

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

Final Minutes of the Thursday, September 11, 2008 Meeting

TAMC Conference Room

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

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

OTHERS PRESENT

David Roemer, AMBAG

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Denika Dallimore, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Introductions were made and a quorum was confirmed.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA

3.1

M/S/C Lieberman/Zarraga/unanimous

The minutes of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) meeting of June 12, 2008 were approved with corrections.

Mr. Bill Morris requested that the following change be made to the minutes of the June 12, 2008 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council meeting: “Lance Atencio announced that starting in May 2008 only those who are eligible through the Central Coast Alliance would be able to use medical reimbursed priority transportation privately operated by MV Transportation.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. AGRICULTURAL WORKER VANPOOL STUDY

The Council received a report on the Agricultural Worker Vanpool study, efforts to implement vanpools in the city of Greenfield, and a proposed grant to study expansion of the program regionally.

Mr. David Roemer, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), reported that in response to a request from the City of Greenfield, AMBAG secured a grant from Caltrans in 2007 to study the feasibility of implementing a vanpool program in the City of Greenfield area patterned off of an established program in Kings County California. The volunteer vanpool driver must be a worker, has to be insured and have a good driving record. The agricultural worker vanpool must pay daily round trips and the cost depends on the distance of travel. The van is tracked through GPS and includes a gas card. Mr. Roemer explained that AMBAG is proposing to secure additional grant funds to evaluate how this program can be implemented across Monterey County.

M/S/C Morris/Hicks
Opposed: Abend

The Council approved to endorse the Agricultural Worker Vanpool Program and for Agency staff to write a letter of support for the Association of Monterey Bay Area Government’s Regional Agricultural Worker Vanpool Study grant proposal.

5. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR 2008-09

The Council received a report and approved the proposed public outreach activities and schedule for public participation in the annual unmet transit needs process.

Mr. Andy Cook, Associate Transportation Planner, reported that state law requires the Transportation Agency to make a finding on unmet transit needs prior to allocating Local Transportation Funds (LTF) to county jurisdictions for non-transit purposes. Mr. Cook noted that the Council's most important function is to advise the agency on the needs of the transit dependent and transit disadvantaged, primarily through the annual identification of unmet transit needs as defined in the Transportation Development Act. The proposed new service must be feasible to fund within existing/estimated revenues, meet the farebox recovery ratio, and the operator of the new service has to be able to expand services without degrading existing services. This process is only applicable to the County of Monterey, Gonzales, Greenfield, King City and Soledad, given that the Monterey Peninsula cities and the City of Salinas dedicate 100% of their local funds to Monterey-Salinas Transit.

The Council requested that the 2008-09 unmet transit needs public outreach questionnaire form for be distributed electronically to Committee members and made available at the following locations:

- Local libraries
- City Halls
- Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association, Inc. (CHISPA)
- Through the Nonprofit Alliance representative
- One Stop career center/employment offices

In conclusion Mr. Andy Cook mentioned that the Agency would be providing unmet transit needs presentations for those organizations that would like more information on Unmet Transit Needs and would be emailing the unmet needs questionnaire to committee members to distribute.

6. MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL TAXI STUDY UPDATE

The Council received a Draft Monterey County Regional Taxi Study Update.

Mr. Andy Cook, Associate Transportation Planner, reported that the purpose of the study is to provide a comprehensive analysis of institutional options for taxi regulation and monitoring in Monterey County. He noted regulating agencies are interested in transferring the regulating work and background checks to a centralized authority that would have more accountability and recourse when taxi conditions are not up to the standards desired by the permitting jurisdictions. The study will also recommend measures to ensure consumer protection and improve taxi accessibility for the elderly and persons with disabilities. The Agency is recommending that all of the study's recommendations be implemented in the proposal for establishing the Taxi Authority, as opposed to the phased approach that was previously proposed. Mr. Cook noted that it is expected that Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) would be designated as the Regional Taxi Authority as it already performs many of the necessary functions, such as vehicle inspections and background checks.

He reported that the Agency expects to complete the taxi study project at the end of September. Once the study has been completed and adopted by the Agency, it can be used to begin the process of forming the Regional Taxi Authority over the course of the fall. The Agency's role in the process will be to shepherd the participating jurisdictions through the process of forming the authority as recommended in the taxi study, which will involve reviewing and approving agreements, and adopting changes to city ordinances. The Agency will also be working to secure funding needed to purchase accessible cabs and taxi script for a countywide program.

In conclusion, Andy Cook indicated that the Agency will be providing the final Taxi Study and regular updates to the committee on progress made toward forming a Taxi Authority.

7. **MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT RIDES ADVISORY PROGRAM AND COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AGENCY ACTIVITIES**

Bill Morris, Monterey-Salinas Transit Contract Transportation Manager, reported that ridership increased by fifty percent. He announced MST purchased eight new vehicles through funding they had available and expects to have those vehicles in service by the end of November. In conclusion Mr. Morris reported that the free fixed ride service saved MST sixty thousand dollars.

Tom Hicks, Coordinated Transportation Services Agency Activities, announced that the Mobility Management Center is now open. Mr. Hicks mentioned that MST Board of Directors held their first meeting in the conference center. The MST Mobility Management Center is located at 150 Del Monte Avenue. He also reported that full time customer service is available at the Mobility Management Center, where one can purchase identification cards and bus passes. A television monitor is installed that displays real-time bus schedules/arrival times.

At the Committee's request, staff agreed to make additional efforts to invite a representative from the Central Coast Alliance for Health to attend future Council meetings.

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

Carol Lieberman reported that the Ford Ord community has no public transit service. Mr. Hicks replied that MST just initiated a new route in the Ford Ord area that travels to the Monterey Transit Plaza, the La Mesa housing community in Monterey, Naval Post Graduate School, and The Dunes Shopping Center.

Mr. Hicks announced that Cal Act would be having a transit conference in November and noted for more information visit the Cal Act website: www.calact.org.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair, Denika Dallimore announced that the next Social Service Transportation Advisory Council meeting will be held on October 16, 2008 and adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.