and projected revenue sources. During the outreach process, the LTA did not receive community requests for services to Salinas, Santa Cruz, or Watsonville.
8	Online Survey	English	Unknown	Operational	Disband all service except to Gavilan & Caltrain	Not an Unmet Transit Need	Not applicable	The purpose of the Unmet Transit Needs process is to solicit feedback on service gaps.
9	Online Survey	English	Intercounty	Gap in Service	There needs to be much higher frequency of the bus stopping at all stops for all services as much as possible. This will help get more people out of cars and alleviate the traffic issues we all deal with going in and out of town on Hwy 25 and Hwy 156. From what I understand the long term goal of the VTA in Santa Clara county for all their mass transit services they are looking to increase frequency up to 15 min or less. Suburbs such as our county in other European countries have service at all their stops sometimes as frequent as five minutes which means the only people using their cars are the people that absolutely have to. This also saves people a lot more money versus having to rely strictly on car-based transportation. This also has a very positive environmental impact.	Unmet Transit Need: Reasonable to Meet	Not applicable	The Short Range Transit Plan provides an analysis of transit services recommendations that factor capital and financial feasibility for all service improvements. Specifically, the Plan identifies additional and direct transit services between Hollister and Gilroy. The Local Transportation Authority is able accommodate this request with existing revenue sources. However, as a national trend, transit agencies are experiencing post COVID transit driver shortages. All future services will be implemented dependent on available drivers. MV Transportation, County Express' contracted operator, currently employs 13 drivers, three are on Leave of Absence. In order to implement the Short Range Transit Plan, seven additional drivers are needed. MV Transportation is actively recruiting drivers.
10	Online Survey	English	Unknown	Operational	Add a stop by Glenview Dr. / Enterprise area. Enterprise ends into Valley View Park. Please consider adding a stop close the park.	Not an Unmet Transit Need	Not applicable	County Express has implemented a flag stop at this and other locations. In public transport, a flag stop is a stop at which buses stop only on request and contingent operational safety.

No.	Media	Language	Service	Comment Category	Public Comment	Determination	Reasonable To Meet Criteria	COG Response
11	Online Survey	English	Dial-a-Ride	Operational	Increase frequency, weekend service.	Unmet Transit Need: Reasonable to Meet	Not applicable	The Local Transportation Authority (LTA) provides weekend transit services. On Saturdays both pre-scheduled Dial-A-ride and Intercounty service to Gilroy is available, however only Intercounty is available on Sundays. The LTA is able accommodate this request with existing revenue sources. However, as a national trend, transit agencies are experiencing post COVID transit driver shortages. All future services will be implemented dependent on available drivers. MV Transportation, County Express' contracted operator, currently employs 13 drivers, three are on Leave of Absence. In order to implement the Short Range Transit Plan, seven additional drivers are needed. MV Transportation is actively recruiting drivers.
12	Bus Survey	English	On-Demand	Operational	Return of On-Demand service.	Not an Unmet Transit Need	Not applicable	The On-Demand service is a pilot program that was implemented during COVID similar to Dial-A-Ride services. On-demand is a shared-ride, public transit service within the City of Hollister. Riders can book a trip through our app or call dispatch and ride in ADA-accessible vehicles with our trained drivers at a fraction of the cost of traditional rideshare apps. Currently, riders have the option to book Dial-A-ride services. All future services will be implemented dependent on available drivers. MV Transportation, County Express' contracted operator, currently employs 13 drivers, three are on Leave of Absence. In order to implement the Short Range Transit Plan, seven additional drivers are needed. MV Transportation is actively recruiting drivers.
13	Other	English	Intercounty	Gap in Service	SB County to Monterey.	Unmet Transit Need: Not Reasonable to Meet	Not applicable	The Short Range Transit Plan provides an analysis of transit services recommendations that factor capital and financial feasibility for all service improvements. The Short Range Transit Plan analyzed the feasibility of services to Monterey County. The Plan does not identify services to Monterey County as feasible options for services expansion due to the LTA's available and projected revenue sources. During the outreach process, the LTA did not receive community requests for services to Monterey County.

No.	Media	Language	Service	Comment Category	Public Comment	Determination	Reasonable To Meet Criteria	COG Response
14	Other	English	Unknown	Gap in Service	Expanded Fixed Route: Red Line + Blue Line merge. For those without cell phone access.	Unmet Transit Need: Reasonable to Meet	Not applicable	The Short Range Transit Plan identifies the restoration of the Hollister Fixed Route service. The Hollister Fixed Route service operated two large loop routes in opposite directions around a single municipal loop. All future services will be implemented dependent on available drivers. MV Transportation, County Express' contracted operator, currently employs 13 drivers, three are on Leave of Absence. In order to implement the Short Range Transit Plan, seven additional drivers are needed. MV Transportation is actively recruiting drivers.
15	Other	English	Unknown	Customer Service	Maybe a county PSA. A lot of people from San Jose who have moved here are unaware of DAR that think its only for MD appointments. They have asked questions on how to schedule etc.	Not an Unmet Transit Need	Not applicable	The Local Transportation Authority conducts ongoing marketing of the services. With the implementation of the Short Range Transit Plan, staff will implement the Marketing Plan of improved outreach strategies.
16	Bus Survey	Spanish	Paratransit	Customer Service	I, Maria Reyes, am very grateful that through this service that they offer, I have been able to carry out my work for 20 seasons through the bus and I hope they lay more foundations so that Hollister continues to grow.	Not an Unmet Transit Need	Not applicable	Thank you for our comment.
17	Bus Survey	Spanish	Dial-a-Ride	Customer Service	Need more drivers with kindness.	Not an Unmet Transit Need	Not applicable	The comment regarding "more drivers with kindness" has been addressed with the County Express General Manager.
18	Bus Survey	English	Intercounty	Gap in Service	Also better schedules to Gilroy in the mornings and in the afternoons during the winter time, you have to favor other people who use the bus. Not only for school students when it is closed (no classes).	Unmet Transit Need: Reasonable to Meet	Not applicable	The Short Range Transit Plan provides an analysis of transit services recommendations that factor capital and financial feasibility for all service improvements. Specifically, the Plan identifies additional and direct transit services between Hollister and Gilroy. The Local Transportation Authority is able accommodate this request with existing revenue sources. However, as a national trend, transit agencies are experiencing post COVID transit driver shortages. All future services will be implemented dependent on available drivers. MV Transportation, County Express' contracted operator, currently employs 13 drivers, three are on Leave of Absence. In order to implement the Short Range Transit Plan, seven additional drivers are needed. MV Transportation is actively recruiting drivers.

No.	Media	Language	Service	Comment Category	Public Comment	Determination	Reasonable To Meet Criteria	COG Response
19	Online Survey	Spanish	Intercounty	Gap in Service	More service on the weekend for people who do not drive but have to go buy supplies or just go out.	Unmet Transit Need: Reasonable to Meet	Not applicable	The Short Range Transit Plan provides an analysis of transit services recommendations that factor capital and financial feasibility for all service improvements. Specifically, the Plan identifies additional and direct transit services between Hollister and Gilroy. The Local Transportation Authority is able accommodate this request with existing revenue sources. However, as a national trend, transit agencies are experiencing post COVID transit driver shortages. All future services will be implemented dependent on available drivers. MV Transportation, County Express' contracted operator, currently employs 13 drivers, three are on Leave of Absence. In order to implement the Short Range Transit Plan, seven additional drivers are needed. MV Transportation is actively recruiting drivers.
20	Online Survey	English	Unknown	Customer Service	Announce in some way and promote the service so that more people find out that we can return without spending many hours in between buses.	Not an Unmet Transit Need	Not applicable	The Local Transportation Authority conducts ongoing marketing of the services. With the implementation of the Short Range Transit Plan, staff will implement the Marketing Plan of improved outreach strategies.
21	Online Survey	Spanish	On-Demand	Gap in Service	The service where there was the same day and then they sent the service that same day [reinstate On-Demand service].	Unmet Transit Need: Reasonable to Meet	Not applicable	The On-Demand service is a pilot program that was implemented during COVID similar to Dial-A-Ride services. On-demand is a shared-ride, public transit service within the City of Hollister. Riders can book a trip through our app or call dispatch and ride in ADA-accessible vehicles with our trained drivers at a fraction of the cost of traditional rideshare apps. All future services will be implemented dependent on available drivers. MV Transportation, County Express' contracted operator, currently employs 13 drivers, three are on Leave of Absence. In order to implement the Short Range Transit Plan, seven additional drivers are needed. MV Transportation is actively recruiting drivers.
22	Online Survey	Spanish	Unknown	Gap in Service	Red Line	Unmet Transit Need: Reasonable to Meet	Not applicable	The Short Range Transit Plan identifies the restoration of the Hollister Fixed Route service. The Hollister Fixed Route service operated two large loop routes in opposite directions around a single municipal loop. All future services will be implemented dependent on available drivers. MV Transportation, County Express' contracted operator, currently employs 13 drivers, three are on Leave of Absence. In order to implement the Short Range Transit Plan, seven additional drivers are needed. MV Transportation is actively recruiting drivers.

COUNCIL OF SAN BENITO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
 SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

DATE: Friday, March 25, 2022
 10:00 AM

LOCATION: Zoom Webinar

CALL TO ORDER

SSTAC Vice Chair, Leona Medearis-Peacher called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M.

SSTAC Members 2022	Mar. 25	June 24 <i>Cancelled</i>	Sept. 23 <i>Cancelled</i>	Dec. 23 <i>Cancelled</i>
Leona Medearis-Peacher <i>Chair</i>	P			
Paulette Cobb <i>Vice Chair</i>	P			
Clay Kempf	P			
Pauline Valdivia	P			
Joshua Mercier	P			
Stacy Romo	A			
Regina Valentine	P			

*** Meeting Cancelled**

P= Present A=Absent E= Excused (a) = alternate

STAFF PRESENT:

Veronica Lezama, Transportation Planning Manager; Norma Rivera, Administrative Services Specialist; Griselda Arevalo, Office Assistant; Monica Gomez, Secretary II

OTHERS PRESENT:

Miranda Taylor, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments; Jill Leal, Caltrans District 5; Daniel Levy, DanTec Associates; Maria Magaña, Central Coast Center for Independent Living

A. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Motion made to acknowledge Certificate of Posting:

Motion: Regina Valentine Second: Paulette Cobb

Motion carried: 6/0

Yes: Medearis-Peacher, Kempf, Valdivia, Cobb, Mercier, Valentine

No: None

Abstention: None

Absent: Romo

B. NOTICE OF TEMPORARY PROCEDURES FOR SSTAC MEETINGS

Pursuant to California Governor Gavin Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, relating to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, members of the SSTAC can attend the meeting via teleconference and to participate in the meeting to the same extent as if they were present.

Vice Chair Medearis- Peacher briefly went over the Notice of Temporary Procedures for SSTAC Meetings.

C. ELECT SSTAC Chairperson for 2022

Motion made for Item C to Elect Leona Medearis-Peacher as SSTAC Chairperson for 2022:

Motion: Regina Valentine Second: Clay Kempf
Motion carried: 6/0
Yes: Medearis-Peacher, Kempf, Valdivia, Cobb, Mercier, Valentine
No: None
Abstention: None
Absent: Romo

D. ELECT SSTAC Vice Chairperson for 2022

Motion made for Item D to Elect Paulette Cobb as SSTAC Vice Chairperson for 2022:

Motion: Regina Valentine Second: Clay Kempf
Motion carried: 6/0
Yes: Medearis-Peacher, Kempf, Valdivia, Cobb, Mercier, Valentine
No: None
Abstention: None
Absent: Romo

E. PUBLIC COMMENT –

Maria Magaña requested the opportunity to provide a presentation on the Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL) services. The services are in alignment with the needs of the community with disabilities, the aging population, as well as veterans and how they can best serve them in San Benito County.

Staff stated that they would work together with Ms. Magaña to place an item on a future agenda for her to provide a presentation on CCCIL services.

F. MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Member Kempf announced that Jovenes de Antaño was the successful bidder who will continue to provide the senior meal site transportation service as well as the meal provider for the Area Agency on Aging. Also, in cooperation with the Central Coast for Independent Living (CCCIL) and with Jovenes de Antaño, they have been officially designated as an ongoing No Wrong Door service for San Benito County for people of all ages with a focus on seniors and people with disabilities.

Member Cobb announced that San Benito High School has been recognized by ESPN and the Special Olympics as a top 5 school in all of North America for its efforts on inclusion. ESPN will be on campus to present an award to the school at the end of April. She stated that transportation is a big part of the program as they would like to ensure that their 19 to 22 year old are getting out there in the community, learning how to use services, and getting where they need to be.

G. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Continued to next meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) **APPROVE** Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Regular Meeting Minutes dated April 23, 2021 – Gomez
- 2) **ADOPT** Resolution 22-01 Authorizing Teleconferencing Options for Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meetings for the period of March 25, 2022, through April 24, 2022 – Rivera

There was no public comment on the Consent Agenda.

Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda:

Motion: Paulette Cobb Second: Regina Valentine

Motion carried: 6/0

Yes: Medearis-Peacher, Kempf, Valdivia, Cobb, Mercier, Valentine

No: None

Abstention: None

Absent: Romo

REGULAR AGENDA

- 3) **RECEIVE** Memorandum from the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) Regarding the Preparation of the 2022 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan – Valentine/Taylor AMBAG

Miranda Taylor with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) provided an overview of the 2022 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan development process.

There was a question about how information is gathered from the public, including students with disabilities and the elderly. Staff stated that COG conducts an Unmet Transit Needs hearing every year to provide a forum for residents, transit users, to comment on the local bus service. Public outreach to obtain comments includes an online survey, on-board bus survey, and attendance at existing community meetings.

There was no public comment.

- 4) **RECEIVE** Presentation on the Preparation of the 2022 Short Range Transit Plan and PROVIDE Feedback on Draft Service Design Recommendations – Valentine

Transportation Planner Regina Valentine introduced Daniel Levy with DanTec Associates, who provided a presentation on the preparation of the 2022 Short Range Transit Plan.

SSTAC members provided the following comment:

- Having a Hub is a great idea and essential in terms of consistency for seniors and persons with disabilities.

There was no public comment.

5) 2022 Unmet Transit Needs Report – Lezama

- a. **COMMENT** on the Public Feedback Received During the 2022 Unmet Transit Needs Process.
- b. **RECOMMEND** to the COG Board the Unmet Transit Needs Found Reasonable to Meet for Implementation in Fiscal Year 2022/2023.

Transportation Planning Manager Veronica Lezama provided an overview of the Unmet Transit Needs process. Staff provided an overview of the comments and responses to all comments received.

Member Valdivia stated that Jovenes de Antaño requires another vehicle to be able to provide medical transportation to Monterey County. Currently, their vehicle is used to provide medical transportation for dialysis patients in Gilroy and Palo Alto in Santa Clara County.

Staff mentioned that they will be following up with Jovenes de Antaño as well as with the new Dialysis Center that opened in Hollister to see what their schedule is like as this may help free up some vehicles.

There was no public comment.

Motion made to approve staff recommendation 5 b.:

Motion: Paulette Cobb Second: Clay Kempf

Motion carried: 5/0/1

Yes: Medearis-Peacher, Kempf, Valdivia, Cobb, Mercier

No: None

Abstention: Valentine

Absent: Romo

Chair Medearis-Peacher adjourned the SSTAC meeting at 11:04 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting date is June 24, 2022.



STAFF REPORT

Consent

Prepared By: Norma Rivera, Administrative Services Specialist

Subject: 2023 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council and Council of Governments Board Meeting Calendar

Agenda Item No. 9

Approved By: Binu Abraham, Executive Director

Meeting Date: March 24, 2023

Recommendation:

Receive the 2023 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council and Council of Governments Board of Directors meeting calendar.

Summary:

This report contains the 2023 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council and Council of Governments Board of Directors meeting calendar.

Background/ Discussion:

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council meets every three months on the fourth Friday at 10:00 a.m.

The Council of Governments Board meets the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. The COG meeting calendar will have a recess the month of July 2023 and not hold a board meeting as the month typically does not have action items for the Board.

Financial Impact:

None.

Attachments:

1. 2023 Social Services Advisory Council and Council of Governments Board of Directors Meeting Calendar

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)		
2023 Meeting Dates		
Meeting Date	Time	Meeting Location
Friday 03/24/2023	10:00 a.m.	COG Conference Room
Friday 06/23/2023	10:00 a.m.	COG Conference Room
Friday 09/22/2023	10:00 a.m.	COG Conference Room
Friday 12/22/2023	10:00 a.m.	COG Conference Room
*The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council meets every three months on the 4th Friday at 10:00 a.m. at the COG Office 330 Tres Pinos Road, Suite C-7		

Council of Governments (COG), Local Transportation Authority (LTA), Measure A (MEA), Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC), and Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE)		
2023 Meeting Dates		
Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
Thurs: 01/19/2023	4:00 p.m.	San Benito Co. Board of Supervisors Chambers
Thurs: 02/16/2023	4:00 p.m.	San Benito Co. Board of Supervisors Chambers
Thurs: 3/16/2023	4:00 p.m.	San Benito Co. Board of Supervisors Chambers
Thurs: 04/20/2023	4:00 p.m.	San Benito Co. Board of Supervisors Chambers
Thurs: 05/18/2023	4:00 p.m.	San Benito Co. Board of Supervisors Chambers
Thurs: 06/15/2023	4:00 p.m.	San Benito Co. Board of Supervisors Chambers
Thurs. 07/20/2023	-----	In Recess
Thurs: 08/17/2023	4:00 p.m.	San Benito Co. Board of Supervisors Chambers
Thurs: 09/21/2023	4:00 p.m.	San Benito Co. Board of Supervisors Chambers
Thurs: 10/19/2023	4:00 p.m.	San Benito Co. Board of Supervisors Chambers
Thurs: 11/16/2023	4:00 p.m.	San Benito Co. Board of Supervisors Chambers
Thurs: 12/21/2023	4:00 p.m.	San Benito Co. Board of Supervisors Chambers
*The Council of Governments Board meets every 3 rd Thursday at 4:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Board of Supervisors Chambers at 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA 95023		