

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

Final Minutes of the Thursday, October 1, 2009 Meeting

TAMC Conference Room

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

VOTING MEMBERS	Oct 08	Jan 09	Feb 09	Apr 09	Jun 09	Sep 09	Oct 09
Margarita Zarraga, Community Action Partnership <i>Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means</i>	P	P	C	P	E	C	P
Carol Lieberman, Vice Chair Community Action Commission <i>Local Social Service Provider for Persons of Limited Means</i>	P	P	A	P	P	A	P
Teresa Sullivan, Alliance on Aging (Tim English) <i>Local Social Service Providers for Seniors</i>	P(A)	P	N	P(A)	P	N	P
Denika Boardman, Central Coast Center for Independent Living <i>Persons with Disabilities</i>	P	E	C	P	E	C	P
Marcie Castro, Area Agency on Aging (Pat Jones) <i>Potential Transit User 60 Years or Older</i>	-	-	E	P	P	E	P
Brandy Abend, Salinas Dialysis Center <i>Local Social Service Providers for Seniors</i>	E	-	L	E	E	L	E
Michael Gallant, Monterey-Salinas Transit <i>Consolidated Transportation Service Agency</i>			L		-	L	P
Tom Hicks, Monterey-Salinas Transit, Chair <i>Consolidated Transportation Service Agency</i>	P	P	E	P	P	E	P
Lance Atencio, MV Transportation (Brent Boardman) <i>Social Service Transportation Provider</i>	P	P	D	P(A)	P	D	P(A)
E – Excused VC – Video Conference A – Alternate TC – Teleconference							
TRANSPORTATION AGENCY STAFF							
Debbie Hale, Executive Director	E	E		E	E		E
Mike Zeller, Associate Transportation Planner	P	E		P	-		P
Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant	P	P		P	P		P
Andy Cook, Associate Transportation Planner	P	P		P	P		P
Don Bachman, Deputy Executive Director	P	P		P	P		P
Hank Myers, Associate Transportation Planning Engineer	-	-		-	P		P

OTHERS PRESENT:

Pat Jones, Area Agency on Aging

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Tom Hicks, 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**

M/S/C Zarraga/Sullivan /unanimous

3.1 Approved minutes of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) meeting of

June 4, 2009.

3.2 Receive the call for nominations for the eight 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

4. **UNMET TRANIST NEEDS PUBLIC HEARING**

Andy Cook, Associate Transportation Planner, reported that the California Code of Regulations requires the Transportation Agency to make a finding on unmet transit needs prior to allocating Local Transportation Funds to any jurisdiction for street and roads or other eligible purposes. The County of Monterey and the cities of Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield, and King City are scheduled to hold public hearings on unmet transit needs in October. An unmet transit need is a request for transportation that is not currently provided by the current system, and which has been identified at a public hearing or meeting, or in writing. The Agency is required to fund all "reasonable" unmet transit needs with the Local Transportation Funding available to the South County jurisdictions.

Chair, Tom Hicks opened the public hearing at: 3:19 p.m. and the following comments were received:

Margarita Zarraga requested a report on the status of South County transit needs. Mr. Cook reported that as part of the unmet need finding adopted in May, 2009, 90-minute service on Line 23 was established, adding an additional three trips to the route, which was the amount of extra service that MST could implement as soon as possible following adoption of the Agency's unmet needs finding regarding additional Line 23 service. A study will also be undertaken by MST at the request of the South Monterey County cities that will recommend improvements to South Monterey County transit services, including Line 23 and local dial-a-ride services. The study will specifically address routing of Line 23, ridership and level of service (most likely hourly service), consolidation of dial-a-ride services and coordination with Line 23 and vanpools. Improvements will be implemented in July, 2010 concurrent with establishment of the MST District, which includes the South Monterey County cities. It was noted that Line 23 continues to carry standing passenger loads during peak travel times, but that the South County study was being undertaken to address this issue. The lead time required by MST to implement additional service changes allows this study to be completed.

Marcie Castro commented that door-to-door transportation for seniors continues to be an unmet transit need, and noted that the County population age 60 and over is increasing and going to double. Teresa Sullivan concurred and reported that she receives calls requesting door-to-door transportation.

Tom Hicks commented that transportation for communities in the Highway 156 corridor between Castroville and Prunedale is an unmet transit need that still needs to be considered.

The committee requested that copies of the Agency's unmet transit needs questionnaire be provided for committee members to distribute and recommended that the Agency consider placing questionnaires on MST busses. Comments must be received by the end of the 2009 calendar year,

The Chair closed the public hearing at 3:35 p.m.

5. CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AGENCY COORDINATION

The Council received a report on Consolidated Transportation Services Agency Advisory Committee and considered opportunities for coordination with the new committee, providing direction to staff to coordinate committee activities.

Andy Cook reported that in 2006 the committee discussed options for better coordinating specialized transportation services in Monterey County, and recommended that MST be designated as a Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) for Monterey County. This designation was intended to enable MST, which provides the vast majority of specialized transportation in the County, to be more competitive in seeking grant funding for services and programs, and also to serve as a one-stop-shop for services and information. MST has now elected to establish a "Mobility Advisory Committee" to serve as an advisory committee for the CTSA given the expanding scope of MST's activities and coordinated transportation efforts. The new committee will likely consider agenda items of interest to the members of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council. This committee's primary purpose is to serve as an advisory body to the Agency on the Unmet Transit Needs process, but also is tasked with advising the Agency on the needs of the elderly, persons with disabilities, and transit dependent in general, in which case there would be some overlap in the advisory functions of the respective MST and Transportation Agency committees. There may also be overlapping membership between the committees, as is currently the case with the RIDES committee. In conclusion Andy Cook mentioned that this item would be brought back at a future meeting date.

6. **AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT PROJECTS IN MONTEREY COUNTY**

The Council received a report on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Federal Economic Stimulus) funded projects in Monterey County.

Andy Cook, Associate Transportation Planner, reported that seven of the ten projects allocated federal stimulus funds by the Agency in February 2009 have awarded contracts for construction.

President Obama signed the \$787 billion economic stimulus bill titled the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on February 17th. The Transportation Agency Board of Directors took action on February 25th, to approve a prioritized list of projects to receive Monterey County's share of the stimulus funding for transportation based on a call for projects issued in January. Staff coordinated with the Technical Advisory committee to competitively selected projects based on selection criteria that included project readiness, ability to meet state and federal delivery guidelines, and project benefit to the region. Approved projects needed to be "shovel-ready," for funds to be obligated by the September 30 final deadline. In addition to the list of local road projects that will be completed with the federal stimulus funding, Monterey-Salinas Transit was able to allocate the funding for repayment of its 2002 bus purchase debt, which saved the agency approximately \$400,000 in interest costs and allowed MST to allocate its scarce funding to preserving transit operations.

Hank Myers, Associate Transportation Engineer, noted that one job was created for every 30 thousand dollars invested through the stimulus program. He added that the County of Monterey removed their bicycle path project because they did not meet the deadlines and that the Agency distributed the stimulus funds for that project to the City of Marina and King City.

Carol Lieberman commented that a bus bench should be installed at every bus stop. Michael Gallant replied that they have many bus stops in the Monterey County and no funding for all bus benches. He noted that bus benches are installed at bus stops that are frequently used. Tom Hicks added that bench donations could be possible. MST can start by getting a bench cost and making the information available to the public.

7. **MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT RIDES PROGRAM**

The committee received a report on Monterey-Salinas Transit RIDES program and Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) activities.

Tom Hicks reported that the CTSA has been waiting for several grants to be allocated to the following projects:

- 2-1-1 directory service support for social services
- Shuttle service for senior communities such as Pacific Meadows
- Accessible taxi purchases

In conclusion Tom Hicks reported that MST applied for ten more grants for an additional 2-years of funding for the projects listed above. He reported that the MST- RIDES program is in the process of expanding its fleet to accommodate increasing ridership. In the process of ordering eight taxis for door-to-door transportation, MST will need to find taxi drivers.

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

Marcie Castro thanked Tom Hicks for his efforts to secure funding and coordinate transportation and develop solutions to specialized transportation issues. Tom Hicks added that his position is funded through a grant.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair, Tom Hicks adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.