STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Unmet Transit Needs

MEETING DATE: January 17, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 8

STAFF CONTACT: Michael Powers, Aubrey Spilde

RECOMMENDATION:

Hold hearing and receive public input on unmet transit needs in Santa Barbara County
(Note: Hearing is noticed to begin at 10:00 AM Time Certain)

SUMMARY:

The annual Transit Needs Assessment process, as required by the state Transportation Development Act (TDA), requires SBCAG to hold at least one public hearing each year to receive public comments regarding unmet transit needs. Prior to allocating TDA funds for non-transit purposes, SBCAG must evaluate and make findings regarding the existence of these needs. Staff’s evaluation of the public testimony and its recommended findings for the FY 2008/09 TDA cycle will be completed using the definition and criteria approved by the board in December 2006. The Transit Needs Assessment process schedule is shown in Attachment 1. The noticed hearing at the January 17 board meeting is to receive public testimony—no action is required.

DISCUSSION:

Transportation Development Act (TDA) statutes require that SBCAG hold at least one public hearing on the existence of unmet transit needs if local agencies plan to allocate TDA funds for purposes other than transit or bicycle/ pedestrian facilities (i.e., streets and roads). Under the statutes, the highest priority for use of TDA funds is for transit, unless it is found that there are no unmet transit needs or those unmet needs are not reasonable to meet. The purpose of the public hearing is to enable individuals to present testimony on any existing unmet transit needs.

SBCAG will hold a public hearing to solicit input on unmet transit needs. The hearing in Santa Maria is also accessible from the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room in Santa Barbara. At the hearing, individuals and groups can offer testimony on local, regional, and/or countywide transit needs. SBCAG will use the testimony presented at this hearing to assist in making findings regarding the existence of any unmet transit needs.
A notice of this public hearing was published 30 days prior to this hearing (Attachment 2) in the Santa Barbara News Press on December 16, 2007. Additional notices were placed in the Lompoc Record, Santa Maria Sun, and Santa Ynez Valley News. A press release in English and Spanish was distributed to all newspapers and radio stations in Santa Barbara County.

In addition, flyers notifying the public of the Unmet Transit Needs public hearing, were printed in both English and Spanish, and were distributed through the Santa Barbara County Transit Advisory Council (SBCTAC) email list which includes public, transit and social services representatives, elected officials and members of SBCTAC (an email list of over 50 persons) and was posted on the SBCAG website (Attachment 3).

As with past hearings, a Spanish language translator will be available to translate testimony received at the hearing from Spanish language speakers to English.

As a follow up to these workshops, transit representatives from SMAT, COLT, and the County of Santa Barbara will meet with the Santa Barbara County Transit Advisory Committee (SBCTAC) in February to discuss both the input received from the public regarding expanding transit service and the proposed method for paying for the new service if appropriate. The local agencies will ask SBCTAC to provide a recommendation on proposed changes to transit services suggested during the public workshops. There will be an opportunity to receive public input on these proposals. Thereafter, SBCTAC will prepare a written report, incorporating public input and any recommendations it wishes to make regarding proposed changes to public transit services. This report will be sent to SBCAG and each of its member jurisdictions.

In addition, the SBMTD staff member appointed to SBCTAC will report on the input received from workshops conducted by SBMTD during the February SBCTAC meeting so SBCTAC could provide SBCAG, and hence SBMTD, with its recommendations on service changes.

After the hearing, staff will evaluate the testimony using the SBCAG adopted definitions of “unmet transit need” and “reasonable to meet.” Draft recommended findings will be presented to SBCTAC and the board in March and the final recommended findings will be presented for review and approval in April. The findings must be approved by the board before the board can take action at it’s June meeting to allocate TDA funds for non-transit purposes

**COMMITTEE REVIEW:**

SBCTAC is involved throughout the Transit Needs Assessment process pursuant to PUC Section 99238. In addition, the Technical Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC) will be involved in the review and comment on the draft Transit Needs Assessment and SBCTAC will provide a recommendation regarding the Transit Needs Assessment findings and resolution that will be presented to the SBCAG Board.

**Attachments:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attachment</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Unmet Transit Needs Assessment 2008 Schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Public Hearing Notice</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Unmet Transit Needs Hearing Flyer, English and Spanish</td>
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## ATTACHMENT 1
### Unmet Transit Needs Assessment - 2008 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Benchmark</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workshops by Santa Maria and Lompoc on transit needs</td>
<td>November 2007 - January 2008</td>
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</table>
| Consultation with SBCTAC regarding forms of public outreach to be used in Unmet Transit Needs process | October 9, 2007  
November 13, 2007  
December 11, 2007 |
| English/Spanish flyer distribution through-out North County           | December 2007 - January 2008                  |
| Posting of notice of Public Hearing on SBCAG web site                 | December 12, 2007                             |
| Mailed notice to those who requested prior notification               | December 27, 2007                             |
| Display Advertisements for Notice of Public Hearing:                 | January 6, 2008  
January 8 & 10, 2008  
January 13, 2008  
January 11, 2008       |
| Santa Maria Times                                                    |                                               |
| Santa Ynez Valley News                                               |                                               |
| Lompoc Record                                                        |                                               |
| Vandenberg AFB – edition of SM Times                                  |                                               |
| Press Release for regional media (English & Spanish) also             | January 7, 2008                               |
| Allan Hancock & North County High School Newspapers                  |                                               |
| E-mail notice to SBCAG electronic distribution list                   | January 7, 2008                               |
| Public Hearing by SBCAG Board (Santa Maria)                          | January 17, 2008                              |
| Local agency presentation of workshop input to SBCTAC                | February 2008                                 |
| Consultation with SBCTAC and TTAC                                    | February & March 2008                         |
| Draft Transit Needs Assessment                                        | March 2008                                    |
| Review and comment period for the draft Transit Needs Assessment (including presentation to SBCTAC and TTAC) | April 2008                                    |
| Presentation of Revised Final Transit Needs Assessment Board adoption of findings and resolution | April/May 2008 |
The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) is holding a hearing to receive public comments on unmet transit needs in Santa Barbara County, as required under Section 99401.5 of the Public Utilities Code.

The public hearing will be held:
Date: Thursday, January 17, 2008
Time: 10:00 AM (Time certain)
Where: Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, CA

Remote testimony available at Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 105 E. Anapamu Street, 4th Floor, Santa Barbara, CA.

Written comments must be received by February 17, 2008. Mail comments to SBCAG at 260 North San Antonio Road, Suite B, Santa Barbara, CA 93110. Comments may also be emailed to comments@sbcag.org. An Unmet Transit Needs on-line comment form is available at www.sbcag.org.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations to participate in the meeting should contact SBCAG at least three working days prior to the meeting at (805) 961-8900. A Spanish translator will be available at the hearing.

For more information, call SBCAG at 961-8900. Favor de llamar a SBCAG al 961-8918, para más información del reunión.
How can the bus better serve your needs?

The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments will be holding a public hearing to learn about the transit needs of the residents of the North County. Please plan to attend and present your comments or concerns about transit service in the North County.

When: Thursday, January 17, 2008 @ 10:00 AM

Where: Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, California

It’s Easy!

Simply come to the public hearing on January 17, 2008 by 10:00 AM. Fill out a “comment card” located on the table in the back of the Supervisors Hearing Room. Staff will forward your card to the Chair, who will call your name for you to come to the podium and express your views.

You may also send your comments in writing by Feb. 17, 2008 to:

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
260 N. San Antonio Rd., Suite B
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

-or by email to-
publiccomment@sbcag.org

Favor de contactarse con SBCAG al 961-8900 tres días antes de la reunión si usted necesita traducción en español.
¿Cómo puede servirle mejor el autobús?

El Santa Barbara County Association of Governments tendrá una audiencia pública para aprender cuales son las necesidades de transito que los residentes del norte del condado tienen. Por favor asista y presente sus comentarios o preocupaciones acerca del servicio de transito en norte del condado.

**Cuando:** Jueves, 17 de Enero del 2008 @ 10:00 AM

**Donde:** Salón Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, California

¡Es Fácil!

Simplemente llegue a la audiencia pública a las 10:00 am el 17 de Enero del 2008. Llene la tarjeta de comentarios que está en la mesa atrás del salón. El personal entregará su tarjeta a el Encargado, quien llamara su nombre para que vaya al podio y exprese su punto de vista.

También puede mandar sus comentarios por escrito antes del 17 de Febrero 2008 a:

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
260 N. San Antonio Rd., Suite B
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
-o por correo electrónico a-
publiccomment@sbcag.org

Favor de contactarse con SBCAG al 961-8900 tres días antes de la reunión si usted necesita traducción en español.