



*City of Ceres • City of Hughson • City of Modesto • City of Newman • City of Oakdale • City of Patterson  
City of Riverbank • City of Turlock • City of Waterford • County of Stanislaus*

**SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SSTAC) MEETING**

**StanCOG Board Room**

**1111 I Street, Suite 308**

**Modesto, CA**

**Minutes of April 1, 2014 (Tuesday)**

**8:30 am**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fred Cavanah (City of Modesto); Stacie Morales (CTSA); Margie Palomino (Department of Aging & Veterans Services – Arrived during Item 4A); Monica Ramos (Catholic Charities)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Melissa Molina (City of Modesto); Scott Medeiros (City of Turlock); Eunice Lovi, April Henderson-Potter (Stanislaus County); Kay Dunkel (City of Ceres); Carlos Yamzon, Rosa Park, Vince Canales, Arthur Chen, Mike Costa, Jaylen French, Debbie Trujillo, Robin Whitehead (StanCOG)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Stacie Morales called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS-None**

**4. PRESENTATION**

**A. National Bike to Work Week in Stanislaus County, May 12<sup>th</sup> through May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Kari McNickel of Commute Connection provided information regarding National Bike to Work Week in Stanislaus County.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**B. Motion to Approve SSTAC Minutes of 3-4-14**

**\*By Motion (Fred Cavanah/Margie Palomino)**, and a unanimous vote, the Council approved the minutes of 3-4-14.

## 6. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

### A. **Motion to Recommend Policy Board adopt by Resolution 13-30 to approve the Program of Projects for Fiscal Year 2009 and Fiscal Years 2010-12 Job Access and Reverse Commute (FTA Section 5316) and New Freedom (FTA Section 5317) Funds**

Mike Costa reviewed remaining SAFETEA-LU grant funds that were available through the Job Access & Reverse Commute and New Freedom grant programs. He mentioned that staff had received four applications from Paratransit, Inc., the Stanislaus Region's Consolidated Transportation Services Agency, and summarized the projects listed under the applications.

Members Fred Cavanah and Margie Palomino asked for clarification with regard to the website and employment assistance, as well as the branding materials in the project description of the JARC application. Both members wanted an explanation about how the proposed programs in the grant applications would be implemented, and how they addressed the CTSA's goals.

Rosa Park commented that when the CTSA was formed, it was anticipated that the creation of a website and other outreach activities would be done to provide information about the CTSA and their services along with the coordination of the other social services agencies and transit operators.

Eunice Lovi commented that the CTSA's coordination of transportation services should be clear and fully defined with regard to the social service agencies and transit agencies.

Vice Chair Stacie Morales reviewed the projects listed in the application and clarified that they were within the goals and policies of the CTSA. Furthermore, StanCOG staff identified that the implementation of these grant programs, if approved by the Policy Board, would be done in full collaboration with the Mobility Advisory Committee (MAC), the SSTAC, and region's transit operators.

**\*By Motion (Margie Palomino/Fred Cavanah)**, and a unanimous vote, the Council recommended that the Policy Board adopt the Program of Projects for Fiscal Year 2009 and Fiscal Years 2010-12 Job Access and Reverse Commute (FTA Section 5316) and New Freedom (FTA Section 5317) Funds.

### B. **Public Review and Comment Period Schedule for the StanCOG Draft 2014 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) (Public Hearing at Policy Board meeting on April 16, 2014)**

Jaylen French provided an update regarding the release of the Draft 2014 RTP/SCS. He reviewed key dates regarding the schedule of the review and comment period. He highlighted that the 2011 RTP funding for transit had improved from 10% to 33%, and explained that this investment included Altamont Commuter Express (ACE), Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and Express Routes. He also mentioned that the document would go before the Policy Board in June for adoption.

## 7. TRANSIT MANAGERS/CTSA REPORT

Stacie Morales reported that the CTSA had completed their work on the JARC/NF grant applications. She also said that the quarterly reports would return at the May meeting. She mentioned that several projects with Catholic Charities and the Veterans Society had been on hold, but work on them would resume again soon.

Fred Cavanah reported that the Modesto Area Express had about a 1-2% increase in passenger ridership compared to the same month the prior year. He said that an order of 22 buses with Gillig would be finalized and should begin arriving in December. He mentioned that the proposed route changes and fare

increases had been approved by the Modesto City Council on March 4, 2014, and would take effect July 6, 2014.

Eunice Lovi reported that StaRT ridership was stable at a 5% increase compared to the prior year. She also identified that staff was currently looking at the number of routes and may make a few service changes. She said that all buses had been received that were ordered. She also mentioned that there could be some proposed service enhancements in the near future.

Kay Dunkel reported that the Ceres City Council awarded a new five year contract with an option of a one year extension to Storer Transportation that would become effective on July 1, 2014. She mentioned that there were two new buses on order that would arrive in June or July. She said that ridership was the same compared to the prior year. She also stated that a minor route change to CAT Route B would go before the City Council for review/approval, and if approved would become effective in July or August.

Melissa Molina reported that Dial-A-Ride had 8,737 passengers for the month of February, with 2,183 passengers that utilized wheel chairs. She mentioned that overall, total passenger ridership was 4% lower than last year: however it was 6% higher for passengers with mobility devices. She said that the highest ridership day in February had 454 passengers. She reported that it was a triennial review year and a review of programs and policies would take place.

Scott Medeiros reported that Turlock was currently working on their TDA claim for next year. He mentioned that new buses were needed. He identified that six new, dial-a-ride vehicles would be purchased and funded through a Proposition 1B grant, and four fixed-route buses would be purchased next year with FTA 5339 funds. He also mentioned that planning and preliminary engineering work on Phase II of the Transit Center expansion project was currently underway.

**9. CALTRANS REPORT - None**

**10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Carlos Yamzon acknowledged the successful event that was held on March 19 to recognize the Stanislaus Veterans Medical Transport Program. He asked Member Margie Palomino to offer her comments. She thanked StanCOG staff for recognizing those involved in establishing the program, and said she was very pleased with how well the event went. Carlos Yamzon also reported that the Policy Board voted at the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to not go forward with the transportation sales tax measure based on information provided from a recent poll.

**11. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS - None**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Stacie Morales adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

**Next Regularly Scheduled SSTAC Meeting:**

**May 6, 2014 (Tuesday) @ 8:30 am**  
**StanCOG Board Room**  
**1111 I Street, Suite 308**  
**Modesto, CA**

Minutes Prepared By:

  
Debbie Trujillo, Planning Technician