

Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA)

**SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING NOTES**

Shasta Regional Transportation Agency, Salmon Room
1255 East Street, Suite 202
Redding, CA 96001
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
1:30 PM - Via Zoom Meeting

(NOTE: These notes are not intended to serve as a transcript or verbatim record of the proceedings of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, but rather as a record of the meeting time, place, attendance, and the order and general nature of the Advisory Council discussion, deliberations, and actions taken, if any.)

Members/Alternates Present: (on-line attendance by all)

Patrick Geagan (Chair)	-	Disabled Transit User
Sharon Gatt (Vice-Chair)	-	Transit User 60 Years of Age or Older
Del Lockwood	-	Social Service Prover for the Disabled (Non-Transportation)
Shannon Krikorian	-	CTSA (Administrator)
Jami Brinson	-	CTSA (Operator)
Holly Leaf	-	Additional Member, Shasta County HHSA
Anne Thomas	-	Additional Member, Shasta Living Streets

Members/Alternates Absent:

Hallie Fonseca	-	Social Service Provider for Seniors (Transportation)
Theresa McCausland	-	Social Service Provider for Seniors (Non-Transportation)
Sou Saechao	-	Social Service Provider for the Disabled (Transportation)
Steve Smith	-	Additional Member, Help, Inc.
Robert Hale	-	Additional Member, Citizen
Susan Morris Wilson	-	Additional Member, Citizen
Christina Prospero	-	Additional Member, Citizen

Members of the Public:

None

Staff Support: (on-line attendance by all)

Melissa Estrada	-	Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA)/City of Redding
John Abshier	-	Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA)/City of Redding
Cherie Clark	-	Caltrans, District 2
John Heath	-	Shasta County Public Works
Kathy Urlie	-	Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA)
Dan Wayne	-	SRTA
Sean Tiedgen	-	SRTA
Eamon Johnston	-	SRTA

1. Call to Order and Introductions:

SSTAC Chair Patrick Geagan called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M.

2. Public Comment Period (Limit Three Minutes per Speaker):

SRTA Senior Transportation Planner Kathy Urlie apologized that she had neglected to place 2021 Chair and Vice Chair elections on the agenda, and that SSTAC action could not be taken as the item was not included in legal noticing for the meeting. She suggested that she would reach out to the SSTAC prior to the next SSTAC meeting with recommendations on how to address this oversight at the September meeting. No other public comments were received.

3. Update/Announcements:

- **ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Service**

SRTA Senior Transportation Planner Sean Tiedgen provided a status update on the service, including its expansion to the cities of Anderson and Shasta Lake. He noted capacity restrictions due to COVID, as well as the new Via software is working well. He also indicated that he had about 2,000 information postcards about the service available for distribution and that SSTAC members should let him know if they would like any to share with potential clients/customers as COVID restrictions start to ease and promotional efforts may resume.

- **ShastaConnect CTSA Service**

Sean reported that since COVID began, DHCL, the operator of CTSA services, is providing reverse transit trips for pickups like prescriptions and essential groceries. He mentioned that rider eligibility has been expanded to include anyone if they're 18 years or older and needing a ride outside or to/from the RABA service area.

- **Intercity Service**

On behalf of SRTA Project Manager Jenn Pollom, SRTA Assistant Transportation Planner Eamon Johnston provided three quick presentations on the Salmon Runner, the North State Intercity Bus to Rail Plan grant application that SRTA submitted, and the California Integrated Travel Project under which the state is looking into fare and data integration. With respect to the Salmon Runner, Eamon stated that service is anticipated later this year with traditionally fueled motor coaches, with two to four daily roundtrips. SRTA hopes to ultimately use hydrogen fuel cell coaches for the service.

- **Beach Bus**

Eamon mentioned that SRTA is working with the National Park Service and RABA to operate a Memorial to Labor Day service with Whiskeytown National Recreation Area entrance fees covered through an agreement between SRTA, the NPS, and RABA. Sean indicated that free fares would be offered to riders this season through the Low Carbon Transit Operations (LCTOP) funds. Kathy pointed out to the SSTAC that even though the Beach Bus is only a staff recommendation to the SRTA Board of Directors until SRTA makes an Unmet Transit Needs finding in April per the next regular agenda item, that timing to get service underway by Memorial Day requires the advance planning and preparation.

4. Discussion and Action: 2021/22 Unmet Transit Needs (UTN):

Senior Transportation Planner Dan Wayne provided an overview of the UTN report, directing the SSTAC specifically to pp. 37-38 of the report for the SRTA staff findings recommendation and summarizing it for the attendees. He reported that there were no comments from the public at the February 23, 2021 public hearing on the UTN at the SRTA Board of Directors meeting. With respect to feedback on ShastaConnect services, both SSTAC members Anne

Thomas and Sharon Gatt provided complimentary feedback. Since member Sharon Gatt had no audio feed output, Kathy Urlie read the note Sharon had dropped off at the SRTA office. On a motion by Del Lockwood, seconded by Anne Thomas, the SSTAC unanimously supported the SRTA staff recommendation for 2021/22 Unmet Transit Needs. Kathy confirmed Sharon's vote after the meeting.

5. Discussion and Action: Long-Range Transit Plan Recommendation:

Senior Transportation Planner Dan Wayne presented the item for the SSTAC's consideration and feedback. SSTAC member Del Lockwood expressed his support for the need for increased on-demand service to low service areas. SRTA staff pointed out that Chapter 5-1 through 5-6 of the report contain a good summary of short-, medium-, and long-range strategies for consideration. Pages 58-59 of the PDF file includes the recommendations. SSTAC member Anne Thomas indicated her appreciation for the report and the universe of information included within it. Chair Geagan recommended that SSTAC members and supporters submit any comments on the Long-Range Transit Plan directly to SRTA as individuals.

6. Member/Agency Updates:

- RABA – Melissa Estrada announced that RABA is undergoing a Federal Transit Administration Triennial Audit and mentioned Safety Plan and Asset Management Plan developments. She also provided a COVID update, discussing their van fleet update, and the installation of real-time signage at the Downtown Transit Center with State of Good Repair Funds. Finally, she mentioned North Bay Transit and other medical providers, as well as reference to the anticipated RABA Fare Study not yet started. Initial thoughts are that a day pass may be recommended, as well as changes to the monthly passes.
- SRTA – With respect to on-demand transit, Sean Tiedgen gave the SSTAC a quick overview of the Transportation Network Company (TNC) Access for All Program. Administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), it's funded by a \$0.10 contribution for every Uber, Lyft, or similar TNC-like provider ride within the region. The intent of the original legislation is to provide on-demand transportation services for persons with disabilities—those not necessarily served by the TNCs due to the limited offering of TNC wheelchair accessibility. A decision on whether SRTA will accept being the region's administering agency for the Access for All program is due to the CPUC by May 3, 2021.

7. Items for Next Regularly Scheduled SSTAC Meeting (September 15, 2021):

- 2021 Chair and Vice-Chair Elections (as needed, or continue with existing ones into beginning of 2022)
- Unmet Transit Needs 2022-23 Process and Expectations
- ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Service Update
- Salmon Runner Intercity Service
- Beach Bus Update
- PUC All Access Program Update

8. Adjourn:

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Geagan dismissed the meeting.