

REPORT TO SHASTA COUNTY RTPA

SUBJECT		MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER
Consider Request by the Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee (SSTAC) to Perform Transit Survey as Part of the 2005/2006 Unmet Needs Process		07-27-04	3-3

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Agency acknowledge the request by the SSTAC to perform a survey for next years unmet needs process. A letter from the Chair of the SSTAC is attached.

SUMMARY

The Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee is charged with the responsibility of identifying transit needs in the jurisdiction. This request by the SSTAC is consistent with the regulations.

DISCUSSION

TDA regulations specify, among other duties, that the Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee shall annually participate in the identification of transit needs in the jurisdiction, including unmet transit needs that may exist within the jurisdiction of the Agency and that may be reasonable to meet, by establishing or contracting for a new public transportation or specialized transportation services or by expanding existing services (99238(c)(1)).

The SSTAC request to conduct public surveys appears to meet the intent of these regulations. SSTAC has volunteered to prepare and distribute the survey. Although staff is somewhat skeptical about getting valid outcomes from such a survey, it does seem appropriate to support the efforts of the SSTAC in this area. This has been discussed with the SSTAC Chair, Mr. Scarborough, and Staff has offered to provide support to the SSTAC in their efforts to survey both transit riders and those who do not use transit. Hopefully, we will find ways to encourage people to use more public transit. Informally we have set a budget of 20-30 hours of staff time to support their survey effort. It is our understanding that RTPA staff support will be limited to making copies and assisting in tabulating results.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives to the staff recommendation would be to direct the Agency to not support the SSTAC in this survey effort. This is not recommended since the request by SSTAC is consistent with the objectives of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee as outlined in TDA regulations.

FINANCING

Funds are available within the 2004/2005 Overall Work Program to fund support as requested by the SSTAC.

Daniel J. Kovacich, Executive Officer

DJK/jac

Attachment: Letter from SSTAC Chair

June 30, 2004

Board of Directors

Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency

Pat Kight—Chairman—Redding Area Bus Authority

Glenn Hawes—Vice-Chairman—Shasta County Supervisor—District 3

Trish Clarke—Shasta County Supervisor—District 5

Molly Wilson—Shasta County Supervisor—District 2

John Mathena—Redding City Council

Norma Commier—Anderson City Council

Dean Goekler—City of Shasta Lake City Council

Dear RTPA Board of Directors:

First, let me say, as the Chairman of the Shasta County SSTAC, I appreciate your willingness to openly discuss public transportation issues at the recent 4/22/04 RTPA meeting. The amount of time given to the subject of unmet needs by the Board and the candid comments certainly give insight into the future of public transportation in Shasta County for the foreseeable future, at least from the Board members represented at the meeting.

As you know, much of the discussion at the meeting was directed at why RABA ridership is down by 12% as reported by county staff. And, during the discussion, there seemed to be common support among the Board members that pursuing the reasons for the decline in riders would be a good idea. However, after the unanimous vote from the Board to accept the staff's recommendations, there was considerable confusion in the audience and SSTAC members as to whether the RTPA Board actually supported using RTPA resources to assist the SSTAC in developing and tabulating results from a survey for unmet needs in Shasta County. And, when RTPA staff was asked, the SSTAC committee was advised that while there was discussion related to the allocation of funds to perhaps retain an outside firm to conduct and analyze a survey, the actual motion acted upon by the Board did not allocate funding for this purpose. The RTPA staff did however indicate that there was no restriction to the SSTAC preparing a survey that could be distributed through the SSTAC members and coalitions that support an enhanced public transportation system within Shasta County. Should this effort be undertaken, then it was within the scope of the RTPA staff to assist in the printing, distribution and analysis of the survey as a part of the background information that is developed as a part of the Unmet Transportation Needs process.

The SSTAC believes that efforts need to be made annually to survey the unmet needs of residents in Shasta County. We are not asking for an outside firm to be hired or to spend a lot of money to do this. Nor are we suggesting that a great deal of time and resources from RTPA staff be utilized for the development of Shasta County's unmet needs through this survey. However, we do plan to move forward with a survey and hope to receive support and cooperation from the RTPA along with RTPA staff time and resources. Members of the SSTAC are committed to

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work on the design, distribution, compilation of results, etc. We believe that the scope we have developed meets the discussion from the RTPA Board and to that end we are thankful for your candor in regards to the need for public transportation. If you disagree with our expectations or if we have misinterpreted your support for continued development of a public transportation system that provides options beyond the single occupant vehicle, and the use and cooperation of RTPA staff, please let the SSTAC know as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. Once again, on behalf of the SSTAC, I would like to thank each of you for your support to ensure that the transportation needs of all are equally considered as a part of the Unmet Transportation Needs process. If you should have an alternate direction that you believe the SSTAC should consider or have comments or concerns, please address your response to me for distribution to the SSTAC members at:

Shasta County SSTAC
Larry D. Scarborough,
Chairman C/O Far Northern
Regional Center P.O. Box
492418
Redding, CA 96049-2418

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions. I can also be reached at 530-222-8795 ext. 3461.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Scarborough-Chairman-FNRC
Roy Torum-Vice-Chairman-Shasta Senior Nutrition
Program Virginia Webster-Shasta Senior Nutrition
Program Debbie McClung-Shasta Senior Nutrition
Program Mike Evans-Outgoing Chairman-Retired Sandra
VanLarson-Independent Living Services Kay Hudelson--
Golden Umbrella Ray Duryee-Redding Area Bus
Authority Cindy Dodds-Additional Member Linda Barba-
Department of Social Services Sharon Russell-
Department of Social Services Kathy DeLapp-Additional
Member Mary Onweiler-Additional Member Jeanette
Myers-Disabled Citizen

cc Dan
 Kovacich
 Sue
 Crowe
 Janie

Coffman
Debbie
Pedersen