



■ 260 North San Antonio Road., Suite B ■ Santa Barbara, CA ■ 93110  
■ Phone: 805/961-8900 ■ Fax: 805/961-8901 ■ www.sbcag.org

## STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Unmet Transit Needs

**MEETING DATE:** January 19, 2006

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4

**STAFF CONTACT:** Michael Powers, Sarkes Khachek

### RECOMMENDATION:

Conduct public hearing on unmet public transportation (transit) needs.

### 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. The Transit Needs Assessment process schedule is shown in Attachment 1.

### 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 persons to present testimony on any existing unmet transit needs.

Every year SBCAG holds two public hearings to solicit input on unmet transit needs. The hearings are held at locations in northern Santa Barbara County and the South Coast to facilitate public input from the two sub-regions of the County. At both hearings, individuals and groups can offer testimony on local, regional, and/or countywide transit needs. A public hearing will also be held February 16, 2006 in Santa Barbara to receive

testimony from people in the South Coast. SBCAG will use the testimony presented at these hearings 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 Lompoc Record, Santa Barbara News Press, Santa Maria Times, and Santa Ynez Valley News (between December 11 and 15, 2005). A press release in English and Spanish was distributed to all newspapers and radio stations in Santa Barbara County (Attachment 3).

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 4). A similar public outreach process will occur for the Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing to be held in February in Santa Barbara.

**North County Transit Plan**

Dependent upon scheduling associated with the North County Transit Plan, public input received through the Public Scoping task might be considered in the Unmet Transit Needs assessment for FY 06-07. Public Scoping may include interviews with transit users at transit hubs, presentations to various transit groups among other options. Comments obtained from SBCAG's public hearings held in January and February will also be evaluated as part of the North County Transit Study.

**COMMITTEE REVIEW:**

SBCTAC is involved throughout the Transit Needs Assessment process pursuant to PUC Section 99238. As well, 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:**

- Attachment 1            Unmet Transit Needs Assessment 2006 Schedule
- Attachment 2            Public Hearing Notice , North County
- Attachment 3            News Release, North County
- Attachment 4            Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing Flyer

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**Unmet Transit Needs Assessment - 2006 Schedule**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>
Consultation with SBCTAC regarding forms of public outreach to be used as part of the Unmet Transit Needs process.	October/December 2005
Public outreach for North County Public Hearing English/Spanish language flyer distribution through-out North County News-release for newspapers and radio (English & Spanish) Request for PSA's (English & Spanish)	December 2005 January 2006
Notice of Public Hearing – North County (media distribution) (Santa Ynez Valley News) (Santa Barbara News Press, Santa Maria Times, Lompoc Record)	December 15 -23, 2005
Posting of notice of Public Hearing on SBCAG web site	January 3, 2006
Public outreach for South Coast Public Hearing English/Spanish language flyer distribution to South Coast social service agencies, public & transit agencies and transit advocates.	January 2006
Notice of Public Hearing – South Coast (media distribution) (Santa Barbara News Press)	January 2006
Notice of Public Hearing on SBCAG web site	January 2006
Public Hearing – North County (Santa Maria)	January 29, 2006
Public Hearing and data review and consultation with SBCTAC	February 2006
Transit Needs Assessment process update and survey data review with TTAC	February 2006
Public Hearing – South Coast SBCTAC presentation of findings to SBCAG Board	February 16, 2006
Draft Transit Needs Assessment	March 2006
Review and comment period for the draft Transit Needs Assessment (including presentation to SBCTAC and TTAC)	April 2006
Presentation of Transit Needs Assessment Board adoption of findings and resolution	April 20, 2006

ATTACHMENT 2  
Public Hearing Notice



## Public Meeting Notice

# Unmet Transit Needs

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 19, 2006  
**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, Santa Barbara, CA.

Written comments must be received by February 16, 2006. Mail comments to SBCAG at 260 North San Antonio Road, Suite B, Santa Barbara, CA 93110. Comments may also be emailed to [comments@sbacg.org](mailto:comments@sbacg.org). An Unmet Transit Needs on-line comment form is available at [www.sbcag.org](http://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.

**ATTACHMENT 3  
News Release**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release 1/5/06  
Contact: Gregg Hart 961-8905**

**How can the bus better serve your needs?**

The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments would like to hear what new bus routes or service schedules are needed in north Santa Barbara County to local residents get where they need to go. The public is invited to attend an Unmet Transit Needs public hearing on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am to let our local government leaders hear your ideas on ways to improve local and regional community bus service. The hearing will be held at the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Hearing room at the County Government Center in Santa Maria, 511 East Lakeside Parkway. Spanish translation will be available. If you cannot attend the meeting, you can call the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments at 961-8915 or e-mail [sbcag.org](mailto:sbcag.org) to add your comments to the record.

¿Cómo puede servir mejor el autobús a sus necesidades?

La Asociación del Condado de Santa Barbara de Gobiernos quiere oír cuales servicios o recorridos nuevos del autobús se necesitan en el Condado del norte de Santa Barbara para ayudarle llegar a donde usted necesita ir. Favor de asistir una audiencia pública que se oye en el 19 de Enero a las 10:00 AM para que los líderes de administración municipal oigan sus ideas en maneras de mejorar el servicio de autobus de la comunidad. La audiencia estará en el cuarto de audiencia del Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors en el Centro de Gobierno en Santa Maria, en el 511 East Lakeside Parkway. La traducción en española estará disponible. Si usted no puede asistir la audiencia, usted puede llamar al Santa Barbara County Association of Governments al 961-8915 o manda su correo electrónico a [sbcag.org](mailto:sbcag.org) para dar sus comentarios al registro.

**ATTACHMENT 4**  
**Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing Flyer**



# Need a ride on the bus?

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

**In Santa Maria**

When: Thursday, January 19, 2006 @ 10:00AM  
Where: Board of Supervisors Hearing Room  
511 East Lakeside Parkway  
Santa Maria, California

**In Santa Barbara**

When: Thursday, February 16, 2006 @ 10:00AM  
Where: Board of Supervisors Hearing Room  
105 E. Anapamu Street, 4th Floor  
Santa Barbara, California

Simply come to either public hearing mentioned above 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 Board 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 February 16, 2006 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](mailto:publiccomment@sbcag.org)

Favor de contactarse con SBCAG al 961-8918 tres días antes de la reunión si usted necesita traducción en español.



# ¿Necesite un paseo en el autobús?

El Association de Gobiernos del Condado de Santa Barbara tendrá dos comentarios publicos para aprender cuales son las necesidades de transito que tienen los residentes del Condado de Santa Barbara. Por favor asista y presente sus comentarios o preocupaciones acerca del servicio de transito en el condado de Santa Barbara.

## **En Santa Maria**

Cuando: Jueves, 19 de Enero del 2006 a las 10:00AM  
Donde: Salón Board of Supervisors Hearing Room  
511 East Lakeside Parkway  
Santa Maria, California

## **En Santa Barbara**

Cuando: Jueves, 16 de Febrero del 2006 a las 10:00AM  
Donde: Salón Board of Supervisors Hearing Room  
105 E. Anapamu Street, 4th Floor  
Santa Barbara, California

Venga a uno de los dos comentarios publicos mencionados a las 10:00 AM. Llene la tarjeta de comentarios que esta en la mesa atrás del salón. Su nombre sera llamado para pasar adelante y dar su punta de vista.

También puede mandar sus comentarios por escrito antes del 16 de Febrero 2006 a:  
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments  
260 N. San Antonio Rd., Suite B  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
o por correo electronico a [publiccomment@sbcag.org](mailto:publiccomment@sbcag.org)

Favor de contactarse con SBCAG al 961-8918 tres días antes de la reunión si usted necesita traducción en español.