



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR REED

FROM: Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: May 23, 2012

Approved

Madison Nguyen

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: Senior Transportation

Amount of City Funding Required: \$283,065

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.) Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Personal Services

Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below: (Use as much space as required.)

Requested funds would affect services for San Jose residents particularly those that benefit from the City's Senior Nutrition program who do not have transportation to and from the senior nutrition sites. The reinstatement of the City's transportation service for seniors would ensure those that are most vulnerable have access to nutritious meals.

The Senior Nutrition Program, through a modified service delivery model, has continually provided high quality, cost efficient and nutritious meals to adults 60 years and older in Santa Clara County for decades. They currently offer congregate meals, five times a day at fourteen community centers throughout the City of San Jose, seven of which are classified as "highest need" sites.

This year, the City Manager's proposed budget continues two Recreation Specialist positions for the Gardner and Alma Community Centers. The proposal also allocates \$200,000 for senior services and permanently reallocates \$400,000 from the Healthy Neighborhood Venture Fund to support wellness services such as case management, health screenings, in-home assistance, and multicultural services that provide targeted services to vulnerable and at-risk seniors. Support services such as senior wellness programs are needed to ensure that older adults, especially vulnerable and at-risk seniors, live balanced and vibrant lives.

While all of the aforementioned programs have certainly helped improve the lives of our seniors, attendance and participation numbers have continually declined primarily due to the lack of transportation to get them to and from the senior centers. Transportation is often ranked by seniors as one of the highest needs, since it enables them to access other programs such as nutrition, health and wellness, medical and social service appointments, and more. In the 2012 Santa Clara County Seniors Agenda: A Quality of Life Assessment, transportation and affordable housing were among the seniors' top priorities.

Up until fall 2011, the City of San Jose provided complimentary transportation to seniors, particular those that reside and attend nutrition programs at the City's "highest need" sites. These sites have been located at the following centers: Alma, Seven Trees, Gardner, Cypress, Southside, Willow Glen and Mayfair. The seniors who participate in programs at these sites are among the most vulnerable members of our population, often relying on these centers for their only meal of the day.

Data collected by PRNS staff mentioned that 100 seniors were using the City van service as their means of transportation to get to and from the various community centers until the service was eliminated in 2011. Staff has been working to provide alternative forms of transportation for seniors by establishing partnerships with VTA and Outreach. However, these measures haven't been effective and the numbers of seniors participating in the nutrition program have continually declined.

Given the high costs associated with the restoration of the City's van service, there are several options to fund senior transportation services for the seven highest needs sites:

- \$283,065 – part-time with benefits, Recreation Van Driver would work 5 days a week, 6 hours a day. Under this model, the driver would be able to pick up a maximum of 25 senior passengers at 7 sites, depending on the need per day. This model anticipates serving 175 participants.
- \$165,725 – part-time, without benefits Recreation Van Driver would work 5 days a week, 4 hours a day. Under this model, the driver would be able to pick up only a maximum of 10 senior passengers at 7 sites, depending on the need per day. This model anticipates serving 70 participants.

This request is intended to retain the flexibility to access one time funds for the reinstatement of City's senior transportation service for the seven highest needs senior centers in conjunction with senior nutrition.

Funding Source

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Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below: (Use as much space as required.)

Requested funds would affect services for the City's senior nutrition sites by allocating additional one time revenue to support senior transportation to vulnerable and at-risk seniors, located in the highest needs centers.

Department or Organization: Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Department or Organization Contact (Please list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation.)

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This change is:

One-time Ongoing

The City Service Area to which the change best relates:

- Community and Economic Development Services
- Environmental and Utility Services
- Neighborhood Services
- Public Safety
- Strategic Support
- Transportation and Aviation Services