

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

Final Minutes of the Thursday, January 8, 2008 Meeting

TAMC Conference Room

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

VOTING MEMBERS	Jan 08	Feb 08	Apr 08	Jun 08	Sep 08	Oct 08	Jan 09
Margarita Zarraga, Community Action Partnership <i>Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means</i>	E	P	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)	P
Denika Dallimore, Chair Central Coast Center for Independent Living <i>Persons with Disabilities</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	E
Olivia Quezada, Area Agency on Aging <i>Potential Transit User 60 Years or Older</i>	-	-	P	E	-	E	E
Brandy Abend, Salinas Dialysis Center <i>Local Social Service Providers for Seniors</i>	-	P	E	P	P	E	-
Bill Morris, Monterey-Salinas Transit <i>Consolidated Transportation Service Agency</i>	P	E	P	P	P	P	P
Tom Hicks, Monterey-Salinas Transit, Vice Chair <i>Consolidated Transportation Service Agency</i>	P	P	P	E	P	P	P
Lance Atencio, MV Transportation (Brent Boardman) <i>Social Service Transportation Provider</i>	P	P	P	P	P(A)	P	P
E – Excused VC – Video Conference A – Alternate TC – Teleconference							
TRANSPORTATION AGENCY STAFF							
Debbie Hale, Executive Director	E	E	E	P	E	E	E
Mike Zeller, Associate Transportation Planner	P	P	P	P	E	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	P	P	E	P	P	P	P

OTHERS PRESENT

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair, Tom Hicks, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Introductions were made and a quorum was confirmed.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

3. **BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA**

M/S/C Zarraga/Morris/unanimous

- 3.1 Approved minutes of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) meeting of October 16, 2008.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. **COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

M/S/C Zarraga/ Sullivan/unanimous

The Council elected Tom Hicks as the Chair and Carol Lieberman as Vice-Chair for the 2009 calendar year, and discussed committee membership and recruitment efforts.

Teresa Sullivan commented that the proposed SSTAC meeting schedule on the second Thursday of the month at 3:00 p.m., conflicts with the Housing Assistance for Persons with Disabilities meeting schedule. Because this is a conflict for two committee members, staff agreed to propose an alternative meeting schedule by email and confirm the next SSTAC meeting date.

Bill Morris announced he is retiring from Monterey-Salinas Transit on February 5, 2009 and therefore will no longer be on the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council.

Vice Chairman Tom Hicks thanked Mr. Morris for his service in the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council. He noted that he would work with Monterey-Salinas Transit on replacing his seat in the Council.

5. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS REQUESTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-10 FUNDING

The Council received a report on the unmet transit needs requests received by staff for the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Local Transportation Fund cycle.

Andy Cook, Associate Transportation Planner, reported that the current unmet needs process has identified several potential transit improvements that are possibly “Reasonable to Meet” with several other identified needs either already planned or being studied for possible future service. The County of Monterey and the cities of Gonzales, Greenfield, King City, and Soledad held their public hearings on unmet transit needs in October. The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council held its public hearing on October 16th. The most significant request being evaluated by staff is for hourly service on Monterey-Salinas Transit Line 23 between King City and Salinas to meet demand and relive overcrowding on this route. Mr. Cook reported that staff is coordinating with the South Monterey County jurisdictions and Monterey-Salinas Transit to respond to this request, and is in the process of evaluating the other comments provided. Staff will most likely present the recommended unmet transit needs finding for approval by the SSTAC in April, 2009.

6. FISCAL YEAR 2008-09 STATE TRANSIT ASSISTANCE FUND ALLOCATIONS

M/S/C Sullivan/Zarraga/unanimous

Abstained: Morris/Hicks - *Conflict of interest.*

The Council recommended that Board of Directors approve a revision to the Agency’s administrative policies regarding State Transit Assistance funding and approved allocations for Fiscal Year 2008-09.

Andy Cook, Associate Transportation Planner, reported that the Board of Directors adopted revisions to the Agency’s administrative policies to eliminate substantial and ongoing unallocated carryover State Transit Assistance balances and award these funds to County transit operators competitively based on applications received. Through June, 2008, these funds had been apportioned automatically by formula to transit operators regardless of funding need in any given year. Staff is recommending that revisions to the Agency’s policies are necessary to better address transit funding needs countywide given the state’s ongoing cuts to balance its budget, coupled with increasing ridership across the county’s transit system.

The Agency is recommending that the remaining available State Transit Assistance funds be allocated for Monterey-Salinas Transit RIDES program operations to backfill losses from state budget cuts this year, and that capital needs for the City of Soledad and Greenfield for 2008-09 be accommodated through the Prop. 1b infrastructure bond program for public transit.

Mr. Cook reported that the Agency has requested that the City of Soledad defer application for its other capital requests until the 2009-10 Fiscal Year to allow sufficient funding for MST’s bus repayments and prevent cuts to MST operations. Staff advised that the Board of Directors would be asked to adopt the revised State Transit Assistance policy and final recommended allocations at its January 28, 2009 meeting.

7. MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT RIDES ADVISORY PROGRAM AND

CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AGENCY ACTIVITIES

Bill Morris, Monterey-Salinas Transit Contract Transportation Manager, reported that MST has gained six hundred more clients in ridership in the past year. MST replaced eight vehicles and purchased seven new vehicles. Mr. Morris announced that MST has saved fifteen hundred dollars since the free fixed-route fare program was initiated. Mr. Morris announced that bus fares increased on January 3rd.

Tom Hicks of the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency reported on MST's federal grant funding awards. Mr. Hicks announced that MST received funding for:

- Two small busses to serve a proposed shuttle service for Monterey Peninsula and Salinas communities for seniors and persons with disabilities. The eligibility criteria and schedule are being developed by MST.
- Purchased accessible taxis. MST will be working with taxi operators to put the new vehicles into service for the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- United Way 2-1-1 telephone directory for social services. Mr. Hicks also announced the grand opening of the 211 Call Center would be held on February 11, 2009.

Mr. Hicks also reported that the Pacific Meadows senior taxi voucher program implemented this year with federal grants funds has proven successful.

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

Margarita Zarraga announced that Community Agency is hosting a public forum on the needs of the low-income population on January 15th at 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The forum will be held at the Alisal Community Center “Healthy Start.”

9. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair, Tom Hicks adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.