

## SBCAG STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** 2018 Transit Needs Assessment

**MEETING DATE:** February 15, 2018

**AGENDA ITEM:** 6

**STAFF CONTACT:** Michael Becker, Andrew Orfila

### RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation on the 2018 Transit Needs Assessment process and draft findings. Provide input to staff.

### SUMMARY:

Consistent with the requirements of the Transportation Development Act, SBCAG staff conducted the annual unmet transit needs process and prepared the Draft 2018 Transit Needs Assessment (Attachment). SBCAG must make findings regarding unmet transit needs, as required in the TDA (Sec. 99401.5) prior to allocating TDA LTF funds to the local jurisdictions. Requests for new or expanded service that were considered in this report included expanded service between Carpinteria and Santa Barbara, increased service transit service and frequency to and from the Orcutt community, and increased service on the regional services (the Breeze and Clean Air Express). These requests are not “reasonable to meet” according to SBCAG’s adopted criteria. Based on the analysis in the draft report, staff recommends that the Board find that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.

### DISCUSSION:

The California Transportation Development Act (TDA) provides funding annually for public transportation. SBCAG, as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Santa Barbara County, administers TDA funds within our region. Transit is the priority use for these funds. SBCAG must adopt, by resolution, a finding regarding the existence of “unmet transit needs” before allocating TDA funds for non-transit (i.e., streets and roads) purposes. SBCAG conducts the annual unmet transit needs assessment to make these findings.

## Public Outreach

SBCAG held its Santa Barbara County Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearings in Lompoc on October 25 at 6 PM at the City Council Chambers, in Santa Maria on October 26 at 5:30 PM at the Santa Maria Library, and in Santa Barbara on November 7 at 6 PM at the Santa Barbara Central Library. The north county public hearings were timed and noticed to coincide with the COLT and SMAT annual transit workshops. In connection with this year’s unmet transit needs hearing, SBCAG provided notice as required by law, and also consistent with the direction of SBCTAC. All public outreach materials are included in Appendix A of the Transit Needs Assessment.

Members of the public were also given the opportunity to comment via the public hearings and transit workshops, a web-based survey, e-mail, phone or through the mail. The public comment period for the 2018 cycle closed on November 30. A summary of all the public comments received is contained in Appendix C of the draft report. The public comments and requests for new or expanded service were presented to the Santa Barbara County Transit Advisory Committee (SBCTAC) at its December meeting. Requests received through the public input process are analyzed in the following section.

### Analysis of Requests

Requests for new or improved transit services, meeting SBCAG’s adopted “Unmet Transit Need” definition, were screened to determine if they meet the adopted “Reasonable to Meet” criteria. A summary of the findings are included in the table below.

**Table 1: Transit Needs Assessment Findings**

Applicable Service Provider	Service Request	Finding
SBMTD	More direct and frequent service between Carpinteria and Santa Barbara	Currently being met through the existing route between Carpinteria and Santa Barbara.
City of Santa Maria/ SMAT	Orcutt Service Enhancements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More frequent service between Transit Center and Orcutt (2)</li> <li>- Peak hour express service between Orcutt and Transit Center</li> <li>- Add evening service in Orcutt</li> </ul>	Improvements are coming in the next fiscal year, including service enhancements to Orcutt (the Orcutt Express). SMAT will be evaluating future service enhancements in its pending Short Range Transit Plan.
	Add one Breeze service run from Santa Maria to Lompoc after 5:00 pm	
	Add SMAT service between Railroad/ Hidden Pines to Miller/ Betteravia	
City of Santa Maria/ SMAT and/ or SLORTA	Service between Orcutt and San Luis Obispo	The demand is currently being met through the existing SLORTA Route 10. Currently, there is only peak hour “express” service available between Orcutt and San Luis Obispo. RTA can add service to the route if demand increases.

Applicable Service Provider	Service Request	Finding
Clean Air Express	More frequent service/mid-day service between South Coast and Lompoc-Santa Maria	Mid-day service between Santa Maria and Santa Barbara, which could be routed through Lompoc and Buellton, was analyzed. The results of the analysis found new mid-day service is not reasonable to meet per criteria 3B and 4.
	Mid-day service between Santa Barbara and Santa Ynez Valley	
	Add late morning/late evening service - Lompoc to Santa Barbara (i.e. 10am - 7pm)	These requests will be forwarded on to CAE staff and considered in the pending CAE Short Range Transit Plan.
	Add reverse commute service: - Santa Barbara to Santa Maria - Goleta to Buellton	

The report concludes that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.

### COMMITTEE REVIEW

The item is scheduled for review at the February Technical Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC) and Santa Barbara County Transit Advisory Committee (SBCTAC) meetings. Input gathered from the committees and their recommendations will be included in the staff report next month.

### ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Draft 2018 Transit Needs Assessment for Santa Barbara County (**web posting only**)