

August 27, 2003

Honorable Mayor and Members of
the Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular Meeting of
September 9, 2003

**PROPOSITION A TRANSPORTATION FUNDS – WAVE DIAL-A-RIDE;
RECREATION TRANSPORTATION; COMMUTER EXPRESS BUS; SENIORS
TAXI VOUCHERS; BUS PASS SUBSIDY AND RELATED COSTS**

Objective:

To provide information for the City Council to review the existing transportation program provided by the City through the use of Proposition A funds.

Background:

The City Council reviewed the WAVE Program and the proposal from the City of Redondo Beach to continue the WAVE Program as it now operates for a period of 18 months while revisions to the WAVE were studied and changes made in order to implement the changes. This is the first major review of the WAVE Program in over 10 years.

The City Council, at its meeting of June 10, 2003, approved a month-to-month extension of the WAVE Program in order for the City Council to review the program in more detail along with the other program funded with Proposition A monies. In addition, staff was directed to survey other nearby cities and review any Dial-a-Ride programs that are similar to the WAVE.

Proposition A Transportation Funds – This program of providing funding to cities is authorized by the ballot measure that added a ½ cent sales tax throughout Los Angeles County. The City of Hermosa Beach will receive \$311,090 in Proposition A funds for the 2003-04 fiscal year. A copy of the guidelines is attached that lists the authorized uses of Proposition A & C funds.

The following is a break down of the uses of Proposition A funds for the 2003-04 fiscal year.

WAVE Program	\$217,094*
Bus Pass Subsidy	1,200
Recreation Transportation	21,400
Commuter Express Bus	9,104
Taxi Vouchers	25,000
Admin & Staff	37,292
Total	\$311,090

*Actual cost that we will be invoiced will be less than the budgeted amount because of the sub-regional incentive and farebox receipts.
Based on the above budget, it is expected that we will have a balance of \$133,879 on 6/30/04 in Proposition A funds.

WAVE Dial-A-Ride Program

The City of Hermosa Beach and the City of Redondo Beach have operated the WAVE Program since 1985. The program operates as a general dial-a-ride program. This means that anyone can use the service. The operating hours are 6:00am to 11:00pm, 7 days a week. The cost is 50¢ each way. Seniors 62 and older may register for an ID card. The general public may use the WAVE for \$1.00 each way and \$1.50 to satellite locations, which include several health facilities, El Camino College and the Social Security Office in Torrance.

During the 2001-02 fiscal year, ridership for the WAVE totaled 67,279 riders, with Hermosa Beach ridership at 8,915. Riders that are picked up at satellite locations are counted as separate rides even though they may be returning to Hermosa Beach. This probably lowers the rides count by some amount.

The following is a ridership breakdown of the WAVE Program. The City of Redondo Beach has provided this information for the period of July through October of 2002 that shows the breakdown of the riders.

WAVE Ridership

Total Rides	5383	100%
Seniors	1655	30%
Students	1081	20%
General Public	2647	50%

This number includes the share of the returns from the designated locations outside of Hermosa Beach. The percentage used for this is our share of the program, which is calculated at 22.50%. This did not include shuttle activities for events.

The cost for the service is \$217,094, which will be reduced by the subregional allocation and the City's share of the farebox receipts. The subregional allocation will not be available unless the City is in a partnership such as the arrangement with Redondo Beach.

Taxi Vouchers

This program was started in the fall of 2002. This program is for persons 62 and older and disabled persons of any age. Proof of current Hermosa Beach residency is required. Vouchers cost \$1.00 each and up to a total of 20 vouchers per month. Residents must obtain either MTA ID card or Access Paratransit Card. Service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The cost for this service is \$25,000 for the 2003-04 fiscal year.

Recreation Transportation

This program provides the buses for recreation related transportation. Proposition A funds are used to cover the costs of the buses used to transport participants to various destinations.

An example of the programs offered include the summer camp program, Rose Bowl, Getty Museum, etc.

The cost for this service is \$21,400 for the 2003-04 fiscal year.

Commuter Express Bus

The City of Hermosa Beach has participated in this program since 1990. The most recent information from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation is an average ridership of 118 passengers per day on five runs in the morning and the evening. The cities of Manhattan Beach and Culver City also participate in the funding for the service. The cost for the passenger is \$1.75 per trip. A copy of the rate schedule is attached.

The cost for this service is \$9,104 for the 2003-04 fiscal year.

Bus Pass Subsidy

The City of Hermosa Beach has subsidized the cost of monthly bus passes since 1992-93 fiscal year. The senior/disabled pass costs a Hermosa Beach resident \$4.80. The City provides a $\$7.20 + \$4.80 = \$12.00$ monthly pass cost. The latest information we have is that we will sell about 60 senior passes in 2003-04 fiscal year. The bus pass subsidies are also available for high school students. It appears that we will sell between 10 to 20 this year. The City provides \$11.20 of the \$20 monthly high school student pass. The students pay \$8.80. The number of bus pass subsidy has declined quite a bit over the last 10 years. The highest level of participation was 92-93 at 765. Last year, 01-02, a total of 98.

The cost for the service is \$1,200 for the 2003-04 fiscal year.

The following is a review of programs from a policy standpoint with some options that the City Council may wish to consider. It is important to keep in mind that any changes in the services offered will require some time to provide notice to the users and time to implement any policy changes that the City Council is interested in.

Policy Option I:

Provide services to Seniors, Disabled and School rides. This would mean we would continue to offer the Bus Pass Subsidy, which generally only provides services to this group. The city would have to set up our own program probably using the taxi voucher system and a contractor for the after school rides to South Park and other locations. The after school rides might be handled by the school district and the city would reimburse the costs from Proposition A funds.

Under the above, alternative policy, the general public that is now using the WAVE, recreational transportation, event shuttle buses, and the commuter express would no longer be subsidized. This policy would also leave a balance in Proposition A of an estimated \$120,000 to \$150,000 per year depending on the cost of the services provided under this policy option. These funds could be exchanged or sold to other communities that would use the funds for a transit related purpose. The rate of exchanged for these funds is between 60% and 70% on the dollar. The exchanged funds could be spend for any municipal purpose.

Policy Option II:

Fund all of the present activities but change the mix of service providers. For example, the city could contract directly for a service like the WAVE and use the taxi voucher program together. This might still provide an opportunity for all those using the system now but at a lower cost. This approach would take some time for staff to develop and, depending on who is included, may or may not result in cost savings. This would also require a significant staff effort, which we now get as a result of the partnership with Redondo Beach as they act as the lead agency.

Policy Option III

This proposal is the program offered by Redondo Beach. Based on my conversations with the Transit Manager in Redondo Beach, an extension through December of 2004 is needed to complete the system review and development process. If the City Council chooses this option I would suggest that we play an active role in shaping the program to meet the needs of our residents. In some ways this service might become better if all three-beach cities would come together to run it. The idea of a shuttle or fixed route that connected Rivera Village, Downtown Hermosa and Manhattan Beach has been discussed for a number of years and maybe this would be the opportunity for it to be considered in some detail. The redesigned service may not result in cost savings, since the goal of the process is to use the funds to provide the best possible service to meet some of the transit needs of the residents of the two cities and perhaps others.

Recommendation

That the City Council review the material and provide direction to staff on any changes or adjustments that you would like to make in the use of the Proposition A funds. The public hearing should be continued to another date so that notice can be provided on any service level changes that the City Council may wish to consider.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Burrell
City Manager

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SURVEY OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY SOUTH BAY CITIES

El Segundo

Free service is available to all El Segundo Monday through Saturday – a 24-hour advance reservation is recommended.

Gardena & Hawthorne

Provides Dial-A-Ride – Residents are 60 and above/or disabled. Must register for service. Operates Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm, Saturday and Sunday, 9:00am to 5:00pm. Fare is 75¢ cash or 25¢ if purchase ticket from Community sites.

Lawndale Special Transit Dial-A-Ride

Provides Dial-A-Ride – Residents 60 and above/or disabled. Free of charge. Operates weekdays 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Lawndale also operates a general fixed route bus for residents. This service feeds into Metro Green Line Station and the Galleria Mall. This is operated Monday through Friday, 7:00am to 7:00pm, Saturday and Sunday, 8:00am to 6:00pm. Fare is 50¢, seniors free.

Lomita

Dial-A-Ride Taxi Voucher Program. Residents 65 and above/or disabled. Vouchers purchased at City Hall for \$1.00 per ride. Up to 20 per month.

Manhattan Beach

Dial-A-Ride – Curb to curb bus service. Residents 55 and above/or disabled. Operates 7 days a week from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Reservations made up to 72 hours in advance. Fare is 25¢ inside Manhattan Beach and 50¢ to satellite locations.

Palos Verdes

Dial-A-Ride service provided to registered peninsula residents aged 60 and above/or disabled. \$10.00 per year registration fee. Service provided by taxis \$4.00 each way on Palos Verdes Peninsula or \$8.00 each way off Palos Verdes Peninsula.

A fixed route system is also operated on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Fare is \$2.00 each way. Most routes end or begin at Peninsula Center.

Torrance

Senior ride program taxi system – Residents 65 and above and who has registered. Rides are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Rates are based on income level. Can go outside Torrance must pay regular then.

Torrance also operates a fixed route transit system and a dial-a-lift program.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Burrell
City Manager