

## STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** SBMTD Status Report

**MEETING DATE:** October 19, 2006

**AGENDA ITEM:** 12

**STAFF CONTACT:** Michael Powers

### RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report from Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District on CMAQ-funded Valley Express transit service and SBMTD's service enhancement plans.

### SUMMARY:

The board approved CMAQ funding in 2004 for MTD to initiate the Valley Express commuter bus service and required that MTD provide annual status reports on the performance of the service. MTD has adopted performance standards for the three years that the CMAQ funding will be available and will report on the status and performance of the service at the board meeting. No board action is required at this time.

### DISCUSSION:

In October, 2004 your board approved \$331,200 in CMAQ funding to MTD to fund three years of operating costs for the Santa Ynez Regional Transit Service project (now called the Valley Express). You also required MTD to provide annual reports to the SBCAG Board on ridership levels, farebox recovery rate, and service or fare refinements.

The SBMTD board adopted a fare box recovery standard that is unique to the Santa Ynez service. The standard is aggressive, but not unreasonable for a limited service that is concentrated in the peak commuter hours. The projected fare box recovery ratio, a relationship that matches passenger fare revenue returns with operating costs, is set at 34% in Year 1 (2005), 57% in Year 2 (2006), and 85% in Year 3 (2007). The SBMTD board has also adopted two other performance measures, Average number of Passengers per One-Way Trip (ranging from 12 in Year 1 to 30 in Year 3) and Subsidy per Passengers (ranging from \$5.20 in year 1 to \$.50 in year 3).

MTD also agreed to provide additional information staff requested. This information includes the following:

- 1) Ridership per route compared to number of seats available. (The two types of buses MTD uses have different seating capacity so this difference has to be considered).
- 2) On-time performance pickup, which should be the same as MTD general system wide performance data; and,
- 3) Rider Satisfaction obtained via annual survey.

The Valley Express began service in March 2005 and provides four daily round trips from Solvang and Buellton to south coast job centers.

SBMTD will report on the status of the service including the adopted performance measures at the Board meeting.

**COMMITTEE REVIEW:**

The North County Subregional Planning Committee received a briefing from MTD in February, 2006