

SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2012

MOORPARK TALKING POINTS

- Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Keith Millhouse, Councilmember of the City of Moorpark, Board member of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, and Commissioner of the Ventura County Transportation Commission.
- I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address you today.
- I will be addressing Moorpark's commitment to improving public transit in Ventura County through its collaborative and cooperative efforts with our member VCTC agencies and particularly our neighboring cities.
- Before I begin on those; however, I'd like to provide a brief description of the City of Moorpark.

Moorpark Demographic Information:

- Moorpark is located in the eastern side of Ventura County, between the cities of Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and Fillmore. Moorpark's population is approximately 34,421 as of the 2010 Census (or 4% of the entire County's population).
- About 60% of the City's population is Caucasian and 31% Hispanic.
- Nearly 28% of our population is under 18 years of age and 7% of our population is 65 or older.

Moorpark's Accomplishments and Goals:

- As part of the VCTC Regional Transit Plan, adopted and submitted to the Legislature this past spring, Moorpark has been working with the Cities of Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Camarillo to draft a Memorandum of Understanding that commits each of our respective jurisdictions to work collaboratively in coordinating transit services in the East County and improving inter-city connectivity and facilitating improved connection to the West County.
- The MOU includes a Transit Operational Plan, which includes Goals and Objectives for new and improved transit services in the east county which will be established over the next few years.
- Specific to Moorpark, recent examples of local improved transit services include:
 - In 2010, Moorpark completed a Route Evaluation Study which resulted in adjustments to one of two fixed routes, providing new service to Moorpark Marketplace (City's largest commercial center) and decreasing passenger travel time by 30 minutes to that destination.
 - In 2010, the City purchased three CNG buses to replace older diesel buses, improving the air quality in Moorpark.
 - In July 2012, Moorpark began contracting with the City of Thousand Oaks for maintenance and operation of Moorpark City Transit, including fixed-route bus

- service, local Senior Dial-A-Ride program, and Paratransit Dial-A-Ride programs.
- Moorpark and Thousand Oaks are currently working together to establish matching fares and general ridership policies to improve the coordination of services.
 - In August 2012, Moorpark adjusted its fixed-route bus service to accommodate a schedule change of the Moorpark High School, which provides a large portion of the City's ridership on days school is in session. The adjustment also established approximately 4 to 5 new transfer times between Moorpark City Transit and the VISTA East County service.
 - Moorpark has received a Federal grant in the amount of \$600,000 for a three-year demonstration project to expand service both in the morning and the evening and offer Saturday fixed-route bus service, and weekend Dial-A-Ride services. This service is expected to begin in early 2013 and will make hours and days of operation the same as Thousand Oaks.
 - Moorpark also has an Agreement with the City of Simi Valley for backup fueling of Moorpark's CNG buses in the event they cannot fuel in Thousand Oaks. Prior to contracting with Thousand Oaks, Moorpark contracted with Simi Valley for fueling of its buses.
 - Moorpark is committed to evaluating the feasibility and funding for additional demonstration projects to enhance connectivity between West and East County locations.
 - Evaluate feasibility of the three cities absorbing VISTA East by enhanced coordination and route and schedule modifications. This will include outreach to businesses, Chambers of Commerce, and potentially affected interests.
 - Based on demographic projections, we know that the demand for dial-a-ride and similar services will be increased and require a greater portion of TDA monies and are committed to this.
 - While Moorpark currently has no unmet transit needs, we are aware that transit services need to be enhanced and demonstration projects implemented with effective marketing and promotion, so we can appropriately determine that if provided, the riders will come.

Response to Assemblymember Williams VC Star Article:

- Assemblymember Williams mentioned in his November 21, 2012 Ventura County Star opinion that some Ventura County Cities divert TDA funds from Transit to the General Fund. Moorpark does not divert funds to its General Fund. TDA funds not spent on Transit go to specific street improvements. Moorpark also supplements its transit system with an additional \$200,000 in discretionary Traffic Systems Management Funds that are designated for transit services. Using supplemental local revenue enables Moorpark to spend some of its TDA money on streets and road projects, in compliance with current State law.

- Neither SB 716 nor AB 1778 requires a countywide transit system in Ventura County. Moorpark believes that local communities should be allowed to work together to improve public transit in Ventura County based on our knowledge of our communities and local concerns. A countywide transit system, if it were to be developed, should occur over time and when it makes sense by local agencies in Ventura County.

Wrap-up:

- As a representative of a small City in Ventura County with a population under 100,000, of which there are 6 out of the 10 cities, I would request the opportunity to update SB 716 to clarify that all cities under 100,000 populations are treated equitably within the law. This is not an indication that Moorpark, or any of the small cities in Ventura County are not committed to improving public transit; it is an issue of statewide equity.
- The East County cities have a solid history of cooperative and coordinated service delivery including but not limited to purchasing, household hazardous waste, parking citation processing, stormwater and watershed protection programs and recently funding contributions to keep the East County Courthouse open. We expect to add better connected and coordinated transit to the list of our successes.
- All jurisdictions continuously evaluate and make adjustments and improvements to their transit programs. As we look to do more, it's the responsibility of the elected leaders of our Cities and County to make sure our collective commitment is not just promises but timely and successfully implemented enhancements.
- Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. Again, I would like to emphasize that everyone in this room is committed to improving public transit in Ventura County. I look forward to our continued collaborative and cooperative efforts for continued improvement of public transit.