

**Santa Barbara County Transit Advisory Council
(SBCTAC)**

MINUTES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Buellton City Council Chambers
140 West Highway 246
Buellton, CA

SBCTAC Members Present

Petra Löwen (Vice-Chair)	Independent Living Resource Center
Barry Stotts	Community Access Network
Ed Zoost	SMAT/RAC
Richard Fernbaugh	COLT Transit Agency - Lompoc
Victor Suhr	South Coast Transit User
Howard Kraus	R&D Transportation
Dean Palius	Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People
Polly Bleavins	Children and Families Commission
Bea Merwin	Community Partners in Caring
Julie Kahn	Transit User – South County
Julie Guzman	Transit User – North County
Austin O'Dell	SMAT
Ernesto Paredes	Easy Lift - CTSA
Matt Dobberteen	Santa Barbara County Transit
Vibiana Saavedra	Farmworker Population Representative

SBCAG Staff

Michael Powers
Sarkes Khachek

Others Present

Ashley Payne	Community Partners
Michael Seden-Hansen	Breeze Bus
Pat Mickelson	Caltrans District 5

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Lowen called the meeting to order and initiated a round of introductions.

Member Agencies

Buellton ■ Carpinteria ■ Goleta ■ Guadalupe ■ Lompoc ■ Santa Barbara ■ Santa Maria ■ Solvang ■ Santa Barbara County

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Lowen asked but there was no public comment.

3. MINUTES

Following a motion by Julie Kahn and a second by Bea Merwin, the minutes of April 10 were approved by all except Austin O'Dell who abstained.

4. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Sarkes Khachek provided a summary report on responses to comments on draft Transit Needs Assessment and findings of unmet transit need and reasonable to meet.

Committee members provided comments on the changes to the report.

Bea Merwin asked if the information Lompoc provided on pages 52 and 53 was new and Sarkes replied that it updated current information in the report.

Vibiana Saavedra asked if the report could be amended if there was a fuel crisis. Michael Powers replied that local transit agencies can amend their claims and adjust to a different situation.

Austin O'Dell stated that on page 58, Implementation of service between Lompoc and the Santa Ynez Valley, Projected Farebox Recovery Ratios and Projected Passengers Per Hour for both options should be added to the narrative. Austin added that the Breeze contract ends at the end of FY 2008 so the cost elements should include an anticipated CPI estimate for cost increases for 2008-09.

Matt Dobberteen stated that on page 56 service from Garey/Sisquoc is similar to Cuyama Transit, but that service Hours necessary will probably be less than projected due to shorter distance between Santa Maria and Garey/Sisquoc.

Richard Fernbaugh stated that the operating cost of COLT is less than SYVT.

Dean Palius stated that the new service between Lompoc and Santa Ynez Valley needs Midday service for mother's who need to return from Lompoc to pick-up their children from school should also be considered.

Matt Dobberteen asked when the planning and implementation of service between Lompoc and the Santa Ynez Valley shall commence. Michael Powers responded that SBCAG staff will meet with the transit staff representatives of the County and the Cities of Lompoc, Solvang, and Buellton to finalize the service parameters and agree on a cost sharing formulae. Staff will seek grant funding to help with service costs since some agencies use their TDA for transit. The target to initiate new service is spring 2008.

Following additional discussion Richard Fernbaugh moved a recommendation of approval of revised Transit Needs Assessment and findings of unmet need and reasonable to meet. The motion was seconded by Barry Stotts and unanimously approved.

5. ORIENTATION

Michael Powers described the contents of the member orientation packet. Austin O'Dell and Polly Blevins expressed their appreciation for the information.

Vibiana Saavedra asked what the minimum obligation for public outreach was associated with the transit needs assessment process. Michael replied that the obligations under the TDA statutes required a 30 day notice, one public hearing, and input from the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council which is the role that SBCTAC performs. However, Michael continued that SBCAG does more in our public outreach with local transit workshops, occasional surveys, etc. Austin observed based on his experience and knowledge of other areas SBCAG does more outreach than most other agencies.

Julie Kahn asked when MTD plans to conduct new surveys of bus riders. Julie Guzman replied that she would check with MTD staff.

Polly Blevins stated that the First Five Commission conducts Spanish language outreach on Spanish language radio stations and offered to assist in facilitating a collaborative outreach program.

Vibiana Saavedra asked when the public outreach program would be developed for the next cycle. Michael replied that it occurs in the fall. Vibiana asked if there was a standard survey form. Sarkes replied no but SBCAG used a form to survey clients of People Helping People that he could supply. Matt added that there was outreach for the North County Transit Plan and SBCAN surveys in past years. Austin stated that the update of the local transit plans provided other opportunities for public input. In response to a question by Michael, Austin stated that the SMAT Short Range Transit Plan would be updated this next year and Richard replied that their Plan would not be updated for a few years.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Seeden-Hansen handed out pins marking the two year anniversary of the Breeze Bus. Matt and others congratulated Michael for his work on the Breeze and all celebrated the success of the Breeze.

Michel Powers asked for federal human service agency contacts needed to develop the consolidated human services transportation plan. Polly and others said the upcoming forum on transportation on May 30 would be an opportunity, Joyce Lippman as a senior services contact, and Tom Urbansky for Veterans Affairs.

Dean Palius and Barry Stotts asked for a status report on Measure D renewal. Michael replied that the board had initiated a renewal for November 2008 setting a ½ cent target with input to be provided by the subregional committees. Barry asked for ongoing reports on Measure D and requested a general presentation on transportation funding. Michael replied that he could present a funding overview next month.

Matt announced the upcoming Team Bike Challenge sponsored by SBCAG, Traffic Solutions.

Polly announced that she underwent training to become a Certified Child's Car Seat Installer and Inspector.

7. **ADJOURN**

There being no other business, Petra announced that SBCTAC was adjourned till the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 12 at 1:30 PM.