

# MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## EXECUTIVE MINUTES

**Date:** Wednesday, April 23, 2003  
**Time:** 3:00 P.M.  
**Place:** Madera County Government Center,  
Board of Supervisor Chambers

**Members Present:** Chair Frank Bigelow - Supervisor, Madera County  
Vice Chair Gordon Skeels - Councilman, City of Madera  
Alfred Ginsburg - Councilman, City of Chowchilla  
Gary Gilbert - Supervisor, Madera County  
Ronn Dominici – Supervisor, Madera County  
M.J. Nabors – Mayor, City of Madera

**Members Absent:** None

**Policy Advisory Committee:** Above Members present and Caltrans Representatives:  
Paul Marquez

**MCTC Staff Present:** Patricia S. Taylor-Maley, Executive Director  
Derek Winning, Planner I  
Tricia Stone, Receptionist

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### I. Pledge of Allegiance

### II. Public Comment

This portion of the meeting is reserved for person(s) wishing to address the MCTC on items within their jurisdiction but not on this agenda.

There were no public comments.

### III. Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2003

Upon motion by Commissioner Dominici, seconded by Commissioner Ginsburg, to approve the March 26, 2003 Executive Minutes as written. A vote was called and the motion carried.

### IV. Transportation Items

#### A. *Public Hearing: "Unmet Transit Needs" within Madera County for FY 2003-04 – Video Conference* *Locations: Oakhurst Community College*

A Spanish interpreter was provided for the public hearing.

Commissioner Bigelow opened the public hearing at 3:25 p.m.

Staff reported that under the California Transportation Development Act, this hearing opportunity is provided annually to take testimony on potential unmet transit needs within the region. The Commission must, subsequent to the hearing make a determination whether the needs presented are "reasonable" to meet. After all "reasonable" needs have been met through the expansion of existing services, or the creation of new transit systems, the Commission may release remaining TDA funds for street and road purposes (repair, reconstruction, etc.).

The public, interested agencies, and civic groups are encouraged to appear and state those transportation needs which they feel are not currently being met by existing transit services. Testimony should be as specific as possible with regard to those citizens, or groups of citizens, not currently served by transit, the requested type and amount of transit service, the geographic area in which service is needed, and any other supporting evidence of information which will help in the evaluation of the "reasonableness" of the requested service.

The Social Service Transportation Advisory Council will meet again on May 7, 2003 to review the testimony from this hearing and will make their recommendation along with MCTC staff at the Commissions next Board meeting on May 21, 2003. At that time the MCTC Policy Board must determine that public transportation needs within Madera County will be reasonably met in FY 2003/04 prior to approving claims of Local Transportation Funds for streets and roads.

Chairman Bigelow allowed this time for the public to comment on any unmet transit needs within Madera County.

Testimony was as follows:

Gwen Gadberry – Madera County Transportation Marketing Committee

**Appreciates the efforts of the Commission and the Marketing Committee in funding and marketing the Senior Bus, Escort Service, and Madera County Connection (MCC).**

Ms. Gadberry testified that there is an aging population in Eastern Madera County that appreciates and relies on transit services. She mentioned her work on the Marketing Committee to develop advertising slides for marketing the transit systems at the Oakhurst Theater.

Bob Goodrich – Chairman - Madera County Transportation Marketing Committee

**Continue funding the Senior Bus, Escort Service, and Madera County Connection (MCC).**

Mr. Goodrich presented a report of the Marketing Committee. He explained the efforts of the Marketing Committee to increase the ridership of MCC, Senior Bus, and the Escort Service. He stated that the Senior Bus and Escort Service have shown that they are needed through ridership. He reported that MCC ridership has increased from 12 trips per day to 22 trips per day. In February, the "Transit to Go" Free-Ride Week attracted 42 riders per day. The annual ridership has increased approximately 80% from 2,970 trips in FY2001/02 to a projected 5,400 trips in FY2002/03.

Margot Velasquez – City of Madera resident

**Move the Madera Area Express (MAX) Fig St. bus stop on Yosemite Ave to Magnolia St.**

Ms. Velasquez stated that the Fig St. bus stop is too far to walk with shopping bags to get to her home on Mace St. A better location would be at Magnolia St. She requested that bus stop shelters be installed to shelter riders from the weather. She also requested that destination signs be posted on the buses.

Norman Guardado – City of Madera resident

**Buses run late and break down too often.**

Antonio Olvera – City of Madera resident

**Move the Madera Area Express (Max) Fig St. bus stop on Yosemite Ave to Magnolia St.**

Mr. Olvera stated that the Fig St. bus stop is in an isolated area and that he fears being robbed waiting for the bus. He requested that the Fig St. stop be moved more toward the center between Flume St. and Fig St. He also requested that shelters be installed at the bus stop locations.

Marta Moreno – City of Madera resident

**Move the Madera Area Express (Max) Fig St. bus stop on Yosemite Ave to Magnolia St.**

Ms. Moreno suggested that the bus stop be moved closer to Magnolia St. She requested that destination signs be posted on the buses and that the schedule be posted on the bus stop signs. She stated that the bus

drivers should be bilingual. Riders are missing their stops, because they are unable to communicate with the driver. She suggested that a bell be installed on the bus to signal the driver when to stop.

Jan Dahlke – MCH Continuity of Care

**Expand Dial-A-Ride to serve pocket communities and/or widen the circle of service within the county and extend the evening hours of operation. Undertake a feasibility study of transportation options for medical services.**

Ms. Dahlke sits on many advisory councils including the Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging and the Madera Advocates for Transportation. At every meeting of these groups there are accounts of those who are unable to maintain their independence because of a lack of public transportation. The elderly and disabled are the most affected. Many have problems getting to medical appointments, shopping centers, social services, and family visits. Many Community Hospital patients routinely miss appointments for outpatient services because of a lack of public transportation. Some people are unable to seek medical care until it is such an emergency that an ambulance will take them to the hospital. She urged the Board of Supervisors to make it possible for all to participate in the services and quality of life that Madera County offers.

Mike Fuller – Maderans Making a Difference

**Expand the Fresno River Trail on the East Side of Madera.**

Mr. Fuller has been involved with the Fresno River clean up effort. Through his study of aerial photography of the City of Madera, he recognizes a need to connect the city's schools with the Fresno River Trail.

Jo An Foster – Sierra Senior Center

**Seniors appreciate the Senior Bus and Escort Service but apparently don't want to ride MCC.**

They might miss the return trip or do not want to transfer several time to get to their destination. They prefer the door-to-door service provided by the Senior Bus and Escort Service. There is a problem with the consolidated phone number for the Senior Bus and Escort Service. The answering service should announce that they are taking messages for the Senior Bus and the Escort Service not just the Senior Bus.

Being no further public comments. Chairman Bigelow closed the Public hearing at 4:00 p.m.

*Action:* Information and discussion only.

**B. 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program Status**

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) at its April 2-3, 2003 meeting took action to postpone the adoption of the State Transportation Improvement Program fund estimate until the Commission's scheduled October 30, 2003 meeting and requested Caltrans to present its proposed fund estimate at the Commission's scheduled September 25, 2003 meeting.

Background: Section 14525 of the Government Code generally requires the Commission to adopt a fund estimate for the coming STIP by August 15 of each odd-numbered year. Section 14525 permits the Commission to delay the adoption:

“If the commission finds that legislation pending before the Legislature or the United States Congress may have a significant effect on the fund estimate, the commission may postpone the adoption of the fund estimate for no more than 90 days. Prior to March 1 of each even-numbered year, the commission may amend the estimate following consultation with the department, transportation planning agencies, and county transportation commissions to account for unexpected revenues or other unforeseen circumstances. In the event the fund estimate is amended, the commission shall extend the dates for the submittal of the (the regional transportation improvement programs and the interregional transportation improvement program) and for the adoption of the STIP.”

STIP:

The STIP is a biennial program of transportation projects covering a five-year period with two new years of programming capacity. Each new STIP will include projects carried forward from the previous STIP plus new projects and reserves from among those proposed by regional agencies in their regional transportation improvement programs (RTIPs) and by Caltrans in its interregional transportation improvement program (ITIP).

Under statute as amended by AB 2928 (2000), the 2004 STIP will cover the five-year period from FY 2004-05 through 2008-09.

STIP Fund Estimate: The 2004 STIP cycle is underway. At its April 2-3 meeting the CTC staff recommended that the CTC postpone the fund estimate for the 2004 STIP by 90 days, to give the Legislature time to complete the State Budget and provide guidance on the long term future of the Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP), and give Congress time to act on TEA-21 reauthorization. Caltrans will release a draft fund estimate in September for the CTC adoption in October.

The purpose of the Fund Estimate is to provide an annual estimate of all federal and state funds reasonably expected to be available for programming in the 2004 STIP.

CTC Staff Report:

Included in the package was a copy of the report presented to the Commission. The report discusses major legislation pending that may affect the fund estimate: Federal reauthorization; State Budget; and Weight fee revenues. Also, included in the staff report was a listing of advantages.

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only.

**V. Administrative/Fiscal Items**

**A. Report of TDA allocations for Fiscal Years ended June 30, 2002 and June 30, 2001 – Chowchilla, Madera, and Madera County**

MCTC has received the Report of Examination of the Revenues and Expenses of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) allocations for the Fiscal Years ended June 30, 2002 and June 30, 2001 for the City of Madera, City of Chowchilla, and County of Madera. This report was done in accordance with Section 99245 of the Public Utilities Code by Quady, Brash & Leal Certified Public Accountants.

The finding and recommendation report for each agency are as follows:

City of Madera:

1. The City of Madera has over-claimed transit funds of \$5,400 in excess of actual operating costs, less actual ticket revenues and other transit revenues. This matter has been discussed with the City of Madera staff.

*The audit is recommending that the City return the \$5,400 transit over-claim to the MCTC for the City of Madera's use in claims of future transit expenditure reimbursements.*

County of Madera:

2. The City of Madera's claims of the County's portion of the Dial-A-Ride transit funds exceed the City's actual operating costs, less actual ticket revenues and other transit revenues by \$2,831. This matter has been discussed with the City of Madera staff.

*The audit is recommending that the City return the \$2,831 transit over-claim to the MCTC for County's use in claims of future transit expenditure reimbursements.*

City of Chowchilla:

3. The City of Chowchilla's audit had no exceptions or adverse findings.

Audits were included in the package.

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Nabors, seconded by Commissioner Gilbert to accept the Report of TDA allocations for Fiscal Years ended June 30, 2002 and June 30, 2001 -- Chowchilla, Madera, and Madera County. A vote was called and the motion carried.

**B. Office Lease Agreement by and between Sagouspe Real Estate, Inc. and Madera County Transportation Commission**

The Commission currently leases office space at 1816 Howard Road, Suite 8. The FY 2003-04 Overall Work Program includes the hiring of additional staff. To accommodate the expansion of staff it was requested that the vacant space (718 square feet) adjacent to our offices be incorporated into our current space. The Lease term is five years and the rent is as follows:

- For the first year of the lease the monthly base rent is \$2463.76 (\$.92 times the number of square feet – 2678)
- For the second and third year of the lease the monthly base rent is \$2,570.88 (\$.96 times the number of square feet – 2678)
- For the fourth and fifth year of the lease the monthly base rent is \$2,678.00 (\$1.00 times the number of square feet – 2678).

A copy of the Lease was included in the package.

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Dominici, seconded by Commissioner Skeels to authorize the Executive Director to execute the Office Lease Agreement by and between Sagouspe Real Estate, Inc. and Madera County Transportation Commission. A vote was called and the motion carried.

**VI. Miscellaneous**

**A. Items From Caltrans**

Paul Marquez updated the Board on Route 99 Master Plan.

**B. Items From Staff**

No items from staff.

**C. Items From Commissioner**

Commissioner Nabors reported to the Board that the City has agreed to do a study on transportation alternatives to the Casino.

Commissioner Skeels stated that the City's funding is limited and that the LAFCO study may be a priority over the transportation study if the City is required to fund the LAFCO study.

**VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Next meeting set for Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia S. Taylor-Maley, Executive Director  
Madera County Transportation Commission