

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, July 10, 2013
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Glenn County Planning & Public Works Agency
Conference Room
777 North Colusa Street, Willows, CA 95988

(1) Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Casey Murray at 2:06 p.m.

(2) Introductions

Members present: Bruce Roundy, Becky Hansen, Colleen Ellis, Vicki Shively, Joyce Rupp, Michelle Lange

Staff present: Casey Murray

(3) Action Items:

- A. Recommendation on 2013/2014 Unmet Transit Needs comments based on four public hearings.

Members reviewed the following:

In 1971, the California Legislature enacted the Transportation Development Act (TDA) to ensure “the efficient and orderly movement of people and goods in the urban areas of the state.” The TDA provides to funding sources: the Local Transportation fund (LTF) a ¼-cent general sales tax collected statewide and the State Transit Assistance fund (STA) which is now derived from an excise tax on gasoline and diesel fuel.

TDA recognizes that rural counties have different transportation needs. Counties with a population under 500,000 as of the 1970 Census may use LTF funding for transit and local streets and roads provided that certain conditions are met first.

Prior to allocating the funds, the transportation planning agency, the Glenn County Transportation Commission (GCTC), is required to hold a minimum of one public hearing to receive comments on unmet transit needs that may exist and that might be reasonable to meet. Four public hearings were held before the City Councils of Orland and Willows, the Glenn County Board of Supervisors, and the Glenn County Transportation Commission.

In March, the GCTC adopted the recommendation of the Social Services Technical Advisory Council defining “Unmet Transit Needs” and “Needs that are Reasonable to Meet” according to local conditions by resolution. These definitions were used to set the context in which discussions were held regarding unmet transit needs in Glenn County.

During the public hearings, the following comments were received:

- Direct Trips to the main Butte College campus or service for night classes.
- Senior citizens and young people should have transportation to make trips to outdoor recreational opportunities.

Glenn Ride currently connects with the transit service provided by Butte College to transport students from the Chico area to the main campus. Direct trips may be considered redundant under section 3) G. of the definition of an Unmet Transit Need. The request for service to provide transportation for night classes appears to be consistent with sub-section d) of Section 2) A. of the Unmet Transit Needs definition. This service would need to be explored further and could be incorporated as part the Short Range Transit Plan. It is possible that this service, if implemented, could move funds away from current demand-response transit programs. These programs have been considered a higher priority by the Regional Transit Committee since they were subject to significant cutbacks more than a year ago. Further, the Regional Transit Committee has recognized that Glenn Ride has filled a gap left by the Butte College transit service which used to provide service in Glenn County. Requests have been made to Butte College to assist with the funding of Glenn Ride; however, these requests have been declined to date. Without funding to assist with implementing the route, it is unlikely that dedicated route to service individuals attending night classes would be sustainable.

The request for service to facilitate recreational opportunities is not considered an unmet transit need under section 3) A. of the Unmet Transit Needs definitions. Glenn Transit Service currently provides transportation for seniors and others to grocery shopping, medical, and personal care opportunities in their respective communities. Recreational trips are not considered a need.

It was the consensus of SSTAC to recommend that the Regional Transit Committee direct staff to include a Glenn Ride route for night classes to Butte College in the Short Range Transit Plan discussions to determine feasibility and find that at this time there are no Unmet Transit Needs that are reasonable to meet.

(4) New Business

A. Short-Range Transit Plan Update

Members reviewed the following:

Last year, the Glenn County Transportation Commission (GCTC) authorized the application for a grant under the Federal Transit Administrations Section 5304 Rural or Small Urban Transit Planning Studies program. GCTC staff submitted a successful application and was awarded funding in October 2012 in the amount of \$53,650 with a required match. The match funding will come from the Rural Planning Assistance fund through the Overall Work Program of the GCTC.

A Request For Proposals was issued and Glenn Transit Service (GTS) awarded a consultant contract to LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. (LSC). On June 14, 2013 a kick off meeting was held to finalize timelines and share data with the consultants. Among the topics of discussion, the subject of stakeholders was reviewed. LSC inquired about any additional groups that they should contact as they prepare their study in developing the short range transit plan.

The SSTAC members agreed to participate during the plan development process and provided staff with a list of potential stakeholders to include in the Short Range Transit Plan.

- (5) **Adjournment of Meeting**-The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.