

CTSA Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 28, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Ronn Rygg called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. in the conference room of the Monterey Mobility Management Center (3MC).

Present:	Andy Cook Ronn Rygg Maureen McEachen Genie Jimenez Rena Weaver Wyant Kathleen Murray-Phillips Kasuko Wessendorf Melissa McKenzie Nancy Budd	TAMC Transportation Planner United Way Monterey County VNA Alliance on Aging (Alternate) Blind & Visually Impaired Center DSES-AAA Interim, Inc. (Alternate) Carmel Foundation ITN Monterey County
Absent:	Brandy Abend Monique King	Salinas Valley Dialysis Interim, Inc.
Staff:	Tom Hicks Cristy Sugabo Lance Atencio	CTSA Manager Senior Mobility Specialist MV Transportation
Other:	Suzanne Gibbs Richard Adams Teresa Sullivan	Community Member MCOE Alliance on Aging

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Minutes of the regular meeting of September 26, 2012.

Member Kathleen Murray-Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes as amended on the consent agenda, and was seconded by member Rena Weaver Wyant. The motion carried unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

3.1 Ms. Gibbs commented that her reason for attending the meeting is to follow-up with MV Transportation regarding her complaint about her recently encountered problems with some recent trip requests. MST Staff Tom Hicks informed Ms. Gibbs that MV Staff Lance Atencio will address her follow-up request under MV Staff report.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

4.1 MST Staff Cristy Sugabo, Tom Hicks, and MV Staff Lance Atencio presented to the committee the MST RIDES Program. Ms. Sugabo presented the eligibility and certification process alongside Mr. Atencio who presented information about reservation and scheduling procedures. Subsequently, MST Staff Tom Hicks presented information of challenges that the program is presently facing, and challenges that the program is likely to encounter in the future.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

5.1 Conduct public hearing on TAMC Unmet Transit Needs.

TAMC Staff Andy Cook provided a presentation on the purpose of TAMC unmet transit needs process for Monterey County. The unmet transit needs process is associated with sales taxes allocated to public transit services. However, before allocating funding, the Agency must provide a public hearing and outreach to identify unmet transit needs. Further, Mr. Cook stated that lack of available funds cannot be the sole criteria use to determine that a need is not reasonable to meet. For consideration as part of the Agency's findings, the Agency is requesting that public comments and questionnaires on unmet transit be provided by January 31, 2013 to allow time to coordinate with MST to identify which unmet needs are reasonable to meet. TAMC will estimate how much money is available for public transit and the estimate will be available by February 2013.

In addition, Mr. Cook informed the committee that the Agency has received a request through the unmet needs process from the following members of the public:

- 1) Residents of Spreckels Community, and the Las Palmas Community.

- 2) Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) Staff Richard Adams who expressed the need to accommodate expansion of fixed-route bus services near Bolsa Knolls School.
- 3) Ms. Suzanne Gibbs expressed the need for more service via highway 68 corridor.

Public Comments

Ms. Jimenez asked how many unmet transit needs questionnaire forms were received from Spreckels Community. Ms. Jimenez questioned the financial impact of the unmet needs process and to provide the committee further explanation.

Ms. Gibbs asked if the Local Transportation Fund (LTF) tax also funds the wine trolley or Christmas trolley.

Ms. Sullivan asked to clarify if there is money for unmet transit needs. Ms. Sullivan asked how much it would cost to add a stop. Ms. Sullivan expressed that unmet transit needs in Spreckels was brought to their attention at the Alliance on Aging from few senior residents. Ms. Sullivan states that Alliance on Aging encourages seniors to use public transit as their alternate transportation and promoted alongside Travel Training that MST is offering. Ms. Sullivan asked member Kathleen Murray-Phillips with Agency on Aging to report information about the senior transportation survey.

Ms. Murray-Phillips reported that transportation needs for seniors ranked number two in Monterey County, but geographically was the number one need in South County and in the Peninsula area.

Ms. Sullivan states that Ms. Jimenez played a big role in assisting outreach for public transit in Spreckels Community.

Ms. Jimenez clarified that the need is for a bus stop, not the RIDES services.

Mr. Adams states that he is a teacher for the Monterey County Office of Education and has taught special education for eleven years. Currently, Mr. Adams provides assistance to teachers at Bolsa Knolls School about independent living skills including the use of public bus to get to and from school or work. Mr. Adams expressed that four special education classrooms at Bolsa Knolls are not able to access a fixed-route bus stop because the location of the school is about one mile

away. However, few of the students are wheelchair dependent and unable to navigate the streets to and from the nearest bus stop.

Closed Public Comments

Mr. Cook will report back to the committee at the next meeting and present the matrix of comments received, thereafter, Mr. Cook will provide the committee the drafted report of the unmet transit needs to be considered.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. SUBJECT ITEM FOLLOW-UP

9. SUBJECT ITEM REQUEST

9.1 Member Rena Weaver Wyant informed the committee that residents in the Toro Park Community can access Salinas using route 21, however, the bus schedule to Salinas is limited. Ms. Wyant requested Staff to increase time points to Salinas from Toro Park Community so that residents are able to travel to Salinas more often or have the opportunity to transfer to route 20 for Monterey.

10. REPORTS

10.1 Andy Cook, TAMC Staff reported to the committee that funding is available from the Federal Transit Administration to fund transit projects that also fund such program as the RIDES, JARC, and New Freedom Programs. The funding is administered by Caltrans through a grant application process. Anyone interested is to contact Mr. Cook.

10.2 Member Rena Weaver Wyant, ADAPTR liaison reported that the subcommittee discussed increasing membership by means of reaching out to Dialysis Clinic, create a recruitment poster, and promotion through mass mailing. Ms. Wyant states that Tom and Lance clarified the changes to taxi services for RIDES participants. Ms. Wyant confirmed the new ADAPTR meeting date and time to the second Thursday of even months at 3:00PM.

10.3 Lance Atencio, MV Staff announced to the committee that RIDES reservationist Geri Flagler resigned. Mr. Atencio states MV

Transportation is in the process of seeking a replacement. Chairman Ronn Rygg suggested MST staff write a letter of appreciation expressing the Committee's appreciation for her years of exceptional service.

Mr. Atencio reported to the committee that ridership in October estimated at ten thousand with eighty percent on time performance. Mr. Atencio expressed.

Mr. Atencio addressed Ms. Gibbs complaint by informing Ms. Gibbs that MV Transportation IT Staff reviewed and resolved the scheduling software problem.

10.4 Tom Hicks, MST Staff informed the committee that Staff is aware of the upcoming 5310 grant application opportunity and is currently working on the application.

Mr. Hicks reported to the committee that MST plans to purchase the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) software to be used for RIDES reservation. The IVR software is funded by previous grant.

Mr. Hicks announced to the committee that the office in Salinas is planned to open by January 2013. The office space will be used to conduct RIDES interviews, Travel Training, and administer the Taxi Voucher Program.

Mr. Hicks reported to the committee that the Taxi Voucher Program for seniors in the City of Salinas is still in the process of identifying disbursement locations. In addition, the Taxi Voucher Program is currently offered to senior communities that have no nearby bus stop as a result MST fixed-route cutbacks. Senior taxi vouchers are currently offered to the Montecito Senior Community in Salinas, and Casanova Community in Monterey.

Mr. Hicks announced there is currently one Senior Shuttle operating on the Monterey Peninsula and MST has order a second shuttle that will operate in Salinas. In addition, Mr. Hicks learned that the third shuttle is being funded but the service location has not yet been determined.

Mr. Hicks informed the committee that the Taxi Voucher Program currently consist of three taxi companies. MST has solicited statements of interest from additional taxi companies who wish to participate in the voucher program.

Mr. Hicks announced that the Request for Proposal process to select a provider for the RIDES Program as well as other fixed-route services is nearly complete. Mr. Hicks stated that member Maureen McEachen served on the steering committee and the final decision will need to be approved by the MST Board of Directors.


Mr. Hicks announced to the committee that MST is launching a new marketing campaign to recruit MST Navigators.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APPRECIATION

12. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Ronn Rygg adjourned the meeting at 2:40p.m.

PREPARED BY _____
Cristy Sugabo

APPROVED BY  _____
Tom Hicks