

P r e s e n t a t i o n

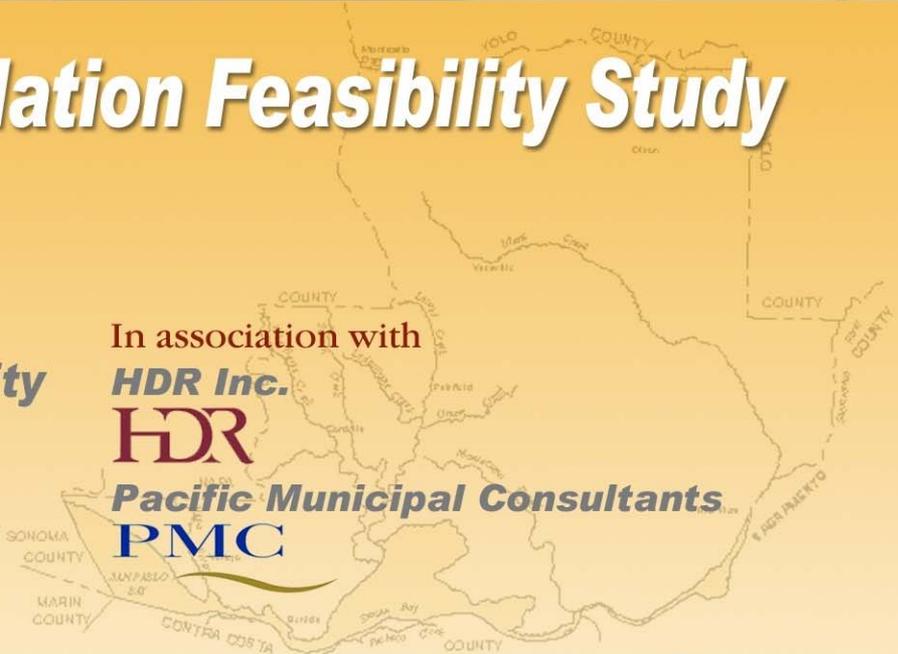


Solano Transit Consolidation Feasibility Study

Prepared for 
Solano Transportation Authority

Prepared by
DKS Associates
TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

In association with
HDR Inc.
HDR
Pacific Municipal Consultants
PMC



May 4, 2009

Transit Consolidation Study History

- **2005 STA Board Retreat**
- **2007 Phase I Began**
 - **Extensive Outreach**
 - **Identification of 6 Options**
 - **Establishment of Transit Consolidation Steering Committee**
- **2008 Phase II Began**
 - **Analysis of Operators and 6 Options**

STA Board Criteria for Transit Consolidation Study Options

- **Cost-effectiveness**
- **Efficient use of resources – equipment, facilities, personnel**
- **Service efficiency**
- **Improved governance – accountability to public and community**
- **Streamlined decision making**
- **Ridership and productivity**
- **Service coordination**
- **Local community needs and priorities**
- **Protect local transit service**
- **Flexibility to meet local needs**

What We Learned in Phase 1

- **Positive aspects of current transit operations**
 - **Local asset**
 - **Focus on local trips**
 - **Source of civic pride and identity**
 - **Contracted operation seems to maximize**
 - ❖ **Cost effectiveness**
 - ❖ **Rider satisfaction with drivers**
 - **Engaged local transit management staff**

What We Learned in Phase 1

- **Negative aspects of current transit operations**
 - **Interregional coordination a challenge – fixed-route, paratransit**
 - **Smaller cities have highest percentage of interregional travel demand BUT least resources**
 - **Lack of formal interregional transit planning mandate**
 - ❖ **Funding agreement complexity**
 - ❖ **Grant applications**
 - ❖ **Less competitive participation in regional transit actions (MTC)**
 - **Transit accountability weaknesses**
 - ❖ **Service operated by one city in another city**
 - ❖ **Transit issues lost in council meeting agendas in some cities**
 - ❖ **Some jurisdictions have no transit accountability or oversight for some routes operating within them**

Phase II Activities

- **Preliminary and detailed review of facilities, staffing, paratransit, and financial status and projections**
- **Overall, transit operator funding will fall short**
- **Trends vary by operator**

Additional Work since December Steering Committee

- **Operator review of Existing Operations Report**
- **Continued Option 1 Consolidation Discussions between Vallejo and Benicia**
- **Recommendations from Solano Paratransit Review and Alternatives Study**
 - **Results in New Option 4C – Interregional Fixed-Route Consolidation Only**

Recent Financial Events

- **Loss of STAF confirmed**
- **ARRA (Stimulus Package) for transit**

Year	Loss of STAF	Gain of ARRA
2009/10	- \$3M	+ \$2.5M
2010/11	- \$3M	+ \$2M
2011/12	- \$3M	--
2012/13	- \$3M	--
2013/14	- \$3M	--

Summary of 7 Options

- **Option 1: South County Consolidation**
- **Option 2: South/Central County Consolidation**
- **Option 4a: All Paratransit and Intercity Fixed Route Consolidation**
- **Option 4b: All Intercity Paratransit and Fixed Route Consolidation**
- **Option 4c: All interregional Fixed Route Consolidation**
- **Option 5: Functional Consolidation**
- **Option 6: Full Countywide Consolidation**

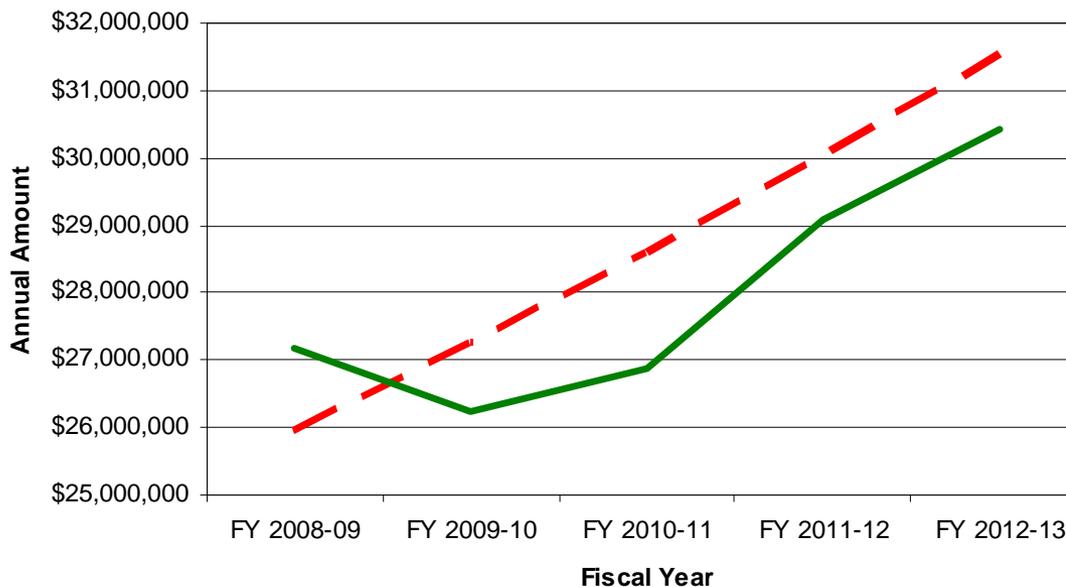
Task 1 Report Findings

- **Detailed Financial Projections**
- **Facilities Analysis**
- **Support Staff Analysis**
- **Paratransit Services**

Follow-up to December Discussion

- Detailed review of potential financial projections in January
- Overall, transit operator funding will fall short
- Trends vary by operator

Forecast of Costs and Revenues



Year 2012/2013 Outlook	Anticipated Shortfall/ Surplus
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Benicia	-26%
Dixon	-18%
Fairfield/ Suisun City	1%
Rio Vista	7%
Vacaville	200%
Vallejo	-31%

Task 2 Findings by Option

Study Criteria	1	2	4a	4b	4c	5	6
Cost effectiveness	▶ ▶	▶	▶ or ○	▶ or ○	▶ or ○	▶	▶ ▶ ▶
Efficient use of resources – equipment, facilities, personnel	▶	▶	▶ or ○	▶ or ○	▶ or ○	▶	▶ ▶
Service efficiency	▶	▶ ▶	○	○	○	▶	▶ ▶ ▶
Improved governance – accountability to public and community	▶	▶ ▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶ ▶ ▶
Streamlined decision making	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶
Ridership and productivity impacts	▶	▶ ▶	▶ ▶ or ○	▶ ▶ or ○	▶ ▶ or ○	○	▶ ▶ ▶

Task 2 Findings by Option

Study Criteria	1	2	4a	4b	4c	5	6
Service coordination	▶	▶ ▶	▶	▶	▶	○	▶ ▶ ▶
Recognize local community needs and priorities	◀	◀ ◀	◀	◀	◀	○	◀ ◀ ◀
Protect local transit service as requested by local jurisdiction	▶	◀ ◀	◀	◀ ◀	○	▶	◀
Flexibility to meet local needs	○	○	○	◀	○	◀	◀ ◀ ◀
Capacity to deliver new service while maintain existing service	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	○	▶ ▶
Ability to leverage additional funding	▶	▶ ▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶ ▶ ▶
Implementation needs/requirements (e.g., legal, financial)	◀	◀ ◀	◀	◀	◀	◀	◀ ◀ ◀

Recommendations for Consideration

- **Option 1: South County Consolidation**
- **Option 4C: Interregional Service**
- **Option 4C: Paratransit Operations at Local Level**
- **Capital Projects**
- **Strategic Implementation for Next 3 Years**

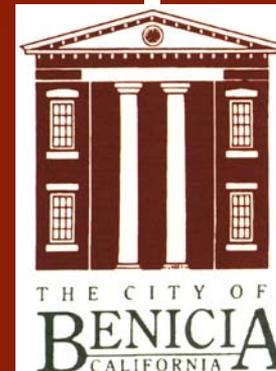
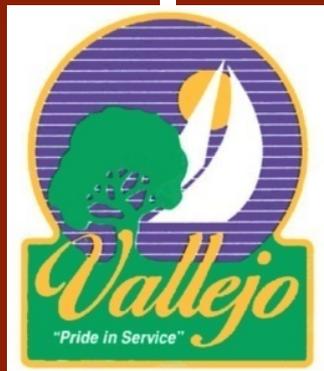
Option 1: South County Consolidation

- **Vallejo Transit + Benicia Breeze**
- **Potential Advantages**
 - **Optimized route structure**
 - **Paratransit coordination improvements**
 - **Better regional leverage**
 - **Direct oversight by board**
 - **Dedicated TDA/STA funding**
- **Potential Disadvantages**
 - **Unavailability of other revenue sources outside of transit**
 - **Resolution of consolidation issues – fares / facilities / equipment / contracts**
 - **Less local control**

Option 1: South County Consolidation

New Operator:

- Local Bus
- Intercity/Interregional Bus
- Local Paratransit
- Intercity/Interregional Paratransit



Recommendation: Option 1

- **South County JPA**
 - Strong community support for transit service
 - Strong local support among leaders
 - Same urbanized area
 - Shared near-term funding challenges
 - Benefits from shared facilities
 - Potential benefits from interlined service
 - Model of JPA for transit
- **JPA to operate all services**
 - Local service
 - Interregional service
 - Paratransit service
- **Capital projects to remain with Cities**

Option 4c: All Interregional Fixed Route Consolidation (No Paratransit)

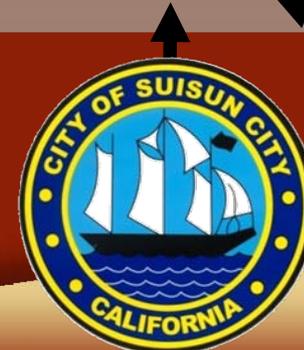
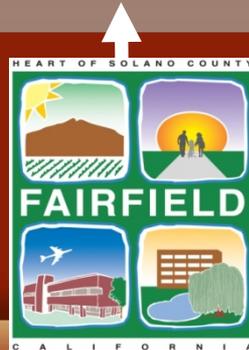
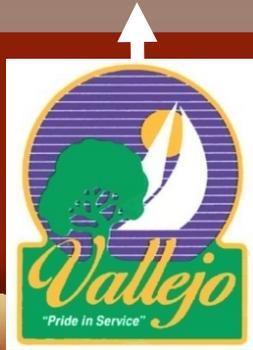
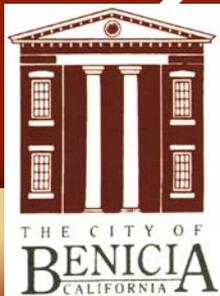
- **All Interregional Routes: Vallejo 78/80 + Fairfield and Suisun Transit 30/40/90**
- **All Local and Intercity Senior/Disabled Paratransit: Vallejo Transit RunAbout + Benicia Breeze RunAbout + Fairfield and Suisun Transit DART + Vacaville City Coach Special Services + Solano Paratransit will remain local**
- **Potential Advantages**
 - **Interregional coordination improvements**
 - **Direct oversight by board**
 - **Optimized interregional routing responsiveness**
 - **Dedicated TDA/STA funding through agreement**
 - **Suisun City and Solano County representation**
- **Potential Disadvantages**
 - **Unavailability of other revenue sources outside of transit**
 - **Resolution of consolidation issues – fares / facilities / equipment / contracts**
 - **No reduction in number of operators**
 - **No change in regional representation**

Option 4c: Interregional Fixed Route Consolidation

New Operator or Agency:
Interregional Bus

Single Operator

Routes 30, 40,
78, 80, 90



Recommendation: Option 4C Interregional Service

- **Routes 30, 40, 78, 80 and 90**
- **Provide service through one operator**
- **Provide direct oversight at elected official level**
- **Work towards details of oversight and management in next year**
- **Continue implementing capital projects through local jurisdictions**

Recommendation: Options 4C Paratransit Operations

- **Solano Paratransit Review and Alternatives Study Recommendations**
- **Initial recommendations include:**
 - **Transition plan for decentralized service**
 - **Dissolve Solano Paratransit**
 - **Direct registered passengers to local providers**
- **STA role in paratransit**
 - **Funding equipment**
 - **Continued coordination with Paratransit Coordinating Committee**
 - **Update Senior/Disabled Countywide Plan**

STA Direction for Operations

- **STA to lead coordination with Option 1 South County Consolidation**
- **STA to lead coordination with Option 4C Interregional Service**
- **STA role in paratransit**
 - **Funding equipment**
 - **Continued coordination with Paratransit Coordinating Committee**
 - **Update Senior / Disabled Countywide Plan**

Capital Projects

- **Continue to deliver by local jurisdictions (no change)**
- **STA and operators to help obtain funding as needed**

Three-Year Implementation: 2009/2010

- **Support South County consolidation transition into one bus option**
- **Develop transition plan for interregional service**
- **Implement dissolving Solano Paratransit**

Three-Year Implementation: 2010/2011

- **Implement South County consolidation**
- **Finalize interregional Implementation Plan**
- **Potential strategy for local funding source dedicated to operations**

Three-Year Implementation: 2011/2012

- **Implement new interregional oversight and operations**
- **Evaluate census for effects on local service delivery**
 - **Urbanized Area status**
 - **FTA program implementation**

Upcoming External Issues

- **Concern from continued loss of STAF and decline of TDA revenue**
- **Stimulus Package (ARRA) funds expire after 2 years**
- **Transit's role in Climate Action Plan**
- **MTC's Regional Transit Sustainability Study**

Next Steps

- **June - STA Board Mtg**
 - **Action on recommendations**
 - **Forward recommendations to affected agencies for their consideration and participation**
- **Fall 2009 - Transit Consolidation Steering Committee**
 - **Present consolidation progress**
 - ❖ **Option 1: South County consolidation**
 - ❖ **Option 4c: Interregional fixed-route consolidation**

Recommendations

Approve the following:

1. **Option 1: Consolidation of Benicia and Vallejo transit services;**
2. **Option 4c: Decentralize intercity paratransit service to local transit operators and continue study of consolidation of interregional Solano transit services under one operator to be selected by the STA Board;**
3. **Forward the STA recommended transit consolidation recommendations to affected agencies for their consideration and participation;**
4. **Direct STA staff to work with the affected local transit staff to develop Implementation Plans for Option 1 and Option 4c; and**
5. **Report back to the STA Board by September 2009 on the status of the Implementation Plan.**