Solano Transportation Authority: 1999 Annual Report STA 101.01.99.1



ANNUAL REPORT - 1999

SOLANO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

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Mission Statement

Delivering transportation projects to ensure mobility, travel safety, economic vitality, and quality of life in Solano.

Responsibilities

The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) coordinates countywide transportation programs and projects under a joint powers agreement between the cities and county. It develops transportation plans, operates elderly and handicapped paratransit services and serves as the clearinghouse for several state, regional and federal transportation grants.

The STA is governed by a board composed of representatives from the county board of supervisors and mayors/city council members from each of the seven cities within the county. The Board has an Executive Director and staff, and meets monthly in Suisun City.

1999 Annual Report

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Dear STA Member Agencies and Partners:

The Solano Transportation Authority continued to successfully advance numerous transportation projects throughout Solano County through the combined efforts of the STA Board, staff, member agencies and our regional partners.

In April, the STA Board adopted its fourth list of "Priority Projects", which placed a far greater emphasis on the STA for project delivery than ever before. These projects range from completion and implementation of the Jepson Parkway Concept Plan to the timely construction of Highway 37 to the implementation of the Solano Bike Route Plan throughout the county. The range of priority projects highlights the STA's increasing responsibility for county transportation planning, programming and project delivery.

The STA is now poised to develop and plan for a transportation vision for Solano County that builds toward a complete, multi-modal transportation system -- regional and local roads, trains, intercity and local buses, bicycles, ferry service and freeways. The STA is initiating development of a comprehensive transportation plan that will examine Solano County's transportation needs for all modes of transportation, identify project costs and estimate projected revenues for the next twenty years. This two year effort will provide the STA and its member agencies with the framework to develop countywide transportation priorities and objectives which can be balanced with the priorities and needs of our local agencies and the public.

We are fortunate to have you and your agency as a STA partner, and look forward to continue working with you to advance Solano County projects and priorities within the context of a regional system as we enter a new year, decade, century and millennium.

I would like to thank the STA Board, the STA staff and the STA's various advisory committees, and regional and local partners for their continued leadership, efforts, and commitment to furthering Solano County's transportation projects and priorities.

Sincerely,

Benicia-Martinez Bridge Project

Goal:

Ensure the delivery of the second Benicia-Martinez Bridge span is kept on schedule and local issues relating to the project are addressed.

Lead agencies:

Caltrans, STA and the City of Benicia

Project Summary:

Caltrans is proceeding with planning, design and construction of the second Benicia-Martinez Bridge project, which was funded by Regional Measure One bridge toll revenues. Key issues include:

- Caltrans has designed the new span to be similar to the current bridge -- concrete box girder, with provisions for future light rail in the design of the new bridge.
- Groundbreaking ceremony for west side approach improvements was held on July 8, 1999.
- A new maintenance facility in the Benicia Industrial Park is scheduled to open in the Spring of 2000.

Project Needs:

Continue to work with Caltrans, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and the City of Benicia to address issues concerning the bridge, including mitigation of construction impacts on traffic flow. Expand the scope of the effort to include the I-680/I-80 interchange to ensure the first phase of the interchange is completed in conjunction with the completion of Benicia-Martinez and Carquinez Bridge projects.

STA Funding:

None proposed at this time.

Schedule:

Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2003.

Carquinez Replacement Bridge Project

Goal:

Assist Caltrans in maintaining the construction schedule of the new Carquinez Bridge Project of 2003 and ensure the interests of the City of Vallejo and Solano County are incorporated into the project.

Lead agencies:

Caltrans, STA and the City of Vallejo

Project Summary:

Caltrans decided it is not feasible to seismically retrofit the oldest of the two existing Carquinez Bridges and, as a result, will accelerate construction of a replacement bridge for the oldest bridge, the westbound span, built in 1927.

The new bridge was authorized by the passage of Regional Measure One in 1988. Key issues include:

- The Replacement Bridge will be a two-tower suspension bridge. Provisions for future light rail will be included in the design.
- Project groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for March 2000.
- Main span contract scheduled to be awarded by February 2000.

Project Needs:

Continue to work with Caltrans, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and the City of Vallejo to address issues concerning the bridge including impacts to I-80 through the City of Vallejo.

STA Funding:

None proposed at this time.

Schedule:

The retrofit of the 1958 bridge span began in 1998 and construction of the new bridge span is scheduled to begin in 2000 and be completed in 2003.

Capitol Corridor

Goal:

Promote continued development of comprehensive passenger rail service on

the Capitol Corridor by the Joint Powers Board.

Lead Agency:

Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Board (CCJPB), and STA

Project Summary:

The Capitol Corridor passenger rail service was implemented in 1991, serving the Interstate 80 corridor from Roseville to San Jose with a local stop at Suisun City. Fifth and sixth daily round trips were implemented during 1998-99. Key issues for the service include:

• Supporting the management of the Capitol Corridor.

• Improving the current annual ridership of approximately 600,000 and fare revenues.

• Developing passenger stations at Fairfield-Vacaville, Dixon, and Benicia as outlined in the Solano Rail Facilities Plan.

• Completing improvements to the Suisun/Fairfield station.

Project Needs:

STA to monitor Capitol Corridor issues and provide advocacy on items of interest to the STA Board.

STA Funding:

\$5,000

Schedule:

Track and signal improvements were completed by during 1998-99. TCI funds have been expended for R-O-W acquisition for the Fairfield-Vacaville station, and for the Dixon station. Another TCI grant was also secured by the STA for improvements to the Suisun/Fairfield station and negotiations are pending with the landowner. A project study report is scheduled to commence for the Benicia station during 1999-2000 with completion scheduled for 2001. The CCJPB is working on the funding and implementation of a 7th daily round trip to begin in February 2000.

Electric Vehicles and Recharging Facilities Program

Goal:

To provide electric vehicles and electric recharging facilities for city and county fleets in each Solano jurisdiction by the year 2003.

Lead agencies:

STA and City of Vacaville

Project Summary:

California is requiring that 10% of all new cars manufactured or sold in the State be zero emission vehicles by the year 2003. Electric vehicles meet that requirement and would prove to be excellent fleet vehicles for all Solano jurisdictions. The City of Vacaville has taken the lead in implementing this program in north county and the STA has led this effort in the mid and south county. Both agencies work closely in creating a unified countywide effort. The major areas necessary to implement this program include:

- Determine the best type, quantity and location of recharging facilities and electric vehicles for each of our communities.
- Apply for clean air funds, including Regional Transportation Fund for Clean Air, TFCA Program Manager funds, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Clean Air funds, CMAQ and other federal, state, regional and private funds that become available.

Schedule:

The STA applied for 1999-00 TFCA Program Manager and Regional funds and automobile manufacturing funds and received about \$85,000 for this program. Installation of the first recharging facilities in mid and south county will occur during spring of 2000.

Federal Lobbyist

Goal:

Secure federal funding for Solano earmark and Section 3 funding requests.

Lead agencies:

STA

Project Summary:

Key activities included:

 Requesting \$14.45 million in federal earmark funding for the Jepson Parkway Corridor Concept Plan and Implementation

• Requesting \$1 million in federal earmark funding for improvements to Wilson Avenue in Vallejo.

• Requesting \$2.7 million in federal Section 3 funding for acquisition of buses for intercity transit service in Solano County.

STA was successful in receiving \$14.45 in federal earmark funding for the Jepson Parkway Corridor Concept Plan and Implementation, \$750,000 for Wilson Avenue and \$1 million in federal Section 3 funding for acquisition of buses.

Project Needs:

Retain the services of a lobbyist to support the federal funding requests in Washington, D.C.

STA Funding:

\$15,000

Schedule:

Since funds for federal earmarks were available, the STA did not retain a lobbyist during 1999. A lobbyist will likely be proposed for 2000 or 2001 in preparation for future federal earmarks.

Highway 12 Improvements

Goal:

Ensure the timely implementation of the HR 45 short-range Recommendations on Highway 12.

Lead Agency:

Caltrans, STA

Project Summary:

In December 1994 Caltrans prepared a report to the state legislature in response to House Resolution 45 (Hannigan) that reviewed the options to improve the safety of driving on State Route 12, including the immediate (1 year), short range (5 years) and long range solutions needed between Suisun City and the City of Rio Vista. The STA will work with Caltrans to ensure that the immediate and short-range operational enhancements are implemented on schedule. Specific projects that will be monitored include:

- Increased enforcement activities on Route 12, funded by an Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) program grant, has coincided with a period of drastically reduced auto fatalities.
- Improvements at the Route 12/Branscombe Road intersection completed. Route 12/113 intersection improvements scheduled in 2001.
- State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects to extend the existing passing lanes on Highway 12 scheduled for construction in 2000.
- Vertical curve and shoulder improvements funded through the ITIP and scheduled for construction in 2001.
- Work with affected jurisdictions to complete the State Planning and Research funded study (MIS) and position Highway 12 for future funding opportunities.
- Work with the CTC to include Highway 12 as a priority route for Interregional Transportation Improvement Program funding.

Project Needs:

STA staff will work with Caltrans to monitor the SHOPP projects. STA staff will work with Rio Vista, Caltrans, MTC and the CTC to advocate for funding.

STA Funding:

No STA funding recommended at this time. Monitor for need.

Schedule:

Staff will work with Rio Vista, Caltrans, and other corridor partners to complete a corridor study funded with State Planning and Research funds in 2000. PAGE 87

Highway 37 Project in Vallejo

Goal:

Secure funding for the Highway 37/29 interchange, and monitor

schedule for construction of improvements to Highway 37 from the

Napa River Bridge to Highway 29.

Lead Agencies:

Caltrans, STA, and the City of Vallejo

Project Summary:

The first phase of the Highway 37 project would widen Highway 37 from the Napa River Bridge up to Highway 29 in the City of Vallejo. Funding for the Highway 37/29 interchange is included in the 1998

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Project Needs:

Monitor the entire Highway 37 project to ensure that it remains on schedule. (Recent changes to the STIP include strict financial

penalties for STIP projects that do not meet their schedule.)

STA Funding:

None proposed.

Schedule:

A funding shortfall was identified in December 1998 and was funded

by the STA Board and the CTC in 1999.

I-80/680 Auxiliary Lanes

Goal:

Confirm funding and monitor project schedule.

Lead Agency:

Caltrans, STA

Project Summary:

The junction of Interstate 80 with Interstate 680 is one of the most congested segments of the I-80 Corridor in Solano County. Daily traffic volumes on this segment exceed 100,000 vehicles per day. The EIR for the Benicia-Martinez Bridge identified this improvement as the most needed improvement in the traffic impact area of the new bridge. This project received \$6.9 million in funding in the 1998 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Key issues are:

• Complete construction of I-80/680 as soon as possible

Work with Caltrans on construction impact mitigation

Project needs:

Ensure timely delivery.

STA Funding:

None proposed at this time.

Schedule:

The STA Board passed a resolution in support of expediting the completion of the auxiliary lanes on or before completion of the Benicia Martinez bridge project.

Jepson Parkway Corridor Concept Plan and Implementation

Goal:

Ensure funding, deliver programmed projects, complete a corridor concept plan for the Jepson Parkway Concept Plan (Jepson Parkway Corridor Concept Plan and Implementation) corridor.

Lead Agencies:

STA, MTC, Fairfield, Solano County, Suisun City, and Vacaville

Project Summary:

Phase 1 of the Jepson Parkway Corridor Concept Plan and Implementation will provide 4 continuous lanes from I-80 in Vacaville to Highway 12 in Suisun City. The system includes State Route 12 from I-80 to Walters Road, Walters Road, including an extension of Walters Road to Cement Hill Road, Cement Hill Road to Peabody Road, Vanden Road to the Leisure Town Road extension, and Leisure Town Road to I-80.

The Jepson Parkway Corridor Concept Plan and Implementation traverses four jurisdictions and is surrounded by land uses that include agricultural, residential, and industrial. The area connecting Fairfield and Vacaville along Vanden Road includes agricultural land that could be developed, or preserved as open space between the two cities. A corridor concept plan is needed to provide guidelines for any development that does occur along the Jepson Parkway Corridor Concept Plan and Implementation corridor, and incorporate transit and pedestrian friendly design elements into the project. Major Jepson Parkway Corridor Concept Plan and Implementation project tasks include:

- Work with consultant to complete corridor concept plan.
- Complete construction of the Peabody/Cement Hill Road intersection project in 2000.
- Complete base mapping/plan line for the corridor.
- Prepare draft EIS/EIR reports.
- Secure additional funds required to complete the Jepson Parkway Corridor Concept Plan and Implementation (\$29 million).

Project Needs:

Deliver six programmed segments and complete a corridor concept plan.

STA Funding:

\$15,000 will be used to match funding from MTC to complete the corridor concept plan for the Jepson Parkway Corridor Concept Plan and Implementation.

Schedule:

The corridor concept plan for the Jepson Parkway Corridor Concept Plan and Implementation corridor will be completed in early 1999/2000. The Leisure Town Road extension was completed in 1998. Improvements to the Peabody Road/Cement Hill Road intersection began in the summer of 1999. The realignment of Vanden Road to Peabody Road at Cement Hill Road began construction in the summer of 1999. The EIS/EIR is scheduled to complete in April 2000.

Intercity Transit Plan Implementation

Goal:

Implement the plan to coordinate intercity transit and paratransit systems to

improve administration and operating efficiency.

Lead Agency:

SolanoLinks Intercity Transit Consortium

Project Summary:

The STA adopted the Intercity Transit Coordination Plan in 1997. This is a proactive plan with the objective of expanding service and avoiding any potential reduction of intercity transit and paratransit services throughout Solano County. The initial emphasis is on establishing fully coordinated countywide transit services. Major tasks include:

- Complete the update of the Intercity Transit Plan, which will complement the Comprehensive Transportation Plan effort.
- Coordinate funding requests and schedules with member operators
- Coordinate service with member operators
- Continue the coordinated marketing effort
- Seek funding for buses to meet intercity transit needs
- Implement other priority elements of the 1999/2000 Work Plan as developed by the Consortium and approved by the STA Board.

Project Needs:

STA will hire consultants to work with the Consortium.

STA Funding:

None proposed at this time. Monitor for need.

Schedule:

Ongoing for 1999-2000.

Mare Island Access Study

Goal:

Complete Mare Island Access Study to identify transportation improvements

needed for reuse.

Lead Agency:

City of Vallejo

Project Summary:

The purpose of this study is to identify the transportation needs for the Mare Island Reuse Plan, evaluate the ability of the existing transportation facilities to meet the future uses of Mare Island, and develop a cost effective transportation program that will facilitate the island reuse. Although this study will take a cursory look at providing a new Southern Bridge access to Mare Island, it is expected that improvement of the existing access routes to the island in combination with transportation improvements on the island will be more cost effective and feasible in the short term. Access transportation improvements to be evaluated will include: Highway 37 east to I-80 and west to I-101; Mare Island Causeway north to Highway 37 and south to I-80/I-780 via City streets; rail service, ferry service, bus service and bicycle/pedestrian access. This study will also develop a detailed circulation plan for Mare Island.

In 1994, Congressman George Miller obtained a \$500,000 Demonstration Project Grant to fund this Mare Island Access Study.

Project Needs:

A transportation consultant was retained by the City of Vallejo to prepare this

Mare Island Access Study Report.

STA Funding:

\$10,000

Schedule:

The study has been initiated and is scheduled to be completed by Spring of

2000.

Red Top Slide/McGary Road

Goal:

Monitor Caltrans' mitigation efforts for the Red Top Slide area.

Lead Agency:

Caltrans, STA and member agencies.

Project summary:

Caltrans' District IV has installed pumping wells, monitoring wells, and conducted repairs of pavement and drainage facilities since the slide occurred between mid February and early July of 1998. The total cost of the mitigation effort today has been \$5.7 million.

A congressional summit on the Red Top Slide Area was hosted by Congressman Mike Thompson on December 17, 1999. At the summit, Caltrans unveiled a Project Study Report (PSR) to enhance mitigation efforts for the slide area. To fund this PSR, Caltrans has submitted the project for \$8 million in 2000 SHOPP funds and as a candidate project for a new design-sequencing pilot project. Based on the results from the phase I effort, phase II would be submitted for a future SHOPP cycle with an estimated cost of \$16 million.

Project Needs:

Continue to monitor project mitigation effort. Work with Caltrans and affected jurisdictions to develop working committee to monitor project and facilitate communication.

STA Funding:

None proposed at this time.

Schedule:

PSR identifies beginning construction of phase I in July 2002 with completion in July 2003. Phase II would implemented in July 2003.

Solano Bike Route Plan - Implementation

Goal:

Implement key segments of the primary bike routes in the Countywide

Bicycle Plan

Lead Agency:

STA

Project summary:

This is a continuing follow-up to the <u>Solano Countywide Bicycle Plan</u>. Particular attention is being given to prioritizing and implementing the key remaining gaps of the primary bike route, including:

• Prepare an update to the southern portion of the Countywide Bicycle Plan.

 Assist staff to investigate and apply for additional funding for key segments.

• Work with the Bicycle Advisory Committee to complete and print the new BikeLinks maps.

Project Needs:

Retain a consultant to work with member jurisdictions, the Bicycle Advisory Committee, and the public to update and implement the plan.

STA Funding:

\$19,971

Schedule:

The Solano County Bicycle Plan and BikeLinks map were completed in 1999. The plan will be updated in coordination with development of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Solano Transportation Plan - Implementation

Goal:

Implement the recommendations of the Solano Transportation Plan.

Lead Agency:

STA

Project summary:

STA, and the Solano Economic Development Corporation (SEDCORP) jointly developed a plan to maintain mobility in Solano County over the next 10-15 years, including a list of proposed transportation projects and programs. Key tasks include:

Seek new local funding

Deliver already programmed projects

Advocate for additional state and federal funds

Educate the public on the need for local funding

Project Needs:

Ongoing public education program.

STA Funding:

\$10,000

Schedule:

The Solano Transportation Plan recommended that a list of projects and programs be presented to the voters as an advisory measure on the November 1998 ballot. The measure passed by 76%. The Solano County Comprehensive Transportation Plan is the follow-up planning effort to document the needs, costs and revenues for transportation projects needed for the next 20 years.

Traffic Safety Study - Implementation

Goal:

Fund and implement travel safety projects in Solano County.

Lead Agency:

STA and member agencies.

Project summary:

Traffic safety was noted as a top public concern during the development of the Solano Transportation Plan. Recent MTC changes to the federal funding process allow Solano County to fund certain low cost safety projects.

• The Travel Safety Study (approved 12/98) identified low cost safety projects funded through the TEA 21 cycle 1 program. All of these projects are scheduled to be completed by 2002.

• Additional safety projects are eligible to be funded in early 2000 with TEA 21 cycle 2 funds.

Project Needs:

Monitor project implementation effort.

STA Funding:

None proposed at this time.

Schedule:

Projects funded with TEA 21 cycle 1 funds scheduled to be completed by 2002.

Vacaville CNG Facility

Goal:

Monitor and support the efforts of the City of Vacaville to implement a

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling facility for transit and other public

vehicles and the purchase of CNG vehicles.

Lead Agency:

City of Vacaville

Project Summary:

The City of Vacaville has secured CMAQ funds to construct a CNG facility and acquire three CNG buses. The STA Board has approved a \$58,000 State Transit Assistance Fund claim as the local match for this project. Vacaville has three years to complete these projects. Vacaville has indicated that it will allow other public agencies to utilize this new facility. The STA has been working on a transit coordination study, which includes promoting intercity transit services and providing opportunities for joint use of transit facilities.

STA Funding:

None proposed.

Schedule:

On-going during FY 1999-2000 and beyond in context with the implementation of the Intercity Transit Plan. Construction is expected to be

completed by July 2000.

Solano Transit Services

Benicia Transit

Local fixed route, regional fixed route, and local paratransit service

Regional Route(s)

Service from Vallejo downtown down the I-680 corridor to Pleasant Hill BART

Dixon Readi-Ride

Local general dial-a-ride service

Fairfield/Suisun Transit

Local fixed route, regional fixed route, and local paratransit service

Regional Route(s)

Service between Fairfield and Vacaville on the I-80 corridor

Commuter service from Vacaville to Pleasant Hill BART along the I-680 corridor

Rio Vista Transit

Local and regional general dial-a-ride service

Solano Transportation Authority Regional fixed route and northern county regional paratransit service

Regional Route(s)

Commuter service between Fairfield and Davis along the I-80 corridor

Regional Paratransit

Solano Paratransit

Vacaville City Coach

Local fixed route and local paratransit

Vallejo Transit

Local fixed route, regional fixed route, local paratransit, and southern county regional paratransit service

Regional Route(s)

Service from Vacaville/Fairfield down the I-80 corridor to Vallejo and El Cerrito del Norte BART

Service between Fairfield and Vallejo with a stop at the Solano Community College

Service from Sacramento/Davis to the Vallejo Ferry Terminal

Regional Paratransit

Vallejo/Benicia Run About

Additional Transportation Services in Solano

- Solano Commuter Information (SCI) is a full service ridesharing agency that provides individual commute assistance, personalized rideshare matchlists, vanpool formation assistance, employee commuter surveys, worksite events, employee site relocation assistance and information on all the local and regional transit systems.
- The Vallejo Ferry provides eleven round trips daily from the Vallejo Ferry Terminal to the S.F. Ferry terminal or Pier 39. The trip takes 53 minutes and service is provided on comfortable 300 seat ferries that were placed into service in April 1997.
- The Capitols passenger rail service provides six round trips daily with a stop at the Suisun/Fairfield station. New double-decked cars and a new dining car were added to the system. The Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Board assumed the management responsibilities of the service in mid-1998. Improvements to the existing station and three new stations are eventually planned to increase ridership.
- Solano Bikeways provide an enjoyable alternative for commuting to work. Some of the local routes include Alamo Bikeway in Vacaville, Laurel Creek and the Linear Park in Fairfield, the California State Park bike/pedestrian route in Benicia and Columbus Parkway and in Vallejo. New proposed or planned bikeways include the I-80 Solano Bikeway between Vallejo and Fairfield; Wilson Way/Mare Island, Benicia Road and bike lanes connecting to the Carquinez Bridge Replacement span bike route in Vallejo; bike lanes along Park Road connecting to the new Benicia-Martinez Bridge; additional linear park segment in Fairfield; a bike route adjacent to the recent Highway 12 improvements in Suisun City; bike lanes on new Pleasant Valley Bridges; a bike bridge along Alamo Creek in Vacaville; and a Class 2 bike route from Dixon-Davis.