

**COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
ANNOTATED AGENDA**

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2006

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Council of Fresno County Governments
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

COFCG Sitting As the Transportation Policy Committee

I. PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Board on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the Board on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.**

B. Presentation Item – Proposition 87

Summary: Proposition 87 advocates have been appearing before various entities (including COGs) in an effort to inform jurisdictions about their ballot measure. They requested a position from CALCOG, the statewide association of COGs, but it was referred out to each individual member COG instead. They will be asking for a support position. The Policy Board will have the option of action, if they desire. Our e-mail query of other COGs in the State so far has shown that most are staying neutral on this proposition.

We have included in your package the actual ballot language on Proposition 87, and a brief summary of the Legislative Analyst's Estimate on State and Local Fiscal Impacts. A more detailed analysis from the Legislative Analyst is available at our office, including ballot arguments for and against.

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

II. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken.

A. 2006-07 Transportation Funding Claims

1. City of Kerman, Resolution 2006-33
2. City of Orange Cove, Resolution 2006-34
3. City of Parlier, Resolution 2006-35

Summary: The following cities have submitted their 2006/07 Transportation Development Act Claims. The amounts claimed for Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds are:

Jurisdiction:	LTF Fund:	STA Fund:	Total Funds:
City of Kerman	\$ 397,916	\$ 52,923	\$ 450,839
City of Orange Cove	303,610	41,225	344,835
City of Parlier	406,167	55,394	461,561
Total Claims this Month	\$1,107,693	\$149,542	\$ 1,257,235

Staff has reviewed the claims and found the amounts consistent with apportionments previously approved by the Board. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend approval of the funding claims by adopting Resolutions 2006-33, 2006-34, and 2006-35

B. 2005-06 Transportation Development Act Surplus Distribution

Summary: The Transportation Development Act Trust received Local Transportation Fund (LTF) sales tax deposits of \$30,813,088 and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds of \$2,765,819 during 2005/06 resulting in a surplus of \$3,649,550. It has been long standing Board policy to distribute surplus funds to claimant member agencies to use for contingency projects included on their 2005/06 adopted claims. [BESHEARS]

Transportation Development Act 2005/06 Surplus LTF

Clovis	355,307
Coalinga	70,544
Firebaugh	27,837
Fowler	19,545
Fresno City	1,919,587
Huron	28,970
Kerman	47,325
Kingsburg	46,412
Mendota	36,101
Orange Cove	38,397
Parlier	52,500
Reedley	93,352
Sanger	91,303
San Joaquin	14,964
Selma	92,579
Fresno County	<u>714,827</u>
Total	3,649,550

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend approval of the surplus as shown for distribution to members.

C. State Transit Assistance Increased Funding

Summary: On June 20, 2006 the Governor signed into law the 2006/07 State Budget. Included in the budget was an unprecedented 268 percent increase in State Transit Assistance (STA) above the original estimate issued by the State Controllers Office in January. This makes available an additional \$5,477,905 to local transit operators. The California Transit Association's guidance suggests that from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of this increase should be considered "one time" therefore future State Transit Assistance amounts could be roughly two times larger than previously. In addition, the legislative loophole allowing the Legislature to transfer these funds to other purposes still exists for future years.

State Transit Funding can only be used for Transit. The three Fresno County Transit operators eligible to receive this funding have been notified. [BESHEARS]

Clovis Public Transit	\$ 479,254
FAX	3,165,886
FCRTA	<u>1,832,805</u>
Total	5,477,905

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

D. Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants – Call for Applications

Summary: The California Department of Transportation invites applications for its fiscal year 2007-08 Transportation Planning Grant programs. The funds available for the six grant programs identified in your package enclosure may be used for a wide range of transportation projects. **Applications are due on October 13, 2006.** Access an electronic version of the grant application at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants.htm> [STECK]

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

E. Report on Roundabout Conference

Summary: Roundabout concepts were discussed at a recent conference presented by Kittelson & Associates, Inc. in Visalia. The enclosure for this agenda item provides summary information regarding roundabouts including whom to contact for additional information. In addition, FHWA has published a comprehensive guide called Roundabouts: An Informational Guide (FHWA-RD-00-067) that can be ordered at report.center@fhwa.dot.gov or visit <http://www.tfhr.gov/safety/00068.htm>.

A roundabout is a one-way, circular intersection in which traffic flows around a center island. Roundabouts are designed to meet the needs of all road users—drivers, pedestrians, pedestrians with disabilities, and bicyclists. Roundabouts are characterized by yield control of entering traffic, channelized approaches that deflect traffic into the proper one-way counterclockwise flow, and geometric curvature of the circular road and angles of entry to slow the speed of vehicles. Along with slower speeds, a roundabout eliminates some of the conflicting traffic, such as left turns, which cause crashes at traditional intersections. Because roundabout traffic enters or exits only through right turns, the occurrence of severe crashes is substantially reduced. To summarize, roundabouts result in reduced speed, reduced conflict points, and reduced driver decisions, all of which contribute to greater safety.

While improved safety is the primary benefit of roundabouts, they also result in less vehicle delay because traffic doesn't stop. And from an aesthetic standpoint, it may be impossible to find an attractive traffic signal, while roundabouts can be quite attractively landscaped. There seems to be a growing sense that roundabouts have a place in a comprehensive traffic demand strategy. [THOMPSON]

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

F. Needs Assessment of California's Local Streets and Roads

Summary: As has been discussed in great detail previously, California's transportation system is in critical need of additional investment, whether to address traffic congestion, maintenance, transit needs or vehicle alternatives, such as bicycle and pedestrian travel, the unmet needs are staggering. Of particular concern are the unmet funding needs for "local streets and roads" which together represent approximately 82% of the state's maintained miles.

With this in mind, a coalition consisting of the League of California Cities (League), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs), the California Councils of Governments (COGs) and the California Rural Counties Task Force are in the process of jointly hiring a consultant to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the pavement needs of local streets and roads for all cities and counties including maintenance and rehabilitation throughout California. In addition, as part of a longer term strategy, the coalition will also be looking to develop a more comprehensive assessment, which would include non-pavement needs (i.e. drainage facilities, sidewalks, medians, guardrails, traffic signals, signing and striping, curbs and gutters and curb ramps). In addition to the intrinsic value that the inventory would have for cities/counties/RTPAs, ultimately the data gathered for this report would be used to lobby the California legislature for a "dedicated" source of state funding for local street and road needs.

At this point in the process, the coalition is looking for input on what the Needs Assessment Survey should include. Included as an attachment is a CSAC/League memo providing greater detail on the survey background as well as goals, objectives and respective roles and responsibilities for each of the survey participants. Identified below are timelines associated with the project. Please contact Fresno COG staff member Tony Boren with your survey input as he is a designated RTPA representative on the Local Needs Assessment Task Force Steering Committee. [BOREN]

Local Needs Assessment Survey Timelines

1. August-October 2006: CSAC/League secure a consultant to develop the survey form; all partners review and approve the draft survey form.
2. November 2006: Distribute Survey Forms to all cities and counties.
3. November 2006-March 2007: Cities and counties complete the survey and return.
4. April-June 2007: CSAC/League consultant compiles the survey data and produces a draft report.
5. July 2007: All partners review and provide comments to the draft report.
6. August-September 2007: Complete Final report for distribution.

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

G. Role of SR 180 in Providing Aggregate to Meet Anticipated Statewide Increase in Demand

Summary: In an effort to heighten the awareness of the role that State Route 180 East might play in providing much needed aggregate (sand, gravel & rock) statewide, Barbara Goodwin, COG Executive Director has written a letter (copy included in your agenda packet) to the California Transportation Commission Chairperson, Marian Bergeson, with copies to the Governor and State Legislature detailing the benefits that State Route 180 East could provide with regards to making aggregate available. [BOREN]

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. New Fresno COG Website Kick-Off

Summary: The Fresno COG has begun beta (final) testing of an extensive redesign of its website. Now in testing, the new website has been built with the following objectives in mind:

- Begin transitioning the COG in the direction of a 'paperless' work environment,
- Facilitate the communication between committees, committee members, Fresno COG staff, and the public,
- Reduce Fresno COG administrative costs,
- and more.

Todd Sobrado will be giving a brief demonstration of the new website. For additional information and questions, please call Todd Sobrado at 559.233.4148 or email at todds@fresnocog.org.
[SOBRADO]

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

B. High Speed Rail Authority Board Vacancies

Summary: There are currently several vacancies on the nine-member High-Speed Rail Authority Board. Of the five vacancies, four are to be appointed by the Governor and one by the State Assembly. While these vacancies do exist, Board members remain on the Board, even after their terms have expired, until such time as they are either reappointed or someone new is appointed to fill their seat. Currently four of the five vacancies are filled with termed-out members. Fran Florez, a resident of Shafter in Kern County and mother of Senator Dean Florez, is the only member on the Authority Board from the San Joaquin Valley. Her term does not expire until December 2008.

In October of 2002, the Fresno COG Policy Board sent a letter to the Governor requesting that he strongly consider making additional appointments to the Authority Board from the San Joaquin Valley. The Policy Board indicated at that time its desire to have adequate representation from the San Joaquin Valley. Subsequently, in January of 2003, the COG Policy Board recommended that John Welty, Ed Graveline, James Hallowell, and Dan Whitehurst be specifically considered to fill one or more of the three vacancies existing on the Authority Board at that time.

Both Carrie Pourvahidi, Deputy Director of the Authority and Julie Benevedes-Menzes, District Director for Governor Schwarzenegger, have indicated it would again be appropriate to recommend individuals from Fresno County to serve on the High-Speed Rail Authority Board. Of the four individuals mentioned above, Ed Graveline and Dan Whitehurst indicate they would be interested, James Hallowell indicates he would not, and John Welty has not as yet responded to staff inquiry. In addition, Jeff Reid has indicated he would be interested in representing the region on the Authority Board and would like to be considered for recommendation. Background information related to Mr. Reid's government and civic activities is enclosed. The COG Board may also wish to consider additional or alternate names at this time. [THOMPSON]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend the Board submit recommendations for one or more individuals to be considered by the Governor and the State Assembly for appointment to the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board.

C. Measure "C" Update

Summary: Following approval of the 2006 Measure "C" Extension Expenditure Plan by the COG Policy Board at its June 22, 2006 meeting, COG staff began the process of obtaining approval of the Measure "C" Extension Expenditure Plan by each of its member agencies. This process was completed on July 18, 2006 when the Fresno County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to support the proposed 2006 Expenditure Plan. On July 19, 2006 the Fresno County Transportation Authority also voted unanimously to approve the proposed Expenditure Plan and made a formal request to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, asking them to place the Expenditure Plan on the November 2006 ballot. Following this request, at its July 25, 2006 meeting, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to place the 2006 Measure "C" Reauthorization Expenditure Plan on the November 2006 ballot.

At this point in the process, Fresno COG staff is working with its member agencies and various community groups in a continuing public education effort regarding Measure "C". The advocacy effort or campaign for Measure "C" is being led by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce.
[BOREN]

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

D. Caltrans Monthly Report

Summary: Caltrans staff will provide an update on Caltrans activities. [CALTRANS]

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

1. Transportation Concept Report for SR 43 within Fresno County

Summary: Caltrans staff will be present to discuss the Draft Transportation Concept Report for State Route 43. The document is included in your agenda packet. Color copies are available on the Caltrans website at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist6/planning/tcrs/index.htm>

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

2. State Route 180 West Route Adoption Study Status Report

Summary: Bob Hull, Project Manager for the State Route 180 West Route Adoption Study, will be present to provide a status report on the Route Adoption Study.

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

COFCG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments

IV. REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

V. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Board or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Board concerning the item before action is taken.

A. Executive Minutes of July 20, 2006

B. 2005-06 Fourth Quarter Progress Report

Summary: Included in your agenda package is the Fourth Quarter Progress Report for FY 2005-06. This is a detailed listing of work performed and funding disbursed in each work element. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend acceptance of the Fourth Quarter Progress Report for FY 2005-06.

C. Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan

Summary: Fresno COG staff has once again begun the process of preparing a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) plan for Fresno County. Councils of government, such as the Fresno COG, are required to prepare RHNA plans that determine housing allocations for each city and the county, including consideration of the housing needs of all income levels. Furthermore,

consideration of the housing needs of all income levels and subsequent allocations must seek to reduce the concentration of lower income households in cities or counties that are impacted by disproportionately high levels of lower-income households. The allocations included in the Final RHNA plan are then addressed in the individual jurisdictional housing elements. The 7½ year RHNA planning period extends from January 1, 2006 to June 30, 2013.

Staff has formed a committee to assist with the development of this plan. The committee is comprised of representatives of local agencies and individuals with nonprofit organizations with an interest and expertise in housing. The first meeting of the committee is Wednesday, October 4 from 1:30 to 3:30. Representatives from the State Department of Housing and Community Development will be present and agenda items include a review of RHNA Plan objectives, the methodology used in preparing previous RHNA Plans, changes to the RHNA Plan process caused by changes in statute, the RHNA Plan schedule, and other issues.

Please notify COG staffperson Clark Thompson if you or a member of your staff would like to participate on the committee. The committee will likely meet not more than a half dozen times over the next nine months. In any case, staff will regularly report to the PAC and Board on the progress of the RHNA Plan and any recommendations of the committee. [THOMPSON]

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

D. Monthly Legislative Update

Summary: An enclosed summary of current state and federal legislative activity is in your agenda packet for committee review and information. The attached summary reflects legislation that is currently active and detailing various aspects of transportation.

Please contact staff person Renée DeVere if you have any questions regarding the listed bills, or if you require a more in-depth analysis of any particular bill. [DEVERE]

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Valley COG Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Appointments

Summary: As a result of proposed (then withheld) legislation earlier this year, consensus was reached that the current Memorandum of Understanding between the eight Valley COGs needed to be revisited and modified. The purpose is to establish a Policy Council of elected officials and to develop a process and framework for establishing formal San Joaquin Valley positions on issues where valleywide consensus exists. A copy of the draft Memorandum of Understanding is included in the package. The draft was circulated in July through all the eight valley COGs, and the intent is to formalize the agreement in September, including Board appointments to the Regional Policy Council.

This schedule allows the new Policy Council to meet for the first time at the Valley COG's October 4-6, 2006 Policy Conference in Bakersfield. [GOODWIN]

Action: 1) Approve the Memorandum of Understanding of the Regional Planning Agencies in the San Joaquin Valley, and authorize the Executive Director and Board Chairman to execute the agreement. 2) Appoint two members and an alternate from the COG Policy Board to serve on the Valley COG Regional Policy Council. The initial meeting will occur in Bakersfield, on Friday, October 6th, from 10:45 to noon, with a lunch to follow. The appointed members are encouraged to attend Thursday, October 5th (all day) and 6th events as well.

B. October 4-6th Valley COG Conference in Bakersfield

Summary: Included in your agenda package is the San Joaquin Valley COG's Regional Issues Conference agenda for October 4th through 6th. The October 4th events are actually Kern's Transportation Forum, much like the forum we will host on September 28th here in Fresno, and the Executive Directors' meeting. The Issues Conference will primarily take place on Thursday the 5th and Friday, the 6th. We would encourage member agencies to participate in this valleywide conference. [GOODWIN]

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

C. 2006 Transportation Forum – September 28, 2006 --Report

Summary: Fresno COG, in partnership with the Economic Development Corporation serving Fresno County and the Regional Jobs Initiative, is pleased to announce the 2006 Fresno COG Transportation Forum and Transportation Achievement Awards. The half-day forum is scheduled September 28, 2006 at the Radisson Hotel in Downtown Fresno from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The theme of this year's program is *Transportation Infrastructure = Economic Development è Jobs*. Forum speakers will present in detail how state and local infrastructure affects the economic vitality of our community. Discussions on the State's infrastructure needs, its current funding shortfalls and proposed transportation bonds, will set the stage for presentations on Fresno County's regional transportation needs, both urban and rural, and financing strategies available to implement proposed projects. Assemblymember Juan Arambula will provide the introduction. Other speakers include Randell H. Iwasaki, Chief Deputy Director, Caltrans; Tony Boren, COG Deputy Director; Measure "C" Steering Committee Co-Chairs Lynne Ashbeck, Clovis City Councilmember, Mary Savala, League of Women Voters and Mayor Pro Tem Trinidad Rodriguez, COG Board Chair; Dave Spaur, CEO of the Economic Development Corporation, and Ashley Swearengin, COO of the Regional Jobs Initiative. Transportation Award recipients are:

The Terry O. Cooper Memorial Award for Outstanding Individual

Nicholas D. Paladino, Bicycling Advocate

Outstanding Project or Program for a Rural Area

"Public Transportation Infrastructure Study"

Outstanding Project or Program for the Urban Area (FCMA)

"FAX Frequent 15"

Honorable Mention in this category will be presented to:

"Introduction of International Passenger Service to the Region"

The Forum invitation is included in your package. [STECK]

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

D. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint - Update

Summary: The Blueprint planning process is moving into high gear as we begin the intensive community outreach outlined for Phase I. Working with our consultant, VRPA Technologies, we will be conducting approximately 40 presentations and five workshops in an effort to determine the vision and values of community members as they contemplate growth and quality of life issues to the year 2050. During this outreach phase, COG staff will be scheduling presentations to all member agency City Councils and the Board of Supervisors to provide a Blueprint status report. Future phases will

address goals, objectives and measurable outcomes as well as development of alternative growth scenarios. The Blueprint Roundtable has been formed to monitor the planning process and make recommendations on project deliverables as we move forward. The members of the Roundtable (see enclosed roster) held their first meeting on August 23rd and elected Kirk Hunter, Chair and Nathan Magsig, Co-chair. The committee has recommended approval of the enclosed outreach plan and schedule, the proposed Phase I approach and the stakeholder list, understanding that the stakeholder list is a work in progress and will be amended as we receive requests for additional outreach. [STECK]

Action: Staff, TTC, PAC and the Blueprint Roundtable recommend approval of the Blueprint outreach plan and schedule, Phase I outreach approach and the stakeholder list (with the understanding that the stakeholder list is a work in progress and will be amended as we receive requests for additional outreach).

E. 2007 Washington D.C. One Voice - Call for Projects

Summary: It is again time to begin the process of planning for our annual "One Voice" trip back to Washington DC where we will present a list of priorities for our region. Our trips over the past four years have been quite fruitful as can be seen in the *Fresno COG "One Voice" 2006 Summary and 2007 Recommendations*.

The 2007 "One Voice" trip will take place February 10-15, 2007. In preparation, we have been in communication with our D.C. lobbyist, Simon & Company, to discuss their recommendations for project selection criteria. As noted in their memo, they are suggesting that we limit the number of projects to three and that we remain in the \$2 to \$5 million maximum range for each. In addition, we need to solicit information on policy issues and regulatory reform that our member agencies and community partners may be concerned with so that we can raise those issues with our Washington delegation and their staff. We have mailed the call for projects, with proposals due on September 29th. (The information is also available on our website at www.fresnocog.org under "One Voice".) We will schedule a task force meeting on October 25th to review project proposals and prepare to make recommendations to the Policy Board. A follow-up meeting may be scheduled after November 7th, contingent upon the results of the election. [STECK]

Action: Information item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

F. San Joaquin Valley Partnership – Update – Strategic Action Plan

Summary: The San Joaquin Valley Partnership is in the process of finalizing its initial work under the Governor's Executive Order, with a report due to the Governor by November 1. The Partnership meets in Bakersfield on September 14th and 15th, to formally initiate review of its Strategic Action Proposal. A copy of the draft that was considered at that meeting is included in your package. Ashley Swearingen, who has helped staff the Partnership through her CSUF office, is scheduled to present the Strategic Action Proposal to the COG Policy Board. The Partnership will be looking for support in concept from the COG Board on its Proposal.

At the Transportation Technical Committee, the following two comments were made under Recommendation #3, Implement an Integrated Framework for Sustainable Growth, under Strategic Actions. 1) Since **surface** storage versus underground storage has been such an issue in the Valley, perhaps using **water storage** would be a better fit for this recommended action. 2) The subject of Water Reuse, which could be of great potential, is not mentioned. Source: John Wright, Planning Director, City of Clovis [GOODWIN]

Action: Take a formal position of support in concept of the Strategic Action Plan.

G. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting, Inc.

Summary: California Consulting staff will provide an update to the Policy Board. [SAMUELIAN]

Action: Information/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

H. Thank You Letter to Secretary McPeak re: Partnership

Summary: Staff already sent a personalized thank you note to Secretary McPeak for her active role on the San Joaquin Valley Partnership, and also for the dedication shown by her in attending most of the meetings in June when Fresno COG led the lobbying effort to restore \$5 million to the Partnership for this next year. An additional thank you letter is included in your agenda packet, with the thought that it will carry great meaning if we get all members of the Fresno COG Policy Board sign the letter. [GOODWIN]

Action: Staff requests the COG Policy Board sign a thank you letter to Secretary McPeak.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Items from Staff
- B. Items from Members

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Executive Director
- B. Possible Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code Section 54957.6)
Agency Negotiator (Board Member, to be chosen by COG Policy Board);
Unrepresented Employee: Executive Director

IX. OPEN SESSION

- A. Discussion & Approval of Amendment to Executive Director Employment Contract

*Items listed as Information still leave the option for guidance/direction actions by the Board.