



Tahoe's Smooth Movin' Shuttle!

South Tahoe Area Transit Authority – 128 Market Street, Suite 3-F, Stateline, NV, 89449

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# NEWS RELEASE

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For Release Immediately

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## BLUEGO SERVICE CHANGES PROPOSED DUE TO ELIMINATION OF STATE TRANSIT ASSISTANCE FUNDING BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Lake Tahoe, Stateline, NV** – A series of public workshops and public hearings has been scheduled during this month and next to discuss BlueGO service reductions necessary because of California state budget cuts...

The state of California budget adopted on February 19, 2009 eliminated the State Transit Assistance Fund for the next five years. This means an important funding source is lost, leaving transit agencies statewide to reduce service.

The South Tahoe Area Transit Authority (STATA) will lose \$180,000 from its operating budget this year and \$330,000 next fiscal year and beyond because of the cut.

While STATA will still receive capital dollars from the federal government to purchase badly needed buses, the state's elimination of operating dollars has forced STATA to consider reducing services or raising fares or a combination of the two.

The slow economy also has negatively affected STATA since about 32 percent of the STATA operating budget relies on sales tax revenue. Revenue from Transportation Development Act this year is expected to drop \$100,000 below 2008 levels.

Because STATA faces a shortfall of up to \$400,000 for the next fiscal year, service reductions have been proposed that would affect BlueGO riders throughout the Lake Tahoe South Shore.

The public workshops and hearings are designed to inform the public about the state's budget crisis and how it may impact STATA services. STATA employees will talk to riders and get input about the potential service reductions. Following is the public workshop schedule; riders will also be able to submit comments at the public hearings.

**Public Workshops** will be held on: **Thursday April 16, 2009** at the South Y Transit Station from 3 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and **Friday, April 17, 2009** from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Stateline Transit Center.

**Public Hearings** will be held at the South Tahoe Area Transit Authority Board of Directors meeting at 10 a.m. **Friday, May 15, 2009**, 128 Market Street, Stateline, NV

89449 and at the City of South Lake Tahoe City Council Meeting 9 a.m. **Tuesday, May 19, 2009**, located at 1901 Airport Road, South Lake Tahoe, CA, 96150. Both meeting locations are accessible by BlueGO and BlueGO OnCall. Call (530) 541-7149 for route and schedule information.

The proposed service changes include the reduction of some late night neighborhood shuttles, shortening of routes, interlining Routes 40 and 51 during the midday hours, and the elimination of Route 41X to Meyers due to extreme low ridership.

For a full listing of proposed service and to see where the public workshops will be held, please visit [www.bluego.org](http://www.bluego.org) or call (775) 589-5284.

BlueGO is a service of the South Tahoe Area Transit Authority which consists of members representing the City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, Douglas County, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Harrah's, Harveys, Lakeside Inn, MontBleu, Horizon and Heavenly Mountain Resort. Collectively, these partner agencies provide a coordinated transit system to reduce vehicle miles traveled on the south shore of Lake Tahoe and to improve the quality of life through the implementation and management of innovative transit solutions.

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