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 February 10, 2016, 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 – SSTAC Minutes – May 5, 2015 Minutes

No comments were received. On motion by Councilmember Harlen seconded by Councilmember Schroeder, the Minutes were unanimously approved.

Item #3 – Unmet Transit Needs Assessment and Findings for FY 2016/17

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. Therefore, no findings were made.

Councilmember Schroeder asked how the UTN meetings are advertised to get more of the riders in attendance for next year. Staff stated that comments are taken all throughout the year via telephone, email, comment cards or attending meetings. Meetings are advertised through the local newspapers, on the buses and at the transit centers.

Councilmember Schroeder commented that providing landmarks on the bus schedule would help determine where stops are in Paradise, especially on Clark and Pearson Roads.

Councilmember Neumann asked about bus service to the Senior Nutrition Program. Staff cannot at this time consider it an unmet need because under TDA definition, it is within a ¼ mile of a bus stop. Staff will look at the times of classes offered at CARD and see if a route could be feasible.

Councilmember Moline asked about changing the definition of an unmet need and reasonable to meet? Staff responded, that it still wouldn’t change the ¼ mile requirement.

Councilmember Teeter asked how to let people understand better what an unmet need is versus a general request regarding routes. Staff replied that an unmet need is for a service that is not available while a general request could be for additional services that may be accessible at a different time or location. If it is an unmet need, then the service would be evaluated to see if it is reasonable to meet.

Staff explained when new routes are evaluated, the amount of ridership is looked at and if there would be enough farebox recovered to justify the route.

Staff is looking at getting grant money to get bus service to the Chico Airport. If the ridership is enough after two or three years, the route will become a regular route. Surveys were conducted with the employers at the Chico Airport to find out what time people would use it.

Staff mentioned in regards to the new courthouse, that service changes are prohibited on potential or future developments.

Item #5 – Other Items

Staff discussed the new transit facility and the Grand Opening will likely be on April 29th at 10:30 am.
Councilmember Schroeder asked about the Paradise Transit Center and a shelter is needed at the current transit center. Staff stated that a location still has not been selected as of yet, however, they will look into whether a shelter could go in at the current location. Councilmember Teeter said the money for sidewalks on Almond have already been approved.

Councilmember Harlen brought up the shelter situation for the Hess’ in Paradise. Staff is well aware of this and stated the owner of apartment complex is not interested in having a bus shelter on his property.

Service to Chapmantown was also brought up. Staff stated that when service was brought back in the past, there was not enough ridership and the service was reduced again.

Councilmember Moline said sometimes the buses are arriving early to a stop or passing up a rider. Staff stated that bus drivers are forbidden to get to a stop early and that if staff is supplied with the time/location/bus stop, camera footage can be pulled by the AVL/GPS system in the buses and check out what happened.

No other items were presented.