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

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Buellton City Council Chambers
140 West Highway 246
Buellton, CA

SBCTAC Members Present

Petra Löwen (Chair)	Independent Living Resource Center
Polly Bleavins	Children & Families Commission Community Outreach
Michael Seden-Hansen	SMAT Transit Agency
Barry Stotts	Community Access Network
Ed Zoost	SMAT/RAC
Jon Dotson	SYVT
Victor Suhr	South Coast Transit User
Kirk Spry	Vocational Training Center
Howard Kraus	R&D Transportation
Rick Hummel	LOVARC
Cathy Farrar	Transit User – North County
Jim Talbott	SMOOTH Transportation
Bea Merwin	Community Partners in Caring
Julie Kahn	Transit User – South County
Jerry Davis	Easy Lift
Dean Palius	Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People
Julie Guzman	Santa Barbara Community Services
David Damiano	SBMTD
Matt Dobberteen	Santa Barbara County Transit

SBCAG Staff

Michael Powers
Sarkes Khachek

Others Present

Vibiana Saavedra	Santa Maria Transit Advocate
Jim Richardson	Solvang City Councilman
Austin O'Dell	SMAT

Member Agencies

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Lowen asked for public comment and Vibiana Saavedra apprised the committee of the state farmworker transportation grant opportunity and urged SBCTAC to aggressively lobby the SBCAG Board to have local agencies submit an application.

3. ELECTIONS

Michael Powers summarized the staff report. Julie Kahn nominated Petra Löwen for Chair and the motion was seconded by Polly Blevins. Barry Stotts nominated Jim Talbot for Chair and the motion was seconded by Howard Krause. Due to two nominations there was a written ballot prepared by SBCAG staff and counted by Sarkes Khachek and Matt Dobberteen. The result was a tie (10 to 10). Michael Powers recommended a coin toss to decide the Chair position and the committee concurred. Jim Talbot won the coin toss and was elected Chair of SBCTAC for 2007

Following a motion by David Damiano, seconded by Julie Kahn, Petra Löwen was unanimously elected as Vice-Chair of SBCTAC.

4. MINUTES

Jerry Davis moved and Julie Guzman seconded the approval of the minutes of November 14, 2006 which passed unanimously.

5. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

A. Receive report on actions taken by SBCAG Board at Dec. meeting

Sarkes Khachek summarized the board action in accepting changes to the definitions of “reasonable to meet.”

B. Receive report from City of Lompoc Transit on Workshop held Nov. 14.

Matt Dobberteen summarized the input received at the Lompoc transit workshop.

C. Receive report from Santa Maria area Transit on Workshop held Nov. 18.

Michael Seden-Hansen summarized the input received at the Santa Maria transit workshop

D. Receive report from SBMTD on various transit public meetings held during month of Nov.

David Damiano summarized the input received at the SBMTD transit workshops. Julie Kahn asked if increases in frequency on SBMTD Routes 6 and 12 would happen early and David replied that by March 5 some improvements will be noticeable on Route 6, whereas Route 12 improvements would occur later, perhaps August.

- E. Discuss next steps in responding to public input at workshops and consider comments to present at SBCAG Unmet Transit Needs hearing on January 18, 2007.

Sarkes Khachek summarized SBCAG outreach efforts and Michael Powers encouraged all SBCTAC members to get the word out. Jim Talbot asked if the farmworker transportation issue was of interest to SBCTAC. Matt Dobberteen described efforts by the County to develop a private effort but which had failed. Austin O'Dell, SMAT transit manager, indicated the City of Santa Maria had plans to apply for the State Farmworker grant in association with the County. David Damiano expressed concern that fixed route transit may not be appropriate due to ADA compliance issues at bus stops.

Under public comment, Vibiana Saavedra said time is limited and encouraged action.

After some discussion, Barry Stotts moved and Dean Palius seconded the motion that SBCTAC encourage the County and City of Santa Maria to apply for a farmworker transportation planning grant with as short a planning cycle as feasible. The motion was approved, with Matt Dobberteen abstaining.

6. CONSOLIDATED PLAN

Sarkes Khachek provided a status report on the preparation of the Consolidated Human Services-Transportation Plan. He reported that staff had received over 100 surveys. He also reported that Caltrans, Division of Mass Transportation indicated that all four applications for JARC/New Freedom funding from the County would be approved.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Powers distributed new Amtrak Pacific Surfliner Train Schedules

David Damiano expressed appreciation to Howard Kraus and others who helped SBMTD on a recent on-board survey effort.

Bea Merwin expressed appreciation to SBCAG for their assistance with the Community Partners In Caring application for New Freedom funds and to Lompoc staff for the Lompoc transit workshop.

8. ADJOURN

There being no other business, SBCTAC adjourned till the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 13 at 1:30 PM.