



# AGENDA

## SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL of the BUTTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Monday – December 14, 2009 - 1:00 p.m.  
Butte County Public Health Department – Klamath Room  
202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville CA

### 1. INTRODUCTIONS

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ADDRESS ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA DURING CONSIDERATION OF THAT ITEM.

### 2. ORAL COMMUNICATION

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS OR COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA MAY DO SO AT THIS TIME. COMMENTS ARE LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES PER PERSON. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD.

FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA, NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME. IF IT REQUIRES ACTION, IT WILL BE REFERRED TO STAFF AND OR PLACED ON THE NEXT AGENDA.

COPIES OF STAFF REPORTS OR OTHER WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO ITEMS OF BUSINESS REFERRED TO ON THE AGENDA ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF BUTTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (BCAG). PERSONS WITH QUESTIONS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS MAY CALL BCAG TO MAKE INQUIRIES REGARDING THE NATURE OF THE ITEM DESCRIBED ON THE AGENDA.

**ITEM**

**STAFF**

**3. Minutes for May 19, 2009**

Ivan Garcia

For review and approval

**4. Draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment for the 2010/11 Fiscal Year**

Kristy Bonnifet

Provides staff's recommendation and requests council's support for the Draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment for the 2010/11 fiscal year.

**5. Transit Update – Verbal**

**6. Other Items**



ITEM # 3

**Butte County Association of Governments  
Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)  
Draft Summary Meeting Minutes  
For May 19, 2009**

*The following minutes are a summary of the SSTAC.*

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) meeting of the Butte County Association of Governments was held at the Butte County Public Health Department – Tahoe Room on May 19, 2009, located at 202 Mira Loma Drive in Oroville.

**Item #1 – Introductions**

Self introductions were made.

**Item #2 – Oral Communication**

No comments were received.

**Item # 3 – February 17, 2009 Minutes**

No comments were received. The minutes were accepted by the group.

**Item #4 – BCAG's Proposed Fare Increase**

Staff informed the Council that with increased operating costs and reductions in available funding, Butte Regional Transit (B-Line) needs to increase fares in order to maintain an acceptable level of service and meet required farebox recovery ratios. Due to increased operating costs, along with cuts in State Transit Assistance (STA) funding and projected decreases in Local Transportation Funds (LTF), staff would be recommending that the Board consider an increase to B-Line fares to take effect at the beginning of the 2009/10 FY. A fare increase at this time would address two separate issues, farebox recovery ratios and budget shortfalls. Staff included as part of the agenda an attachment for current and proposed fares, along with comparisons to other systems.

Staff also informed the Council of the Public Workshop on May 5, 2009 to address public comments and concerns. The BCAG Board was scheduled to have a public hearing at their May 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Concerns were raised regarding the financial impact on those individuals who rely on public transportation the most. There was a concern also that people may not make their necessary appointments as a result of not having the money for the new fare.

Staff explained that the increase was needed to ensure minimum farebox requirements were met. Staff highlighted the fact that transit was already 80% subsidized in the urbanized area of Chico and 90% subsidized for the rest of the system. While nobody liked the idea of raising fares, the general consensus was not to cut transit service.

#### **Item #5 – Status Update of B-Line Fixed Route Market Based Transit Study**

Staff informed the Council that the development of the Market Based Transit Study had begun. The purpose of the study is to identify system efficiencies, improve productivity and to appeal to the market and population that was not currently using the system. Staff indicated that public workshops had taken place as well as focus group/stakeholder meetings in each of the jurisdictions and that excellent input and attendance was received.

#### **Item #6 – Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) Recruitment Process**

The purpose of the agenda item was to inform the Council of the current members of the SSTAC and the categories that are required by the TDA. Staff indicated that the Transportation Development Act (TDA) requires that BCAG have a SSTAC. The primary purpose of the SSTAC is to review the unmet transit needs testimony obtained through public workshops conducted during the annual unmet transit needs process and to provide the BCAG Board of Directors with an unmet transit needs finding.

A call for applicants was placed in the local newspapers with applications due by May 29, 2009. Staff encouraged all existing members with term expirations to re-apply. The new appointments to be made were for the term beginning July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012. Included in the agenda item was the current makeup with the term period appointments identified. This item was presented for information.

#### **Item #7 – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) – Transportation Enhancement Activities – Call for Projects**

The purpose of this agenda item was to inform the SSTAC that BCAG had issued a call for \$288,000 in new Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects as a result of funding being made by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Typical ARRA projects include bicycle and pedestrian type projects including safety projects, scenic and historic highway projects, landscaping, historic preservation, and environmental mitigation. Staff indicated that likely candidates would be the local cities and county who had an existing project underway due to the requirement that funds would have to be obligated by March of 2010.

**Item #8 – Approved Local Project and Funding Recommendations for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**

For the SSTAC's awareness staff presented the local road projects approved for funding by BCAG concerning the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The attachment included in the agenda packet identified \$9.6 million in local projects located in the City of Chico, the County, the City of Oroville and the Town of Paradise. In addition, \$2.6 million in ARRA "Transit" funds would be used for the purchase of six (6) new clean diesel buses and to fund ADA paratransit services.

**Item #9 – Other Items**

No other items were presented.



## BCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council



## Item #4 Action

December 14, 2009

### **DRAFT UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE 2010/11 FISCAL YEAR**

**PREPARED BY:** Kristy Bonnifet, Assistant Planner

**ISSUE:** BCAG is required to prepare the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment each year as the administrator of Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds for Butte County.

**DISCUSSION:** Each year, BCAG must identify any unmet public transit needs that may exist in Butte County in order to receive state funding. If unmet transit needs are found, a further determination must be made as to whether those needs are reasonable to meet.

Staff has prepared the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment for the 2010/11 fiscal year. The assessment, which was distributed with the agenda, provides the following:

- Introduction
- Demographic Information
- Adequacy of Existing Transit Services
- Community Outreach
- Analysis of Comments Received
- Unmet Transit Needs Findings and Recommendations

Staff analyzed the testimony using the adopted definitions of “unmet transit need” and “reasonable to meet” in developing the recommendation to the council and to the BCAG Board of Directors. Transportation Development Act (TDA) law requires BCAG to adopt the definitions for the terms “unmet transit needs” and “reasonable to meet”. These definitions were adopted by BCAG on April 21, 1994 and amended per recommendation of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council on October 23, 2003.

Staff has determined that the addition of a commuter route that would provide direct service from Gridley to Chico is an Unmet Transit Need that appears to be reasonable to meet. This new route would strictly operate one earlier a.m. run from Gridley to Chico and a return p.m. run from Chico to Gridley. Staff analyzed this with an estimated operating time of three hours each day. Based on the current ridership of Route 30 and the percentage of riders that originate in Gridley, staff estimates that this run could meet the minimum farebox recovery ratio of 10%. The estimated farebox recovery ratio is 10.36% and because of the fact that this estimate meets the farebox recovery ratio by

such a narrow margin, staff is recommending a six-month trial period to operate this route and evaluate how it performs. At the conclusion of six months, if the service is not performing at the minimum required levels, staff would recommend removing the service.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff requests the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council support staff's recommendation to the BCAG Board of Directors to accept the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment for the 2010/11 fiscal year and find that the addition of a commuter route that would provide direct service from Gridley to Chico is an Unmet Transit Need that appears to be reasonable to meet.

Key Staff: Kristy Bonnifet, Assistant Planner  
Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager