

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SSTAC)

San Joaquin Council of Governments
555 East Weber Ave.
Stockton, CA 95202
Wednesday, August 06, 2008

MINUTES

1. **Call Meeting to Order/Introductions:**

The SSTAC meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Jean Foletta Introductions were made.

Committee Members Present:

Jean Foletta	SJRTD
Kathy Selsor	Caltrans
Barbara Hempstead	Caltrans
Al Lacson Gali	City of Lathrop
Tiffani Fink	City of Lodi
Julia Tyack	City of Lodi
John Andoh	City of Escalon Via Phone

Committee Members Not Present:

Wilma Murray	Valley Mountain Regional Center
Ed Lovell	City of Tracy
Annette DePauli	Human Services Agency – Department of Aging
Ann Fisler	San Joaquin ARC
Toby Hunter	UCP
Johanna Ferriera	City of Manteca
Sean Reilly	Transportation Consumer

Other Parties Present:

Shani Adams	Health Plan of San Joaquin
Michael Mosen	UCP

SJCOG Staff Present:

Sam Kaur	Regional Planner
Tanisha Taylor	Regional Planner
Anthony Zepeda	Associate Regional Planner
Katy Castro	Office Assistant

2. **Approval of Minutes from August 6, 2008:**

It was moved/second (Ferriera/Selsor) to approve the minutes from June 4, 2008.

3. **Public Comment**

None

4. 5310 Program Update:

Ms. Kaur stated SJCOG staff received applications from Escalon and RTD. The scoring committee scored the applications and SJCOG will be summing applications to Caltrans by August 29. The State-Wide Scoring Committee will be re-scoring the applications and will be summing them to the CTC. If there is a project that cannot be funded that project will drop and the next project on the list will be funded. Applicants should be receiving a letter from Caltrans advising them that the project has been approved.

5. JARC/New Freedom Program Update:

Ms. Kaur stated the applications for JARC/NF were received on June 2. SJCOG staff received four applications from the rural areas and two from the small urban areas. SJCOG will submit applications to Caltrans by August 29 and the Caltrans State-Wide Committee will score them. The final decision still relies on Caltrans.

6. Kick-off of Fiscal Year 2008-09 Unmet Transit Needs Process:

Ms. Taylor stated the UTN process fiscal year is always a fiscal year ahead of the actual State fiscal year. SJCOG staff is in State FY 08/09 but staff is covering the UTN process for Fiscal Year 2009/10. Due to the TDA Act SJCOG is required to analyze the transit needs of the residents from San Joaquin County. SJCOG staff then creates the UTN to report after staff solicits comments from the public. SJCOG will determine which of those comments are needed for the UTN through the SSTAC Committee. For this fiscal year, the 2009/10 process will be from August to December; SJCOG will request local jurisdictions and hold public hearings. The local jurisdictions will then have to have public hearings to solicit comments for the UTN process. SJCOG will be doing their public outreach August through December. On December 3, 2008, during the SSTAC meeting, staff will be holding a public hearing. In February of 2009 the committee will review the draft UTN report and the report will be available for a 30 day review. In April 2009, SSTAC will consider final UTN report for adoption and on April 23, 2009 the SJCOG Board will consider adoption of the Final UTN report.

Ms. Taylor introduced Anthony Zepeda to the members as the new UTN staff member.

7. Transit Funding in San Joaquin County:

Ms. Taylor discussed how transit is funded through San Joaquin County; all the transit operators are not funded in the same way. Fares alone do not cover the cost of transit operation, there is federal, state, and local funds that keep transit operating. The federal funding service 5307 is distributed to urban areas with a population 50,000 and greater. The Federal Section 5308 is an earmark fund that is dedicated to chosen operators. Section 5309 is for small start and new start. Section 5309 rail and fixed guide way enhancement program does not San Joaquin County currently have a recipient of this fund; however the rail commission will begin receiving these funds. Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities also go to specific transit operators. Section 5310 Elderly Person these funds are utilized only to purchase buses, radios and communication equipment. 5311 Rural and small urban areas is a formula distribution based on the US Census figures of areas with population below 50,000. Section 5311 B 3 is for training, technical assistant research and related support activities.

Ms. Shani Adams asked if there are currently any recipients in the county for the 5311 and 5311 B.

Ms. Taylor stated yes, there are currently recipients for the 5311 funds. The City of Escalon and a portion the incorporated county services offered by RTD are some of the recipients. There are no recipients in the county at the moment for the 5311 B 3.

Ms. Taylor stated the 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute Program (JARC) this is a state wide competitive program. This program provides funding for transit projects that offer service to or from urbanize area to rural areas and to or from jobs. 5317 is the New Freedom (NF) Program and is a state wide competitive program. Projects that provide new public transportation services and new public transportation alternatives are required to go about beyond the requirements of the ADA. The State Transit Assistance Funds are formula funds distributed based on population and fares. Local transportation funds are also formula distribution funds based on population. These funds go to the Cities and County and are flexible funds; which can be use for local streets and roads as well as transit. Proposition 1B Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement were just passed in November 2006, which provides additional funding for capital. Proposition 1B Transit System Safety, Security, and Disaster response account which is a form of distribution based on population and fares can only be use for transit capital security projects. Prop 42 Transportation Congestion Improvement Act is another flexible fund for transit operator. These funds could be used for Transit capital, operations, and roadway projects.

Ms. Taylor continued to state local fund sources, Measure K is our half cent sales tax. Measure K is similar to other programs where only certain operators can receive it.

Ms. Taylor stated out of the seventeen funding sources identified, transit operators in San Joaquin County are not eligible to receive all seventeen fund sources due to eligibility requirements of the applicable fund source.

Ms. Adams asked who would be the appropriate person to give examples of how these funds are distributed to which projects, cities or services.

Ms. Taylor responded the transit operators will be invited to give presentations to the committee at the October and December meeting.

Ms. Adams stated that Health Plan of San Joaquin would like to know what transportation is available and not available. They would also like to know how they could be a part of the solution or discussion.

8. Governor's Proposed Budget and Potential Impacts to Transit:

Ms. Taylor stated the Governor's proposed budget recommended a suspension of Prop 42 funds for the next three fiscal years. The suspension of Prop 42 funds has an immediate negative impact on transit funding and the ability for transit operators to maintain their current levels of service. If Prop 42 is suspended for the next three years, transit funding would drastically decrease. Because transit operators rely on many funding sources to provide services, any impact to one fund source has the potential to impact many fund sources. Ms. Tanisha Taylor asked committee members to make a letter or do anything possible to oppose suspending prop 42.

9. Reports/ Updates from Committee Members:

No comments

10. Reports/ Updates from Transit Providers:

Ms. Ferreira stated the City of Manteca has sent out an RFP for operations and has received four proposals which are being evaluated. It will go to Council September 2 to authorize the agreement. The City of Manteca is doing outreach this month and holding stakeholder meetings with certain groups throughout the community. The City of Manteca will have the triennial review in the month of September.

Ms. Fink commented that the City of Lodi has awarded their contract in June for four years and two one year extensions to MV. All buses will include GPS which will be accessible in the office. Ms. Fink stated that she has been conducting interviews for the Transit Planner position who will be attending the SSTAC meetings. The City of Lodi has broken ground on the transit shop which was a PTA project out of the STIP. The City of Lodi will be going from a 5,000 square foot shop to a 15,000 square foot shop. The City of Lodi recently received their safety and security money which they will be used to put Key card access in every building. Ms. Fink will be coordinating with RTD, so that every RTD driver will have an ID badge from the City of Lodi. The City of Lodi is expecting the draft for the Short Range Plan to go out for public comment within the next week and then, be adopted after the election.

Ms. Foletta stated that July 27 was SJRTD's first day of the new service improvements. This modification is for mid-day service to the High Schools and minor tweaks to existing routes. RTD is proposing a fare increase and the hearing process will take place in October. The mall transfer project cross-walk is being installed by the City of Stockton.

11. Access Advisory Committee Update:

Ms. Foletta stated their last Access Advisory meeting was held on July 17, where the committee went over the service changes which will be taken into effect on July 27.

12. Adjourn - Next Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.