

Senate Transportation and Housing Committee

Informational Hearing on the Implementation of the
Transportation Development Act in Ventura County

November 27, 2012

City of Simi Valley

Mayor Bob Huber

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Honorable Senators, Assembly Members, County and City Officials, public transportation advocates and members of the public, I am pleased to be here today to assist the Committee in improving transportation services both within Ventura County and throughout the region, to continue this important work with officials representing the entire County, and to describe Simi Valley's public transportation accomplishments and plans for the future.

Simi Valley Transit currently operates a Fixed Route and ADA/Dial-A-Ride service six days per week from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. In demonstration of our long-term commitment to the provision of transit services locally and regionally, we have undertaken several important capital projects, including:

- The expansion and modernization of our Transit Maintenance Facility and Garage.
- Enhancing our transit riders' experience through the installation of 38 upgraded Transit bus shelters, which added six new bus shelters at existing bus stops and shelters at key ADA pick up points to increase rider convenience.
- Expanding our CNG Fueling Facility capacity to add fast fuel services for enhanced regional bus service fueling at the facility to improve our ability to meet expanded regional transit needs. The upgrades have provided the City the opportunity to enter into a

Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Moorpark for fueling their CNG buses, benefiting riders and providing enhanced service throughout the region.

- Purchasing, and putting into service, five new ADA/DAR CNG paratransit vans and three new CNG buses, as well as securing funding for three additional CNG fixed-route buses.

Simi Valley is committed to working with our transit partners to improve coordination and connectivity of services not only in the East County, but Countywide.

- Currently, we operate regional fixed route services into Chatsworth for Ventura County connections to LA's Metro bus system. We have also initiated fixed route bus service into Moorpark through a pilot program, which is of particular benefit for students attending Moorpark College.
- The City, in coordination with our East County partners, is seeking funding to implement our plan to operate an express fixed route commuter service with connections between Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, Moorpark, Simi Valley and East County unincorporated areas.
- In addition, the City has submitted a project for approval through the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006 (Prop 1B) to expand bus parking for regional transit use.
- And, the City is working diligently with other cities represented here today in developing a Memorandum of Understanding to expand intercity connections within the East County and beyond. The Memorandum of Understanding contemplates not only taking

over VCTC's operational program in the East County but providing enhancements to the service and creating the ability to coordinate special projects among the member cities as new needs are identified and funding is available.

- And, recognizing the importance of easy to access, timely connections from our City to County government services in Ventura, particularly with the East County Courthouse being open on a limited basis, I am personally committed to doing all I can to make regional coordination a reality, so that all Ventura County residents will have equal, ready access to justice.

In conclusion, I once again thank the Committee for the opportunity to present Simi Valley's transportation accomplishments and future plans. I would like to thank Assemblymember Williams for his shared commitment to transit and especially thank Assemblymember Gorrell and Senator Pavley for their tireless support of our cities and their shared commitment to transit. I assure all in attendance here today that all of our transit agencies are working diligently together to provide excellent service to all who access public transit, and we are working to promote public transit connectivity throughout the County.

We respectfully request that the Committee review the full breadth of current and planned transportation services in Ventura County and work with us to provide the necessary means to properly implement the plan that we have been so diligently working toward to improve transit services throughout the County. We look forward to additional discussions during the next round of legislation.

Thank you.