



AGENDA

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

Tuesday – February 17, 2009 - 2:00 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 November 3, 2008

Ivan Garcia

For review and approval

4. BCAG Public Participation Plan Amendment 01

Ivan Garcia

Informing group of revision to the Public Participation Plan concerning RTP and FTIP amendments.

5. BCAG Market-based Transit Study

Robin Van Valkenburgh

Informing group of transit study underway

6. Draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment – 2009/10

Kristy Bonnifet

Provides staff's recommendation and requests council's support for the Draft Unmet Transit Needs Assessment for the 2009/10 fiscal year.

7. Other Items



ITEM # 3

**Butte County Association of Governments
Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)
Draft Summary Meeting Minutes
For November 3, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Cameron Wise | Work Training Center |
| Diane Cooper-Puckett | Peg Taylor Center |
| Jo Anne Hurley | Citizen-Oroville |
| Mary Neumann | Passages Adult Resource Ctr. |
| Shawn O'Brian | Butte County Public Works |
| John L. McCash | Feather River Tribal Health, Inc. |
| William A. Moline | Butte County DESS - CALWORKS |
| Jay Harris | Independent Living Services |
| 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 |
|------------|---------------------------|

STAFF PRESENT

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Ivan Garcia | Programming Manager |
| Kristy Bonnifet | Assistant Planner |

OTHERS PRESENT

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| Donna Cook | Citizen |
| Steve Horne | Merit Medi Trans |

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 November 3, located at 202 Mira Loma Drive in Oroville.

Item #1 – Introductions

Self introductions were made.

Item #2 – Oral Communication

The following comments were received:

- Citizen Cook requested BCAG research what the role of a Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA) is and why Butte County Public Works has been designated the CTSA for Butte County. She stated that it is a conflict of interest for Public Works to be designated the CTSA when it receives funding from Transportation Development Act (TDA) for Streets & Roads.
- Council Member Hurley requested that staff look into who the ADA officer of Butte County is.
- Citizen Cook stated she is still waiting for a response regarding an email she sent inquiring about the operating costs of running paratransit buses vs. fixed route buses.

Item # 3 – August 2008 Minutes

Council Member Harris requested that the minutes be amended to include his statement at the last meeting that he would like all meetings to be held as one unified meeting rather than holding two meetings in separate locations. Council Member Cooper-Puckett requested that all SSTAC meetings be held as joint meetings with the Coordinated Transportation Working Group (CTWG). With these changes, the minutes were accepted by the group. Staff indicated that all BCAG committee meetings are open to the public.

Item #4 – B-Line Transit Update

Staff gave a verbal update of various transit activities under development by B-Line staff. The specific items included:

- Bus Stop Improvement Plan –BCAG is in negotiations with Stott Advertising Agency. It is anticipated new shelters will begin being installed in Spring 2009. Approximately 50 new shelters will be installed over a five month period.
- BCAG Market Based Transit Plan – BCAG was awarded \$160,000 in Caltrans Grant Funds to develop the Transit Plan. Staff is currently developing a Request for Proposals and hopes to have the project underway in the next couple of months.
- New Paratransit Buses - 8 New paratransit vehicles have arrived and are in service. In addition, BCAG has a pending grant with the California Transportation Commission for 6 additional paratransit vehicles. BCAG hopes to have the additional 6 vehicles by the Fall of 2009.
- Paratransit Fleet Electronic Fareboxes – BCAG intends to equip the paratransit fleet of vehicles with the same type of electronic fareboxes as fixed route in the 2008/09 fiscal year.
- GPS / AVL Transit Technologies – BCAG is in the process of researching Global Positioning Satellite / Automatic Vehicle Location technologies to equip the entire transit fleet. This will improve the day-to-day monitoring of the system operations and assist in using the transit in the event of a natural disaster.

- Safety and Security Cameras - BCAG received \$182,000 in Homeland Safety and Security funds to retrofit the existing transit fleet with surveillance cameras.
- Smart Card Implementation – BCAG has begun utilizing the “smart card” capabilities with the electronic farebox system on the fixed routes. The smart card is an electronic chip embedded in a credit card type of media. This allows individuals with dexterity issues and others to not have to physically swipe other media or exchange money to board the bus. This is a “proximity” card, and therefore does not have to do much to register other than be near the sensor.

Council members were pleased with the various transit activities being pursued and supported staff’s recommendation to acquire AVL/GPS for transit.

Item #5 – Unmet Transit Needs Process for 2009/10 – Public Workshop Schedule

Staff presented the meeting schedule for this year’s Unmet Transit Needs workshops. Staff also informed the council of advertising efforts that were made for this year’s workshops including local newspapers, posters on the B-Line fleet, emails to city/county staff, etc. Council Members suggested additional avenues to pursue for advertising. Staff presented a new comment sheet that would be available at meetings to make it more clear what information is required in order to be able to analyze a comment.

Item #6 – Unmet Transit Needs Definitions

As a follow up to the August meeting, staff and the council revisited the topic of revising the definitions of “Unmet Transit Need” and “Reasonable to Meet” used in the development of the annual Unmet Transit Needs Assessment.

Specific areas of concern brought up previously were including bus shelters in the adopted definitions, as well as money being left over after transit needs assessments are complete that is not going toward transit based on “Reasonable to Meet” requirements. Staff provided examples of analyses conducted during last year’s assessment and explained the farebox recovery ratio requirements mandated by the Transportation Development Act.

Staff reiterated their opinion that in light of the transit efforts for the 2008/09 fiscal year, definitions should remain unchanged at this time. Specific planning efforts include the Bus Stop Improvement Plan (in which an advertising agency would construct and maintain new shelters in exchange for advertising rights) and the Market Based Transit Plan (in which alternative routing possibilities will be explored).

On motion by Council Member O’Brian, Seconded by Council Member McCash, it was moved to approve Agenda Item #6 as presented. Council Member Cooper-Puckett abstained. The motion carried by all other members present.

Item #7 – Other Items

No other items were presented.



BCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Item #4 Information

February 9, 2009

BCAG PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN – Amendment 01

PREPARED BY: Iván García, Programming Manager

ISSUE: BCAG staff is proposing to amend the Public Participation Plan concerning the required comment period time for certain amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP).

DISCUSSION: BCAG staff is proposing to amend the minimum comment period time for certain categories of amendments to the RTP and FTIP. This amendment to the PPP is necessary to responsibly react to potential funding opportunities to the region, such as Economic Stimulus funds. The following summarizes the proposed changes to the PPP for RTP and FTIP amendments.

| 1 Notify public via Notification (e-mail) | 2 Review by BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee or BCAG Board of Directors Posted in BCAG office Posted on BCAG Web site | 3 Amendment Category | 4 Public Hearing Requirement | 5 Public Review Period, # of Days | 6 Approval |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| | | <u>Category 1</u> -Administrative | n/a | n/a | BCAG Exec. Director |
| | | <u>Category 2</u> - Formal Changes that do not impact the existing conformity determination | No | 7 | Approval at a public meeting by the BCAG Board of Directors |
| | | <u>Category 3</u> -Formal – Relying on existing conformity determination | No | 7 | BCAG / FHWA approves conformity |
| | | <u>Category 4</u> -Formal – Requires a new conformity determination. | Yes | 30 | |

The proposed changes do not adversely affect local projects. The changes however, would better position BCAG to compete for funds which have very restrictive timely use of funds requirements. In most cases, projects are existing projects and have already gone through some type of public review process.

Staff will have copies of the draft PPP available at the committee meeting reflecting the changes noted above. The draft document was also distributed to each Butte County public library. All development material including a complete document is available at BCAG's web page at: http://www.bcag.org/_planning/PPP.html.

The BCAG Board is scheduled to adopt the draft PPP at their March 26, 2009 Board meeting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff requests SSTAC support staff's recommendation to the BCAG Board of Directors to amend the Public Participation Plan.

Key Staff: Ivan Garcia, Programming Manager



BCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Item #5 Information

February 9, 2009

DEVELOPMENT 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: BCAG has been awarded a \$160,000 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5304 Planning Grant to develop a Fixed Route Market Based Transit Study. The study will comprehensively evaluate the current fixed route system design to determine if it effectively meeting consumer needs in the Butte County region.

Staff has assembled an ad-hoc project development team (PDT) to work with staff and the consultant during study development and held a kick-off meeting on Friday, February 6.

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 Action

February 9, 2009

TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE 2009/10 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 2009/10 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 committee 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 one earlier run from Oroville to Chico on weekdays is an Unmet Transit Need that is Reasonable to Meet. An earlier run would require 18 or more passengers to meet the minimum farebox recovery ratio. Based on ridership levels of the first two runs from Oroville to Chico, it is projected that an earlier run would produce enough ridership to meet the minimum farebox recovery ratio of ten percent.

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 2009/10 fiscal year and find that one earlier weekday run from Oroville to Chico is an Unmet Transit Need that is Reasonable to Meet.

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