

# DRAFT

## SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL March 19, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The following minutes are submitted for a meeting of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) for SLOCOG, held in the SLOCOG Conference room.

### SSTAC Members Present

Alan Massar.....	SLOCOG (Disabled Representative)
GlennaDeane Dovey.....	SLOCOG (Senior Alternate)
Eric Greening.....	RTAC Representative (Alternate)
Mark Shaffer.....	Ride-On/CTSA
Josh Miller.....	CTSA Representative (Alternate)
Jason Gillespie .....	ADA Representative (Alternate)
Carol Fleury.....	EOC Representative
Jean Raymond.....	Area Agency on Aging Representative
Alicia Seibel.....	SLOCOG (YMCA Representative)
Janeen Burlingame.....	RTAC Representative
Michael Seden-Hansen.....	RTAC Representative

### SLOCOG Staff Present

Ron DeCarli.....	Executive Director
Pete Rodgers.....	Administration Director
Eliane Guillot.....	Transportation Planner
Tim Gillham.....	Transportation Planner

### OTHER ATTENDEES

Cindy Utter.....	Caltrans (District 5)
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1. **Mark Shaffer** called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.
2. **Public Comments: Eric Greening** made a comment that transit is not cheap when vehicle maintenance is deferred. (This was in reference to MV Transportation taking over for Southland Transit and inheriting the mechanical problems that have plagued RTA.) He also mentioned that the County Board of Supervisors will be discussing "Smart Growth Principles" more in-depth during their next meeting and how greater conceptual support is needed for expanding public transportation and the County's role in it.
3. **Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2008: Minutes were approved unanimously.**
4. **Transit Programming: Proposition 1B and Rural Transit Fund: Pete Rodgers** began by announcing that two funding sources (Prop 1B and RTF) were being recommended for programming at the April Board meeting. He explained that approximately \$2.1M of the \$2.4M available in Prop

1B for FY 07/08 was programmed in December. Of the remaining Prop 1B funds available this year, **Mr. Rodgers** said that \$169K was being recommended for purchasing a new Morro Bay Trolley and making SCAT bus stop improvements at the Pismo Prime Outlets Center. He also mentioned that funding for the Atascadero Transit Center was not recommended because the project is not ready to move forward at this time. The Los Berros/Thompson PnR lot that was to be reconsidered for Prop 1B funding has since been approved under the 2008 STIP. As such, approximately \$179K in regional discretionary Prop 1B \$\$\$ is recommended to be carried-forward into the next fiscal year for programming. Additionally, \$50K previously earmarked for Ride-On MDT's will be carried-over as well. It was also suggested that Ride-On apply for a 5310 grant to help supplement Prop 1B \$\$\$ for additional MDT's. **Janeen Burlingame** noted an error in the staff report regarding the Morro Bay Trolley. She said the trolleys operate from Memorial Day until the first weekend in October. **Mr. Rodgers** then explained how SLOCOG programs all 5311 funding on RTA in exchange for a similar amount of TDA funds that form the RTF Account. He proceeded to list those projects recommended for RTF funding. **Ms. Burlingame** informed staff that comments regarding the Morro Bay trolley signage project in Table E were not accurate. She said the North Coast Transit Plan recommended Morro Bay include route maps on their trolley signs. **GlennaDeane Dovey** asked how the proposed trolley for Avila and Cambria was to be shared. **Jason Gillespie** said it is intended to be a spare and will be used as a back-up for both services. **Ms. Dovey made a motion to concur with staff recommendations; seconded by Mr. Gillespie. The motion passed unanimously.**

**5. 2008/2009 Unmet Transit Needs - Findings:** **Tim Gillham** began by summarizing those requests submitted during the 08/09 Unmet Transit/Bikeway Needs study. He said that of the 104 specific transit requests received by staff, only 1 had met the adopted "unmet transit needs" criteria and was subsequently analyzed for "reasonable to meet." However, he noted that 3 requests warranted further consideration based on the amount of community support they had received. Additionally, all transit operational requests and bike-related requests had already been forwarded onto the appropriate jurisdictions to allow enough time for comment and a written response prior to the June Board meeting. The 1 request found to meet the adopted "unmet transit needs" criteria and the 3 that required additional consideration are as follows:

- Weekday RTA Rte 12B northbound service from Morro Bay Park at 5:15 PM
- Additional funding to subsidize continued \$2.00 fare on Ride-On Senior Shuttles
- Discontinue SCAT Rte 24 service to Strother Park and Bolsa Chica
- Region-wide non-emergency medical transportation to/from hospitals/medical clinics

**Eliane Guillot** gave an overview of the RTA Rte 12B request and explained how it met the 4 "unmet transit needs" criteria. Currently, there are only 3 RTA Rte 12B northbound runs from Morro Bay to Cayucos during the week. It was mentioned that previous findings in the North Coast Transit Plan recommended that the County contract with the Morro Bay Dial-a-Ride (DAR) to provide service to Cayucos. She then went onto to provide the findings for "reasonableness to meet." Of the 3 scenarios analyzed, Options B and C on page B-1-8 were found to meet the "reasonable to meet" criteria. However, Option C was recommended as a short term solution (set to begin in summer 08) until RTA's Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) could be completed. By doing so, the Morro Bay DAR service could then be revisited as an option to serving Cayucos. **Mr. Greening** questioned the idea of running a DAR vehicle to fill this timing gap in service, only to return empty to Morro Bay. A discussion ensued regarding the operational costs for a vehicle returning empty from Cayucos. **Mr. Gillespie** informed the group that carrying one person would bring the farebox down, whereas returning empty (deadhead time) would not affect the farebox recovery ratio. **Ron DeCarli** recommended a survey be conducted to determine potential ridership from Cayucos to Morro Bay at this time during the day. **Mr. Gillespie** said a survey would also provide a good indication of ridership northbound which could raise vehicle capacity issue. He also added that a fixed-route service requires a bike rack be installed and that this involves additional capital costs (in the order of \$5K). **Mr. DeCarli** went onto say that the majority of unmet transit requests received by staff are operational in nature. **Mr. Rodgers** added that the RTA Rte 12B request is a timing issue and

explained how RTA tried to expand the length of day on this route, but did not provide enough frequency. A discussion ensued involving the Rte 12B vehicle that remains out-of-service for a large amount of time throughout the day at Hearst Castle, and whether it could be used to provide coverage. **Ms. Guillot** asked if the people using this leg of Rte 12B were workers or tourists. **Mr. Gillespie** responded that a survey needs to be conducted in order to determine the ridership make-up.

The discussion then turned to the request made for non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) services. **Mr. Shaffer** suggested that a survey of hospitals be conducted to determine the need. He added that a service such as this could potentially be provided by the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) through Ride-On, as they provide a lot of medical trips (under the MediCal funded program). It was noted that New Freedom grant funding could be available for such a program. **Mr. Shaffer** also commented that a hospital tracking form would be helpful in determining the overall demand for implementing an NEMT service. **Jean Raymond** said she keeps track of this data at French Hospital. She asked **Mr. Shaffer** if Ride-On operates during the weekend. He replied that Ride-On operates from late in the morning until 7 PM on Saturdays. **Ms. Raymond** suggested hospitals contract with Ride-On over the weekend to provide these trips. She also noted that the majority of patients who would depend on such a service are seniors. **Mr. Shaffer** reminded the Council that Ride-On Senior Shuttles provide this service, but that hospitals would not be able to call for rides on behalf of patients. **Ms. Raymond** recommended that NEMT service be investigated further.

**Ms. Guillot** explained that the request for additional funding to continue providing the \$2.00 Senior Shuttle fare was not found to meet the “unmet transit need” criteria because fare subsidies are not eligible under TDA. It was further noted that lower fares generate more demand for the service. A discussion followed about the need to maximize the current shuttle services in the south county and to determine whether duplicative services exist which could be utilized more efficiently. **Ms. Guillot** added that this request requires further evaluation to determine how productive the current services are. **Mr. Shaffer** said the request was not a fare subsidy matter, but rather a funding request for the entire Senior Shuttle program. **Mr. Rodgers** informed the Council that Ride-On had received \$30K in discretionary STA from March 07 and into FY 07/08 for this service and that additional STA is recommended to continue providing this service. **Mr. DeCarli** suggested that staff’s recommendation on this item should include the funding recommendation. He added that this request has raised other issues and needs to be further investigated. **Mr. Shaffer** suggested that raising the fare to \$3.00 could be examined.

**Mr. Gillham** gave a brief overview of the Bolsa Chica/Strother Park request and informed the group that SCAT would be reevaluating this leg of Rte 24 once improvements at the Pismo Prime Outlet Transfer Center were completed. **GlennaDeane Dovey** asked if staff recommendation “D” required rewording. It was agreed by the Council and SLOCOG staff that recommendation “D” should read: “Coordinate with Ride-On to identify solutions for providing non-emergency medical transportation, and if appropriate, return with potential grant opportunities in June.” **Ms. Dovey made a motion to concur with staff recommendations with the rewording of item “D” suggested by the Council; seconded by Alan Massar. The motion passed unanimously.**

**6. Supplemental Funding Steering Committee Findings:** **James Worthley** gave an overview of the findings provided by the 5 member Steering Committee. He said that Federal, State, local, and supplemental funding programs were all examined in assessing the current overall funding climate. It was noted that projects are steadily increasing in cost while the base of revenue is on the decline. This can be contributed to a number of factors, but one finding suggests that fuel tax revenues are staying flat as fuel efficiency is reduced. **Mr. Worthley** informed the Council that transit funding has been relatively stable, whereas funding for streets and roads has not been. He also mentioned that projects within the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) will be financially

constrained unless supplemental funding was found. **Mr. Greening** said that although fuel tax revenue was falling short, supplemental funding was not the answer and suggested raising the current fuel tax. He added that an index gas tax could be the answer to supplemental funding. **Mr. DeCarli** said that **Mr. Greening's** suggestion was covered under recommendation "D" within the staff report. He also said that the current administration had refused any increased tax on fuel and mentioned that the Federal and State governments were more focused on toll roads and congestion pricing as potential funding sources. **Mr. Greening** questioned whether government officials are serious about "smart growth" principles and climate change. **Mr. Rodgers** said that an increase in fuel tax locally would encourage drivers to fuel-up their vehicles in Santa Maria rather than SLO County. **Carol Fleury** reported that she has recently been commuting by bus on RTA Rte 9 and saving over \$230 a month in fuel costs. She said that people don't realize the discounts available, nor the cost savings associated with public transit. **Mr. Rodgers** informed her that the Fare Improvement Study should raise awareness of the low cost of taking public transit. **Mr. DeCarli** added that it comes down to education and that SLO Regional Rideshare plays a big role in getting the word out. There was a suggestion made to switch recommendation "D" with recommendation "A" within the staff report. **Mr. Shaffer made a motion to concur with staff recommendations with the suggestion made to switch "A" and "D."** **Mr. Gillespie** seconded the motion. **The motion was passed with Alan Massar opposed to switching "A" and "D."**

**7. Consent Agenda:**

- a. Status of Triennial Performance Audit Implementation – Morro Bay and Atascadero**
- b. Senior Transportation Options – Project Findings**

There was no discussion on the consent items. **Ms. Dovey made a motion to concur with staff recommendations; seconded by Ms. Raymond. The motion passed unanimously.**

**8. Member Comments:** A discussion involving the next SSTAC meeting date occurred.

**9. Adjournment:** **Mr. Shaffer** adjourned the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

The next SSTAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 21, 2008.  
Minutes prepared by Tim Gillham