

**Butte County Association of Governments
Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)
Summary Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 1:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dorothy Churchill	Citizen-Chico
Cindy Jones	Butte County Public Works
Cameron Wise	Work Training Center
Jeannie Lee Schroeder	Mains'l Services Inc
Mary Neumann	Passages Adult Resource Ctr. (2:00 pm)
Debra Connors	Citizen-Chico
Shawn O'Brien	Butte County Public Works
William A. Moline	Butte County DESS – CALWORKS
Joyce Macomber	Citizen-Oroville

MEMBERS ABSENT

Forest Harlan	Independent Living Services of Nor Cal
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STAFF PRESENT

Jim Peplow	Senior Planner
Cheryl Massae	Human Resources Manager

OTHERS PRESENT

None

The following minutes are a summary of the SSTAC meeting.

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) of the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) was held at the BCAG office on March 18, 2014, located at 2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100 in Chico, California.

Item #1 – Introductions

The meeting started off with each person present stating their name and agency, if any, they are affiliated with.

Item #2 – Oral Communication

The council discussed various transit issues, no action was taken.

Item #3 – SSTAC Minutes – September 17, 2013 Minutes

No comments were received. On motion by Councilmember Churchill seconded by Councilmember O'Brien, the Minutes were unanimously approved.

Item #4 – Unmet Transit Needs Assessment and Findings for FY 2014/15

Staff explained the Unmet Transit Needs annual process and stated that public comments are taken throughout the year. Although there are unmet transit needs, there were no unmet transit needs that were found under definition to be reasonable to meet. Service to the Chico Airport was a popular comment, however, the ridership numbers would not make it an unmet need that is reasonable to meet.

Councilmember Wise asked if those funds that would have been used to implement an unmet need could be used to put benches in at bus stops. Staff explained that there are not funds set aside for unmet needs, staff would need to find the funding to implement the unmet need.

Staff informed the council that B-Line's main need is funds for the purchase of new buses. Councilmember Churchill commented that the new "old" buses have clips to secure wheelchairs and it is not a good system, doesn't want any more buses purchased with these.

Councilmember Connors asked about the survey being done on the bus stops. Staff informed the council that Disability Access Consultants (DAC) was doing a survey of all the stops for ADA access issues and should be completed in 2015. She also commented that the last on-board rider surveyor did not have her complete a survey because she could not see it. She feels a lot of riders were overlooked because they weren't able to fill the survey out on their own and suggested in the future the survey include everyone.

Item #5 – Other Items

Chico to Sacramento Study: Staff informed the council of the survey and there might be enough people that would ride the service, so we are taking the next step.

Councilmember Jones asked why the bus wouldn't hook into the Yuba City bus line and continue on to Sacramento. Staff stated that the bus from Yuba City to Sacramento is full so the bus would have to go from Chico to the main areas of Sacramento.

B-Line Tracker: Staff informed the Council the B-Line Tracker was fully in place and working well, however, some phones are not able to use the service. Councilmember Schroeder stated she didn't get short texts and can't use the system.

Mobile website for B-Line: The B-Line transit website is now accessible by smartphone.

Nelson Nygaard: Staff informed the council that this consultant is looking at ways to clean-up some of the routes, with on-time performance being the priority. Councilmember Churchill said that Route 15 needs improvement, its late and doesn't have time to run the entire route.

Fare Increase: The fare increase will likely take effect July 1, 2014. IT was adopted by the BCAG Board. New schedules will be printed with the fare increase and any route changes.

New buses: There are six new buses coming soon to the B-Line fleet. Councilmember Macomber asked what routes the new buses will be on? Staff replied that there is not a specific route, they will be all over.

Service animal enforcement: Bus drivers will be given more discretion to determine what is a service animal due to a number of complaints regarding dogs on the buses and not being service animals.

Paratransit: There will be some policy changes taking effect July 1, 2014. The paratransit system has become more impacted over the last couple of years and in order to continue to provide efficient service, there will be some changes to paratransit. The Dial-a-Ride age will be changed from over 65 to 70 and only people with an ADA disability will be qualified.

Councilmember Wise suggested the service should be considered "curb to curb" instead of "door to door". Councilmember Schroeder said the drivers need to enforce no foul language and no drinks on the buses. There was a general discussion about the Oroville Transit Center feels unsafe, there are unruly people who hang out there with graffiti sometimes too. Staff is aware of the problems are continuing to work on them and provide a secure area. At the Chico Transit Center, people are smoking in front of the kiosk instead of away from it because the only ashtray is right next to the kiosk.

No other items were presented.