



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: 08/19/08
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Director of Public Works, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Dace Morgan, Deputy Director Public Works, 568-3064

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding for the Lompoc to Solvang Transit Service

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence.

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Cities of Lompoc, Solvang, Buellton and the County of Santa Barbara for a three- year pilot project to provide regular, fixed-route transit service on the Highway 246 corridor between Lompoc and Solvang.

Summary Text:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to implement transit service between the Cities of Lompoc, Buellton and Solvang has been developed by a working group composed of staff from the Cities of Lompoc, Buellton, Solvang, the County of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG). The MOU states that the service will be operated by the City of Lompoc Transit as a pilot program starting in August 2008. The service will provide three daily weekday roundtrips in the morning, mid-day and afternoon, from Lompoc to Solvang with a stop in Buellton. The service is being developed to provide connections with the City of Lompoc Transit (COLT), Santa Ynez Valley Transit (SYVT) and the Breeze Intercommunity Service.

Background:

Requests for transit service from the Santa Ynez Valley to the City of Lompoc for employment, medical, and social service trips have steadily increased over the past few years. In May 2007, the SBCAG Board determined that there is an unmet transit need between the Cities of Lompoc, Buellton and Solvang and that it is reasonable to meet based on projected ridership and operating costs. As result of

this finding, a working group composed of staff from the Cities of Lompoc, Buellton, Solvang, the County of Santa Barbara and SBCAG have been meeting to discuss implementation of the service. The working group has evaluated the scope of the service, schedule, fares, coordination with other transit services and implementation roles for the affected agencies.

The working group discussed extending the existing North County inter-community Breeze bus service from Lompoc to Solvang to address the unmet need requirement. The concern with this approach was that the estimated Breeze operating costs were higher than COLT, which would adversely impact the fare box recovery ratio of the new service. The advantage of COLT operating the service is lower operating costs. Additionally, COLT is better positioned to provide this service during the pilot program due to its geographic proximity to the service corridor.

The total cost of the new service is estimated to be \$80,000 per year for operations and maintenance, plus a possible capital purchase of a new bus for \$120,000 in the first year. To delay or even avoid purchasing a new bus, COLT and SYVT have agreed to review the condition of buses coming out of service within their respective fleets and will try to use those vehicles during the three-year trial period. This may enable the trial period to proceed without the additional capital cost.

The three cities, plus the County are responsible for funding the service in four equal shares as stated in the MOU. Staff with the City of Lompoc has applied for a Jobs Access Reverse Commute grant that would provide 50% of the operating cost of the service and 80% of the purchase of a new bus, if needed. The results of the grant application will be known in September 2008.

The MOU states that a Technical Committee will be formed consisting of representatives from the four agencies to review service performance at periodic intervals. This will help assure that the service is viable, operating efficiently and meeting a 10% fare box recovery ratio that has been established as a performance standard.

This MOU may be amended by the written consent of all parties, and may also be terminated by any party within 60 days upon written notification to the other parties. The MOU will terminate on June 30, 2010 or three years after the service begins, whichever is later.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
County TDA	\$ 20,000.00		
Federal			
Fees:			
Other:			\$ -
Total	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

The County's share of operations and maintenance (\$20,000) has been programmed in the FY 2008/2009 Transportation Development Act (TDA) budget adopted by the Board on May 27, 2008, in

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Dept. 054, Org. 0200, Program 2250, Fund 1935, Account 7460. There are sufficient TDA funds to cover future expenses associated with operating this pilot service over the next 3 years. Should the County choose not to participate in the provision of the unmet transit need that is reasonable to meet between Lompoc and the Santa Ynez Valley, SBCAG could withhold TDA funding designated for the County.

Staffing Impacts:

None

Special Instructions:

Please return all four (4) originals of the executed MOU and a certified, stamped Minute Order to the attention of Kathleen Dowd, Public Works, Transportation, x3232. Once all originals have been signed by all parties, one original executed document will be returned to the Clerk of the Board.

Attachments: MOU between the Cities of Buellton, Lompoc, Solvang and the County of Santa Barbara

Authored by: Matt Dobberteen, Alternative Transportation Manager, 568-3576
Charlie W. Ebeling, Traffic Section Manager, 568-3232

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