

APPROVED MEETING NOTES

Shasta County
Regional Transportation Planning Agency

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Shasta Senior Nutrition Programs
100 Mercy Oaks Drive
Redding, CA 96002
Tuesday, February 7, 2006
1:30 p.m.

(NOTE: These notes are not intended to serve as a transcript or verbatim record of the proceedings of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee, but rather as a record of the meeting time, place, attendance, and the order and general nature of the Advisory Council discussion, deliberations, and actions taken, if any.)

The following members were present:

Mike Evans	-	ACCA Faithworks
Debbie McClung	-	Shasta Senior Nutrition Program (SSNP)
Cindy Dodds	-	Tri-Counties Community Network
Sharon Howard	-	Department of Social Services
Hart Rumbolz	-	Additional Member
Janice Galloway	-	Shasta County Mental Health

The following members were absent:

Sandra VanLarson	-	Independent Living Services
Roy Torum	-	Shasta Senior Nutrition Program (SSNP)
Virginia Webster	-	Shasta Senior Nutrition Program (SSNP)
Ray Duryee	-	Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA)
Larry Scarborough	-	Far Northern Regional Center
Kay Hudelson	-	Golden Umbrella
Jeanette Myers	-	Disabled Citizen
Mary Onweiler	-	Additional Member

The following nonmembers were present:

Sue Hanson	-	Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA)
Debbie Pedersen	-	Caltrans District 2
Debbie Ginn	-	Caltrans District 2
Sue Crowe	-	Shasta County RTPA Staff
Janie Coffman	-	Shasta County RTPA Staff

1. Call to Order and Introductions:

Sharon Howard called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Sue Crowe introduced the new Caltrans RTPA liaison Debbie Ginn. The previous liaison, Debbie Pedersen, is going to the Environmental Division at Caltrans.

2. Consider Approval of the November 15, 2005 SSTAC Minutes:

Corrections were noted to the minutes. By motion made and seconded the minutes passed unanimously.

3. Unmet Needs:

Sharon requested that the group focus on where they are going - a continuation from the last SSTAC meeting. Where they want to go and produce an outline of what they want to say before the Board.

Hart Rumbolz noted that they are a transportation advisory council, mandated by State law. SSTAC gives recommendations that the Board takes into consideration.

Sharon stated that Shasta County has a bus system that is a product that needs to be refined and fine-tuned.

Sue Hanson noted that RABA has a Board that reports to each jurisdiction of Shasta County, City of Redding, Shasta Lake and Anderson. There used to be a Citizens Group as a subcommittee of RABA, but was a duplicate of the SSTAC so was eliminated.

Sharon stated that in making their recommendation to the Board, instead of making it a demand; make it an attempt to build collaboration. She suggested before the next Board meeting SSTAC members could meet and talk with them board members individually. They could be advised of what approach SSTAC is taking this year as well as asking what they are looking for from the SSTAC. Sharon asked what the SSTAC could do to make the relationship between them and the RTPA Board more amenable.

Mike Evans noted that the tone at the last few RTPA meetings has greatly improved. Some suggestions that have come from both the RABA and RTPA staff have been somewhat echoing of the things that SSTAC talked about 4 or 5 years ago. Mike continued to note that everything ultimately has its time, and there is a growing understanding that SSTAC is not just complainers putting a big list down of unmet needs. There has been at least some reasonable understanding that the two greatest unmet needs are Sunday service and longer hours. The question at this point is how can that become feasible.

Sue Crowe explained the relationship between the RABA Board, the RTPA Board and SSTAC.

Debbie Pedersen noted that when SSTAC gives a recommendation to the RTPA Board, staff then analyzes it to see if it is even a threshold for funding.

Sue Hanson stated that the first step is to ask every RTPA board member what they think of transit and what they want. Instead of going to them as a board, go to each one individually.

Cindy Dodds suggested that instead of presenting the Board with a wish list, to let the Board know that SSTAC is trying to reflect the needs of the community. Make a presentation acknowledging that they are studying the service and that SSTAC would be very supportive of XYZ. Let SSTAC look not at the demand for concrete service, but what SSTAC's looking for in terms of the outcome of that service. Go in acknowledging SSTAC's support of the outcomes.

Cindy continued to note that the first thing should be fiscal sustainability. From the public's point of view, and from the survey results, the community supports transit. With the kinds of changes that will need to be taken as a society in terms of fuel consumption in the next decade or two, transit should be where some attention is being focused. It needs to be figured out how to provide that service in a fiscally responsible way. That would be an outcome.

Sharon noted that she would like to start off with appreciating what we have done, what has been accomplished. Then moving on into fiscal sustainability.

Cindy stated that it is cheaper to support transit than it is to build highways and parking lots and deal with air pollution. A sustainable, walkable community concept needs to be looked at from a broader perspective. Not to minimize the fact that we should be able to get on a bus every fifteen minutes anywhere and go anywhere. That would be in a perfect world. Cindy continued to say that it is the chicken, egg thing. People do not use the bus because they cannot get there in fifteen minutes and the bus cannot support itself to go every fifteen minutes. There is a disconnect between what really should be done for our community in terms of air quality and fuel consumption and what can be afforded to do. It may be that one day the RTPA Board can make that leap that if they do X the citizens will do Y. We are moving into an era where transportation is going to be critical.

Mike Evans suggested that SSTAC ask to be able to meet with the transportation study consultants. It is an opportunity to be brainstorming informally at the preliminary fact finding study level without involving the decision makers.

Sue Hansen noted that public meetings will be held and that would be a good time to see what is going on.

Discussion was held concerning developer fees.

Discussion was held concerning some kind of recommendation to be presented to the Board at the February 28 RTPA meeting. Sharon stated that she could introduce herself and explain what/who SSTAC is and what is hoped to be accomplished, etc.

Mike suggested that as many people on SSTAC attend the February meeting as possible. Maybe the SSTAC group could be introduced to the Board so they can see faces and not just names on a list. Give a

short recap of where SSTAC is today - did trial services, have existing unmet needs that have been presented several times, will be in the midst of a transportation study for short and long range planning. SSTAC's posture would like to be that they would like to be as much help to that as possible.

It was decided to have a script that Sharon would email to Janie who would email to SSTAC members, it will be a living document that everyone could comment on.

Sue Crowe announced the promotion of Dan Kovacich to County Fiscal Officer. He will no longer be the Executive Officer of the RTPA as soon as a replacement is designated.

Cindy asked Mike what he thought of the new approach since he has been with the SSTAC for so many years.

Mike noted that ultimately for the April meeting something will have to be formulated. Sharon is the only spokesperson for the unmet needs that is official. On the longer-term view, there will be a new County Executive Officer and the City will soon have a new City Manager. The composition of both the RTPA Board and the RABA Board is changing each time there are new elections. This is also an election year in two supervisorial districts. Mike continued to note that it is not a bad time for discussion, making new friends and doing some good networking. The first step is for everyone to be at the meeting so they know your faces in case they see you in other venues/chance encounters. The credibility changes dramatically, they begin to hear differently and you begin to present differently too. The bottom line in this county, they have discretion over the TDA funding. Patience sometimes wins out, keep planting the ideas because they will all germinate, at some point one of them will grow up to be the answer.

4. RTPA Website

Sue Crowe explained the RTPA website and how the SSTAC is on this website. If anyone would like to see more about SSTAC on it, just let her know.

Mike Evans noted the SSTAC minutes would be a good idea to put on the website.

The next SSTAC meeting was scheduled for March 29, 2006, at 1:30 p.m., at SSNP.

Adjourn:

There being no further committee business, Sharon Howard adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janie Coffman
Recording Secretary