

Mobility Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 29, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ronn Rygg called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. in the Monterey-Salinas Transit Board of Directors Chamber (MST).

Present:	Ronn Rygg	United Way Monterey County
	Maureen McEachen	Visiting Nurse Association
	Virginia Murillo	Transportation Agency for Monterey County
	Kazuko Wessendorf	Interim, Inc.
	Aimee Cuda	ITN Monterey County
	Jenny Swad (Alternate)	The Blind and Visually Impaired Center
	Kathleen Murray-Phillips	Monterey County Department of Social & Employment Services
	Melissa McKenzie	The Carmel Foundation

Absent:	Laurie Crosby	Consumer
	Reyna Gross	Alliance on Aging
	Olivia Quezada	Central Coast Center for Independent Living

Staff:	Tom Hicks	Mobility Services Manager
	Kevin Allshouse	Mobility Specialist
	Lisa Rheinheimer	Director of Planning and Development
	Leona Medaris-Preacher	MV Transportation
	Erin Heatley	Mobility Specialist
	Claudia Valencia	Mobility Specialist
	Ruben Gomez	Mobility Specialist
	Alvin Johnson	MV Contract Specialist

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Minutes of the regular meeting of November 30, 2016

Member Murray-Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes and Member Murrillo seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

4. UNMET NEEDS

4.1 Unmet Transit Needs in Monterey County (Virginia Murrillo)

As part of the requirements for the Transportation Development Act, transportation agencies are required to seek public comment regarding unmet needs. While there are no funds currently allocated to meeting these needs, it's important to maintain an ongoing list of unmet needs should future funds or grants become available.

Margaret Keith, of CSUMB, commented that disabled students needing accessible transportation continue to have challenges getting to and from class because of the limitations of the RIDES program.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Presentation on Active Transportation Plan (Member Murrillo)

Member Murrillo commented that TAMC is currently working on an update of their 2011 Active Transportation Plan that incorporates public comments collected last fall, and that also takes into consideration recent advances in the active transportation field that weren't available in 2011. TAMC staff will continue to review the roughly 400 comments received, and Member Murrillo should have further updates about actions related to the plan in the coming months.

5.2 Update on Measure X and Public Transportation Plan (Member Murrillo)

Member Murrillo updated the committee on progress of Measure X since the last meeting, specifically senior mobility plans, which will be a part of Measure X, the transportation tax passed in November. The tax is projected to raise \$20 million over the course of 30 years. Member Murrillo is seeking input from the committee about existing senior transportation services, as a starting point for TAMC staff to enact a program going forward.

Tom Hicks referenced Area Agency on Aging surveys from 5 years ago, and a year ago as evidence that some of MST's transportation programs may be increasing senior access to transportation due to the fact that transportation as a category of concern actually fell from the #2 spot down to the #9 spot from the first survey to the second. Member Murray-Phillips provided a few examples of senior transportation programs from other states that could be considered, such as how Hawaii provides free bus passes to seniors.

5.3 Update on Dialysis Summit (Tom Hicks)

Mr. Hicks discussed the meeting held in November 2016 between MST, MV Transportation, and dialysis center staff, to discuss transportation challenges for dialysis patients. The outcome of the meeting was two-fold: MST, MV, and dialysis staff would continue to educate passengers/patients on how the RIDES program works with respect to scheduling trips, and, in addition, a taxi voucher program was implemented for dialysis clients so that clients whose appointments have run long, and who missed their RIDES trip, would be provided with a voucher to get home from treatment.

The group also looked at cases in which dialysis patients were assigned to clinics that were a significant distance from their home. There was discussion about strategies for more closely aligning treatment to where a client lives so there's less of a strain on MST RIDES, and on clients who have difficulty taking such long trips to get their treatment. Lastly, the group discussed the opening up of a Marina DaVita clinic in the near future.

6. PRESENTATION

6.1. Presentation from DaVita Dialysis Center (Alex Fernandez)

Mr. Fernandez, a Social Worker for DaVita Dialysis, opened his presentation with a brief history of the clinic. The Blanco Circle location opened in 1986 and was run by Dr. Reaver. At the time it was called Total Renal Care. Dr. Reaver sold the clinic to

DaVita, who has been operating the clinic ever since. The Blanco Circle location has 32 chairs, and serves approximately 230 clients. The clinic is open 6 days a week, and has 3 shifts on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 4 shifts on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. The Laurel Meadows location serves approximately 165 clients, and the Marina clinic, which has not opened yet, should serve around the same number.

Mr. Fernandez then answered questions from the committee. Member Wessendorf asked how home dialysis works, and what training is required for clients who dialyze at home. Member Murray-Phillips asked whether the increase in dialysis patients was a reflection a growing Monterey County population, or if the percentage of those needing dialysis had increased for other reasons as well. Mr. Fernandez mentioned that the majority of his clients have diabetes and high blood pressure, and there has been an increase in those diagnosed with diabetes and high blood pressure which has led to more people needing dialysis overall.

7. REPORTS

7.1 MV Transit Report (Alvin Johnson)

Alvin Johnson, Contract Supervisor for MST, commented that MV Transit is currently undergoing a transition at the CEO position. The current interim CEO is Don Parslow was unable to attend the meeting due to CHP inspections taking place. Alvin is working with Mr. Parslow and Leona Medaris-Preacher, to ensure a smooth transition.

7.2 Monterey-Salinas Transit Mobility Report (Tom Hicks)

Mr. Hicks started his report by discussing online RIDES booking. There are a small number of RIDES clients who are testing the online booking system to ensure its reliability, and so far the feedback has been positive. The system is scheduled to be rolled out to the general RIDES customer population in the coming months.

The Special Medical Trips Program is set to be expanded in the coming months, by increasing the number of trips per month from 2 to 4. The price is also going to be cut in half, going from \$40.00 per trip down to \$20.00. In addition to increasing the number of trips, and cutting the cost, the service will now also several South County cities. The expansion will be paid for using funds from Measure Q.

The Taxi Voucher Program continues to be very popular among seniors, persons with disabilities, and veterans. As a way to better track and manage voucher use, all

customers will be issued a unique customer ID number. Starting July 1, 2017, vouchers will only be accepted as long as they have customer ID numbers on them. MST continues to issue vouchers for the disabled program, as well as the Salinas Senior program. Alliance on Aging and the Firehouse continue to serve as sign up locations for Salinas seniors who are interested in receiving vouchers.

Lastly, Mr. Hicks discussed the Mileage Reimbursement Program, which is scheduled to be rolled out as a pilot program in King City sometime during FY '18. The program will reimburse seniors, persons with disabilities, and veterans for trips such as to and from doctor's appointments, job and housing searches, and trips for necessary social service needs.

7.3 Measure Q Programs Update (Lisa Rheinheimer)

Ms. Rheinheimer discussed the Veterans Shuttle set to begin on May 27, 2017. The shuttle will provide transportation from Salinas to popular veteran's services in Marina. The route is scheduled to be a daily route, at a cost of \$.75 for the discounted fare, and \$2.50 for the regular fare.

MST is looking at adding a second senior shuttle in Salinas, which will run in the opposite direction from the current line 95, which will allow for shorter travel time than what's currently available through the Line 95.

8. SUBJECT ITEM FOLLOW-UP

8.1 Ad hoc meeting on committee membership

Chair Ronn Rygg, and Member Murrillo commented briefly on the need to fill 4 open spots on the Mobility Advisory Committee, and for members to reach out to colleagues about joining the committee, particularly potential members from the veteran, and dialysis communities.

9. SUBJECT ITEM REQUEST

None

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APPRECIATIONS

10.1 Ronn Rygg

Chair Rygg commented on the 211 questionnaire that recently went out, and specifically how transportation was highlighted as one of the reasons why callers weren't able to take referrals to services.

Chair Rygg also mentioned that United Way has instituted a 2-way texting system. Users text their zip code to 898211 and United Way will respond in English or Spanish depending on the caller's needs.

11. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Rygg adjourned the meeting at 2:29 PM.

PREPARED BY: 
Kevin Allshouse

APPROVED BY: 
Tom Hicks