

UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS
DETERMINATION
PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1979
7:00 P.M.
HALE PARK RECREATION FACILITY
LODI, CALIFORNIA

Present: COG Committeeman/City Councilman James McCarty
Mayor Ted Katzakian
Mayor Pro Tempore Walter Katnich
Linda Hirst, COG Transportation Planner
Andy Chesley, COG Staff Member
Henry A. Graves, City Manager
Alice M. Reimche, City Clerk

The Hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Councilman James McCarty, who Chaired this Public Hearing.

A brief summation of the composition and function of the San Joaquin County Council of Governments was given by Councilman McCarty.

The following information regarding this Public Hearing to receive input on transportation needs was presented by Linda Hirst, COG Transportation Planner.

The San Joaquin County Council of Governments which is composed of the Cities of Stockton, Lodi, Manteca, Tracy, Escalon and Ripon and the County of San Joaquin, has been designated as the Transportation Planning Agency for purposes of administering the Transportation Development Act.

In accordance with Section 6658 of the California Administrative Code, each year before funds from this act may be allocated for any purpose, other than those relating directly to public transportation systems, the Council of Governments is required to make a determination that there are no unmet public transportation needs within each City, the transit district and the unincorporated areas of the County which can reasonably be met. If there are found to be needs which can reasonably be met, these needs must be satisfied prior to expending any of these funds on other purposes including local streets and roads.

The input received this evening and that received at other public hearings being held around the county will be used along with other data to prepare a determination on unmet transportation needs that can reasonably be met for each of the incorporated cities, the area of the Stockton Metropolitan Transit District and the unincorporated areas of the county. The proposed determinations will then be set for public hearing in March. Revisions to the proposed determinations will be made, if necessary, before the determination for each area is adopted by the COG in April.

The following is a brief synopsis of the testimony presented at the hearing:

a) Mr. Stanley Harkness, 700 Cardinal, Lodi. Mr. Harkness presented questions as to the type of transportation this funding is available for.

Mr. Harkness stated that he felt the biggest problems with Dial-a-Ride in Lodi are the long waits for the cabs and the fact there is no service available at night.

Mr. Harkness further asked if the available funding could be used for subsidizing the handicapped and elderly only.

Mr. Harkness expressed his feeling that any transportation operation for the community should be operated by private business and asked if funding would be available for this type of operation.

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Additional questions regarding available funding were posed by Mr. Harkness.

b) Mrs. Trella Areida, Director, North County Community Center, Box 1025, Woodbridge, California

Mrs. Areida stated that the North County Community Center makes 60-65 emergency trips per month, 85% of which are within the Lodi area. Mrs. Areida stated that their biggest concern is the need for transportation in the outlying areas of Woodbridge, Acampo, Thornton, etc. Mrs. Areida stated that there is no feasible way of getting into Lodi. Mrs. Areida indicated that 80% of the persons that the North County Community Center provides for are senior citizens.

Mrs. Areida stated that now that Lodi doctors and hospitals are not providing care to Medical and Medicare patients, all these patients must be taken to French Camp to the San Joaquin General Hospital.

Mrs. Areida expounded on the fact that she feels the Lodi Dial-a-ride is fine but does not meet the transportation needs for the outlying area.

Ms. Hirst reported that San Joaquin General Hospital now has 4 vans that are available for the transportation of patients and explained the service that is available through this system.

Councilman McCarty asked Mrs. Rae Margrave, co-owner of the City Cab Company if she had any input or questions.

Mrs. Margrave pointed out the problems they are encountering with the ever-increasing cost of gasoline.

Councilman McCarty stated that if anyone had additional input or questions regarding the subject, they should be sure to contact the Council either through the City Hall or the COG office in Stockton.

Councilman Katnich stated that the County is willing to dole out money but doesn't want to get involved. Councilman Katnich further stated that the Council is aware of the needs of the outlying area but that he feels the Council's primary responsibility is meeting the transportation needs of the citizens of Lodi.

Councilman Katnich stated that the City could start out with assistance from outside funding in meeting transportation needs for the community and the outlying area but at some point the City would be on its own, and the City cannot handle this alone.

Additional discussion followed regarding available funding, with questions being directed to Jerry Erevin of Cal Trans who was in the audience.

The meeting was adjourned by Councilman McCarty at approximately 7:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Attest:

Alice M. Reimche
ALICE M. REIMCHE
City Clerk