

County of San Mateo  
Human Services Agency  
Inter-Department Memorandum

Date: June 4, 2001  
Hearing Date: June 19, 2001

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Maureen Borland, Director, Human Services Agency  
Glen H. Brooks, Jr., Director, Central Region

Subject: Resolution Approving the San Mateo County Welfare to Work Transportation Plan

**Recommendation**

Adopt a resolution approving the Final Report of the San Mateo County Welfare to Work Transportation Planning Project, which contains the San Mateo County Welfare to Work Transportation Plan, as the transportation component of the Year 2000 Strategic Plan for San Mateo County Human Services.

**Background**

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), in partnership with the San Mateo County Human Services Agency (HSA) and San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), sponsored the development of the San Mateo County Welfare to Work Transportation Plan. This Plan is the culmination of a locally oriented planning process guided by the Strategic Plan Oversight Committee for the Year 2000 Strategic Plan for San Mateo County Human Services, and as such becomes the Strategic Plan's transportation component.

**Discussion**

The Final Report of the San Mateo County Welfare to Work Transportation Planning Project, which contains the San Mateo County Welfare to Work Transportation Plan, recommends a set of transportation strategies and implementation procedures to both connect CalWORKs participants and other low income San Mateo County individuals with employment and training opportunities, and improve their overall mobility. With assistance from HSA staff, SamTrans, and other local agencies and organizations, consultants hired by MTC conducted interviews and focus groups to identify the transportation needs of low-income county residents. Additionally, HSA mailed approximately 10,000 surveys to CalWORKs participants and Medi-Cal recipients about transportation needs. The response rate was good, with respondents completing 2,314 surveys.

The Strategic Plan Oversight Committee selected the top transportation barriers for CalWORKs participants and other low income individuals using information from the surveys, maps developed by MTC, and data collected from focus groups. The barriers, not in any order of priority, are:

- Transit is not affordable to all county residents;
- Low income persons are unable to afford owning automobiles and associated expenses;
- Public transit operates infrequently or is inaccessible in certain geographical areas;
- Public transit does not run early or late enough, especially on weekends;
- Children do not have enough transportation options for traveling to/from school and/or other day care;
- Low-income individuals are either confused or not fully aware of available transportation options; and
- Current options for transportation in emergencies are not affordable for low-income individuals.

The Plan summarizes the data collected from the various sources by describing the profile of CalWORKs

## **Honorable Board of Supervisors**

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participants and other low-income individuals in the county, the employment outlook, and existing transportation resources, gaps, and barriers. It also outlines the strategies selected to address the barriers listed above, indicates the steps necessary to implement the strategies and identifies agencies, partner agencies, and funding resources to support implementation. The Plan evaluates each strategy according to a set of criteria adopted by the Strategic Oversight Committee.

On December 2000, HSA received a \$200,000 Low Income Flexible Transportation (LIFT) grant to implement two transportation strategies that address the needs of CalWORKs recipients and low income individuals. The funded strategies are: 1) a mid-day shuttle service that supplements the commute hours to the San Carlos Peninsula Works One Stop and ; 2) an emergency transportation program for CalWORKs recipients and low-income individuals who are employed and rely on transit or other form of alternative transportation and have an emergency that requires them to travel to a particular destination faster than would be possible on transit. Additionally, MTC has set aside additional funding to implement a fare assistance program for low-income residents. Due to successful collaboration between CalTrain, SamTrans, the City of San Carlos, Peninsula Congestion Relief Alliance and HSA, the mid-day shuttle service to the San Carlos Peninsula Works One Stop began operating since April 2001. The Emergency Transportation Program will begin in July 2001.

### **Program Impact**

The goal of this plan is to help transportation providers, social services agencies, the Workforce Investment Board, childcare advocates, community-based organizations and other stakeholders in identifying transportation related barriers that limit access to employment opportunities. Additionally, the plan is designed to serve as the basis for grant applications seeking funding to support the development of new and expanded transportation services.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The strategies identified by the Strategic Oversight Committee as priorities are funded by the LIFT grant. Funding under this grant totals \$320,000 for the two years (FY 2001-2003), and requires an 87% match of \$278,400 that will be funded with CalWORKs Incentive Funds earned by the County for implementing welfare reform. There is no Net County Cost associated with this initiative. Sustainable funding for the continuation of the initial transportation strategies funded under the grant and strategies proposed under the full plan will be dependent on their effectiveness and available future resources. The Human Services Agency will work with its community partners to expand funding to include community sources having a stake in removing transportation barriers.

Contact: Elsa Dawson, ext. 5026

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SAN MATEO COUNTY WELFARE TO WORK  
TRANSPORTATION PLAN

**RESOLVED**, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

**WHEREAS**, there has been presented to this Board of Supervisors the Final Report of the San Mateo County Welfare to Work Transportation Planning Project, which report will serve as the San Mateo County Welfare to Work Transportation Plan and the transportation component of the Year 2000 Strategic Plan for San Mateo County Human Services,

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in partnership with the San Mateo County Human Services Agency has sponsored the development of the San Mateo County Welfare to Work Transportation Plan,

**WHEREAS**, the San Mateo County Welfare to Work Transportation Plan recommends a set of transportation strategies and implementation procedures to connect CalWORKs participants and other low income San Mateo County individuals with employment and training opportunities,

**WHEREAS**, the goal of this plan is to help transportation providers, social services agencies, the Workforce Investment Board, childcare advocates, community-based organizations and other stakeholders in identifying transportation related barrier that limit access to employment opportunities,

**WHEREAS**, the plan is designed to service as the basis for grant applications seeking funding to support the development of new and expanded transportation services,

**WHEREAS**, the strategies identified by the Strategic Oversight Committee as priorities are funded by the LIFT grant, for a total of \$320,000 for two years and require an additional match of \$278,400 to be funded with CalWORKs Incentive funds,

**WHEREAS**, this Board has been presented with the Final Report of the San Mateo County Welfare to Work Transportation Planning Project, and has approved same;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED** that this Board of Supervisors approves the San Mateo County Welfare to Work Transportation Plan contained in the Final Report of the San Mateo County Welfare to Work Transportation Planning Project for and on behalf of the County of San Mateo.

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