



DATE: November 26, 2008  
TO: STA Board  
FROM: Robert Macaulay, Director of Planning  
RE: Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Update – Transit Facilities of Regional Significance, State of the Transit System Report and Transit Element Introduction Chapter

**Background:**

The STA Board has initiated an update of the Solano Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). The CTP is the STA's primary long-range planning document. The CTP consists of three main elements: Alternative Modes; Arterials, Highways and Freeways; and Transit.

The first major steps in developing the updated Transit Element are the establishment of Element Purpose Statement and Goals (completed previously) and development of an assessment of where the system currently stands. The gap between the current system and the desired goal will be the focus of the policies to be developed and implemented. Which gaps to address first is dependent upon a number of items, including the most pressing challenges faced and the opportunities that readily present themselves.

The CTP currently includes a list of Routes of Regional Significance. For the 2008 CTP update, the STA Board has also directed that Transit Facilities of Regional Significance be identified.

Each Element of the CTP will have a State of the System report prepared. No such comprehensive reports exist at this time. The Introduction chapter of each Element will be used, in part, to identify major obstacles and opportunities. Each item is addresses separately below.

**Discussion:**

**Transit Facilities of Regional Significance.** The STA Transit Committee and the TAC have reviewed the draft Transit Facilities of Regional Significance, and directed STA staff has met with the seven cities and the county to identify potential facilities. STA staff subsequently met with all of the cities and the county and has developed a list of candidate facilities. The criteria and facilities list are included as Attachment A, and a map of the candidate facilities is included as Attachment B.

Transit facilities are considered Regionally Significant if they serve intercity routes, including those that connect to destinations outside of Solano County. The facilities include bus and train stations, ferry terminals, park and ride lots, and maintenance facilities for intercity bus routes.

**The State of the System – Transit and Rideshare** examines the intercity transit system, which consists primarily of intercity buses operated by Vallejo Transit and Fairfield and Suisun Transit (FAST); Capitol Corridor rail and Vallejo Baylink ferries; and carpools and vanpools, including Park and Ride lots. The report also examines the private services provided by corporate shuttles and Greyhound bus.

#### Vehicles and Facilities

The intercity transit system is served by 8 Capitol Corridor train sets (locomotive and passenger cars), currently stopping at the Suisun City train station; 4 Baylink ferry boats, stopping at the Vallejo ferry terminal; 47 intercity busses, operating on 7 intercity routes and stopping at 6 major bus facilities plus additional smaller bus stops; 14 Paratransit vehicles; and 18 Park and Ride lots with more than 3,300 parking spaces. Some of the transit facilities and Park and Ride lots share parking facilities.

#### System Operations

Capitol Corridor ridership and rider-generated revenues have been on a steady and record breaking increase, and have set records almost every month in 2008. The Capitol Corridor, Baylink Ferry and intercity bus system all have high (90% or better) on-time performance records for the past year. While the intercity bus system has, like the Capitol Corridor, seen an increase in ridership, revenues and farebox recovery, the Baylink Ferry service has seen reduced ridership and revenues for 2008. Carpool and vanpool participation in Solano County continues to be high compared to the rest of the Bay Area, and represents the largest number of transit system riders for Solano's intercity commuters.

#### Intercity Paratransit

Intercity Paratransit services are provided by Solano Paratransit (operated by FAST), Benicia Transit and Vallejo Transit. Paratransit provides services for disabled citizens who are physically unable to use the regular transit system, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**The Introduction Chapter to the Transit Element** outlines the overall focus of the Element, including describing the intercity transit system. The introduction shows how the Transit Element relates to other Elements in the CTP, and lays out some of the main challenges facing intercity transit at this time, as well as some of the opportunities that present themselves.

The Introduction notes that the Transit system depends upon the roadway system both for the movement of transit vehicles (intercity buses, carpools and vanpools) and to get passengers to transit vehicles (intercity buses, trains and ferry boats). It also depends upon the location of land uses of the proper design, density and mix to allow passengers the freedom to walk or bike to transit stops without using a private auto.

Although there are a number of obstacles faced by the intercity transit system, the most significant are judged to be the convenience of single occupant vehicles for work, shopping and recreational trips, the cost to purchase and operate transit vehicles, and the instability of funds to operate the system. Opposite these challenges are the increasing cost, in both dollars and time, of commuting in single occupancy vehicles, and an increased awareness of the linkage of single occupancy auto use to environmental issues such as climate change.

**Committee Review:**

The CTP Transit Committee met on October 29<sup>th</sup> to review the Transit Facilities of Regional Significance criteria and list, the State of the System – Transit and Rideshare Report and the Introduction Chapter to the Transit Element. The Transit Committee recommended that the STA Board adopt all three documents with minor changes. The reports have also been reviewed and recommended for approval by the STA Technical Advisory Committee and the Solano Express InterCity Transit Consortium at their meeting of November 19, 2008. All recommended changes have been incorporated into the documents.

**Fiscal Impact:**

None. However, Transit Facilities of Regional Significance are proposed and the transit vehicles they serve are proposed to be the top priority candidates for future transit investment guided by the CTP.

**Recommendation:**

Approve the following documents for inclusion in the 2008 CTP:

1. The Transit Facilities of Regional Significance criteria, project list and map included as Attachments A and B;
2. The “State of the System – Transit and Rideshare” Report included as Attachment C; and
3. The Introduction Chapter to the Transit Element of the Solano CTP included as Attachment D.

Attachments:

- A. Transit Facilities of Regional Significance Criteria and Project List
- B. Transit Facilities of Regional Significance Criteria Project Map
- C. “State of the System – Transit and Rideshare” Report
- D. Introduction Chapter to the Transit Element