

New Fares and Policies for Out-of-County Non-Emergency Medical Transportation and Medical Shopping Assistance Program

Due to increasing costs for fuel, maintenance, and operations, the San Benito County Local Transportation Authority (LTA) is proposing to change its fare structure and policy in order to continue operating its Specialized Transportation services. These services include the Out-of-County Non-Emergency Transportation Program (OOCMT) and the Medical-Shopping Assistance Program (MSAP) currently provided through partnership with Jovenes de Antaño.

OUT-OF-COUNTY NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

The Out-of-County Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (OOCMT) provides seniors and persons with disabilities transportation outside of the County for medical services that are not available in San Benito County. The current fare is a suggested donation up to \$20 depending on the distance traveled. If a client is unable to pay for transportation, the ride is not denied.

Below is the proposed zone-based fare structure for the OOCMT services. Clients that are unable to pay the fare will be denied the ride.

Zone	Miles from Hollister	Cities in Zone	One-Way Fare
1	0 - 15	Gilroy	\$2
2	16 - 30	Watsonville, Salinas, and Morgan Hill	\$3
3	31 - 45	Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Jose	\$4
4	45 - 65	Palo Alto	\$5

Table and Map of Proposed Zones for Out-of-County Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

MEDICAL-SHOPPING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Local Transportation Authority is also proposing to increase the fare for the Medical-Shopping Assistance Program (MSAP). MSAP provides transportation, escort, and minor transportation services to seniors and persons with disabilities for in-town medical appointments, grocery store, and pharmacy. The current one-way fare is \$1.00.

Why establishment and increase fares?

The LTA receives funding from the State of California and the Federal Transit Administration to operate its County Express and Specialized Transportation services. Fares received from those services are placed directly back into the system to pay for fuel, maintenance, and operations. However, funding at the state and federal levels has been decreasing over the past several years while cost and demand has increased. In order to maintain transit services, the LTA has proposed to establish a fare for its OOCMT service and increase the fare for its MSAP service.

**COMMENT
SUBMITTAL
DEADLINE:**

September 15, 2010

SUBMIT BY MAIL:

330 Tres Pinos Road,
Suite C7
Hollister, CA 92023

SUBMIT BY E-MAIL:

betty@sanbenitocog.org

SUBMIT BY FAX:

831.636.4160

SUBMIT BY VOICE:

831.637.7665

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION:**

831.637.7665

MEDICAL-SHOPPING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (continued)

There are three options being considered: (a) no increase, \$1.00 one-way, (b) 25¢ increase, \$1.25 one-way, or (c) 50¢ increase, \$1.50 one-way.

PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT AND COMPANION POLICY

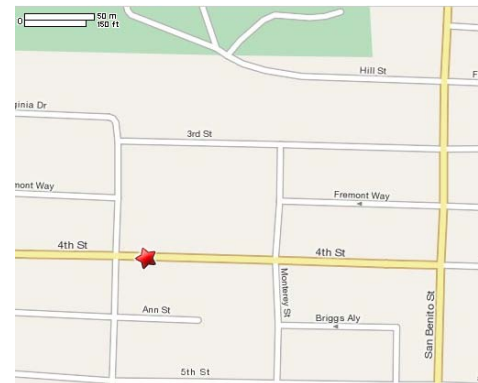
In addition to the fare changes, the Local Transportation Authority is also proposing to extend its Personal Care Attendant (PCA) and Companion Policy to the OOCMT and MSAP services. The PCA would not be charged a fare while accompanying a paying client. Companions would be charged the same fare as the client. If there are more than one PCA accompanying the client, only one attendant is eligible for a free fare. Additional PCA would be charged the companion fare. All PCA and companions must accompany the client to and from the same origin and destination in order to be eligible for the PCA and companion fares.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A public hearing has been scheduled to allow the public to comment on the proposed fare increases and policy at the following location, date and time:

Board of Supervisors Chambers
481 – 4th Street
Hollister, CA 95023

September 16, 2010 at
2:00 p.m.



If you are unable to attend the public hearing, comments may be submitted to the Local Transportation Authority by mail, e-mail, fax or by phone. All comments must be submitted by September 15, 2010 in order to be considered by Local Transportation Authority's Board of Directors.

TRANSPORTATION TO PUBLIC HEARING

Public transportation is available to and from the public hearing. Please call County Express at 831.636.4161 for schedules or visit their website at www.SanBenitoCountyExpress.org.