



ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE YEAR

Jim Antone – Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Advisory Committee

- Jim Antone serves on the STA’s Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Advisory Committee. Jim is committed to improving the student travel safety in Solano County. He actively attends committee meetings, provides articulate comments on agenda topics, and challenges other committee members with new ideas.
- Mr. Antone helped develop the scope of work for the STA’s SR2S Plan Update and Mapping Project.
- As a Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District representative, Jim Antone was an enthusiastic supporter of the STA’s Federal Safe Routes to School Grant Application for \$500,000.

TRANSIT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Vicki Jacobs – Readi-Ride

- The City of Dixon is the only agency in Solano County that operates a curb-to-curb dial-a-ride service as the primary transit service. Readi-Ride experienced an 11% increase in ridership this year while addressing the loss of two of the six drivers on staff.
- Vicki Jacobs has been invaluable to the transit team. Vicki works a split shift in order to respond to fluctuations in the ridership levels during the day. She works as a dispatcher in the mornings and as a driver in the afternoon.
- Multi-tasking and working in a high stress environment is the norm for Vicki’s workday. Vicki has excellent work habits and is willing to take on any task given her. She is a wonderful asset to the Readi-Ride team and provides safe and efficient transportation for the Citizens of Dixon.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

State Compensation Insurance Fund - Vacaville

- State Compensation Insurance Fund (State Fund) decreased their office space in San Francisco and relocated over 700 employees to their Vacaville and Pleasanton campuses in a series of moves between July and September 2011.
- Staff at the Vacaville campus demonstrated an ongoing interest in informing employees about commute alternatives during the entire relocation. Working with Solano Napa Commuter Information (SNCI) staff, State Fund surveyed their employees to determine their needs and held two (2) events, at the Vacaville and San Francisco offices, to inform employees about options for their new commutes.
- As a result of these efforts, 17 new vanpools were formed in 2012, with more vanpools expected to form. Many other State Fund employees are now carpooling or taking transit instead of driving alone to their new worksites, reducing the impact on roadways, traffic congestion and air quality.
- State Fund was the #1 employer in the 2011 Solano Commute Challenge with 97 employees participating.

PLANNING/TLC

Caltrans, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) - State Route 12 Major Investment Study

- State Route 12, from I-80 in Solano County to I-5 in San Joaquin County, is a regional resource with a number of deficiencies – bad pavement, 3 movable bridges, poor or non-existent shoulders, and lots of traffic, especially trucks. It is also a key route to Travis AFB, the northern California wine industry, access to the Delta, and to Rio Vista.
- STA, the San Joaquin Council of Governments, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Caltrans formed a partnership to develop a long-term plan for the entire corridor, so that all of the agencies are working off of the same master plan. The planning process involved extensive data gathering and analysis, public meetings in Lodi, Rio Vista and Fairfield, and a dedicated website – movingSR12forward.com.
- Development of the report also led to the creation of the SR 12 Corridor Advisory Committee, made up of elected officials from Solano, Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties. This group will continue to meet in order to guide the work of making corridor-wide capacity, operations and safety improvements to SR 12.

SAFETY PROJECT OF THE YEAR

City of Benicia – Park Road Sidewalk Project

- The Park Road Sidewalk project was a team effort with Caltrans, MTC, STA, and the City of Benicia that constructed a 6-foot wide sidewalk beginning at the northern terminus of the new Benicia-Martinez Bridge bicycle/pedestrian facilities at Oak Road; then traveling 1,100 feet along the north side of Park Road and ending at the tie-in with the City's sidewalk network at Jefferson Street.
- By connecting the bridge to the City's pedestrian network, the Park Road Sidewalk Project eliminated a major gap in the regional pedestrian network and connected Contra Costa to Solano County. Prior to the project being constructed, pedestrians had to walk either in the street with fast moving traffic or on the side of the road on steep, grassy slopes and over guard railing.
- The 6-foot wide sidewalk, which is on the Bay Trail/Ridge Trail alignment, comfortably accommodates pedestrians walking side by side.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

City of Vacaville – Transit Ambassador Program

- There are a vast number of individuals who see public transit advertisements and the bus operating throughout the community, but have yet to venture into using public transit for various reasons. The City Coach Transit Ambassador program was designed to bridge the gap through hands-on personalized travel training on the bus.
- The City Coach volunteer Transit Ambassador Corp is made up of individuals who are highly skilled in customer service and communication and have a desire to aid the community in maximizing public transit for the benefit of each individual.
- The Transit Ambassador will meet with the individual or group and through a hands-on process, on the bus itself, will provide training in topic areas such as: reading and understanding a bus schedule/map, identifying a bus route, paying the fare and the various available fare programs, loading a bicycle on the bus, using a smartphone to receive bus arrival alerts and requesting a stop.
- Individuals participating in the training will each receive a free comprehensive City Coach Travel Training DVD and companion guide expounding upon the various available transit programs within Solano County.

PROJECT DELIVERY

City of Vallejo

- The City of Vallejo successfully delivered the first phase (Phase A) of the Vallejo Station Parking Garage project as well as the Downtown Streetscape project.
- The Vallejo Station Parking Garage is a major component of the Vallejo Waterfront Planned Development Master Plan. The construction of this multi-level parking structure will be carried out in two phases, aimed at providing 1,200 spaces - 750 in Phase A (completed last month) and 450 spaces in Phase B.
- The Vallejo Downtown Streetscape Project will provide streetscape improvements to the “Old Town” area of Downtown Vallejo, provide a link to regional transit by improving the pedestrian environment, and provide traffic calming. The improvements include brick pavers, high quality light fixtures, street furnishings, improved sidewalks, landscaping, diagonal parking and pavement rehabilitation. Improvements will be made on a 14-block section of Downtown Vallejo bounded by Sacramento Street to the west, Virginia Street to the north, Sonoma Boulevard to the east and Maine Street to the south.

PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Solano County Transit (SolTrans)

- Solano County Transit (SolTrans) was formed by the Cities of Benicia (The Benicia Breeze) and Vallejo (Vallejo Transit) and the STA in November 2010 with the objective of building a sustainable unified public transit system in southern Solano County. Guiding Principles were developed and incorporated into the Joint Powers Agreement.
- SolTrans was formed to streamline, simplify, and improve access for transit riders through enhanced service coverage, frequency, affordability, and mobility options contingent upon available funding. The consolidated service coordinates transportation services in Benicia and Vallejo and to locations beyond, such as Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART).
- Consolidated transit service provides an opportunity to improve standards for greenhouse gas emissions and energy reductions, reduce single-occupant vehicle miles traveled, thereby minimizing the carbon footprint of Benicia and Vallejo residents. A consolidated transit service will further the Benicia and Solano County Climate Actions Plans greenhouse gas reduction targets.

AGENCY OF THE YEAR

1. City of Suisun City

- The City of Suisun City has accomplished a number of significant activities this year. The City has exhibited its full commitment to completing the Grizzly Island Trail. Completion of the trail is anticipated by the end of December 2012.
- The construction phase of the Main Street Rehabilitation project was preceded by the City pre-designing the project in phases, and had all phases environmentally cleared so the project could accept additional funding if it were to come available. Staff worked diligently to make this happen and take advantage of the additional funding with help from the STA staff and the persistence and oversight of the City Engineer and Project Manager.
- The Pintail Drive Pavement Rehabilitation and Overlay rehabilitation project completed base failure repairs and crack sealing on the entire 1.8 mile length of Pintail Drive from Sunset Avenue to Walters Road. Pavement overlay was made on 0.8 miles from Sunset Avenue to Emperor Drive.
- Other significant projects include the Chyrl Way Rehabilitation, Railroad Avenue Extension, and Update of General Plan.

2. *Solano County*

- Solano County Public Health Department formed a partnership with the STA to deliver the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program by providing the education component of the SR2S program. STA staff has worked with the Solano County Health Promotion and Education Bureau to offer a Walking School Bus/Bicycle Training Program for all elementary schools in Solano County to encourage kids to walk or ride most days of the week.
- Phase 5 of the Vacaville-Dixon Bike Route involved adding 5.2 miles of Class 2 bike lanes on both sides of Hawkins Road to Pitt School Road and is estimated to be completed this month.
- Solano County, in partnership with the STA and County Agriculture Commission created a unique forum to address rural/agriculture conflicts between farming activities and bicycle events. As a result, “Ride Single File” Signs were installed in the summer of 2012 to improve safety for bicyclists and motorists.
- Solano County has worked collaboratively with STA’s Seniors and People with Disabilities Transportation Advisory Committee, and has worked and made funding commitments towards creation of countywide taxi-based paratransit service for non-ambulatory riders. This follows the Intercity Taxi Scrip program that was launched in 2010 across the County providing a flexible option for qualified ambulatory ADA Paratransit certified riders.

SPECIAL

1. *Cities of Benicia and Vallejo – Formation of SolTrans JPA*

- The formation of the Solano County Transit Joint Powers Authority (SolTrans) was created in July 2011 through a merger of the transit systems for the cities of Benicia and Vallejo. After extensive evaluation and discussion, the cities of Benicia and Vallejo and the STA took action to partner together to merge these two transit systems into one transit system covering both communities. This merger was undertaken to enhance opportunities to share resources, improve the efficiency and productivity of the service, compete more effectively for regional transit funds, and address the near term and long term financial stability of the service.
- Both the cities of Benicia and Vallejo took the historic action to form the SolTrans JPA recognizing the forthcoming transit funding challenges facing both cities’ transit systems and the importance of establishing a partnership between the two cities and the STA to identify operating efficiencies, improvements in productivity and ridership, cost savings, and to enhance opportunities for regional funding. During its initial year of existence, SolTrans was able to work with the private operating company to merge three operating contracts into one with resultant annual operating savings of an estimated \$1 million, recording over a 10% cost savings.
- Concurrently, SolTrans worked successfully to transfer the transit assets from Benicia and Vallejo to the new agency and developed the SolTrans initial Short Range Transit Plan to address the specific service goals outlined by the SolTrans Board and two communities served by SolTrans. In July 2012, SolTrans implemented a series of local service changes designed to provide better on time and more efficient service.

2. Jan Vick – Mayor, City of Rio Vista/Former STA Board Member

- In her capacity as Mayor for the City of Rio Vista, Jan Vick has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Solano Transportation Authority from January 2009 to November 2012.
- She has served as Chair of the State Route 12 Steering that guided STA’s coordination with San Joaquin Council of Governments (COG), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and three Caltrans Districts development of the SR 12 Corridor Study that lays out the mobility, operational and safety improvements needs in the future along this corridor, and the Rio Vista Bridge Study that has identified the potential alignment alternatives for the future replacement of this bridge.
- Thanks to Mayor Vick’s leadership on this committee, the STA partnered with Solano Economic Development Corporation to conduct an informative economic assessment of the current and future economic importance of the SR 12 corridor to the City of Rio Vista and Solano County as a whole.
- Jan served on the STA’s Regional Traffic Impact Fee (RTIF) and Transit Consolidation Steering Committee that have both completed extensive analysis of these regional significant issues.
- As the City of Rio Vista’s representative on the STA Board, she has supported and advocated for improvements to the SR 12 corridor, funding for Safe Routes to School in the River Delta School District that serves Rio Vista, and improvements to the city’s downtown.
- Through Mayor Vick’s leadership, the City of Rio Vista was the first Solano city to update their Safe Routes to School Plan.
- As Mayor of the City of Rio Vista, Jan helped reorganize and refocus the City of Rio Vista’s Safe Routes to School community task force that has led to the update of their community’s Safe Routes to School Plan and improvements at D.H. White Elementary School.
- Under Mayor Vick’s leadership, the City of Rio Vista amended their General Plan to incorporate potential alternative alignments of the Rio Vista bridge to improve efficiency, safety and reduce delays.
- Jan Vick has been a diligent and persistent advocate for transportation projects, programs and issues affecting the City of Rio Vista and Solano County.
- In recognition of her departure from the STA Board, the STA expresses its appreciation to Jan Vick for her commitment of time and energy while serving as the City of Rio Vista’s representative on the STA Board and for her efforts and interest in support of transportation issues throughout Solano County.