



■ 260 North San Antonio Road., Suite B ■ Santa Barbara, CA ■ 93110  
■ Phone: 805/961-8900 ■ Fax: 805/961-8901 ■ www.sbcag.org

## STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Unmet Transit Needs

**MEETING DATE:** January 15, 2009

**AGENDA ITEM:** 9

**STAFF CONTACT:** Michael Powers, Aubrey Spilde

### RECOMMENDATION:

Hold hearing and receive public input on unmet transit needs in Santa Barbara County.  
(Note: Hearing is noticed to begin at 10:00 AM Time Certain)

### SUMMARY:

The annual Transit Needs Assessment process, as required by the state Transportation Development Act (TDA), requires SBCAG to hold at least one public hearing each year to receive public comments regarding unmet transit needs. Prior to allocating TDA funds for non-transit purposes, SBCAG must evaluate and make findings regarding the existence of these needs. Staff's evaluation of the public testimony and its recommended findings for the FY 2009/10 TDA cycle will be completed using the definition and criteria approved by the board in December 2006. The Transit Needs Assessment process schedule is shown in Attachment 1. The noticed hearing at the January 15 board meeting is to receive public testimony—no action is required.

### DISCUSSION:

Transportation Development Act (TDA) statutes require that SBCAG hold at least one public hearing on the existence of unmet transit needs if local agencies plan to allocate TDA funds for purposes other than transit or bicycle/pedestrian facilities (i.e., streets and roads). Under the statutes, the highest priority for use of TDA funds is for transit, unless it is found by the SBCAG board that there are no unmet transit needs or those unmet needs identified are not reasonable to meet. The purpose of the public hearing is to enable individuals to present testimony on any existing unmet transit needs.

At the hearing in Santa Maria, which is also accessible from the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room in Santa Barbara, individuals and groups can offer testimony on local, regional, and/or countywide transit needs. A Spanish language translator will be available to translate testimony received from Spanish language speakers to English. SBCAG will use the testimony presented at this hearing, as well as public input from

transit agency workshops, surveys, e-mail, mail, and online comment form, to assist in making findings regarding the existence of any unmet transit needs.

A notice of the public hearing was published 30 days prior to the hearing in the *Santa Barbara News-Press* (Attachment 2). Additional notices were placed in the *Lompoc Record*, *Santa Maria Sun*, *Santa Maria Times*, Vandenberg AFB edition of the *Santa Maria Times*, and the *Santa Ynez Valley News*, and posted on the SBCAG website. Notice was also sent to Allan Hancock College, North County high schools, persons who submitted public comment last year, and anyone who requested notification.

In addition, flyers in both English and Spanish (Attachment 3) were distributed through SBCAG's Santa Barbara County Transit Advisory Council (SBCTAC) e-mail list. The list of over 90 persons includes public, transit and social services representatives, elected officials, and members of SBCTAC. The flyer was also distributed to senior centers, adult day care centers, clinics, and agencies serving the blind and persons with disabilities in North County.

A follow-up press release in English and Spanish was distributed to the newspapers in early January. The press release was also sent to radio and television stations in Santa Barbara County. SBCAG staff also sent notice of the hearing to those on the SBCAG e-mail distribution list of approximately 800 contacts including the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and local chambers of commerce.

After the February 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline for public comment, transit representatives from COLT (City of Lompoc Transit) and the County of Santa Barbara—the agencies planning, at the time this staff report is being prepared, to allocate a portion of their TDA funds for streets and roads—will meet with SBCTAC to discuss the input received and, if appropriate, the proposed method for implementing and paying for new services. SBCTAC will provide a recommendation to SBCAG on changes to transit services suggested by the public. In addition, SBMTD (Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District) will report on input received from its workshops so SBCTAC can also provide SBCAG, and hence SBMTD, with its recommendations on service changes.

SBCAG staff will evaluate the public testimony using the SBCAG board's adopted definitions of "unmet transit need" and "reasonable to meet", taking SBCTAC's recommendations into consideration. Staff will present draft recommended findings to SBCTAC and the board in March or April, and final recommended findings for review and approval in April or May. The findings must be approved by the board before the board can take action at its June meeting to allocate TDA funds for non-transit purposes. The board is only required to make findings regarding unmet transit needs in jurisdictions where TDA funds are proposed to be allocated for non-transit purposes. Findings are not required in the south coast area served by SBMTD, nor in the cities of Buellton, Solvang, Guadalupe and Santa Maria where local agency representatives have indicated they will be claiming all available TDA funds in FY 09/10 for transit. Findings will be required for the County and the city of Lompoc since these jurisdictions have indicated an intention to claim a portion of their TDA funds in FY 09/10 for use on local street projects.

**COMMITTEE REVIEW:**

SBCTAC is involved throughout the Transit Needs Assessment process pursuant to PUC Section 99238. In addition, the Technical Transportation Advisory Committee

(TTAC) will be involved in the review and comment on the draft Transit Needs Assessment and SBCTAC will provide a recommendation regarding the Transit Needs Assessment findings and resolution that will be presented to the SBCAG Board.

**Attachments:**

- |            |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| Attachment | 1 | Unmet Transit Needs Assessment 2009 Schedule           |
| Attachment | 2 | Public Hearing Notice                                  |
| Attachment | 3 | Unmet Transit Needs Hearing Flyer, English and Spanish |

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**Unmet Transit Needs Assessment 2009 Schedule**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>
Workshops on transit needs: Lompoc Santa Maria	September 17, 2008 December 10, 2008
Consultation with SBCTAC regarding forms of public outreach to be used in Unmet Transit Needs process	October 14, 2008 November 18, 2008 December 9, 2008
30 Day Notice of Public Hearing – <i>SB News-Press</i> Display Ad	December 14, 2008
Display Ads for Notice of Public Hearing (30 day notice): <i>Lompoc Record</i> <i>Santa Maria Sun</i> <i>Santa Maria Times</i> Vandenberg AFB edition of <i>SM Times</i> <i>Santa Ynez Valley News</i>	December 14, 2008 December 18, 2008 December 14, 2008 December 18, 2008 December 16 & 18, 2008
Posting of Notice of Public Hearing on SBCAG website	December 10, 2008
Notice to those who requested prior notification	December 10-11, 2008
English/Spanish flyer distribution throughout North County	December 2008-January 2009
Notice to Allan Hancock College, North County high schools	December 2008-January 2009
Press Release to regional media (English & Spanish)	January 5, 2009
Notice to SBCAG electronic distribution list	January 5, 2009
Display Ad notice rerun, north county papers	Week of January 5
Local agency presentation of workshop input to SBCTAC	January 13, 2009
Public Hearing by SBCAG Board (Santa Maria)	January 15, 2009
Consultation with SBCTAC and TTAC	February-March 2009
Draft Transit Needs Assessment	March/April 2009
Review and comment period for the draft Transit Needs Assessment (including presentation to SBCTAC and TTAC)	April 2009
Presentation of Revised Final Transit Needs Assessment Board adoption of findings and resolution	April/May 2009

## ATTACHMENT 2 Public Hearing Notice

afternoon.

Caylee, then 2, was reported missing in July, about a month after she was

In a hearing Friday, Linda Kenney Baden, a member of Casey Anthony's defense team, said the team's lead

County. Investigators sifted through dirt, searching for anything that might be connected with the remains.



**SBCAG**  
santa barbara county association of governments

### Public Hearing Notice Unmet Transit Needs

The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) is holding a hearing to receive public comments on unmet transit needs in Santa Barbara County, as required under Section 99401.5 of the Public Utilities Code.

**The public hearing will be held:**  
**Date:** Thursday, January 15, 2009  
**Time:** 10:00 AM (Time certain)  
**Where:** Board of Supervisors Hearing Room  
511 East Lakeside Parkway  
Santa Maria, CA

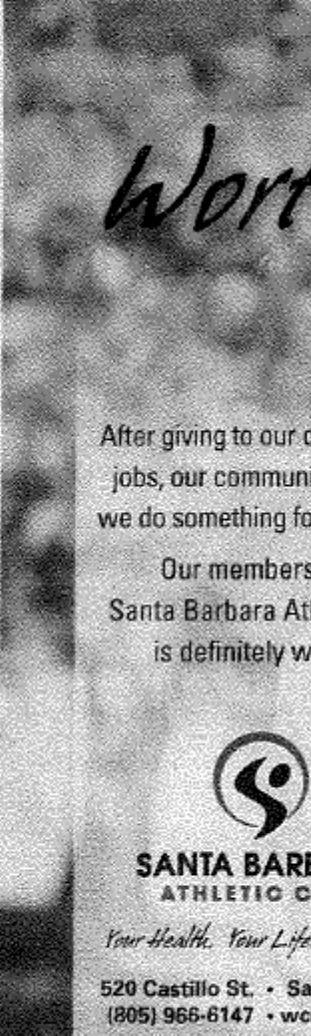
Remote testimony is available at the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 105 E. Anapamu Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Santa Barbara, CA.

Written comments must be received by Monday, February 2, 2009. Mail comments to SBCAG at 260 North San Antonio Road, Suite B, Santa Barbara, CA 93110. Comments may also be e-mailed to [comments@sbcag.org](mailto:comments@sbcag.org). An Unmet Transit Needs online comment form is available at [www.sbcag.org](http://www.sbcag.org).

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations to participate in the meeting should contact SBCAG at least three working days prior to the meeting at (805) 961-8900.

For more information, call SBCAG at 961-8900. Favor de llamar a SBCAG al 961-8918, para más información del reunión.

2246182



Wor

After giving to our c  
jobs, our communi  
we do something fo  
Our members  
Santa Barbara At  
is definitely w

**SANTA BARI**  
ATHLETIC C

*Your Health. Your Life.*

520 Castillo St. • Sa  
(805) 966-6147 • wc

**ATTACHMENT 3**  
**Unmet Transit Needs Hearing Flyer, English and Spanish**



*How can the bus  
better serve your needs?*

The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments will be holding a public hearing to learn about the transit needs of the residents of the North County. Please plan to attend and present your comments or concerns about transit service in the North County.

**When:** Thursday, January 15, 2009 @ 10:00 AM

**Where:** Board of Supervisors Hearing Room  
511 East Lakeside Parkway  
Santa Maria, California



**It's Easy!**

Simply come to the public hearing on January 15, 2009 by 10:00 AM. Fill out a "comment card" located on the table in the back of the Supervisors Hearing Room. Staff will forward your card to the Chair, who will call your name for you to come to the podium and express your views.

**You may also send your comments in writing by February 2, 2009 to:**

**Santa Barbara County Association of Governments**  
260 N. San Antonio Rd., Suite B  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

-or by email to-  
[comment@sbcag.org](mailto:comment@sbcag.org)





## *¿Como puede servirle mejor el autobús?*

El Santa Barbara County Association of Governments tendrá una audiencia publica para aprender cuales son las necesidades de transito que los residentes del norte del condado tienen. Por favor asista y presente sus comentarios o preocupaciones acerca del servicio de transito en norte del condado.

**Cuando:** Jueves, 15 de Enero del 2009 @ 10:00 AM

**Donde:** Salón Board of Supervisors Hearing Room  
511 East Lakeside Parkway  
Santa Maria, California



### **¡Es Fácil!**

Simplemente llegue a la audiencia pública a las 10:00 am el 15 de Enero del 2009. Llene la tarjeta de comentarios que esta en la mesa atrás del salón. El personal entregara su tarjeta a el Encargado, quien llamara su nombre para que vaya al podio y exprese su punto de vista.

**También puede mandar sus comentarios por escrito antes del 2 de Febrero 2009 a:**

**Santa Barbara County Association of Governments  
260 N. San Antonio Rd., Suite B  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
-o por correo electronico a-  
[comment@sbcag.org](mailto:comment@sbcag.org)**

