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**SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
STANCOG BOARD ROOM
1111 I STREET, SUITE 308
MODESTO, CA
FEBRUARY 1, 2011 (TUESDAY)
8:30 AM**

Committee Agendas and Minutes: Committee agendas, minutes and copies of items to be considered by the StanCOG Committee are available at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at the StanCOG offices located at 1111 "I" Street, Suite 308, Modesto, CA during normal business hours. The documents are also available on StanCOG's website at www.stancog.org/committees.shtm.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the address listed above during normal business hours. These documents are also available on StanCOG's website, subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

Public Comment Period: Matters under the jurisdiction of the Committee, and not on the posted agenda, may be addressed by the general public at the beginning of the regular agenda and any off-agenda matters before the Committee for consideration. However, California law prohibits the Committee from taking action on any matter which is not on the posted agenda unless it is determined to be an emergency by the Committee. Any member of the public wishing to address the Committee during the "Public Comment" period will be limited to 5 minutes unless the Chair of the Committee grants a longer period of time. At a Special Meeting, members of the public may address the Board on any item on the Agenda at the time the item is considered by the Board.

Public Participation on a Matter on the Agenda: Please step to the podium at the time the agenda item is announced by the Chairperson. In order to ensure that interested parties have an opportunity to speak, any person addressing the Committee will be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes unless the Chair of the Committee grants a longer period of time.

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AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public may comment on each item on the agenda as it arises.

3. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Motion to Approve SSTAC's Committee Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2011

B. FY 2011/12 Unmet Transit Needs – Second Public Hearing

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Consolidated Transportation Services Agency – Progress Update

5. TRANSIT MANAGER’S/CTSA REPORT

6. CALTRANS REPORT

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

8. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

9. ADJOURN

Next Regularly Scheduled SSTAC Meeting:

March 1, 2011 (Tuesday) @ 8:30 am

StanCOG Board Room

1111 I Street, Suite 308

Modesto, CA



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**SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SSTAC) MEETING
StanCOG Board Room
1111 I Street, Suite 308
Modesto, CA**

**Minutes of January 4, 2011 (Tuesday)
8:30 am**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bertha Burrell-Greene (Commission on Aging); Greg Gaudio (Alliance WorkNet); Margie Palomino (Dept. of Aging & Veterans Services); Monica Ramos (Catholic Charities); Terry Plett, George Sharp (DRAIL); Tom Truax (DMC Foundation); Sandra Williams (StanWORKS)

ALSO PRESENT: Donna Bridges (ROTA); Brad Christian (Stanislaus County); Kay Dunkel (City of Ceres); Jean Foletta (CTSA); Bill Latham (City of Modesto); Barbara Hempstead, Janet Jaramillo (Caltrans); Vince Harris, Rosa Park, Mike Costa, Debbie Molloy, Robin Whitehead, Jaylen French, Carlos Yamzon (StanCOG); Martin Zonligt, Jenny Kenoyer, Mickey Peabody

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Terry Plett called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked for introductions.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

3. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Motion to Approve SSTAC's Committee Meeting Minutes of November 30, 2010

By Motion (Greg Gaudio/Monica Ramos), and unanimous vote, the Council approved the minutes of 11/30/2010.

B. FY 2011/12 Unmet Transit Needs – Initial Public Hearing

Vince Harris mentioned to members that there will be a Public Hearing at the StanCOG Policy Board Meeting on January 19, 2011 at 6 p.m. This public hearing will be to accept comments from the public on Unmet Transit Needs. There will be a second public hearing in February. He invited all members to attend. Discussion took place amongst members on how staff could receive public comments from those that are unable to attend due to an unmet need. Members also asked if public hearings can be held at other locations as well as at SSTAC meetings. Vince Harris reiterated that comments are heard all year, and by TDA law, StanCOG is required to hold one Public Hearing. To support this effort staff also works with agencies to do additional outreach.

C. Motion to Select a Representative to Serve on the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)

Vince Harris explained what the SCS is and the objective of the committee as well as history on SB375 and AB32. He mentioned that with these two bills, the State of California is charged with improving air quality. Vince explained that additional input from members of other committees is recommended. After discussion with members, Vince Harris asked for those that may be interested in serving on the SCS. Jean Foletta expressed interest.

By Motion (Margie Palomino/Bertha Burrell-Greene), and unanimous vote, the Council approved the appointment of Jean Foletta to the Sustainable Communities Strategy Steering Committee.

D. TTAC Update

Vince Harris mentioned that the first meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2011 at 10 a.m. Rosa Park named off those individuals that will form the TTAC.

E. Member Term Limits/Bylaws

Vince Harris discussed the handout given to members regarding term limits and the make-up of the council. He mentioned the possibility of making some slight changes regarding term limits. Vince also reported that two vacancies need to be filled by the CTSA and one Transit Operator. Per discussion amongst members and Transit Operators, consensus was to have Brad Christian of Stanislaus County fill the Transit Operator vacancy on SSTAC. Protocol will be to have Jean Foletta and Brad Christian submit an application for review and approval from the Executive Committee. Terry Plett formally thanked Greg Gaudio for his dedication to SSTAC over the past eight years.

F. Project Action – Accessible Transportation Coalitions Initiative (ATCI) – Sharp/Foletta

George Sharp discussed the handout in the packet that is overseen by Easter Seals Project Action. He mentioned that this is a one year process designed to support systems change activities to improve accessible transportation options for people with disabilities in local communities. George felt that this program is a great opportunity for one of our communities in Stanislaus County, specifically mentioned the Oakdale/Riverbank area. A planning committee will need to be formed to complete an application to be submitted by January 31, 2011. Jean Foletta mentioned that the CTSA and a Transit provider will need to be on this committee. The request was made by the CTSA for StanCOG to be on board for support.

4. TRANSIT MANAGER'S/CTSA REPORT

Jean Foletta (CTSA) introduced Salome Garcia, the new Travel Trainer that was hired recently. She has a lot of experience in working with persons with disabilities. Jean reported that travel training has started with an individual from DRAIL. Referrals have been received by the City of Modesto and VMRC as well. Jean also mentioned that if anyone has referrals to let her know and she will email a referral form.

Bill Latham (City of Modesto) reported that city will begin the budget process for next year and looking at the possibility fare increases and service alterations. The start of the bus maintenance facility has begun and hopes to have the new site open in about 18 months. The city is also in the final stages of completing the Dial-A-Ride consumer and application guides in Spanish.

Donna Bridges (ROTA) reported that ROTA is at a 7% fare box ratio. Buses are at full capacity and ROTA is not able to add riders or place another bus on road. ROTA is looking at ways to reduce these issues to be able to make the 10% mandated fare box by June 30, 2011. Ridership demand is in Oakdale and not as much in Riverbank.

Kay Dunkel (City of Ceres) reported that Dial-A-Ride is at 10.06% fare box ratio and CAT is at 10.03%. Concern is to make the 15% ratio and the City will now look at the budget for ways to meet. There was a substantial increase in fares in July and the City doesn't think they can increase again.

Brad Christian (Stanislaus County) reported that ridership is up about 3%. The electronic fare boxes will be installed at the end of the month on all buses and demonstrations will be scheduled on how to use. The County Transportation Guide version 2 will kick off on the 11th. The RFP for the security cameras went out recently and hope to have a bid conference soon. Google Transit has some technical issues and hopes to have those resolved soon. County is looking at a fare increase in August. START runs the eastside shuttle on Saturdays from Oakdale/Riverbank/Modesto and will try demonstration project to pick up seniors at the Oakdale Senior Center and take them to the Crossroads Shopping Center. Project would be one time in the morning and specifics will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Janet Jaramillo (Caltrans) reported that the new District 10 Director, Carrie Bowen is now on board and applications for the transportation planning grants are due March 30, 2011.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vince Harris reported that staff is very pleased that the CTSA is moving forward in their training activities for the seniors and disabled communities. He mentioned that he would like to see the CTSA maximize the use of the public transit system. StanCOG is beginning the process of working on the FY 11/12 budget. Vince mentioned that there still is no new federal transportation bill and not sure how the new bill will affect funds. Vince also added that 1.5 million was awarded to our region with the recent application of the SCS process.

6. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tom Truax mentioned that DMC have received funds from RSVP and looking for volunteer partners to develop volunteer driving pool for their communities. He asked for interested parties to contact him.

Terry Plett mentioned that the statewide association of DRAIL is taking on the issue of transportation as one of the principal advocacy roles. George Sharp will be in San Diego at the end of the month discussing some of the strategic plans that can be done systems wide. Focus is on local funding redefinition.

Vince Harris and staff would like to personally thank Greg Gaudio for his hard work on the SSTAC.

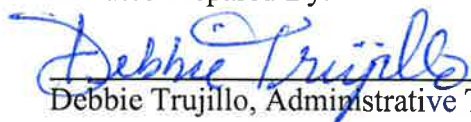
7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next Regularly Scheduled SSTAC Meeting:

February 1, 2011 (Tuesday) @ 8:30 am
StanCOG Board Room
1111 I Street, Suite 308
Modesto, CA

Minutes Prepared By:


Debbie Trujillo, Administrative Technician



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TO: Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) **Staff Report Information**

THROUGH: Vince Harris, Executive Director *VH*

FROM: Rosa De León Park, Transit/Programming Manager *RDEL*
Mike Costa, Transit/Programming Planner *MAC*

DATE: January 24, 2011

SUBJECT: FY 2011/12 Unmet Transit Needs – Second Public Hearing

Background

Staff is requesting that the Policy Board hold a second public hearing at its February 16, 2011 meeting for the purpose of receiving potential unmet transit needs from the public for the 2011/12 fiscal year. An initial public hearing was held on January 19, 2011. At that hearing, public comments were received regarding potential unmet transit needs. However, those comments will be addressed, along with any potential comments received at this hearing, as part of the analysis contained in the 2011/12 Unmet Transit Needs Assessment Report. Staff will present this document to the Policy Board at a later meeting date.

Discussion

Pursuant to the Transportation Development Act (TDA), regional transportation planning agencies must annually complete an unmet transit needs assessment process to ensure that any remainder of Local Transportation Funds (LTF) does not get distributed to local agencies for non-transit purposes, such as street or road claims, until all transit needs have been met. The unmet needs process is used to identify potential transit needs within the County, which are not being met by current public transit operators. Any identified transit need is further analyzed for reasonableness based upon adopted state and local guidelines. If an “unmet transit need” is identified as “reasonable to meet”, it must be funded prior to local TDA funds being allocated for non-transit purposes.

The Policy Board has adopted specific definitions for both “unmet transit need” and “reasonable to meet”, please see Exhibit A for your reference. Any potential transit need that is identified during the unmet transit needs assessment process will be reviewed by staff per the Policy Board’s adopted definitions. Where a proposal satisfies the definition of an “unmet transit need”, it will further be analyzed pursuant to the regulations established for the “reasonable to meet” definition. Should a proposal be found to be both an unmet transit need and reasonable to meet, LTF must be budgeted to fund that service for the upcoming 2011/12 fiscal year.

Exhibit A

Definition of “Unmet Transit Need” and “Reasonable to Meet”

Definition of Unmet Transit Need

The StanCOG Policy Board adopted the current definitions of “Unmet Transit Need” and “Reasonable to Meet” on September 9, 2009. An “unmet transit need” is a need for transportation for an individual or group of individuals within any part of Stanislaus County, which has not been funded and implemented and which has been accurately documented on the Unmet Transit Need “Request for Transit Service” form. Unmet needs include, but are not necessarily limited to, needs for traditional fixed-route transit, curb-to-curb or door-to-door paratransit service, and “door-through-door” service (trips that originate inside a building or residence and terminate inside a destination building or residence), as long as some portion of the trip is taken via a motorized vehicle having four or more wheels and operated by a professional or volunteer driver whose primary purpose is to transport individuals or groups of individuals over public rights of way. A “specialized service” is one that provides transportation tailored to the unique needs of the individual being served in a manner that exceeds the level of service described in the literature published by the city or county entity that provides traditional fixed-route or paratransit service to the area in which the unmet need is thought to exist. Potential transit needs may be identified by community members or through a local or regional planning process. Although, some services may be restricted or give priority to traditionally transit-dependent populations (such as elderly, youths, persons with disabilities, or low-income persons), all eligible users should have equivalent access or opportunity to use the service. At a minimum, this may include requests for transportation services which are identified through the annual TDA Unmet Transit Needs hearings, by the SSTAC, in the Regional Transportation Plan, in the Short-Range Transit Plan of any transit operator, in any study of unmet transit needs prepared or formally accepted by the StanCOG Policy Board, or in a compliance plan for the Americans with Disabilities Act as prepared by any public or private entity. Unmet transit needs are not:

1. Trips, which would duplicate transportation services.
2. A need for transportation service beyond the fiscal year under consideration.

Definition of Reasonable to Meet

An identified unmet transit needs will be determined to be “reasonable to meet” if it is demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the StanCOG Policy Board, that the transit need can be met within the following performance and financial standards:

1. Any new service developed to meet an unmet transit need shall achieve at least 50% of the system-wide performance standards, as found in the *Transit Cost Sharing Procedures* adopted by the StanCOG Policy Board, except in the case of an extension of service determined to be a necessary lifeline service* for transit dependent populations.

**Lifeline Service: A service necessary to access community services within Stanislaus County that are needed to sustain an individual’s physical and mental health, as determined by StanCOG Policy Board.*

2. Any new service developed to meet an unmet transit need shall not cause the system of which it is a part to fail to meet the systemwide performance standards.

3. Any new service developed to meet an unmet transit need will not require the expenditure of more Local Transportation Funds than are available to the jurisdiction for transit.
4. Any new specialized service would be required to meet TDA requirements and be eligible for LTF funding under article 4 "Claims for Funds", Article 4.5 "Claims for Community Transit Services", and Article 8 "Other Claims for Funds".
5. An unmet transit need that requires specialized service will not reduce the amount of TDA funding needed by a City or County to continue to provide public transit services unless determined otherwise by the StanCOG Policy Board as demonstrated by their approval of claims submitted under article 4.5 "Claims for Community Transit Services" of the Transportation Development Act (TDA).


The determination of whether an unmet transit need is "reasonable to meet" shall take into account as appropriate:


1. If the time period needed to implement the required corrective action (e.g. major purchases, planning requirement) is greater than one year, an unmet transit need may be declared not reasonable to meet. An unmet transit need shall not be determined unreasonable to meet more than once on these grounds.
2. The fact that an identified transit need cannot be fully met based on available resources shall not be the sole reason for a finding that a transit need is not reasonable to meet.
3. StanCOG's Policy Board determination of needs that are reasonable to meet shall not be made by comparing unmet transit needs with the need for streets and roads.



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TO: Social Services Transportation Advisory Council **Staff Report**
Presentation

THROUGH: Vince Harris, Executive Director 

FROM: Rosa De León Park, Transit/Programming Manager 

DATE: January 24, 2011

SUBJECT: Consolidated Transportation Services Agency – Progress Update

Background

On May 21, 2010, the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) released a request for proposals (RFP) soliciting qualified consultants to fulfill the roles and requirements of a Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) and implement the Tasks/Streams from the “Stanislaus County Transit Need Assessment Recommendation and Implementation Plan”.

On July 21, 2010, StanCOG designated Paratransit, Inc. as the CTSA for Stanislaus County. The CTSA began work in the County in August 2010 and has been very active in the community since then.

Discussion

The CTSA for the Stanislaus region will provide an update on their progress since the program started in August 2010 and will give a presentation at the StanCOG Policy Board meeting on February 16, 2011.



StanCOG's Consolidated Transportation Services Agency for the Stanislaus region Update February 2011





Background:

- Stanislaus County commissioned a “Transit Needs Assessment” to determine overall transportation needs of the community
 - Assessment recommended a multi-streamed approach culminating in a Mobility Management Center
- The Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) in collaboration with senior advocates demonstrated an “unmet transit need that was reasonable to meet” for specialized transportation services to senior and the disabled communities
- July 2010- Stanislaus Council of Government (StanCOG) designates Paratransit Inc. the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) for Stanislaus County



History of CTSA's in California

- Assembly Bill 120, 1979, created CTSA concept to apply Statewide.
- CTSA can be non-profit organization, public transit agency, county government, or other similar agency. **A dedicated agency seems to be most successful.**
- CTSA is meant to coordinate the services of existing providers in the community and offer support services to community agencies.





CTSA Functions in Stanislaus County:

- Increase senior and disabled ridership on fixed route and dial-a-ride services
 - Education
 - Marketing
 - Consumer Orientation
- Travel Training
- Human service transportation coordination
 - Agency trips
 - Volunteer driver program
 - Door-through-door service
- Work with CTSA partners for additional coordination opportunities



CTSA Activities Since August 2010

- **Applied for and awarded Job Access Reverse Commute and New Freedom Funds to accelerate implementation of Tasks/Streams of Transit Needs Assessment**
- **Trip to Paratransit, Inc. to educate stakeholders on potential CTSA activities**
- **“Interviewed” agency partners and stakeholders to identify service needs and barriers (22 interviews)**
- **Work with Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) and Mobility Advisory Committee (MAC) on CTSA progress**
- **Attend committee meetings to remain current on needs of the community and educate stakeholders on CTSA functions**



CTSA Activities Since August 2010 (cont'd)

Travel Training Program Components:

- Program start-up December 2010
- Program teaches participants how to use ALL bus systems in Stanislaus County
- Program uses series of gradual steps to build confidence and ensure independence
- Examples of travel training participants:
 - Seniors who are new to the community or have never used public transportation
 - Seniors who are no longer able to drive
 - Persons with developmental disabilities that are able to navigate the bus system, but need help developing bus riding skills
 - People using mobility aids who need assistance with path of travel and/or help understanding securement procedures