


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom](#) (web)

[CEO Hotline](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/
Library](#)
[Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)

[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Retirement
Round-up](#)

Metro Info

[Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)

[Org Chart](#) (pdf)

[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

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Transit Hearings Set for Santa Clarita Valley, Antelope Valley

By RICK JAGER

Feb. 17, 2005) Metro will conduct public hearings in early March to receive ideas and suggestions for meeting public transportation needs in the Santa Clarita and Antelope valleys.

Two hearings will be held in Santa Clarita. The first is scheduled at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, at the Santa Clarita City Hall, Orchard Room, 23920 Valencia Blvd. The second is set at 6 p.m. that day in the same location.

A public hearing is scheduled in Palmdale at 10 a.m., Thursday, March 3, at the Palmdale Cultural Center, 38350 Palmdale Blvd.

The Lancaster public hearing is set for 10 a.m., Saturday, March 5, in the Lancaster City Council Chambers at 44933 North Fern Ave.

Sales tax revenue

Article 8 of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) stipulates that a proportional share of the sales tax revenue must be allocated to areas in Los Angeles County that do not have Metro service.

Article 8 applies to the approximately 5 percent of the county population that resides in the Santa Clarita Valley, Antelope Valley and on Santa Catalina Island.

TDA funds must be spent for public transit purposes when a legitimate need for transit service can be identified. However, if no "unmet transit needs" are found, the sales tax revenue may be used for street and road purposes.

Each year, the Metro holds public hearings in areas outside the agency's service area to determine if any unmet transit needs exist. Following the hearings, and after receiving input from the Hearing Board and Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, Metro decides whether there are unmet transit needs in the Santa Clarita Valley.