

# TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

## *Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)*

Draft Minutes of the Thursday, October 16, 2008 Meeting

TAMC Conference Room

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

<b>VOTING MEMBERS</b>	<b>Nov 07</b>	<b>Jan 08</b>	<b>Feb 08</b>	<b>Apr 08</b>	<b>Jun 08</b>	<b>Sep 08</b>	<b>Oct 08</b>
Margarita Zarraga, Community Action Partnership <i>Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means</i>	P	E	P	P	P	P	P
Carol Lieberman, Community Action Commission <i>Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Teresa Sullivan, Alliance on Aging (Tim English) <i>Local Social Service Providers for Seniors</i>	-	-	-	-	E	E	P(A)
Denika Dallimore, Chair Central Coast Center for Independent Living <i>Persons with Disabilities</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Olivia Quezada, Area Agency on Aging <i>Potential Transit User 60 Years or Older</i>	-	-	-	P	E	-	E
Brandy Abend, Salinas Dialysis Center <i>Local Social Service Providers for Seniors</i>	E	-	P	E	P	P	E
Angel Rodriguez, Hope Services <i>Local Social Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bill Morris, Monterey-Salinas Transit <i>Consolidated Transportation Service Agency</i>	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
Tom Hicks, Monterey-Salinas Transit, Vice Chair <i>Consolidated Transportation Service Agency</i>	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
Lance Atencio, MV Transportation (Brent Boardman) <i>Social Service Transportation Provider</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P(A)	P
E – Excused                      VC – Video Conference A – Alternate                    TC – Teleconference							
<b>TRANSPORTATION AGENCY STAFF</b>							
Debbie Hale, Executive Director	E	E	E	E	P	E	E
Mike Zeller, Associate Transportation Planner	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Andy Cook, Associate Transportation Planner	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Don Bachman, Deputy Executive Director	P	P	P	E	P	P	P

## OTHERS PRESENT

Katie Axt, AMBAG

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Denika Dallimore, called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m. Introductions were made and a quorum was confirmed.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

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### 3. BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Lieberman/Zarraga/unanimous

3.1 The Council approved the minutes of September 11, 2008 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council meeting with the following correction to item 6: "Bill Morris reported that ridership increased by *fifty* percent."

3.2 The Council received the Agency's call for nominations for the seventh annual Transportation Agency Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

### END OF CONSENT AGENDA

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### 4. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC HEARING

Andy Cook, Transportation Planner, reported that unmet public transit needs that are identified as reasonable to meet must be funded before jurisdictions can apply for Local Transportation Funds for street and road or planning purposes. Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula cities use 100% of these funds to support public transit with no remainder available for other projects.

**Chair Dallimore opened the public hearing at 3:18 p.m.** and the following public comments were received as follows:

Council members Carol Lieberman and Margarita Zarraga expressed concerns regarding crowding on Monterey-Salinas Transit's Line 23 South County service. The approximate wait for the line 23 bus can be two and a half hours during the day. Ms. Zarraga and Ms. Lieberman noted the need for more frequent buses on line 23 and the need for drivers to interact with passengers to provide information.

Vice Chairman Tom Hicks requested that transportation in the Prunedale and Castroville areas be identified, as an unmet transit needs. Access to bus stops and for the RIDES program vehicles is difficult for communities along the Highway 156 corridor and in the Prunedale area. A shuttle to carry passengers from communities such as Monte Del Lago to fixed route bus stops needs to be investigated.

Katie Axt, AMBAG, expressed the need of passenger information signs providing bus arrival and/or departure times and the need for more frequent stops and benches. Tom Hicks replied that funding is needed to implement these needs.

Katie Axt asked that an audit of transit stop accessibility be made.

The committee commented that intercity public transit services for commuters or travelers should be investigated between Monterey and San Luis Obispo and San Benito Counties to address those gaps and current demand. Staff noted that plans are being developed for additional Amtrak service between Los Angeles and San Francisco – a significant gap in intercity passenger rail service currently exists between San Jose and Paso Robles.

Carol Lieberman, Council member, noted that a map of Monterey-Salinas Transit bus stops would be helpful for reference. MST staff advised that this information will be made available through Google Transit via the MST website soon.

**The Chair closed the public hearing at 3:49 p.m.**

**5. MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT RIDES ADVISORY PROGRAM AND CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AGENCY ACTIVITIES**

Bill Morris, Monterey-Salinas Transit Contract Transportation Manager, reported that September ridership was fifty-four percent higher than ridership over same period in 2007. MST purchased eight new RIDES vehicles. Although aging vehicles are now being replaced, operational costs for the RIDES program are still very high.

Vice Chairman Tom Hicks of the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency announced that a taxi voucher program for the Pacific Meadows community in Carmel Valley has been initiated for transportation to the nearest bus stop. He noted that access to the nearest bus stop is difficult or infeasible for Pacific Meadows residents. MST funded 535 round trips and efforts are being made to coordinate the appointments to provide more trips. Mr. Hicks noted that MST is exploring more senior transportation services that would benefit other jurisdictions or communities.

**6. RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS REGARDING RELATED ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

The committee requested an update on the progress of the Regional Taxi Study. Andy Cook responded that Agency staff would be presenting a draft study to the Monterey County City Managers at their monthly meeting on October 17, to the Board of Directors at its October 22 meeting, and would be moving forward with establishment of the proposed Regional Taxi Authority in 2009.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair, Denika Dallimore announced that the next Social Service Transportation Advisory Council meeting will be held on November 13, 2008 and adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.