



# AGENDA

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

Tuesday – May 19, 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 February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Ivan Garcia

For review and approval

**4. BCAG Proposed Fare Increase**

Robin Van Valkenburgh

Informing the group of the proposed fare increase for the B-Line System

**5. BCAG Market-Based Transit Study**

Robin Van Valkenburgh

Status update of transit study underway

**6. Reminder of SSTAC vacancies to be filled**

Robin Van Valkenburgh

Reminder of need to propose members

**7. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

Ivan Garcia

Informing the SSTAC on a “call for projects” for ARRA  
Transportation Enhancement Projects

**8. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

Ivan Garcia

Informing the SSTAC as to which local projects were approved  
by the BCAG Board of Directors for highways, local street and  
roads and transit



ITEM # 3

**Butte County Association of Governments  
Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)  
Draft Summary Meeting Minutes  
For February 17, 2009**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cameron Wise	Work Training Center
Jo Anne Hurley	Citizen-Oroville
Shawn O'Brien	Butte County Public Works
John L. McCash	Feather River Tribal Health, Inc.
William A. Moline	Butte County DESS - CALWORKS
Michael Worley	At Large Appointment
Joyce Wolf	Citizen-Oroville
Cindy Jones	Alternate for Mike Crump, Butte County Public Works

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mike Crump	Butte County Public Works
Diane Cooper-Puckett	Peg Taylor Center
Mary Neumann	Passages Adult Resource Ctr.
Jay Harris	Independent Living Services

**STAFF PRESENT**

Ivan Garcia	Programming Manager
Jim Peplow	Senior Planner
Robin Van Valkenburgh	Senior Planner
Kristy Bonnifet	Assistant Planner

**OTHERS PRESENT**

None

*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 February 17, 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 – August 2008 Minutes**

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

### **Item #4 – BCAG Public Participation Plan – Amendment 01**

Staff informed the council that the above mentioned amendment will be taken to the BCAG Board of Directors in March 2009. The amendment would adjust the minimum comment period time for those categories of amendments to the RTP and FTIP that do not require a new conformity determination. BCAG is requesting to change the review period from 30 days to 7 days in order to compete in a timely fashion for funding opportunities to the region, such as Economic Stimulus funds. This should not affect local projects and all projects will still go to the BCAG Board of Directors and Federal Highways Administration (FHWA). On motion by Council Member Jones and seconded by Council Member Worley, the SSTAC unanimously supported staff's recommendation to the BCAG Board of Directors to amend the Public Participation Plan.

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

Staff reported to the council that coordination of the development of a Market Based Transit Study for B-Line's fixed route system has begun. The study will comprehensively evaluate the current fixed route system design to determine if it is effectively meeting consumer needs in the Butte County region. A kick-off meeting was held February 6 in which the consultant met with the project development team (PDT) and introduced some of the major tasks associated with the study as well as a timeline of the study. The timeline and further information about the study will be available on the BCAG website. This study is anticipated to be complete in November 2009 and presented to the BCAG Board of Directors in December. The findings will likely be implemented in the beginning of the 2010/11 fiscal year.

### **Item #6 – Transit Needs Assessment for the 2009/10 Fiscal Year**

As the administrator of Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds, BCAG is responsible for preparing the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment each year. Staff presented the 2009/10 Draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment to the council. Staff has determined that the addition of one earlier run from Oroville to Chico on weekdays is an Unmet Transit Need that is Reasonable to Meet. There was discussion regarding increasing fares as a way to increase the farebox recovery ratios in order to meet more needs.

On motion by Council Member O'Brian, Seconded by Council Member Worley, it was moved to support staff's recommendation to the BCAG Board of Directors to accept the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment for the 2009/10 fiscal year. The motion carried by all other members present.

#### **Item #7 – Other Items**

Staff briefly updated the council on current transit issues:

- The kiosk at the Chico Transit Center will be staffed as of March 2<sup>nd</sup> for ticket purchases and routing information.
- Staff is also working on a request for proposals for an AVL/GPS system as well as developing a contract for security cameras which will allow for real-time recovery of images and GPS mapping to determine where specific incidents occurred.
- New bus shelters should begin being installed by Stott Outdoor Advertising in the beginning of summer and build-out complete within three months.

No other items were presented.



## BCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

## Item #4 Information

May 19, 2009

### BUTTE REGIONAL TRANSIT PROPOSED FARE SCHEDULE FOR 2009/10 FISCAL YEAR

**PREPARED BY:** Robin Van Valkenburgh, Senior Planner

**ISSUE:** 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.

**DISCUSSION:** Due to increased operating costs, along with cuts in State Transit Assistance (STA) funding and projected decreases in Local Transportation Funds (LTF), staff is 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. See Attachment 1 for current and proposed fares, along with comparisons to other systems.

Despite a record number of passengers during the past year, fare revenues have not kept pace with escalating costs, thus reducing B-Line's farebox recovery ratio. The Transportation Development Act (TDA) mandates meeting minimum farebox recovery percentages in order to receive full TDA funding; 20% for Urban Routes and 10% for Rural and Paratransit Routes respectively.

Review of the last full Fiscal Year data, FY 07/08, indicates the Fixed Route services met the required recovery rates but the Paratransit services failed to meet the requirements. For FY 08/09 current estimates again indicate that Fixed Route service should meet farebox recovery requirements, unfortunately Paratransit services indicate a failure to meet requirements again. *Failure to meet the minimum requirements can result in the loss of TDA funding; the agency must repay the difference between the required 10% and the actual farebox recovery.* Based on this information and since the Paratransit fare is solely based upon double the Local Regular fixed route fare, an increase in the fixed route fare from \$1.00 to \$1.50, would increase the Paratransit fare from \$2.00 to \$3.00, and help the Paratransit system to meet its 10% goal.

In addition to addressing the needs of farebox recovery, a fare increase will also help to fill the shortfall created by the elimination of STA and reduction in LTF. While the

amount generated by increased fares will only have a minimal impact on this shortfall, that along with trimming the operating budget, applying anticipated cost savings from the 2008/09 FY and eliminating the need to reserve funds for capital as a result of Stimulus funding, will allow B-Line to avoid any service cuts in the 2009/10 FY. Staff has estimated that this fare increase would generate approximately \$366,000, an amount which has been included in the transit budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

While fare increases are not popular, B-Line has not seen a fare increase since it began operating as a consolidated system in 2005. During this time most other transit agencies have increased fares, cut service hours, or both. B-Line has done neither.

A comparison of the different systems in Attachment #1 show that even with the proposed fare increase, the cost to ride B-Line would still be below that of most other comparable systems.

**A PUBLIC WORKSHOP WAS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>, FROM 1-4 PM, AT THE BCAG OFFICES TO ADDRESS PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS MAY ALSO PRESENT COMMENTS AT THE SSTAC MEETING.** Staff placed advertisements in each of the local newspapers, each B-Line bus, BCAG's website and informed each local city council. Comments are accepted by phone, email, comment card, fax, or in person at any BCAG public meeting.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** This item is presented for the review and comments. Staff has initiated a 30-day public comment period with a **public hearing scheduled for the May 28, 2009 BCAG Board meeting.**

Key Staff: Jon Clark, Executive Director  
Jim Peplow, Senior Planner  
Robin Van Valkenburgh, Senior Planner  
Julie Quinn, Chief Fiscal Officer



## BCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

## Item #5 Information

May 19, 2009

### STATUS UPDATE OF B-LINE FIXED ROUTE MARKET BASED TRANSIT STUDY

**PREPARED BY:** Robin Van Valkenburgh, Senior Planner

**ISSUE:** BCAG staff is coordinating the development of a Market Based Transit Study for the fixed route B-Line transit system. The purpose of the study is to identify system efficiencies, to improve productivity and to appeal to the market/population that are not current users of the transit system.

**DISCUSSION:** The Market Based Transit Study has gotten under way. So far there has been one Project Development Team meeting in February, four Public Workshops (one in each jurisdiction) and four Focus Group/Stakeholder meetings (again, one in each jurisdiction). All were successful with good attendance and excellent public input. Additionally, on Monday May 4<sup>th</sup>, BCAG in conjunction with the Consultants, rolled out an E-Survey for passengers and employers. This survey will run from May 4-15, and will provide input on current and potential rider needs.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** This item is presented for information.

Key Staff:                    Jon Clark, Executive Director  
                                     Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager  
                                     Jim Peplow, Senior Planner  
                                     Robin Van Valkenburgh, Senior Planner  
                                     Kristy Bonnifet, Assistant Planner





## BCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

## Item #6 Information

May 19, 2009

### **SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SSTAC) RECRUITMENT PROCESS**

**PREPARED BY:** Robin Van Valkenburgh, Senior Planner

**ISSUE:** BCAG staff is currently accepting nominations for potential members to serve on the SSTAC beginning July 1, 2009.

**DISCUSSION:** The Transportation Development Act (TDA) requires that BCAG have a Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). The primary purpose of the SSTAC is to review 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. The SSTAC also provides a forum to address other transportation issues facing transportationally disabled citizens. The SSTAC meets on an as needed basis throughout the year primarily during the annual Unmet Transit Needs process.

The attached roster identifies current members of the SSTAC and lists the categories that are required by the Transportation Development Act, Section PUC 99238. The highlighted portion indicates terms expiring at the end of this fiscal year. Jurisdictions may nominate individuals for representation on the council. In addition, The BCAG Board may make at large appointments at any time.

A call for applicants was advertised in local newspapers in March. Applications are due **May 29, 2009**. Applications are available by calling the BCAG office, (530) 879-2468 as well as on the BCAG website, [http://www.bcag.org/documents/about\\_bcag/SSTAC\\_Application\\_for\\_Appointment\\_07.pdf](http://www.bcag.org/documents/about_bcag/SSTAC_Application_for_Appointment_07.pdf)

A recommendation to the BCAG Board will be made by staff in June 2009 for appointments beginning July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012. Attached for information is the current membership of the SSTAC with the various categories identified.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** None, this item is presented for information only.

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

**Butte County Association of Governments  
2008/09 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council**

	Name	Agency	Category Filled							Term ends
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		→ # required	1	1	2	2	1	2	0	
1	Cameron Wise	Work Training Center				X				June 30, 2009
2	Diane Cooper	Peg Taylor Center			X					June 30, 2009
3	Jo Anne Hurley	Citizen-Oroville	X							June 30, 2009
4	Mary Neumann	Passages Adult Resource Ctr.			X	X	X			June 30, 2009
5	Shawn O'Brian	Butte County Public Works						X		June 30, 2009
6	John L. McCash	Feather River Tribal Health, Inc.	X				X			June 30, 2010
7	William A. Moline	Butte County DESS - CALWORKS					X			June 30, 2010
8	Jay Harris	Independent Living Services		X		X				June 30, 2011
9	Michael Worley	At Large Appointment				X			X*	June 30, 2011
10	Joyce Wolf	Citizen-Oroville	X	X						June 30, 2011
11	Mike Crump	Butte County Public Works						X		June 30, 2011

**Category Listings as per PUC Section 99238**

- 1 - potential transit user who is 60 years of age or older
- 2 - potential transit user who is disabled
- 3 - representatives of the local social service providers for seniors
- 4 - representatives of local social service providers for the disabled
- 5 - representatives of local social service provider for persons of limited means
- 6 - representatives from the local consolidated transportation service agency
- 7 - at-large appointment

\* Citizen nominated by a Jurisdiction



## BCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

**Item #7  
Information**

May 19, 2009

### **AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) – TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES – CALL FOR PROJECTS**

**PREPARED BY:** Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager

**ISSUE:** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) made \$288,993 available for new projects in Butte County. These funds must be obligated by March 2, 2010. New projects will be required to be programmed in the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) for Butte County.

**DISCUSSION:** Transportation Enhancement (TE) Activities offer funding opportunities to help expand transportation choices and enhance the transportation experience through 12 eligible TE activities related to surface transportation. These include pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and safety programs, scenic and historic highway programs, landscaping, historic preservation, and environmental mitigation. TE projects must relate to surface transportation and must qualify under one or more of the 12 eligible categories identified below.

A recommendation to program new TE projects will be made at the May 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. As such, candidate projects will be discussed at the next BCAG TAC meeting. The attached page identifies the types of TE projects eligible for funding including guidance for prioritizing projects.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** No action is requested at the committee meeting. Staff will inform the SSTAC at the meeting as to which projects will be recommended for funding. Project nominations by the cities and county are due to BCAG by May 8, 2009.

**Key Staff:** Jon Clark, Executive Director  
Andy Newsum, Deputy Director  
Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager



**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)  
Transportation Enhancement Activities (TE)  
Eligible Activities & Priorities for Funding**

**Programming Target: \$288,993**

**TE Activities:**

1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
2. Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
3. Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites (including historic battlefields).
4. Scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities).
5. Landscaping and other scenic beautification.
6. Historic preservation.
7. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals).
8. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use of the corridors for pedestrian or bicycle trails).
9. Inventory, control, and removal of outdoor advertising.
10. Archaeological planning and research.
11. Environmental mitigation—
  - i. (i) to address water pollution due to highway runoff; or
  - ii. (ii) reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity.
12. Establishment of transportation museums.

**TE Priorities** – BCAG has received the following guidance for ARRA TE Funds including:

1. Priority to the sponsors of eligible projects that partner with, or commit to employ the services of a community conservation corps or the California Conservation Corps to construct or undertake the project, provided those projects meet the requirements of the ARRA.
2. The next priority shall be for bicycle and pedestrian projects, provided they meet the requirements of ARRA.
3. Any project eligible for TE and ARRA funding.



## BCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

**Item #8  
Information**

May 19, 2009

### **APPROVED LOCAL PROJECT AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)**

**PREPARED BY:** Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager

**ISSUE:** The President signed the Economic Stimulus Plan known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on February 17, 2009. Funding is available for local transportation projects. Projects are required to be programmed in the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) for Butte County.

**DISCUSSION:** Attached for the SSTAC's information are staff's recommendations which were approved by the BCAG Board at their March 26<sup>th</sup> Board meeting for programming the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for highway and local roads, and for transit capital projects (see ATTACHMENT A). Staff's project recommendations were developed from a candidate list of projects that was developed in consultation with the BCAG member agencies and reviewed with the BCAG Board in February.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** None. This information is being presented to keep the SSTAC informed.

**Key Staff:** Jon Clark, Executive Director  
Andy Newsum, Deputy Director  
Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager



## ATTACHMENT A

### American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 BCAG Staff Recommendations

#### FUNDING

• Highways, Local Streets & Roads Target=	\$ 9,374,000
• Transit Capital Target=	\$ 2,615,111
• Transportation Enhancements (previous agenda item)	<u>\$ 288,993</u>
<b>TOTAL ARRA</b>	<b>\$ 9,662,954</b>

#### PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

BCAG staff has developed the following list of project recommendations for the 2009 ARRA funds based on a list of project submittals developed in consultation with the BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) in January/February.

<u>Highways &amp; Local Roads Recommendations:</u> (Priority Order)	<u>Obligation</u>	<u>ARRA Funding</u>
1) Chico - SR 99 Skyway Interchange Project	04/30/09	\$ 5,500,000
2) County - Midway & Lower Honcut Rehab	06/17/09	\$ 1,280,000
3) Oroville – Table Mountain & Grand Ave Rehab	06/17/09	\$ 1,094,000
4) Paradise – Overlay Rehabilitation Project	06/17/09	<u>\$ 1,500,000</u>
<b>Total for Highways &amp; Local Roads</b>		<b>\$ 9,374,000</b>

5) *Forest Highway 171 – \$5.2million for Phase 2 Construction\**

#### Transit Capital Recommendations:

1) Butte Regional Transit – Purchase 6 Clean Diesel Buses	\$ 2,474,974
2) Butte Regional Transit –ADA Paratransit Services	<u>\$ 275,000</u>
<b>Total for Transit Capital Projects</b>	<b>\$2,749,974</b>

*\*Forest Highway 171 was recommended should additional funding be made available.*