



**CITY OF SIMI VALLEY**  
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VENTURA COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

July 1, 2013

The Honorable Brian J. Back  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
County of Ventura  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Judge Back:

The City of Simi Valley has received the 2012-2013 Grand Jury report, "Senior Transportation in Ventura County." In accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05, we submit our reply in response to the Grand Jury recommendations.

The City Council appreciates the efforts of the Grand Jury for its investigation into the public transportation needs of Ventura County senior citizens.

The Grand Jury has requested the City of Simi Valley provide responses to the recommendations R-01 through R-05 as outlined in the Grand Jury report.

Recommendations and Responses

R-01: The Grand Jury recommends that an independent, non-elected County administrator be assigned to oversee the collaborative efforts of all the senior transportation modalities in the County; and produce strategies to simplify senior transportation. This administrator would seek consensus with the independent companies and city transportation agencies with a goal of consistency in the areas of availability, acceptability, accessibility, adaptability, and affordability. Further, the administrator would develop an advisory board comprised of senior bus-riding citizens to point out the opportunities for improvements. In addition, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors should be encouraged to ride the bus once a year to determine needs and the effectiveness of the programs.

Response:

The City of Simi Valley is not opposed to the assignment of a County Administrator to oversee the collaborative efforts of all senior transportation modalities in Ventura County. However, the City's understanding is that senior transportation program oversight in Ventura County is the purview of the Ventura County Transportation Commission

(VCTC). To this end, the VCTC has initiated and completed Human Service Transportation and Transit Service Coordination studies, with the goal of creating consensus among Human Service providers and Transit agencies within Ventura County as it relates to the availability, acceptability, accessibility, adaptability, and affordability of senior transportation within Ventura County.

R-02: In cooperation with the VCTC and the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA), programs should be implemented that are designed to assist senior citizens with transportation within their cities and throughout the County.

Response:

Through county-wide collective ventures such as computer-aided dispatching software; Automated Vehicle Locators (AVL); and working groups such as the Transit Operators Advisory Committee, the Americans with Disabilities Act Intercity Committee, and the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee/Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee, Ventura County transit agencies work collaboratively with the VCTC and the VCAAA in the development of programs with the focus of addressing the transportation challenges faced by Ventura County seniors. Additionally, Senate Bill 716 requires all Ventura County transportation agencies to demonstrate improved coordination and collaboration of county-wide transportation no later than July 1, 2014. In May/June 2013, Ventura County senior transportation providers presented a conceptual plan to address this issue to their respective governing boards. As a result, the governing board of each senior transportation provider in Ventura County accepted a conceptual plan outlining its response to the fixed-route and Paratransit transportation needs of Ventura County residents, including senior citizens.

R-03: The Ventura County Board of Supervisors should allocate specific funding for senior transportation.

Response:

The VCTC and the VCAAA currently receive Federal and State funds, which allocate funds to Ventura County senior transportation agencies for the purpose of meeting the transportation needs of Ventura County senior citizens. As such, the City of Simi Valley is not opposed to the allocation of additional funding for senior transportation services.

R-04: The VCTC, working with the VCAAA, should standardize requirements of participation in the senior transportation programs. They should also publicize the availability of programs that fulfill the transportation needs of seniors.

Response:

While the VCTC has made several attempts to standardize participation in senior transportation programs among transportation service providers, this effort has not achieved the intended results. However, during discussions regarding SB 716, Ventura County transportation agencies have agreed to consider standardizing senior transportation program participation requirements.


R-05: The VCAAA should plan for increased staffing to accommodate a growing senior population.

Response:

Due to the anticipated growth in the senior population within Ventura County, it is practical for human services agencies and transportation service providers to initiate plans to address this issue.

The City Council considered the Grand Jury's report at its July 1, 2013 meeting and authorized this response. We appreciate the efforts of the Grand Jury in reviewing this matter and providing the City an opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,



Robert O. Huber  
Mayor

cc: Foreman, Ventura County Grand Jury  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
Interim Assistant City Manager, Government Affairs  
Acting Director, Community Services  
Deputy Director/Transit