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Kick off Meeting for Solano Senior and Disabled Transportation Advocacy Group

Suisun City, CA - The inaugural meeting of the advocacy group for senior and disabled transportation needs will be held Tuesday, May 18 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the first floor multipurpose room of the County Government Center, 675 Texas St., in Fairfield.

The idea for a Solano County senior and disabled transportation advisory committee came out of a series of transportation summits held in 2009 that brought to light many transportation issues and generated such initiatives as the countywide taxi scrip program and a consolidated transportation directory.

"The summits identified a need for a collaborative group to serve as advocates for the ongoing transportation issues of the senior and disabled," said Supervisor Jim Spering. "I look forward to working with this group to build community awareness and identify funding sources to meet those needs."

The first meeting coincides with commemoration of National Older Americans Month, a 37-year-old tradition that both honors the contributions of older Americans and focuses attention on the services critical to that age group.

"It is fitting that we launch this group during a month dedicated to older Americans. Expanding their transportation options will go a long way to improving their quality of life," Spering said.

The new committee will provide a countywide forum and serve in an advisory capacity to the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) board and its member agencies, the County of Solano and the seven cities.

The charter for the group is to identify senior and disabled mobility issues and advocate for programs and funding to address those needs. They will also serve as a focal point for the coordination of transportation resources and sharing information with their respective communities.

"We have serious transportation needs for seniors and disabled people in this county and this group will be essential in addressing those needs," Spering said.

The committee consists of members appointed by all seven cities and the Board of Supervisors, and representatives from key stakeholder groups, such as transit operators, medical providers, non-profits, the Senior Coalition of Solano County and Solano Community College will also participate.

The topics for the May 18th meeting includes discussions on the current state of the transit system for seniors and the disabled, current and future transit funding trends, and the kick-off of an update to the Solano Senior and Disabled Transportation Study by the STA.

The STA website has information on the summits held in 2009, as well as the downloadable “Solano County Senior & Disabled Transportation Guide” and “Solano County Intercity Taxi Scrip Program Riders’ Guide” at <http://www.solanolinks.com/snci-transit.htm#sdt>.

For further information about the committee, please contact Liz Niedziela, STA Transit Program Manager/Analyst, at 707-399-3217, or by email at eniedziela@sta-snci.com.

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