



Agricultural Worker Transportation Program (AWTP)

presented by:

**Santa Barbara County
Public Works Department**

October 23, 2007

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **Project History** - Public Works
- **Project Details** - SMOOTH
- **State-Wide Overview** - Kings County, Ron Hughes, Executive Director, Kings Area Rural Transit, Agricultural Industries Transportation Services
- **Next Steps** - Public Works
- **Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors** - Public Works

PROJECT HISTORY

Timeline

- **Feb. 2007** - County receives \$70,000 in planning funds from Caltrans AWTP.
- **April 2007** - Caltrans issues a 2nd call for planning and implementation projects under Caltrans AWTP.
- **July 10, 2007** - Board approves agreement with SMOOTH to provide vanpool pilot program services for the County.
- **Oct. 23, 2007** - Board receives and considers
 - Program update and status report
 - Approval of purchase of 9 vans from Kings County
 - Submittal of application for implementation funding through Caltrans AWTP

PROJECT DETAILS

Summary of Outreach

- Attended over 20 meetings and events
- Distributed over 4,000 brochures
- Outreach to organizations such as:
 - S.M. Chamber
 - S.B. County Farm Bureau
 - T.V. and Radio Stations
 - Latino Business Community Council
 - Grower-Shipper Vegetable Association
 - Pueblo
 - Frente Indigena de Organizaciones Binacionales

PROGRESS TO DATE

1. 9 eligible Drivers identified, 2 are interviewed and are ready for MVR
2. Marketing material created; media contacts established
3. Van graphics developed and ready for application
4. Driver Agreements, Orientation Materials and Training Program completed
5. Vehicle Maintenance program created and Fuel companies selected
6. Local 2-Way Radio and GPS service provider identified
7. Insurance Policy finalized
8. All on-board documents prepared and ready for van delivery

DRIVER & PASSENGER RECRUITMENT

1. Ag Van Staff Marketing/Outreach
2. Interested Drivers Identified and Interviewed
3. Insurance Co. Background Check (Motor Vehicle Report)
4. Physical Examination (Commercial Driver Exam)
5. Orientation and Driver Training
6. Driver Agreement Explained and Signed
7. Van Pool Ridership Confirmed (8 Passenger min.)
8. Driver Issued Van and all On-Board Documentation
9. Ag Van Staff Monitor Van Use
10. Ag Van Staff Field Evaluation and Passenger Interviews

DAILY VAN POOL PROCESS

1. Driver Picks Up Passengers at Central Locations. Daily Fares are collected by Driver, submitted weekly.
 - Passengers Delivered to Work Sites
 - Driver Joins His/Her Work Crew
 - Van Remains on Site
2. At End of Day, Passengers Returned
3. Driver Fuels Van as Needed
4. Van is Parked at Driver's Home

PASSENGER FARES

- Based on the distance traveled each day.
- Daily mileages above 50 miles/day, fare increases approx. \$1.00 to \$2.00 for each additional 10 miles traveled.

Miles / Day	Passenger Fare
15	\$3.00
30	\$4.00
40	\$5.00
50	\$6.00

PROJECT VIABILITY

Compared with a successful program in Kings County, why will it will work here?

- Geographically speaking, S.B. County is a more compact region than the Central Valley. The program will be easier and more efficient to manage.
- Community outreach and van inspections are performed cost effectively due to shorter travel distances for staff.
- Vans can be serviced in the City of Santa Maria.
- As fuel prices increase, gas will be less of a factor in escalating overall program costs.

FARE BOX RECOVERY RATIO

Within 3 years, the goal will be to recover approximately 50% of the operational costs through passenger fares.

For comparison:

BREEZE Inter-Regional bus service currently operates with a fare box recovery approaching 20%; and

City of Santa Maria's urban transit service (Santa Maria Area Transit—SMAT) operates with a fare box recovery ratio of approximately 21%.

PROJECT SUNSET

- Project Sunset date is June 30, 2010.
- County is under no obligation to continue program past sunset date of June 30, 2010 with any local funds at its discretion or with grant sources in existence at that time.
- Staff will return to your Board prior to the Sunset date with a program evaluation and recommendations.

NEXT STEPS

AWTP Grant Application

- Implementation funds totaling approx. \$3 mill.
 - Pays for all expenses through June 30, 2010 to be used for:
 - Purchase of 31 additional vans in 2 phases
 - Equipment and supplies
 - Insurance and maintenance
 - Staff support
 - Outreach and advertising
- Award date December 14, 2007
- Funding to be used by June 30, 2010

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Receive an update from Public Works staff regarding the County's Agricultural Worker Transportation Program (AWTP);
- b. That the Board of Supervisors authorize the County Purchasing Manager, without requiring a Formal Bid Process, to procure nine (9) GMC fifteen (15) passenger vans from Kings County for a total amount of \$85,530 for the County's AWTP, Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial Districts;
- c. Upon approval of Recommendation 2, approve the attached budget revision #20070026 (Attachment 1), for the purchase of the nine (9) GMC fifteen (15) passenger vans; and
- d. That the Board of Supervisors approve a Resolution (Attachment 2) regarding the submittal of an application for service implementation funds for the County's AWTP from Caltrans.

Agricultural Worker Transportation Program (AWTP)



Thank You.

October 23, 2007