

Solano Transportation Authority:
1999 Annual Report
STA 101.01.99.1



ANNUAL REPORT - 1999

SOLANO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Rischa Slade, Chair, City of Vacaville
Dan Donahue, Vice Chair, City of Vallejo
Pierre Bidou, City of Benicia
Chris Manson, City of Dixon
Steve Lessler, City of Fairfield
Marci Coglianesse, City of Rio Vista
John Silva, County of Solano
Jim Spering, City of Suisun City

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

Table of Contents

Message from the Executive Director

Year in Review

Priority Projects:

- ◆ **Benicia-Martinez Bridge Project**
- ◆ **Carquinez Replacement Bridge Project**
- ◆ **Capitol Corridor**
- ◆ **Electric Vehicles and Recharging Facilities Program**
- ◆ **Federal Lobbyist**
- ◆ **Highway 12 Improvements**
- ◆ **Highway 37 Project**
- ◆ **I-80/680 Auxiliary Lanes**
- ◆ **Jepson Parkway Corridor Concept Plan and Implementation**
- ◆ **Intercity Transit Plan Implementation**
- ◆ **Mare Island Access Study**
- ◆ **Red Top Slide/McGary Road**
- ◆ **Solano Bike Route Plan Implementation**
- ◆ **Solano Transportation Plan Implementation**
- ◆ **Traffic Safety Study Implementation**
- ◆ **Vacaville CNG Facility**

Solano Transit Services

Additional Transportation Services in Solano

January 3, 2000

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,

Daryl K. Halls
Executive Director

PAGE 81

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.