



Solano Transportation Authority

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Members:

- Benicia
- Dixon
- Fairfield
- Rio Vista
- Solano County
- Suisun City
- Vacaville
- Vallejo

**INTERCITY TRANSIT CONSORTIUM
AGENDA**

10:00 A.M., Wednesday, October 26, 2005
Solano Transportation Authority
One Harbor Center, Suite 130
Suisun City, CA

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>STAFF PERSON</u>
I.	CALL TO ORDER	John Harris, Chair
II.	APPROVAL OF AGENDA (10:00 - 10:05 a.m.)	
III.	OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT	
IV.	CONSENT CALENDAR No items to be presented.	
V.	ACTION ITEMS No items to be presented.	
VI.	INFORMATION ITEMS	
	A. Review and Discussion of Criteria and Options for Development of Intercity Transit Funding Agreement <i>Informational</i> (10:05 – 11:00 a.m.)	Elizabeth Richards
VII.	ADJOURNMENT	

The next regular meeting of the STA SolanoLinks Intercity Transit Consortium is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 30, 2005.**



DATE: October 17, 2005
TO: SolanoLinks Intercity Transit Consortium
FROM: Elizabeth Richards, Director of Transit and Rideshare Services
RE: Review and Discussion of Criteria and Options for the Development of Intercity Transit Funding Agreement

Background:

The STA's I-80/I-680/I-780 Transit Corridor Study identified eight intercity bus routes in Solano County, some of which are subsidized by more than one jurisdiction. The basis for the existing subsidy sharing for these routes varies. The Transit Corridor Study recommended developing an annual and multi-year funding agreement memorandum of understanding (MOU) for intercity transit services as a part of the next steps following completion of the study and prior to the initiation of a Countywide Transit Consolidation Study.

Of the eight intercity bus routes in service at the time of the Transit Corridor Study, six had subsidy sharing arrangements among the participating jurisdictions. Seven of the eight local jurisdictions contribute Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding for the intercity fixed route services operated by one of three transit operators; the exception is the City of Rio Vista which currently receives no daily intercity transit service. The subsidy shares are negotiated in agreements among the participants, some of which are documented and others are not. With the addition of Regional Measure 2 (RM2) funded service, there is now a ninth intercity transit route – Vallejo Transit Route 92.

As listed below, the STA has been managing, marketing, and coordinating a variety of transit studies and services in the past five years as well as taking a leadership role in coordinating transit funding in the county in partnership with Solano County's transit operators.

- STA manages two transit services: Rt. 30 and Solano Paratransit which are funded by multiple agencies (and operated by Fairfield/Suisun Transit);
- STA will manage the allocation of new Lifeline Program Funds;
- STA funds and assists local transit studies;
- STA markets and promotes transit through SolanoLinks and the Solano Napa Commuter Information (SNCI) programs;
- STA coordinates the following:
 1. Solano County Transportation Development Act (TDA) claims and allocates STAF project funding which includes funding for intercity bus routes;
 2. Unmet Transit Needs process;
 3. SolanoWORKs Plan and Implementation; and
 4. Community Based Organization Transportation Plans.

The STA's coordination of the annual multi-agency TDA matrix and the State Transit Assistance Fund's (STAF) project funding for the county has helped clarify and simplify the claims process locally and regionally. Having a coordinated multi-year, multi-agency funding strategy with predictability and some flexibility would help to further stabilize intercity transit service funding for both the transit operators operating the intercity transit service and the local agencies contributing to the funding of the service in Solano County.

Transit agencies frequently have agreements among participating jurisdictions to share in the operating subsidies required for service to their communities. Earlier this year, STA's transit consultant, Nancy Whelan, conducted nationwide research on the topic and presented a summary of subsidy allocation factors and methodologies to the Transit Consortium.

Three subsidy sharing options with various factors were presented and one was selected for further testing. This methodology included ridership and vehicle miles as the key factors. Data was to be collected from the transit operators to test the draft formula.

Discussion:

How to distribute the net cost of intercity transit routes is the issue at hand. The challenge is to develop a consistent methodology that is equitable to the transit operator as well as to the transit service's funding partners. The goal is to create on-going consistency for both parties.

Staff has collected much of the data. The elements that needed to be collected for each route were: net cost (annual total cost minus fare revenue), ridership, and vehicle miles.

Cost: The cost of the intercity routes was collected from transit operators several months ago. Vallejo Transit route cost figures will be updated in late October to reflect the implementation of Regional Measure 2 (RM2) service.

Ridership: To consistently collect route ridership data by boardings within each jurisdiction is extremely difficult initially and over time. Population of each jurisdiction served by a route was used for this factor. Both population and ridership generally reflect the demand for the service.

Mileage: Route mileage by jurisdiction has been calculated. This generally reflects the supply of service. To refine this factor for the level of service, the number of bus stops within a jurisdiction has also been tested.

Nancy Whelan Consulting has tested a variety of scenarios using these factors. The scenarios generally vary by weighting the factors in different manners. The results of these scenarios will be presented for initial discussion at the October 26 Consortium meeting. The assumptions for each route as well as the distribution of the costs by route will be presented along with the net cost of all the routes by jurisdiction.

Recommendation:

Informational.