



**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 17, 2014
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: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation, 568-3064
SUBJECT: North County Transit, Revised Memorandums of Understanding, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the Cities of Santa Maria, Lompoc, the County of Santa Barbara, and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments to continue the Breeze 100 service;
- B. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the Cities of Lompoc, Buellton, Solvang, the County of Santa Barbara, and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments to continue the Wine County Express service;
- C. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the Cities of Santa Maria, Solvang, Buellton, the County of Santa Barbara, and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments to continue the Breeze 200 service; and
- D. Find that the proposed actions are exempt from CEQA, pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) (no potential for causing a significant effect on the environment), and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

Three regional transit services currently connect the urbanized areas of the North County. The services include:

1. The Breeze Route 100 connecting the Cities of Lompoc and Santa Maria via Vandenberg Air Force Base;
2. The Wine Country Express connecting the Cities of Lompoc, Buellton and Solvang; and
3. The Breeze Route 200 connecting the Cities of Santa Maria, Buellton and Solvang, and the unincorporated community of Los Alamos.

The participating jurisdictions operate the services through three separate Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) that are unique to each service. All three MOUs are set to expire on June 30, 2014. The three MOUs recommended for Board adoption will continue all three transit services for five additional years, or until June 30, 2019.

Background:

Each of the three North County regional transit services are governed by a MOU between the partnering jurisdictions that benefit from the service. For example, the Wine Country Express connecting the Cities of Lompoc, Buellton and Solvang is governed by a MOU that is signed by “funding partners” including the Cities of Lompoc, Buellton and Solvang, and the County of Santa Barbara. On all three MOUs, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) signs as “party” but does not provide funding to operate the service.

Each of the three MOUs establishes a technical committee consisting of city and county staff as well as a representative from SBCAG, and a policy committee consisting of elected officials from the funding entities, to review service performance and assure the viability of service, operating efficiency and achieving a 20% farebox ratio. The technical committee provides reports and makes recommendations to the policy committee for continual monitoring of how the transit service is performing. The Breeze Route 100 and the Wine Country Express are achieving a 20% farebox ratio which means that 20% or more of the service’s operating costs are met through revenue obtained from passenger fares. The Breeze Route 200 is one and a half years into its three year pilot project phase and is currently achieving a 16% farebox recovery ratio. As a pilot service, it has a three year trial phase with a goal of achieving a 20% farebox recovery ratio by the end of three years. It is currently on target with meeting 20% by the end of the three year trial phase.

Summary of North County Regional Transit Service Statistics:

Breeze Route 100

- Destinations: Connects the Cities of Lompoc and Santa Maria via Vandenberg Air Force Base
- Service Commencement: 2005
- Service Level: 8 round trips per day
- Passengers Carried in 2013: approximately 51,000
- 2013 Farebox Recovery Ratio: 20%
- Cost to Operate in FY 2014/2015: \$180,000 per funding partner

Wine Country Express

- Destinations: Connects the Cities of Lompoc, Buellton and Solvang
- Service Commencement: 2008

- Service Level: 3 round trips per day
- Passengers Carried in 2013: approximately 11,500
- 2013 Farebox Recovery Ratio: 30%
- Cost to Operate in FY 2014/2015: \$11,500 per funding partner

Breeze Route 200

- Destinations: Connects the Cities of Santa Maria, Buellton and Solvang, and the unincorporated community of Los Alamos
- Service Commencement: 2013
- Service Level: 3 round trips per day
- Passengers Carried in 2013: approximately 5,700
- 2013 Farebox Recovery Ratio: 10%
- Cost to Operate in FY 2014/2015: \$20,000 per funding partner

Staff recommends that your Board find the approval of the MOUs exempt from CEQA. CEQA Section 15061(b)(3) states that “the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.”

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source: County TDA	FY 14/15 Cost
Breeze Route 100	\$ 180,000.00
Wine Country Express	\$ 11,500.00
Breeze Route 200	\$ 20,000.00
Total	\$ 211,500.00

Narrative:

The County’s share of transit operations for the three North County regional transit services (\$203,250) was programmed in the FY 2014/2015 Transportation Development Act (TDA) budget, adopted by your Board on May 20, 2014, in Dept. 054, Fund 0019. There are sufficient TDA funds to cover future expenses associated with continuing all three services through June 30, 2019 and no local funding will be required.

Special Instructions:

Please return to Gena Valentine Felix, Public Works Transportation, x3064, a certified, stamped Minute Order approving these actions, along with all duplicate original signature pages as follows:

1. Breeze Route 100 MOU – Return three duplicate original signature pages and keep one for your file.
2. Wine Country Express MOU – Return four duplicate original signature pages and keep one for your file.
3. Breeze Route 200 MOU – Return four duplicate original signature pages and keep one for your file.

For each MOU, Public Works will return to the Clerk an original signature page from each party, for a total of three complete, executed documents. Please return requested documents

Attachments:

1. Breeze Route 100 MOU (4 original signature pages) between the Cities of Santa Maria and Lompoc and the County of Santa Barbara.
2. Wine Country Express MOU (5 original signature pages) between the Cities of Lompoc, Buellton and Solvang, and the County of Santa Barbara.
3. Breeze Route 200 MOU (5 original signature pages) between the Cities of Santa Maria, Buellton and Solvang, and the County of Santa Barbara.
4. North County Transit Map
5. Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Matt Dobberteen, Alternative Transportation Manager, 568-3576