



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

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 10, 2007

Buellton City Council Chambers
140 West Highway 246
Buellton, CA

SBCTAC Members Present

Petra Löwen (Vice-Chair)
Barry Stotts
Ed Zoost
Richard Fernbaugh
Victor Suhr
Howard Kraus
Rick Hummel
Cathy Farrar
Bea Merwin
Julie Kahn
Julie Guzman
David Damiano
Michael Seden-Hansen
Jim Talbott (Chair)
Ernesto Paredes
Kirk Spry
Matt Dobberteen
Vibiana Saavedra

Independent Living Resource Center
Community Access Network
SMAT/RAC
COLT Transit Agency - Lompoc
South Coast Transit User
R&D Transportation
LOVARC
Transit User – North County
Community Partners in Caring
Transit User – South County
Transit User – South County
SBMTD
SMAT
SMOOTH-CTSA
Easy Lift - CTSA
Vocational Training Center
County Transit
Farmworker Population Representative

SBCAG Staff

Michael Powers
Sarkes Khachek

Others Present

Jim Richardson

Solvang City Councilman/SBCAG Board Member

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Talbot 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

There was no public comment.

3. MINUTES

Kirk Spry noted that he was not in attendance at the March SBCTAC meeting. Following a motion by Bea Merwin and a second by Cathy Farrar, the minutes were approved unanimously with this correction, with Vibiana Saavedra, Matt Dobberteen, Jim Talbott and Ernesto Paredes abstaining.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Michael Powers announced the addition of Vibiana Saavedra as a new member of the committee representing the Farmworker community. The committee members welcomed Ms. Saavedra.

5. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Sarkes Khachek presented the report.

In reference to the determination for Sunday service in Lompoc, Vibiana Saavedra mentioned that many families attend Sunday church services and this should be considered again next year.

Richard Fernbaugh noted that City of Lompoc does provide free Sunday service during festival weekends.

Barry Stotts mentioned there should be a stop in Buellton for the Clean Air Express that could connect to Santa Ynez Valley Transit.

Vibiana Saavedra asked when the pilot reverse commute vanpool program would begin and Sarkes Khachek responded the service is scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year 2007-08.

Kirk Spry asked if the transition of the Clean Air Express to the jurisdictions seemed favorable and Michael Powers responded that there are issues in terms of long term funding for the service as well as air quality requirements.

Richard Fernbaugh added that there are capital needs for bus replacement.

Vibiana Saavedra mentioned that there is not a lack of funds with TDA funding available for transit in North County.

Richard Fernbaugh responded that Lompoc would be utilizing all TDA funds in the future for their Transit, Operations and Transfer Centers.

Matt Dobberteen said that local officials could work together to receive a federal earmark for additional bus capital similar to what MTD did with their new fleet of hybrid buses.

David Damiano mentioned that a recent MTD earmark took a lot of work with Santa Barbara's congressional representative and that the process took three years before they received the vehicles.

Barry Stotts asked if the Clean Air Express vehicles were ADA accessible and Sarkes Khachek responded affirmatively.

Richard Fernbaugh mentioned that Lompoc recognizes that the Clean Air Express is a good service, but future funding sources need to be identified and local services should not be impacted.

In reference to the determination for expanded SMAT service from Santa Maria to Garey/Sisquoc, the committee requested that the request be reexamined with an alternative service program.

In reference to the determination for the SYVT extension from Buellton and Solvang to Lompoc, Richard Fernbaugh noted that the operating cost included in the analysis did not include fuel and maintenance costs which would increase the operating cost per hour.

Matt Dobberteen asked what funding sources other than TDA were available for providing the service from Lompoc to Buellton.

Sarkes Khachek responded that there is FTA 5311(f) funding for new services connecting urban to non-urban communities. Additionally, there is the Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program which could provide regional funding.

Michael Powers added that since SBCAG is currently developing the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, from which JARC funding applications would be derived, SBCAG can establish priorities to fund regional services with the JARC program.

David Damiano asked if the service just needed to meet a ten percent farebox recovery ratio and Sarkes Khachek responded affirmatively.

Richard Fernbaugh asked if the new service would be a pilot program and Sarkes Khachek responded affirmatively.

In reference to providing a morning tripper on Guadalupe Flyer to reach the San Luis Obispo Route 10, Vibiana Saavedra asked if the SLO Regional Transit Authority could extend service to Guadalupe. Jim Talbott responded that it wouldn't hurt to ask.

Matt Dobberteen provided an update on the Farmworker Transportation Program.

Vibiana Saavedra asked if Santa Barbara County would follow the Kings County model and Matt Dobberteen responded affirmatively.

Vibiana Saavedra asked how the public would be involved with the planning and implementation of the Farmworker transportation program and Matt Dobberteen responded that County would be working with transit advocates and community leaders on notifying the community of the service. He also mentioned that the goal is to have a workshop in June.

Barry Stotts recommended the committee submit a letter of support for the Transit Needs Assessment.

The committee recommended the following items be included in the letter to the SBCAG Board:

- Commending the staff members of City of Lompoc Transit, City of Santa Maria Area Transit, County of Santa Barbara, Public Works Transit and Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District for their work on the Public Workshops on transit held in the later part of 2006 and early 2007
- Recommending SBCAG continues to work with the Cities of Lompoc and Santa Maria to provide resolution on the transfer of the Clean Air Express as it is a critical regional bus service.
- Supporting the County of Santa Barbara in planning and implementing the farm worker van pool transportation program.
- Reexamining the request for service between the communities of Santa Maria and Garey/Sisquoc with a different service arrangement.
- Supporting the request for service between the City of Lompoc and the Santa Ynez Valley.
- Consideration of future public outreach efforts next year to include client and on-board surveys

Following a motion by Barry Stotts and a second by Victor Suhr the committee voted 17 to 1 to approve the letter. Richard Fernbaugh was the one 'no' vote.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Julie announced that her birthday is on April 26th.

Petra Löwen announced that the Independent Living Resource Center is celebrating their anniversary with an open house on April 17th from 11am to 3pm.

Barry Stotts recommended that the Farmworker Transportation Video produced by Kings County be presented to the SMAT Riders Advisory Committee.

Michael Powers announced that the SBCAG Board of Directors would be holding a workshop on Measure D Renewal following the regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 19th.

David Damiano discussed recent improvements on Santa Barbara MTD including the addition of new hybrid electric buses and MTD's conversion to bio diesel fuel on May 1st.

Bea Merwin expressed appreciation for COLT service improvements to the Lompoc Community Center. Bea also noted that Good Samaritans of Lompoc was in need of transit service.

Kirk Spry requested a SBCTAC orientation packet for new members.

7. ADJOURN

There being no other business, SBCTAC adjourned till the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 8 at 1:30 PM.