



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: June 26, 2012
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director Scott D. McGolpin, Director of Public Works, 568-3010
Contact Info: Eric A. Pearson, Interim Deputy Director, Transportation 568-3005
SUBJECT: **Breeze Transit Service, Revised Memorandums of Understanding, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Supervisorial Districts**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the revised Memorandum of Understanding for the Breeze service between the Cities of Santa Maria, Lompoc and the County of Santa Barbara in the amount of \$270,000 annually; and
- B. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding to extend the Breeze service between the Cities of Santa Maria, Solvang, Buellton and the County of Santa Barbara in the amount of \$28,500 annually; and
- C. Find that the proposed action(s) do not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of CEQA, pursuant to 14 CCR 15378(b)(2) (continuing administrative or maintenance activities, such as purchases for supplies, personnel-related actions, general policy and procedure making), and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

Current Breeze Transit Service

The current Breeze regional public transportation service provides sixteen weekday trips between the Cities of Santa Maria, Lompoc, and Vandenberg Air Force Base. The City of Santa Maria was designated the administrator of the Breeze and implemented the service on May 9, 2005, as a three-year pilot service.

Based on the performance criteria in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Breeze transit service was a success. In May 2008, the policy committee and elected officials from the member

agencies voted to continue the Breeze transit service for six more years until June 30, 2014, which was formalized with a new MOU.

Two primary revisions to the MOU are necessary to reflect the current operating environment, including new cost sharing terms, as well as the addition of an indemnification clause, which is not included in the current MOU.

The MOU states that all parties share equally the costs of the service. The current MOU requires an annual fixed contribution of \$240,000 from each party. This fixed contribution does not fluctuate with changes to operating costs (i.e. cost of fuel) in the current economic climate. The revised language will remedy this issue by subtracting revenue and grant funding from the operating costs, and splitting the remaining net operating costs equally among all parties. The revised contribution amount for the County will be \$270,000 annually.

The terms of the MOU will remain unchanged and expire on June 30, 2014.

Breeze Transit Service Extension

Staff conducted outreach meetings in the Cities of Buellton, Santa Maria, Solvang, Los Alamos, and at Allan Hancock College to present the draft schedule, bus stops, and fares for a two-year pilot service program to extend the Breeze transit service between Santa Maria and Santa Ynez Valley. Based on available funding and public input received at these meetings, the Breeze extension will operate Monday through Friday, with three roundtrips per day. The weekday schedule is attached for your reference.

Santa Ynez Valley Transit donated an ADA accessible bus to the City of Santa Maria for the Breeze service expansion. The City of Solvang, in partnership with the City of Buellton and the County, will operate the bus service. No additional vehicles are necessary for this pilot service.

The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) and the City of Santa Maria secured a Federal Transit Administration grant through the 5311(f) program for a two-year pilot service between the Santa Maria Valley and the Santa Ynez Valley that will partially fund the first two years of service. The Cities of Santa Maria, Buellton, Solvang, and Santa Barbara County will equally fund the remaining balance from Transportation Development Act, or other local funds. The County's annual contribution for the service is \$28,500.

Similar to the current Breeze service, the Breeze extension will be governed by a MOU between the Cities of Santa Maria, Buellton, Solvang, and the County of Santa Barbara. The MOU establishes a technical committee consisting of staff, and a policy committee consisting of elected officials from the four funding entities, to review service performance and assure the viability of service, operating efficiency, and maintenance of the 20% farebox ratio. The service currently maintains a 19% farebox recovery rate. The technical committee will provide reports and make recommendations to the policy committee for the continuation of the service, prior to the end of the two-year pilot period.

The Breeze extension service will begin on July 1, 2012, administered by the City of Santa Maria.

Background:

Currently, the Breeze provides regional public transportation service in north Santa Barbara County, with sixteen weekday trips between the Cities of Santa Maria and Lompoc, and Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB). The Breeze was created in response to the unmet transit needs process, and began serving north Santa Barbara County on May 9, 2005. The Breeze has become an established and successful service. The MOU that governs the current agreement remains in effect until June 30, 2014. Two primary revisions are necessary to reflect the current operating environment, which includes the addition of an indemnification clause and revised cost sharing terms.

SBCAG conducted “Unmet Transit Needs” public hearings, and received numerous requests to extend the Breeze from the Santa Maria Valley to the Santa Ynez Valley. SBCAG determined the service to be an unmet transit need; however, it was not deemed reasonable to meet, in accordance with the Transportation Development Act. SBCAG has recently secured federal operating assistance to fund a two-year pilot service. The federal portion will fund a portion of the pilot service and the remaining balance will require equal amounts from the Cities of Santa Maria, Solvang and Buellton, and Santa Barbara County.

Staff recommends that your Board find the approval of the MOUs exempt from CEQA. The Board of Supervisors is a responsible agency, and is one of three agencies signing the MOU to continue the existing Breeze transit service and is one of four agencies signing the MOU to extend the Breeze transit service to the Santa Ynez Valley. The MOU is not a project by definition. The term project refers to the activity which is being approved and which may be subject to several discretionary approvals by governmental agencies. The term project does not mean each separate governmental approval.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>
<u>Breeze</u>		
County TDA	\$270,000	\$270,000
<u>Breeze Extension</u>		
County TDA	\$28,500	\$28,500
Total:	\$298,500	\$298,500

Narrative:

The County’s share of transit operations for the Breeze (\$270,000) and Breeze Extension (\$28,500) was programmed in the FY 2012/2013 Transportation Development Act (TDA) budget, adopted by your Board on May 22, 2012, in Dept. 054, Fund 0019. There are sufficient TDA funds to cover future expenses associated with continuing this service through June 30, 2014.

Special Instructions:

Please sign and return *all* original MOUs and a certified, stamped Minute Order to the attention of Gena Valentine Felix, Public Works, Transportation, x3064. Once all parties have signed, Public Works will return one original of each fully executed document to the Clerk of the Board.

Attachments:

1. MOU (4 originals) for the Breeze between the Cities of Santa Maria, Lompoc and the County of Santa Barbara
2. MOU (5 originals) for the Breeze Extension between the Cities of Santa Maria, Solvang, Buellton and the County of Santa Barbara
3. Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Matt Dobberteen, Alternative Transportation Manager, 568-3576