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# Meeting Notice and Agenda

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## Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

The Social Services Transportation  
Advisory Council may take action on  
any item appearing on this agenda.

Monday, March 18, 2019

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

SANDAG, 7th Floor Conference Room  
401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101

***Please take the elevator to the 8th  
floor to access the meeting room.***

Staff Contact: Jack Christensen  
(619) 595-1442  
jack.christensen@sandag.org

## ***Agenda Highlights***

- **Uptown Bikeways: Park  
Boulevard Bikeway**

- **Senate Bill 1376 Transportation Network Companies Access for All Act**

**Please silence all electronic devices during the meeting**

**Mission Statement**

*The 18 cities and county government are SANDAG serving as the forum for regional decision-making. SANDAG builds consensus; makes strategic plans; obtains and allocates resources; plans, engineers, and builds public transit; and provides information on a broad range of topics pertinent to the region's quality of life.*



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**Social Services Transportation Advisory Council**  
Monday, March 18, 2019

<b>Item No.</b>		<b>Action</b>
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
+2.	Approval of Meeting Minutes The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is asked to review and approve the minutes from its January 23, 2019, meeting.	Approve

### **3. Public Comments/Communications/ Member Comments**

Members of the public shall have the opportunity to address the SSTAC on any issue within the jurisdiction of SANDAG that is not on this agenda. Anyone desiring to speak shall reserve time by completing a Request to Comment form and giving it to the meeting coordinator prior to speaking. Public speakers should notify the meeting coordinator if they have a handout for distribution to SSTAC members. Public speakers are limited to three minutes or less per person. SSTAC members also may provide information and announcements under this agenda item.

## **Reports**

- +4. **2019 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting Calendar Changes** **Approve**

Beginning April 8, 2019, SANDAG offices will be closed every other Monday, which conflict with three meeting dates approved by the SSTAC. The SSTAC is asked to review and approve the proposed revised meeting dates for 2019, including the meeting date and location for the public hearing.

**5. Uptown Bikeways: Park Boulevard Bikeway (Chris Romano)**

**Discussion**

Staff will present an overview of the Park Boulevard Bikeway project, one of five segments planned as part of the Uptown Bikeways, which will enhance neighborhood connectivity between Uptown, Old Town, Mission Valley, Downtown San Diego, North Park, and Balboa Park. The project consists of a modified protected intersection, buffered bike lanes, traffic calming measures, and improvements for people walking, such as high visibility crosswalks, curb extensions, and traffic signal enhancements.

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| <p><b>6. Senate Bill 1376 Transportation Network Companies Access for All Act (Jack Christensen)</b></p> <p>Staff will present an overview of Senate Bill 1376: Transportation Network Companies (TNC): Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities, or TNC Access for All Act (Hill, 2018) and provide an update on work done to date by the California Public Utilities Commission in anticipation of implementation.</p> | <p><b>Information</b></p> |
| <p><b>7. Staff Report</b></p> <p>Staff will report on notable activity within the SANDAG Short Range Transit section.</p>   | <p><b>Information</b></p> |
| <p><b>8. Transit Operator Update</b></p> <p>Representatives from the Metropolitan Transit System and North County Transit District will provide an update on proposed service changes and any notable activity.</p>   | <p><b>Information</b></p> |

**9. Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation Update** **Information**

A report on the most recent developments of the Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation Update and the Council on Access and Mobility will be provided.

**10. Upcoming Meetings and Adjournment**

The next SSTAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2019, at 10 a.m.

**+ next to an item indicates an attachment**



# Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Item: **2**

March 18, 2019

Action Requested:  
**Approve**

## January 23, 2019, Meeting Minutes

Chair Meagan Schmidt (Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation [FACT]) called the meeting of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) to order at 10:04 a.m. at the SANDAG offices.

### 1. Introductions

The attendance sheet for this meeting is included.

### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Approve)

Action: Upon a motion by Sharlene Ornelas (At-Large Voting Member – 2nd Alternate) and a second by Helen Elias (Special Interest Voting Member – Seat A), the SSTAC approved the minutes from its November 19, 2018, meeting. Yes: Ms. Ornelas, Kathleen Baldwin (At-large Voting Member – 3rd Alternate) Ms. Elias, Gayle Obrecht (International Rescue Committee), Chris Duddy (North County Transit District [NCTD] Fixed Route), Robert Gebo (NCTD Paratransit), Wayne Landon (Special Interest Voting Member – Seat B), Alicia DeLeon-Torres

(Survivors of Torture, International). No: None.  
Abstain: Vice Chair Jay Washburn (Metropolitan Transit System [MTS] Paratransit), Amy Kalivas (Access to Independence) Absent: At-Large Voting Member – Seat A, FACT – Seat A, MTS Fixed Route, San Diego Center for the Blind, The ARC of San Diego.

### **3. Public Comments/Communications/Member Comments**

Ms. Ornelas suggested that the zip ties that hold take one fliers and other announcements aboard public transit vehicles be clipped since she felt that they protrude into the aisles. Ms. Ornelas expressed concern that the transit agencies provide an inadequate number of bus benches at transit stops and that fixed-route and paratransit bus drivers are inconsistent where they pick up riders at bus stops, issues that especially affect visually-impaired and other disabled riders. Ms. Ornelas requested that fixed-route and paratransit bus drivers pull up closer to curbs to the better facilitate the boarding process for riders. Ms. Ornelas also requested tactical markings at the Old Town Transit Center, consistency in having two low-floor trolley cars at each end of a three-car trolley, and better communication to riders of fare payment validation on buses for visually-impaired riders.

Brian Lane, Senior Regional Planner, noted that high-floor trolley cars will eventually be phased out and

confirmed that MTS' standard operating procedure is to have one middle high-floor trolley car and two low-floor trolley cars, though unexpected operational difficulties may warrant fewer low-floor trolley cars.

Sharon Beckas (Special Interest Voting Member – 1st Alternate) complimented MTS for resolving handicapped bathroom access issues at the El Cajon and Old Town Transit Centers. Ms. Beckas also expressed appreciation for a new bus bench at the Old Town Transit Center for COASTER riders as well as improved Superloop bus signage and identification. Ms. Beckas commented that the Superloop electronic arrival signs are inaccurate, recommending that paper schedules be affixed to bus shelters. Ms. Beckas expressed concern that too many buses converge at Gilman Drive and Meyers Drive, suggesting that there be specific bus spaces for each bus route. Ms. Beckas noted that a bus closure sign for Route 30 was unclear.

Clytie Koehler, a member of the public, recommended that any posted paper schedules be printed in large font for visually-impaired riders and that expired take-one fliers and other announcements be taken down. Regarding the Centerline bus stops, Ms. Koehler appreciated the new bus service, but requested a better design for visually-impaired that clearly indicates where riders should wait and fosters consistency in where busses stop along the platform. Ms. Koehler also asked that bus drivers consistently pull into bus stalls that correspond to their bus routes when possible and clearly communicate to riders any deviations when not possible to stem any confusion that visually-impaired and other riders may have. Ms. Koehler suggested that there be ticket vending machines for fare payment not only at street level, but on the trolley platform at the SDSU Transit Center. Tamara Airhart (Special Interest Voting Member – 2nd Alternate), Ms. Ornelas, and Ms. Koehler all expressed the need for better bus call-outs, especially in North County.

## **Reports**

### **4. Regional Transit Fare Study (Discussion)**

Mr. Lane provided an overview of the proposed regional fare structure, describing the original goals of the fare study, the results of the Title VI analysis, the

public outreach SANDAG, MTS, and NCTD conducted, and the timeframe of when the changes could be approved and go into effect. Mr. Lane sought feedback from the SSTAC on the proposed changes. Ms. Obrecht asked why the Senior/Disabled/Medicare (SDM) fares were proposed to go up while the youth fares were proposed to go down. Mr. Lane stated that when San Diego's voters passed the *TransNet* Extension in 2004, they approved a 75% discount for SDM riders subsidized by *TransNet* funds. However, since the actual cost of providing the discount far exceeds the forecasted cost due to a higher than expected number of SDM riders using the discount program, *TransNet* funds only cover a portion of the discount costs while the transit operators absorb the rest. Mr. Lane explained that the proposed SDM fare change seeks to equalize the forecasted and actual costs. Regarding the youth fare decrease, Mr. Lane reported that school districts, community members, and elected officials advocated for free youth fares, a proposal the transit operators could not afford. Mr. Lane stated that a compromise to lower youth fares to the SDM fare price was thought to advance the goal of simplifying the fare structure while also encouraging the region's youth to ride transit to boost long-term ridership.

Mr. Lane clarified for Ms. Kalivas that the SANDAG Board of Directors will vote on a \$5 cap for NCTD's paratransit one-way fare, not a \$7.50 cap as originally proposed. Ms. Ornelas commented that just as SDM fixed-route riders have access to a day pass, so too should paratransit riders. Mr. Lane clarified for Ms. Beckas that while the age at which seniors qualify for the SDM program is proposed to go from 60 to 65, the changes will be grandfathered in annually so riders 60 and older now will not experience a fare increase.

## **5. North County Transit District's Upcoming Stop Changes (Information)**

Mr. Duddy notified the SSTAC that NCTD plans to change several NCTD stops by removing certain stops and amenities, reallocating amenities, installing shelters, and relocating certain stops. Mr. Duddy sought feedback from the SSTAC on the proposed changes that were guided by information on ridership, stop spacing, small routing changes, accessibility concerns, and walkability to stops. Regarding the design of new shelters, Ms. Beckas recommended that new bus shelter panels be transparent so that riders can clearly see approaching buses. Ms. Ornelas asked about the height of the shelter's bench seats, which Mr. Duddy did not know, but stated he would ascertain the information. Ms. Ornelas recommended that the bus bench designs include arm rests to aid

senior riders. Ms. Airhart asked if the proposed shelter designs can accommodate wheelchairs. Mr. Duddy stated that two of the three designs under consideration have enough space to ensure that wheelchairs can be under the shelters.

## **6. Staff Report (Information)**

Audrey Porcella, Associate Regional Planner, provided an update on the Cycle 10 Call for Projects for the Specialized Transportation Grant Program. Jack Christensen, Grants Administrator, informed the SSTAC that he will now be the staff liaison to the SSTAC. Mr. Christensen also announced the South Bay *Rapid* Grand Opening, a new rapid bus service from the Otay Mesa Port of Entry to Downtown San Diego.

## **7. Transit Operator Update (Information)**

Vice Chair Washburn discussed the continued progress on the MTS paratransit taxi pilot program, noting positive customer survey results. Vice Chair Washburn also described MTS' efforts to work with Managed Care Providers to address their transportation benefits for MediCal-eligible trips. Ms. Airhart reported that an outgoing message from MTS does not specify Managed Care Providers in describing MediCal-eligible trips and recommended that MTS review that message to avoid confusion. Vice Chair Washburn announced that MTS acquired 35 new, propane-fueled,

paratransit vehicles to replace older vehicles and that MTS is enhancing its dispatch and reservation software. Regarding the discontinuation of Route 41 to the Veterans Affairs Hospital and other service changes, Ms. Beckas stated that the take-ones describing the changes should have a map of alternative routes. Mr. Gebo updated the SSTAC on NCTD's paratransit taxi pilot program, discussed the timeline for new Trapeze software that allows NCTD riders to book trips via a cellphone, noted NCTD's efforts to contract with Managed Care Providers, and stated that NCTD anticipates funding for new paratransit vehicles.

## **8. Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation Update (Information)**

Chair Schmidt noted FACT's board meeting on January 24, 2019, and the Council on Access and Mobility's upcoming meeting on February 12, 2019 (now scheduled for February 19, 2019), at 10 a.m. at the Home of Guiding Hands in El Cajon. Chair Schmidt discussed FACT's redesigned website, new program through the County of San Diego to transport non-contagious tuberculosis patients to treatment, and ongoing transportation services through St. Paul's Senior Center and the Parkinson's Association. Chair Schmidt also provided details of the upcoming CALACT conference held in San Diego. At the request

of Ms. Beckas, Chair Schmidt agreed to notify the SSTAC via Mr. Christensen when FACT's redesigned website goes live.

## **9. Upcoming Meeting**

The next SSTAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 18, 2019, at 10 a.m. in the SANDAG offices.

## **10. Adjournment**

Chair Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

## Confirmed Attendance at SANDAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting

January 23, 2019

Jurisdiction/ Organization	Name	Attended	Comments
Access to Independence	Ruben Ceballos	No	
At-Large Voting Member (Seat A)	Mary Birdine	No	
At-Large Voting Member (Seat B)	Rebecca Steiner	No	
At-Large Voting Member (Seat C)	Ted Kagan	No	

At-Large Voting Member (Seats A through C) Alternates	Linda Haddock, 1st Alternate	No	
	Sharlene Ornelas, 2nd Alternate	Yes	
	Kathleen Baldwin, 3rd Alternate	Yes	
Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation (Seat A)	Arun Prem	No	
Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation (Seat B)	Meagan Schmidt	Yes	Chair
International Rescue Committee	Gayle Obrecht	Yes	
Metropolitan Transit System	Denis Desmond	No	

(MTS) Fixed Route			
MTS Paratransit	Jay Washburn	Yes	Vice Chair
North County Transit District (NCTD) Fixed Route	Chris Duddy	Yes	
NCTD Paratransit	Robert Gebo	Yes	
San Diego Center for the Blind	Monica Aguirre	No	
Special Interest Voting Member (Seat A)	Helen Elias Sharon Beckas, Alternate	Yes  Yes	
Special Interest Voting Member (Seat B)	Wayne Landon Tamara Airhart, Alternate	Yes  Yes	
Survivors of Torture, International	Alicia DeLeon- Torres	Yes	
The ARC of San Diego	Anthony DeSalis	Yes	

## **Other Attendees**

Anthony Ferguson

Clytie Koehler

David Jackson

Noela Rios

## **SANDAG Staff**

Audrey Porcella

Brian Lane

Jack Christensen

Zachary Rivera



# Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Item: **4**

March 18, 2019

Action Requested:  
**Approve**

## 2019 Social Services Transportation Advisory Council Meeting Calendar Changes

### Introduction

SANDAG will be implementing a 9/80 work schedule for staff in April. The agency will be closed to the public beginning April 8, 2019, and every other Monday thereafter. This new policy conflicts with three previously scheduled Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) meetings that need to be rescheduled.

<b>Current Meeting Date</b>	<b>Revised Meeting Date</b>
Monday, May 20, 2019	Monday, May 13, 2019
Monday, July 15, 2019	Monday, July 22, 2019
Monday, November 18, 2019	Monday, November 25, 2019

In addition to the proposed meeting dates, the proposed public hearing date is May 13, 2019. The SSTAC holds a public hearing annually for the purpose of receiving public comment on public transit services from the transit-dependent elderly, disabled, and persons of limited means. Per state law, the hearing(s) should be scheduled to ensure broad community participation and should be rotated among the various communities within San Diego County.

San Diego State University's Student Ability Success Center, located near the SDSU Transit Station, has offered to host the public hearing.

The SSTAC is asked to review and approve the revised meeting dates for 2019, including the meeting date and location for the public hearing.

Key Staff Jack Christensen, (619) 595-1442,  
Contact: [jack.christensen@sandag.org](mailto:jack.christensen@sandag.org)