

Santa Barbara County Transit Advisory Council (SBCTAC)

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Buellton City Council Chambers
140 West Highway 246
Buellton, CA

SBCTAC Members Present

Nicole Campos	Local CTSA - Easy Lift
Howard Kraus	South Coast Transit Rider
Petra Löwen, Chair	Local Social Service Provider for Seniors
Michael Luther	City of Lompoc Transit (COLT)
Sally Nunes	Santa Maria Area Transit (SMAT)
Fil Simas	Local CTSA - SMOOTH
Barry Stotts	Potential Transit User who has a Disability
Jim Talbott	Guadalupe Transit

SBCAG Staff Present

Peter Imhof
Andrew Orfila
Peter Brown

Others Present

Ed Zoost	Transit Rider
Matt Dobberteen	County Transit
Richard Fernbaugh	COLT

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Petra Löwen called for public comment and there was none.

3. MINUTES (Action Item)

Chair Löwen asked for the following corrections to the minutes:

- Under item 4, third paragraph, insert "...County submit its inspection report when it files its TDA claim each year."; and
- Under item 5, fourth paragraph, insert "...staff is confident it will be able to..."

Following a motion by Jim Talbott, seconded by Barry Stotts, with Fil Simas and Jim Talbott abstaining, the committee approved the SBCTAC minutes of Wednesday, November 13, 2013.

4. TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT FAREBOX POLICY (COLT and SMAT)
(Action Item)

Peter Imhof presented the staff report. Matt Dobberteen requested that the County be involved in any future discussions with SMAT or COLT staff regarding meeting minimum farebox recovery requirements. Peter replied that County staff will be contacted in the future on this item. He mentioned the possibilities for improvements moving forward within the North County Transit Plan.

Jim Talbott asked if there was any study done that looked at the increase in fuel costs and if there was an exemption allowed under the Transportation Development Act that is allowed for that. Peter replied that there are some exemptions allowed under TDA, such as costs associated with increased service to new areas, but was unaware of any exemptions allowed for increases in fuel costs. Jim mentioned that in 2007/08, there was a rise in fuel prices and a corresponding rise in transit ridership. Now, fuel prices have tempered, ridership may have decreased a bit. Peter replied that the findings in the TDA audit revealed that ridership has declined on the local transit systems in most areas, regional ridership remains up, but operating costs have increased. Matt Dobberteen mentioned that the Breeze Technical Advisory Committee recently looked at its underperforming routes and made adjustments accordingly.

Following a motion by Barry Stotts, seconded by Michael Luther, the committee recommended that the SBCAG board adopt each of the resolutions for COLT and SMAT, allowing them time to demonstrate compliance with the Transportation Development Act.

5. NORTH COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN – SUMMARY OF PUBLIC OUTREACH (Information Item)

Peter Brown presented the staff report. Barry Stotts asked staff for their definition of branding. Peter Brown replied that branding in the context of recommendations within the North County Transit Plan would be making transit facilities such as buses, stops, and materials easily identifiable to users.

Jim Talbott commented that the City of Guadalupe is looking at a large project, the DJ Farms residential project, which will be coming online within the near future. He added that Guadalupe is a heavily transit-dependent community and will be facing challenges in servicing the new development. He added that the new development will increase the population of Guadalupe by approximately 40%. Jim also noted that the City just kicked-off its Short-Range Transit Plan process and will want to coordinate with SBCAG on both the service issues regarding the new development and preparation and coordination on the Guadalupe Short-Range Transit Plan. Peter Brown asked if there were any developer fees for transit available for the City. Jim replied that he has been working to secure developer funding for transit and there is some transit infrastructure, such as bus stops and bus pull-outs that are trying to be negotiated. Matt Dobberteen noted that the same phenomenon is happening in western Goleta with MTD. There is development with very little corresponding increases in funding for transit. He recommended that Jim consult with Jerry Estrada at MTD regarding this issue. Peter Imhof mentioned that the Regional Transportation Plan-Sustainable Community Strategy includes a provision that prioritizes new sources of funding based on need, but he emphasized that this applies only to new sources that may

materialize.

Barry Stotts commented that a regional transit map that includes contact information for the transit agencies would be helpful for transit riders. He also complimented staff and the consultants on their work done on the Santa Maria workshop.

Matt Dobberteen added that the Lompoc workshop was very valuable. Matt asked what the process was moving forward. Peter replied that staff and the consultant team will be working on the goals and objectives and the scenarios and will then be meeting with the stakeholder group to discuss within the next few months.

Jim Talbott asked if the Santa Barbara Shuttle was still in operation. Richard Fernbaugh replied yes, it operates on Tuesday and Thursday, and is operating about half of its capacity. Jim mentioned that SMOOTH operates a bus through the Public Health Department between the Santa Maria Valley, Lompoc, and the South Coast three days a week, however it is at full capacity. Matt Dobberteen asked if the SMOOTH/Public Health Department route was included in the Existing Conditions report. Peter Imhof stated that they would confirm with the consultant to see if it was included.

6. OVERALL WORK PROGRAM (Information Item)

Peter Imhof presented the staff report. Jim Talbott asked if it would be feasible to include a study regarding growth in development in Guadalupe and western Goleta and transit service and lack of funding. Peter replied that staff would need to look at the proposal and see if it would be feasible to include in the work program.

Barry Stotts asked if staff will be studying commuter bikeways or trail/recreational bikeways. He suggested that SBCAG staff involve itself in the Coastal Trail planning process.

7. ELECTIONS (Action Item)

Following a motion made by Barry Stotts, seconded by Jim Talbott, the committee elected Petra Löwen and Matt van der Linden as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, for 2014.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. SBCTAC Member Resignation and Recruitment – Andrew Orfila mentioned that Rick Hummel notified SBCAG staff that he was resigning from SBCTAC effective December 2013. Staff will be working to recruit and fill his position. Staff encouraged committee members to consider possible replacement members.

B. 2014 Meeting Schedule

C. FTA 5339 Call for Projects – A handout was distributed regarding the FTA 5339 program

D. Other Announcements

a. Matt Dobberteen notified the committee and staff that there is a growing interest in providing weekend transit service between the South Coast and Santa Ynez Valley. He stated that there are a number of stakeholders that have expressed interest in this and that there will likely be testimony given at the unmet transit needs hearing on this item by members of the Santa Ynez Visitors and Conference Bureau. Peter thanked Matt for the input. Barry asked if the unmet

transit needs item was time certain 10:00 AM. Peter noted that the agenda states that the item will not be heard before 10:00 AM.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting date is Wednesday, February 12, 2014 (second Wednesday of the month).

10. ADJOURN