

**STA SOLANO EXPRESS SUBCOMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING**

**4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 2, 2026
Suisun City Council Chambers
701 Civic Center, Suisun City**

STA Solano Express Subcommittee Members:

Mayor Alma Hernandez, Subcommittee Chair, City of Suisun City
Mayor Steve Bird, City of Dixon
Mayor John Carli, City of Vacaville
Mayor Andrea Sorce, City of Vallejo

Solano Intercity Transit Consortium Members

Louren Kotow – Dixon Read-Ride
Sanjay Mishra / Shaun Vigil – FAST
Beth Kranda / Kristina Botsford – SolTrans
Nouae Vue – Suisun Microtransit
Lori DaMassa - Vacaville City Coach
Daryl Halls /Ron Grassi/Robert Guerrero - STA

MEETING AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS** Mayor Alma Hernandez
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
- 3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 4. CONSENT CALENDAR:**
 - A. Approval of the Draft Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2026** Johanna Masiclat
Recommendation:
Approval of the Draft Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2026.
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- 5. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS** Beth Kranda, SolTrans
 - A. SolTrans' Staff Perspective**
Provide opportunity for SolTrans to discuss their perspectives on the Committee agenda topics.
Lorene Garrett, STA
 - B. Solano Mobility Express Vanpool Pilot Program Expansion with Service to UC Davis's Memorial Union**
At the STA Board meeting of February 11, 2026, the STA Board authorized STA staff to work with the Cities of Vacaville and Dixon to study a vanpool service from Vacaville to Dixon and UC Davis to develop vanpool service from Vacaville to Dixon and UC Davis. In a subsequent item, the STA Board directed staff to work with the Cities of Vacaville and Dixon to develop an implementation plan to expand the Solano Mobility Express Vanpool Program to include service between Vacaville, Dixon, and UC Davis's Memorial Union and present the implementation plan to the STA Board's Transit Subcommittee and STA Board at their March meetings.
Lori DaMassa,
Vacaville City Coach
Louren Kotow,
Dixon Read-Ride

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Based on this direction, STA staff consulted with the Cities of Vacaville and Dixon as directed by the STA Board and has prepared service options connecting Vacaville, Dixon and UC Davis (Memorial Union).

Recommendation:

Review the following:

1. Service options for service between Vacaville, Dixon, and UC Davis (Memorial Union);
2. Recommendations from the Cities of Vacaville and Dixon.

C. Phasing Out the STA's Mobility Programs

Group

At the February 11, 2026 meeting, the STA Board approved to phase out two STA Mobility Programs in FY 2026-27 (Guaranteed Ride with \$150,000 savings and delaying of the Solano Express Ridership Survey with a savings of \$200,000).

A third recommendation to phase out the use of STA Population-based funds to phase out the Benicia Lyft Program (\$80,000 in savings) and Miscellaneous Local Lyft Programs for Vallejo and Benicia (\$27,000 in savings).

At the request of the STA Board, STA staff has prepared a summary of the Solano Mobility Programs that are funded using STAF Population-based funds.

Recommendation:

1. Discuss phasing out Benicia Lyft Program and Miscellaneous Local Lyft Programs for Vallejo and Benicia from use of STAF Population-based funds for FY 2026-27; and
2. Provide additional recommendations to the STA Board pertaining to the Solano Mobility Programs.

D. Development of Solano Express Cost Sharing and Operating Agreement for FY 2026-27

Ron Grassi

In order for the funding partners and the STA to develop the Solano Express Cost Sharing and Agreement for FY 2026-27, the following must be discussed and agreed to by the funding partners and STA Board. With the approval of the service changes by the STA Board and SolTrans Board, there is a projected 45,000 revenue hours for Solano Express for FY 2026-27. Per the cost sharing agreement, the following is required:

1. Service Hours by Route;
2. Cost per Hour; and
3. Schedule for adoption of the agreement for FY 2026-27.

Recommendation:

Informational.

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E. Solano Express Decision Making

The Solano Express decision-making process is defined by the Solano Express Operating Agreement and reaffirmed by the 2030 Transit Policy Committee which was a joint policy committee of STA and SolTrans Board Members, and is defined in the STA and SolTrans JPAs. This item was included in the last agenda and is being brought back for discussion.

Daryl Halls
Megan Callaway,
STA Legal Counsel

Recommendation:
Informational.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

7. NEXT STEPS

8. ADJOURNMENT

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Solano Express Subcommittee Draft Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2026

STA Solano Express Subcommittee Members Present:

Mayor Alma Hernandez, Subcommittee Chair, City of Suisun City

Mayor Steve Bird, City of Dixon

Mayor John Carli, City of Vacaville

Mayor Andrea Sorce, City of Vallejo

Solano Intercity Transit Consortium Members Present:

Louren Kotow – Dixon Read-Ride

Sanjay Mishra – FAST

Beth Kranda / Kristina Botsford – SolTrans

Lori DaMassa - Vacaville City Coach

Daryl Halls /Ron Grassi/Robert Guerrero - STA

Introductions, Public Comment, and Approval of the Agenda

Solano Express Subcommittee Meeting began with introductions and agenda approval. Public comments were invited but none were made.

Certified Copy of the Extraction of the STA Board Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2026

The Committee discussed the certified true copy of the relevant extract of the draft meeting minutes from the STA Board's January 11 meeting, with Megan Callaway noted as the speaker for this item.

SolTrans and STA Perspective

The meeting focused on reviewing and clarifying recommendations for service changes, particularly in relation to the COA's set of recommendations. SolTrans staff provided their perspective, emphasizing that the proposed changes are cost-neutral and align with the COA's direction, while also addressing concerns about the Fairgrounds project and phasing out Benicia or Vallejo Lyft services. The committee discussed the importance of addressing the deficit and the potential benefits of the red line service for Vacaville and Fairfield. They agreed to focus on how to efficiently serve Davis and to improve the process for making decisions in advance to avoid rushing through implementations.

Solano Express Service Changes

The subcommittee discussed transit service changes, focusing on how different routes and lines affect communities in Solano County. Chair Hernandez emphasized the need to consider the broader impact of service changes on all residents, rather than viewing them as benefiting one city over another. The Committee agreed on the importance of getting service to Davis, though funding details still need to be worked out. The discussion also covered concerns about a proposed stop at the Fairgrounds, with Beth Kranda highlighting potential trade-offs for express bus service and the need to consider the stop's impact on both local residents and commuters heading to BART.

The group discussed transit service options for the SR 37 project, including the potential for vanpool service and express bus routes. They agreed to study the feasibility of adding a bus stop at the Fairgrounds after the project's completion in May, considering factors like timing, costs, and regional access needs. The discussion also touched on the importance of providing efficient service to communities like Dixon and the need to balance express and local transit goals.

Reduce STA's Mobility Program

The subcommittee discussed cost savings options for STA's Mobility Programs, with Suisun and exploring the possibility of reducing the Guaranteed Ride Program budget to zero, saving \$150,000 and delaying the \$200,000 Rideship Survey, which is conducted every 2-3 years. The discussion touched on local Lyft programs in Benicia and Vallejo, with Chair Hernandez expressing her concern about redirecting TDA funds from Solano Express to these programs. The group agreed to gather more information about the countywide Lyft program's usage, efficiency, and impact on local services before making any decisions.

The subcommittee discussed the evaluation and funding of local transportation programs, including miscellaneous Benicia and Vallejo Lyft service and Benicia Left program. Mayor Sorce requested data on ridership and destinations to assess their impact on the COA. They agreed to provide the requested data and evaluate the programs, noting that phasing out certain services could help equalize funding across cities. Louren Kotow, Dixon Read-Ride, highlighted that the current funding distribution is based on a ridership survey, which may not accurately reflect changes in service levels, particularly for Dixon. The group also discussed the need to examine all transit funding sources to better understand options for trade-offs and funding reallocation.

The subcommittee discussed service reductions affecting Dixon and their residents' access to Sacramento and Davis, with Ms. Kotow emphasizing the community's frustration over repeated service cuts and the perceived inequity in service distribution compared to other areas. They discussed the importance of maintaining the survey required by the Intercity Transit Funding Agreement, despite considering scaling it down to reduce costs, and agreed to delay it for a year to avoid disrupting the upcoming service changes in August. They also explored the potential for collaboration between agencies to optimize survey costs and discussed the need for future ridership data to assess the impact of service changes and adjust cost-sharing arrangements accordingly.

The subcommittee discussed concerns about aligning on decisions from previous meetings, particularly regarding service to Davis and funding. Mayor Carli suggested focusing on creating a service that meets North County ridership needs within a \$450,000-600,000 budget, while exploring options for different funding levels. The group agreed to analyze cost-benefit scenarios and consider how to make Dixon whole while avoiding a fiscal cliff, with a goal of establishing robust hourly service to both Dixon and Davis.

The subcommittee discussed funding options for Solano Express bus service, focusing on how to maintain current levels without accelerating an upcoming fiscal cliff. They agreed to explore using existing funds to cover the first year's operations, while acknowledging the need to find sustainable long-term funding solutions. The group also discussed the uncertainty of future funding due to various factors including potential changes in sales tax revenue and MTC's loan guarantees other regional providers with Chair Hernandez and Daryl Halls noting that they would have a better picture of their funding situation by the end of the year.

The subcommittee discussed funding options for the Solano Express service and decided to focus on vanpool services as a temporary solution due to timing constraints. They agreed to analyze the full costs of both vanpool and bus service options to make a formal recommendation for sustainable service in the future. The group also considered extending the current vanpool service to stop in Davis on the way to Sacramento, and the Committee requested information on any additional fleet purchases that might be needed.

The meeting focused on discussing transportation service changes, particularly regarding the Solano Express and vanpool services to Davis. The Board approved exploring options to extend service beyond August, with a \$400,000 budget allocation for new initiatives. STA staff was directed to analyze the existing vanpool to Sacramento, consider implementing a bus service, and prepare a proposal for the STA Board in coordination with Vacaville and Dixon staff. The group emphasized the importance of including all affected parties in future discussions to avoid misunderstandings, and agreed to hold another meeting in about a month and a half to review progress.

Next Steps

1. STA and SolTrans staff: Collaborate to analyze and bring back to the subcommittee detailed cost comparisons and service options for vanpool service (including the option to stop in Davis), using the available \$350,000–\$450,000 in identified funds, and outline what level of vanpool service can be provided with these amounts
2. STA and SolTrans staff: Provide a breakdown of all STAF-funded mobility programs, including the Vallejo and Benicia Lyft programs, detailing funding sources, budgeted/actual costs, ridership, and program efficiency
3. SolTrans staff: Study the operational and timing impacts of adding a Fairgrounds stop for the Solano Express Red Line after the Fairgrounds project is completed in May, including testing bus timing with the new diverging diamond interchange and transit signal priority, and report findings to the subcommittee
4. STA staff: Provide the STAF population revenue projections for next fiscal year when available
5. STA and SolTrans staff: Work together (with Dixon and Vacaville representation) to develop a vanpool proposal for service to Davis, including cost, service level, and fleet implications, and present to the subcommittee
6. STA and SolTrans staff: Provide clarity on the true cost per service hour for both vanpool and bus options, including all overhead and capital/fleet costs, to allow for apples-to-apples comparison
7. STA and SolTrans staff: Outline the lead time and feasibility for implementing bus service to Davis if funding becomes available in the future
8. STA staff: Summarize the subcommittee recommendations and prepare a staff report for the full board
9. STA and SolTrans staff: Schedule a follow-up subcommittee meeting in about one and a half months to review updated cost data and projections

