



**AGENDA**

**PASTACC**

***PUBLIC AND SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY AND COORDINATION COUNCIL***

*An advisory body to the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority addressing public transit and specialized transportation needs, issues and opportunities.*

**August 8, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

**LOCATION:**

**SBCTA Board Room, First Floor Lobby Board Room  
1170 W. Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410**

- I. **PASTACC CALL TO ORDER, Introductions**  
*Cheri Holsclaw, Basin Transit, PASTACC Chair*
- II. **APPROVAL OF PASTACC MINUTES, May 9, 2023** *Action*  
*Chair/Vice Chair*
- III. **PRESENTATION OF THE REGIONAL NETWORK CAMPAIGN** *Information*  
*Selena Barlow, Transit Marketing*
- IV. **PASTACC MEMBERSHIP ITEMS** *Information, Action*  
*Nancy Strickert, SBCTA*
- V. **PUBLIC TRANSIT SPECIAL AND FREE FARE PROMOTIONS:  
Countywide Student Free Fare Campaign and Metrolink Fare Promotions** *Information and Discussion*  
*Nancy Strickert, SBCTA*  
*Rebekah Soto, SBCTA*  
*Transit Operators*
- VI. **FTA §5310 GRANT DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION:  
Issues and Questions** *Discussion*  
*Dennis Brooks, AMMA Transit Planning*
- VII. **REPORT ON THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MULTIMODAL  
TRANSPORTATION QUARTERLY UPDATE** *Information*  
*Dennis Brooks, AMMA Transit Planning*

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MEMBER REPORTS ON ITEMS OF INTEREST**

*Information*

*All*

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Comments related to PASTACC Agenda*

**NEXT PASTACC MEETING:**

Generally, quarterly at 10:00 a.m. with some variation.

***The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for:  
November 14, 2023***

**To confirm PASTACC meeting dates and locations, please call SBCTA: (909) 884-8276**  
Meeting dates will be noticed to those registered for PASTACC mailings.

To register for PASTACC mailings, please contact:  
**Dennis Brooks: [Dbrooks@AmmaTransitPlanning.com](mailto:Dbrooks@AmmaTransitPlanning.com)**

We are happy to make reasonable accommodations for participants attending PASTACC meetings in need of such.

Please advise us of special needs no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting so that the appropriate accommodations can be arranged.

Contact AMMA Transit Planning at [Mail@AmmaTransitPlanning.com](mailto:Mail@AmmaTransitPlanning.com)

# **PASTACC – Public and Specialized Transportation Advisory and Coordination Council Minutes, May 9, 2023, at the San Bernardino SBCTA Board Room**

## **Attendees:**

### Voting Member Participants:

- Basin Transit – Cheri Holsclaw
- Mountain Transit – Steve Brouard (via Zoom)
- Omnitrans – Arianna Maldonado
- Victor Valley Transportation Authority – Ashley Palmer, Dana Fleming, Megan Christian
- Department of Aging and Adult Services – Danielle De Los Santos
- Loma Linda Medical Center – Whitney Henderson
- Reach Out Morongo Basin – Robin Schlosser

### Other Participants:

Anthesis - Shawn Prokopec  
Caltrans – Lorna Foster, Talvin Dennis  
TELACU – Gerardo Rodriguez  
City of Needles (Candace Martinez)

### Staff Support:

SBCTA – Nancy Strickert, Nicole Soto  
AMMA Transit Planning – Dennis Brooks

## **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 by Cheri Holsclaw, PASTACC Chair.

## **II. Minutes of October 11, 2022, meeting**

PASTACC Minutes of October 11, 2022, were approved without change.

- Approval of the minutes was moved by Danielle De Los Santos (DAAS) and seconded by Ashley Palmer (VVTA).

## **III. Mobility Needs Hearing**

Under the Transportation Development Act, if a county is eligible for Article 8 funding it is required that its Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) implement a process of citizen participation to hear the transit needs of persons who are transit dependent and disadvantaged. Section 99238.5 (a) requires that that this process provides for at least one public hearing annually and this is that countywide hearing.

Members of the public were able to attend the hearing in person at the San Bernardino SBCTA Boardroom or at teleconference locations at the Big Bear Chamber of Commerce, VVTA Boardroom in Hesperia, and the City of Needles Council Chambers.

Members of the public were allowed 3 minutes to state their name and address and provide input to identify mobility needs in San Bernardino County.

### Public Testimony

Testimony provided at the Santa Fe Depot Boardroom:

Joseph Moto is an avid bus rider and provided a list of the many Omnitrans routes and other transit services that he has ridden while a student in San Bernardino County.

Mark Strickert – Provided suggestions to address unmet needs or formerly met needs that need to be restored:

- Connection from Arrow train to the University of Redlands – there is a University of Redlands station but no accessible path between the station and the campus. A shuttle should run between the Arrow train and the university.
- In the City of Upland, there is no fixed-route service north of Foothill Boulevard. There used to be three routes in service, but lines 83 & 84 were discontinued. There was a planned shuttle service that has not yet been introduced.
- In the City of Grand Terrace, there is a service gap between Barton Road and Center Street. This corridor was served by the Riverside Transit Agency, but they no longer stop in that area. Omnitrans Route 305 should be extended to Center Street to make a useful connection.

There were no members of the public in attendance to provide comments in Big Bear, Hesperia or in the City of Needles.

### **IV. PASTACC Membership Items**

Nancy Strickert (SBCTA) intended to appoint the OPARC organization as Vice Chair of PASTACC, but OPARC staff were not in attendance, so the Vice Chair appointment was postponed until the August meeting. Nancy Strickert also announced that the At-Large memberships for OPARC and Foothill Aids will be expiring in September 2023. Elections for At-Large membership will be conducted at the August meeting.

### **V. Update on Omnitrans CTSA (Consolidated Transportation Services Agency)**

Arianna Maldonado (Omnitrans) gave a presentation on the specialized transportation services provided by Omnitrans as the CTSA for the San Bernardino Valley. The travel training program has returned to service. Participants are given up to six months of free fixed route bus passes once they are trained. The Transportation Reimbursement and Escort Program (TREP) provides 200 miles per month to reimburse a volunteer driver. The Uber Ride taxi program is Omnitrans' fastest growing program that began in February 2022 and is available throughout the Omnitrans service area, providing a 50% subsidy on up to 15 rides per month. The Regional Mobility Partnership Program (RMPP) is a compilation of 12 public and human services agencies that receive over \$5 million in combined funding to provide specialized transportation in the San Bernardino Valley, resulting in approximately 130,000 trips.

## **VI. Update on the Victor Valley Transportation Authority CTSA (Consolidated Transportation Services Agency)**

Ashley Palmer (VVTA) provided an update on the available VVTA services as the CTSA for the High Desert. The Transportation Reimbursement and Information Program (TRIP) pays for the mileage of volunteer provided transportation and has experienced a decrease in participants due to COVID. Participation is rebounding and has almost returned to pre-COVID levels. The Vanpool program currently has 187 participants and subsidizes eligible vanpools up to \$600 per month towards the cost of a vanpool lease. The partner funding program has increased from 300 to almost 900 trips per month returning from the pandemic. The travel training program is on hiatus due to COVID but is planned to be reintroduced in the future.

## **VII. Human Services Agency Discussion**

Dennis Brooks (AMMA) led a discussion with the group to explore ways for human service agency transportation providers to improve ridership post the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion focused on three topics:

- Creative ways to promote specialized transportation:
  - Robin Schlosser (Reach Out Morongo Basin) is conducting grass roots efforts at local senior centers and food giveaways to pass along information on the services Reach Out provides. Reach Out has paid for some radio advertising as well. Ridership has increased as a result, including new riders to the program.
- Feedback from clients as to why they are no longer riding:
  - Arianna Maldonado (Omnitrans) stated that the multiple transportation options available to riders has helped some clients transition to other services from their ADA service. A lack of drivers on the paratransit service has impacted performance and has led to more complaints which may be contributing to the lack of ridership.
- Possibility of additional funding to increase ridership:
  - Robin Schlosser (Reach Out Morongo Basin) commented that additional funding could allow Reach Out to hire an additional driver and van. Reach Out is currently scheduling out two to three weeks for some trips, so additional capacity could help to serve more people.
  - Shawn Prokopec (Pomona Valley Workshop): If PVW had more vans, we could increase ridership and serve more clients. The increase in vehicle costs has limited PVW's ability to expand its services to adequately meet demand.
  - Dennis Brooks announced that the Caltrans 5310 grant opportunity is set to be released in June 2023 and could be a resource for capital and operating funds.
  - Arianna Maldonado stated that the Omnitrans Regional Partnership Program is another resource for transportation funding

## **VIII. Metrolink Arrow Update**

Nancy Strickert (SBCTA) provided an update on Metrolink and Arrow train services. The Inland Empire Orange County (IEOC) line has been temporarily suspended due to track restorations and repairs. Metrolink is working on a free student and college fare for all Metrolink and Arrow services. Since the October launch of Arrow train service, a total of over 35,000 riders have been served, equating to approximately 490 riders per weekday.

## **IX. Transit Equity Day (TED) Update**

Nicole Soto (SBCTA) reported that SBCTA sponsored free fares on all bus and train fares for riders in San Bernardino County during Transit Equity Day on February 4<sup>th</sup> in honor of Rosa Park's birthday. There were nearly 20,000 boardings on Metrolink, an increase of 45% over an average Saturday. Basin Transit experienced a 21% increase over the previous Saturday and a 16% increase above an average Saturday. The City of Needles had a 128% increase over Saturdays in January and a 51% increase over the average of all Saturdays. In total the Transit Equity Day generated a 45% increase in ridership countywide over an average Saturday in January.

## **X. Announcements and Member Reports on Items of Interest to PASTACC Members**

Nancy Strickert (SBCTA) announced that LCTOP funding for Mountain Transit and Basin Transit to support free fares for K-12 students was approved in April. All San Bernardino County operators will begin free fares in the Fall of 2023. The City of Needles will also have free fares for college students and free fares for K-12 students next year. Nancy also thanked Mountain Transit, VVTA and the City of Needles for their efforts to support teleconferencing of the mobility needs hearing.

## **XI. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **XII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

The next PASTACC meeting is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.