



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: August 19, 2008
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: Dacé Morgan, Deputy Director, Transportation, 568-3064
SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding for Continuing the Breeze Bus Service

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence.

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

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 and Santa Maria, the County of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments continuing the Breeze bus service providing regular fixed-route commuter transportation service between the Cities of Lompoc and Santa Maria, for a period of 6 years.

Summary Text:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to continue intercommunity transit service between the Cities of Lompoc, Santa Maria and Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) has been developed by a working group composed of staff from the participating agencies. The Breeze bus service began as a three-year pilot project, and the service has met its performance thresholds regarding economic feasibility and viability, and will continue providing regular-fixed route service in the North County. The MOU states that the service will continue to be operated by the City of Santa Maria and will terminate on June 30, 2014.

Background:

At the 2002 Transit Needs Assessment Hearing, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) Board found that intercommunity transit service between Lompoc and Santa Maria was an unmet need, but it was not reasonable to meet. The Board recognized that additional planning was required to address financial feasibility, regional service administration and VAFB participation. The Board directed that an intercommunity transit service exploratory proposal be developed by the North

County Transit Advisory Committee (NCTAC), a committee of the Social Services Transit Advisory Council for Santa Barbara County. In response, NCTAC instituted the Intercommunity Transit Service Exploratory Proposal (ITSEP) Subcommittee to address the issue of intercommunity transit service in the North County. ITSEP consisted of representatives from Santa Maria Area Transit (SMAT), City of Lompoc Transit (COLT), VAFB, the County of Santa Barbara, SBCAG and Caltrans.

ITSEP developed a preliminary proposal for intercommunity transit service in tandem with the 2003 transit needs assessment. This intercommunity transit plan called for an express transit corridor route that connected to established local transit services in the Santa Maria and Lompoc urbanized areas as well as VAFB.

In May 2005, the Breeze Bus Service began operation and has experienced increased ridership each year it has been in operation. At the time the Breeze service was first initiated, the SBCAG Board adopted a 20% fare box ratio as the performance measure which would be used to indicate service viability at the end of the 3 year test phase. The Breeze ended Fiscal Year 07/08 with approximately 48,500 riders and a fare box ratio that met the 20% required at the end of the 3 year pilot project.

Earlier this year, the Breeze Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), made up of representatives from the Cities of Lompoc, Santa Maria and the County of Santa Barbara, met and reviewed the final service evaluation report for the Breeze three-year pilot service. The PAC recommended that the Breeze bus service be extended for a period of 6 years, and that the cost of this service be shared equally between Cities of Lompoc, Santa Maria and the County of Santa Barbara.

Funding for this project will come from the County’s TDA allocation and there are sufficient funds available through TDA to continue to provide the County’s required match. The projected yearly cost to the County of continuing the Breeze service will be approximately \$260,000 for the first year and \$240,000 per year during years two through six. All participating jurisdictions will contribute this same amount of funding. Should ridership demand for the service decline in future years to a level which does not sustain a 20% fare box ratio, the County and other participating jurisdictions can withhold funding and terminate the service based on inadequate performance and lack of ridership.

The MOU may be amended by the written consent of all parties, and may also be terminated by any party within 90 days upon written notification to the other parties. The MOU will terminate on June 30, 2014, six years from the end of the pilot service.

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	\$ 260,000.00		
Federal			
Fees:			
Other:			\$ -
Total	\$ 260,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

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Narrative:

The County's share of operating the Breeze bus service has been accommodated in the FY 2008/2009 Transportation Development Act (TDA) budget, adopted by your Board on May 27, 2008, in Dept 054, Fund 1935, Account 7460. There are sufficient TDA funds to cover future expenses associated with continuing this service over the next 6 years. Should the County choose not to participate in the provision of transit which has demonstrated its ability to meet the required 20% fare box recovery ratio by the end of its three year pilot phase, SBCAG could withhold TDA funding designated for the County.

Staffing Impacts:

None

Special Instructions:

Please send a copy of the executed MOU and a certified, stamped Minute Order to the attention of Kathleen Dowd, Public Works, Transportation, x3232.

Attachments:

MOU between the Cities of Lompoc and Santa Maria, the County of Santa Barbara and SBCAG for the Breeze bus service.

Authored by:

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