

To: Board of Directors
From: Celinda Dahlgren, Director of Administration

Date: 3 May 2010
Reviewed By: *Perk*

SUBJECT: Discontinuation of Route 8 – Monument Community Shuttle

SUMMARY OF ISSUES:

At the April 2, 2010 O&S Meeting, staff was authorized to conduct a public hearing on the elimination of Route 8, the Monument Community Shuttle, due to the expiration of the Lifeline grant that provided funding for this service since 2007.

The public hearing was held on April 29, 2010 at Keller House in Concord. Eighteen people attended, and ten of those people provided direct input. Staff also received three emails and two phone calls from people who were not at the hearing.

A summary of the comments received is included below.

At the May 7, 2010 O&S meeting, staff reported on the public hearing, and there ensued a lengthy discussion.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In spite of the fact that this service is well liked by the people who do use it, it has never achieved its planning goal of seven passengers per revenue hour. Because of the cost of the service, and the existence of other fixed route services in the community via routes 11, 14, 16, and 314, staff and O&S recommend discontinuation of the route effective July 1, 2010.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

CCCTA has received Lifeline funding for this route in the amount of \$524,512 over the three years of the project. Local match, consisting mostly of fares and a \$25,000 grant from the East Bay Community Foundation, totaled \$60,370. It is estimated that CCCTA contributed a little over \$120,000 over and above this amount to the local match. The annual cost for the service is a little over \$200,000 per year.

OPTIONS:

1. Approve O&S and staff recommendation
2. Decline to approve O&S and staff recommendation
3. Other action as determined by the Board.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Move to discontinue the Route 8, Monument Community Shuttle, on July 1, 2010, when the funding expires.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution No. 2010-028

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The public hearing was noticed in the *Contra Costa Times*, *Concord Transcript*, and the Spanish language press, *El Mensajero*. In addition, flyers were posted in all buses, including the vans used for the Route 8 service, and distributed to businesses and community service locations throughout the Monument Community. The Monument Community Partnership got the word through the Transportation Action Team.

As a result, the public hearing had a large turnout. Staff provided Spanish language translation at the hearing.

Comments are summarized below:

- Uses bus 5 times per month. Would be willing to pay a higher fare if that would keep service running.
- It is a good service at a fair price.
- Will have major impact on older adults and the disabled. Low income people need transportation. Without Route 8, they have no alternative.
- Makes La Clinica accessible and access to other health care.
- Wants shuttle to continue with access to La Clinica.
- More outreach is needed to make community aware of service. Important to the Community.
- Offers service like no other County Connection route. No other service on San Miguel where there are senior and low income mobile home parks. Maybe businesses could subsidize the service like they do in Walnut Creek. (*note: this is incorrect – the City of Walnut Creek subsidizes the Route 4*)
- Seniors and prenatal clients are daily riders of Route 8 to La Clinica. They need the service.
- Service is very valuable. We need to find funding to keep it and advertise more.
- Not the time to decrease community services
- Raise the fares to keep it. Covers areas not covered by other routes without a transfer.
- Has been riding the bus for “a few years” and without it, getting to La Clinica and the Crisis Center would be difficult and costly for many.

It is plain that the people who use the service are very passionate about it. However, no amount of fare increase can make up for the subsidy this route requires. Each trip costs CCCTA \$8.17 (net cost after fares). In addition, this route was one of the most heavily promoted and advertised routes in the County Connection system, with four public events held (with assistance from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce), and a well attended kick off event. Flyers and schedules were distributed to many businesses and community service groups throughout the Monument, including La Clinica, Monument Futures, Keller House, the Monument Crisis Center, and special banners in Spanish were hung in off site ticket sales locations. In addition, volunteers in the community distributed 2500 door hangers that contained information in English and in Spanish about all of the routes in the community, and a magnet (in English and Spanish) with phone numbers to call for more information. There were also many newspaper articles, and speaking engagements, as well as Senior “field trips” organized by the Monument Community Partnership’s Transportation Action team.

In better times, the subsidy required to continue this route might not be considered very much money, but unfortunately these are not better times. In fact, the last round of Lifeline funding is being used to keep service running on the other fixed routes that service the Monument neighborhood.

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-028

**CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**AUTHORIZING THE DISCONTINUATION OF CCCTA ROUTE 8
THE MONUMENT COMMUNITY SHUTTLE**

WHEREAS, the County of Contra Costa and the Cities of Clayton, Concord, the Town of Danville, Lafayette, Martinez, the Town of Moraga, Orinda, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon and Walnut Creek (hereinafter "Member Jurisdictions") have formed the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority ("CCCTA"), a joint exercise of powers agency created under California Government Code Section 6500 *et seq.*, for the joint exercise of certain powers to provide coordinated and integrated public transportation services within the area of its Member Jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2007, the CCCTA Board of Directors approved Resolution No. 2007-019, authorizing the implementation of a community shuttle known as the "Monument Community Shuttle" as a demonstration route, funded with a three-year grant of "Lifeline" funds that expire June 30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the route was developed with substantial input from the Monument Community Partnership, and was extensively marketed throughout the community, and offered at a discount from CCCTA's regular fare; and

WHEREAS, despite these efforts, this route has not achieved the CCCTA systemwide average of passengers per revenue hour, nor its own budgeted goal for passengers per hour; and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2010 a duly noticed public hearing was held to receive public comment concerning the discontinuance of this route, which comments are summarized in the staff report; and

WHEREAS, staff has prepared a detailed Title VI Analysis to evaluate the impact of the proposed discontinuance on minority and low income communities, and concluded that CCCTA's overall service to minority census tracts would still be substantial, and that alternative routes are available to serve the neighborhoods for which the Route 8 had been designed; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has carefully considered the public input received, the analysis of the impacts of discontinuing the demonstration shuttle, the availability of other routes to serve the Monument Corridor community, and has balanced these factors against the expiration of the Lifeline grant, and the continuing serious financial condition of the Authority to reach its determination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority, that the General Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to discontinue the operation of Route 8 – the Monument Community Shuttle as of June 30, 2010 and to take all necessary actions to effectuate this discontinuance.

Regularly passed and adopted this 20th day of May, 2010 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Gayle B. Uilkema, Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST: _____
Janet Madrigal, Clerk to the Board