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TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2006
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations

The Fresno COG offices and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact Fresno COG at (559) 233-4148, at least 3 days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the public meeting / public hearing. If Fresno COG is unable to accommodate an auxiliary aid or translation request for a public hearing, after receiving proper notice, the hearing will be continued on a specified date when accommodations are available.

Item	Description	Enclosure	Action*
I.	PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the TTC on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. Note: Prior to action by the TTC on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.		
II.	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. Executive Minutes of September 9, 2006	Yes	Approve
	B. 2006-07 Transportation Funding Claim - County of Fresno, Resolution 2006- 37	Yes	Approve
	C. Selection of Consultant to Conduct the Fresno-Madera County Freeway Interchange Deficiency Study Phase II	No	Approve
	D. Why Your Community Needs Its Airport	Yes	Information
	E. Bicycle Transportation Account – Call for Projects	No	Information
	F. Caltrans Partnership Planning Applications	No	Information
	1. Tolling & Pricing		
	2. Eastside Cities		
	G. Safe Routes to School – Call for Projects	No	Information
	H. Regulation VIII Compliance Bulletin	Yes	Information
	I. Monthly Legislative Update	Yes	Information
III.	ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS		
	A. Formal Amendment No. 1 to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution 2006-38, PUBLIC HEARING: 10-26-06	Yes	Approve
	B. Fresno County Request to Form a Greenbelt Buffer Task Force	Yes	Approve

Member Agencies: The cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma & Fresno County

C. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint, Resolution 2006-36	Yes	Approve
D. 2007 Washington D.C. One Voice	No	Info/Discussion
E. California Consulting Contract	Yes	Info/Action
F. Reasonable Available Control Measures (RACM) Discussion	No	Info/Discussion
G. Measure "C" Update	No	Info/Discussion
H. TRIP Report – Rough Ride in the City	Yes	Information
I. State Route 180 West Adoption Study – Continued Discussion	No	Info/Discussion
J. Caltrans Monthly Report	No	Info/Discussion

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

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

*Items listed as information still leave the option for guidance/direction actions by the Committee.



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TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2006
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Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

I. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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

II. 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. Executive Minutes of September 9, 2006

B. 2006-07 Transportation Funding Claim - County of Fresno, Resolution 2006- 37

Summary: The county has submitted their 2006/07 Transportation Development Act Claim. The amounts claimed for Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds are:

Jurisdiction:	LTF Fund:	STA Fund:	Total Funds:
County of Fresno	\$ 5,465,711	\$1,674,962	\$7,140,673

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

Action: Staff recommends approval of the funding claims by adopting Resolution 2006-37.

C. Selection of Consultant to Conduct the Fresno-Madera County Freeway Interchange Deficiency Study Phase II

Summary: This is the second phase of a Caltrans Partnership Planning grant to undertake a Freeway Interchange Deficiency Study in Fresno and Madera counties. The Phase II study will build on and extend the work in Phase I, by considering additional interchanges including freeway-to-freeway interchanges.

The purpose of this study is to analyze and evaluate anticipated development activity in the metropolitan area and its effects on the performance of the interchanges of the planned freeway system. Deficiencies will be identified and necessary improvements to provide adequate levels of service will be recommended. These recommendations will be used for future planning

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exercises in the metropolitan area, and may be used as the basis to develop a development impact fee system by local jurisdictions.

Fresno COG is the lead agency for this project with the Madera Transportation Commission, Madera County, the City of Madera, Fresno County, the City of Fresno and the City of Clovis as participants.

A Steering Committee comprised of staff from the participating Agencies and Caltrans, has been formed to oversee the Interchange Deficiency Study. The project is funded by a State Planning and Research Grant with \$240,000 available for this project.

In early June, Fresno COG mailed a Request for Proposals (RFP) to approximately 20 different consulting firms. In response, our staff received proposals from Fehr and Peers Transportation Consultants and TJKM Transportation Consultants.

Consulting Firm	Proposed Cost
Fehr and Peers	\$240,000
TJKM	\$239,985

The selection committee met on September 27th to evaluate the proposals and recommended the selection of Fehr and Peers Transportation Consultants to perform Phase II of this study. The committee determined that Fehr and Peers has the most direct relevant experience and had defined a scope of work and methodology which would best address the needs of the study area. The committee is confident that Fehr and Peers will perform the tasks as outlined in the RFP and that the consultant's proposal costs are reasonable and within the contract's original budgeted amount. [BITNER]

Action: Staff recommends the hiring of the consulting firm, Fehr and Peers Transportation Consultants, to perform Phase II of the Fresno-Madera County Freeway Interchange Deficiency Study and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with said firm.

D. Why Your Community Needs Its Airport

Summary: Enclosed for your information is an article titled "Why Your Community Needs Its Airport (Because once it's gone it's gone it's gone forever)." This article describes the growing pressures faced by airports from real estate interests in order to gain land for new housing, commercial and office development. The article notes that many local governments are infatuated by the prospect of additional tax revenues from development while losing sight of the long-term value of the airport. Business doesn't come calling in a Greyhound bus today – it arrives in a business jet. The article concludes by suggesting that one mile of asphalt on a road takes you one mile, while a mile of runway will take you anywhere in the world. [THOMPSON]

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

E. Bicycle Transportation Account – Call for Projects

Summary: The schedule for the 2007/2008 Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) cycle has been announced. Applications are due in the Caltrans District 6 Local Assistance Office by December 1, 2006. The BTA funds local agency projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters. Local agencies must have an approved Bicycle Transportation Plan to participate in the BTA program. Cities and counties are the eligible applicants. BTA guidelines, application forms and contact information are available on the Department of Transportation, Division of Local Assistance website at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/bta/btaweb%20page.htm>

\$5 million will be available for the fiscal year 2007/08 cycle. No applicant shall receive more than 25 percent of the total amount transferred to the BTA in a single fiscal year; therefore, the maximum amount an applicant may receive is \$1,250,000. BTA funds pay a maximum of 90 percent of the total cost of an eligible project. Local agencies must provide a minimum of 10 percent of the total project cost from sources other than the BTA. Tom Glaski is the District 6 Local Assistance Engineer who can best answer questions regarding the BTA. He can be reached at (559) 445-5834. [THOMPSON]

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

F. Caltrans Partnership Planning Applications

Summary:

1. Tolling and Pricing

In March 2006, Fresno COG staff submitted an application for grant funding through the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Value Pricing Pilot Program. The grant funding would be used to identify and develop feasible, innovative road pricing projects to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution linked to increases in traffic in and through the San Joaquin Valley. Due to federal delays, grant awards are not expected until October 2006. However, Fresno COG staff will also be submitting a modified application (due to the difference in available funds) for a Partnership Planning Transportation Grant through Caltrans. Staff continues to pursue available options for completion of this study. [PAUKOVITS]

2. Eastside Cities – Subregional Transportation Planning

Fresno COG intends to submit an application for funding under the Caltrans Partnership Planning Program to evaluate the existing and planned major street and highway system in southeast Fresno County and northern Tulare County and propose changes where warranted. In addition, the study will evaluate and present recommendations for a realigned SR 43 in the vicinity of Selma including a new interchange with SR 99 at approximately the Dinuba Avenue alignment. Jurisdictions involved in the study include the counties of Fresno and Tulare, the Fresno County cities of Fowler, Selma, Kingsburg, Sanger, Parlier, Reedley and Orange Cove, and the Tulare County city of Dinuba.

The existing and planned major street and highway system within the study area is likely to be affected by two major trends. The first trend is the evolving development pattern of the cities within the area due to the substantial population growth that has occurred. Projected strong population growth and the desire of each community for economic development indicate that these development patterns will continue to evolve. The second trend is the land use and transportation changes occurring outside the study area that will impact the transportation system within the study area. For example, improvements to SR 180 east of the Fresno Clovis Metropolitan Area may result in a change of travel patterns within the study area. [THOMPSON]

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

G. Safe Routes to School Program-Call for Projects

Summary: Authorized in Section 1404 in SAFETEA- LU, this new federal funding program provides \$612 mil. nationwide to: (1.) enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; (2.) make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and (3.) facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and

activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

California can expect to receive a total of \$68 Mil. in federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funds over the course of five years. The first call for projects is scheduled for October 2006. It is anticipated that \$45 Mil. in funding, including funds from FY 04/05 through 07/08, will be available. 70% of the funds will go toward infrastructure projects; 10% will go towards funding a single statewide consultant to develop standardized training, promotional materials, and other resources to the schools statewide, and the remaining 20% will go toward non-infrastructure projects. Any state, local or regional agency; any school/school district; and any non-profit organization that can meet federal requirements are eligible to apply. Projects must fall under the category of infrastructure (capital) or non-infrastructure (education and encouragement).

Timelines

September, 2006 – Caltrans conducts statewide outreach; updates website

October, 2006 – Caltrans issues a Call for Projects

January, 2007 – Applications for infrastructure projects due to Caltrans District Local Assistance Engineer; applications for non-infrastructure projects due to Caltrans Headquarters

March, 2007 – Advisory Committee and subcommittees will convene to evaluate applications

June, 2007 – Caltrans will notify applicants of the results, and the Cycle 7 program of projects will be posted on the website.

For questions on the program please contact Joyce Parks, SRTS Coordinator at (916) 653-6920 or joyce_parks@dot.ca.gov. Or go to www.dot.ca.gov/hg/Local/Programs and select Program Information. [BOREN]

H. Regulation VIII Compliance Bulletin

Summary: In August 2006, the San Joaquin Valley Air District distributed a Compliance Bulletin that provides a summary of Regulation VIII (Fugitive Dust), including compliance dates and deadlines described in the rule. Included in your package is a copy of that bulletin that summarizes the requirements for public agencies that own or maintain paved and unpaved roads. The entire rule may be found at www.valleyair.org/rules/1ruleslist.htm. [PAUKOVITS]

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

I. 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 DeVeré 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 Committee.

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Formal Amendment No. 1 to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution 2006-38, PUBLIC HEARING: 9-26-06

Summary: This amendment is a request by Caltrans, the City of Fresno, and the Council of Fresno County Governments to modify the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). This amendment provides for the addition of one new project, the modification of two existing projects, and the inclusion of Appendix L into the text of the 2007 FTIP:

City of Fresno, CTIPS ID 203-0000-0467: State Route 41 Off Ramp at O Street. The City of Fresno has requested to add this project to the 2007 FTIP under the *Demonstration Program*. This project was formerly in the 2004 FTIP. The City of Fresno has received Earmark funds in the amount of \$1,485,000 for construction of this project.

Caltrans, CTIPS ID 203-0000-0165: State Lump Sum 130-Railroad Grade Crossing Protections Program. Caltrans has requested to modify this project in the 2007 FTIP. \$2.5 million will be added to construction in 2006/07- 2007/08. Funding goes to Caltrans specified projects in the Fresno region that eliminate hazards at railroad grade crossings.

Caltrans, CTIPS ID 203-0000-0278: State Lump Sum Hazard Elimination Safety Program. Caltrans has requested to modify this project in the 2007 FTIP. \$672,000 will be added to preliminary engineering and \$2.3 million will be added to construction in 2006/07. Funding goes to Caltrans specified projects.

Inclusion of Appendix L: Appendix L highlights formal comments and responses received during the drafting of the 2007 FTIP.

For questions regarding individual projects in this amendment please contact Renee DeVere.
[DEVERE]

Action: Staff recommends the approval of Formal Amendment No. 1 to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program by the adoption of Resolution No. 2006-38.

B. Fresno County Request to Form a Greenbelt Buffer Task Force

Summary: Pursuant to a request by the County of Fresno, in June 2006, Fresno COG took through its committee process a request by Fresno County to have Fresno COG host a Land Buffer Task Force. The basic objectives of the Task Force would be to:

- Identify funding and management mechanisms necessary to purchase/hold the identified land-buffer areas in perpetuity for land-buffer/greenbelt purposes; and
- Develop implementation policies for local agencies' consideration and adoption to preserve those identified geographical areas.
- The Task Force should also, with participation of the affected cities, designate subcommittees to identify potential areas between the Fresno/Clovis Metropolitan Area and the Cities of Sanger and Kerman, between the Cities of Reedley, Parlier and Selma, and between the Cities of Fresno, Selma, Fowler, and Kingsburg for land-buffer or transition areas to maintain identity between the cities (land buffers can be maintained as agricultural, natural open space, park/trail uses).

The recommendation that came forward to the Policy Board from TTC and PAC was that Fresno COG host the Task Force. However, during Policy Board discussions the item was referred back to staff in order to allow those cities that had concerns over the role of the task force time to consult with their respective staffs and community members. Included in your package is the Fresno County Board of Supervisors' staff report which explains the background behind the request and recommended membership on the Task Force.

It is our understanding that over the last couple of months, Fresno County staff has been meeting with various member agencies in an effort to explain the roles/responsibilities of the Task Force and to answer any questions they may have. Fresno County has requested that Fresno COG place the item on the October 2006 agenda for reconsideration. [BOREN]

Action: COG staff, TTC and PAC have previously recommended (May 2006), the Policy Board agree to allow COG to host the Land Buffer/Greenbelt Task Force per the Fresno County Board of Supervisors' request.

C. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint, Resolution 2006-36

Summary: Two major activities are currently in process regarding the Blueprint. Community outreach consultant VRPA Technologies is in the midst of a comprehensive approach to identify community members' vision and values regarding future growth patterns in our county (schedule on www.fresnocog.org). In the meantime, COG staff has scheduled presentations before all member agency governing boards (see handout) to provide an update on Blueprint activities. We encourage you to support and promote both endeavors.

Merced COG, as the lead agency for the eight Valley COGs, is in the process of filing a grant application for second year funding of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint. Each of the eight COG partners is asked to pass a resolution to include with the application in support of the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program. [STECK]

Action: Recommend approval of Resolution 2006-36 in support of the California Regional Blueprint Planning Process.

D. 2007 Washington D.C. "One Voice"

Summary: In preparation for our upcoming "One Voice" trip to Washington D.C. (February 10-15, 2007) we have initiated the regional "call for projects" process. We will be reviewing the projects that have been submitted (handout) and will hold the first project selection committee meeting on October 25th from 2:00-5:00 PM here at COG. Depending on the outcome of the November 7th election, we may need to schedule a follow-up meeting. Recommended projects will be presented to the Board on 12-14-06.

We are also soliciting "local specific" projects that member agencies and community partners are lobbying for on their own behalf. While we will not actively promote these projects in our presentations, we will include them in the materials that we distribute on our trip. It is a good opportunity to gain additional exposure for local projects. [STECK]

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

E. California Consulting Contract

Summary: Fresno COG's contract for state lobbying services with California Consulting is in effect until December 1, 2006. A memo summarizing their work during the past year is enclosed

in your agenda package. If the Board wishes to continue lobbying services, this would be the time to either issue an RFP or negotiate extension of the existing contract. In all fairness to California Consulting, they are currently in the process of establishing our 2007 program of activities. Issuing an RFP could compromise their position as an applicant. Should the Board decide to negotiate extension of the existing contract, staff suggests that extending the term of the contract through June 30, 2008 (19 months) would align lobbying efforts with COG's budget cycle as well as the state legislative calendar. [GOODWIN]

Action: Request Policy Board decision on whether to (1) issue an RFP for state lobbyist consulting services effective December 1, 2006, or (2) negotiate extension of existing contract with California Consulting. In addition, determine term of contract.

F. Reasonable Available Control Measures (RACM) Discussion

Summary: On July 12, 2006, the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) Air District requested that the SJV Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) draft a Reasonably Available Control Measure (RACM) approach for the 8-hour Ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP). The Air District anticipates releasing a draft plan with workshops later this fall. A draft response to the July 12th request from the Air District was developed and then followed up by a conference call with the Air Resources Board (ARB) and the Air District on August 2, 2006. Since that time, the SJV MPO technical and policy air quality consultants have analyzed the various options for the local RACM approach. Fresno COG staff will provide a brief presentation on the options and recommendations for RACM in the 8-hour Ozone SIP. [PAUKOVITS]

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

G. Measure "C" Update

Summary: Staff will provide a verbal update on Measure "C" activities. [BOREN]

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

H. TRIP Report – Rough Ride in the City

TRIP is a nonprofit organization based in Washington D.C. that researches, evaluates and distributes economic and technical data on highway transportation issues. TRIP has just released a report titled *"Rough Ride in the City-Metropolitan Areas with the Roughest Rides and Strategies to make our Roads Smoother"* which is included in your package. In the report TRIP examines the condition of major roads in the nation's most populous urban areas, recent trends in the urban travel, and the latest developments in repairing and building bridges to last longer. The major findings of the report were:

1. The condition of the nation's most critical metropolitan area roads and highways is getting worse, increasing the cost motorists are paying to maintain their vehicles as a result of driving on roads and highways with pavements in poor condition.
2. Significant increases in travel in the years ahead will put additional stress on roads and make it even more costly to improve and maintain them.
3. A 2004 U.S. Department of Transportation study prepared for Congress found that urban road and highway pavement conditions are likely to worsen at current funding levels. Significant inflation in the cost of highway construction materials may further increase the cost of needed road and highway repairs. Current federal highway revenues will be unable to fully fund the federal highway program by 2009.

Fresno metropolitan area roads received the following TRIP scorecard.

- Percentage of pavement in poor condition: 31%
- Percentage of pavement in mediocre condition: 33%
- Percentage of pavement in fair condition: 22%
- Percentage of pavement in good condition: 13%
- Additional vehicle operating cost as a result of road conditions: \$462

For additional TRIP report findings, see www.tripnet.org [GOODWIN]

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

I. State Route 180 West Adoption Study – Continued Discussion

Summary: At the request of the COG Policy Board, staff will be providing status reports on the status/progress of the State Route 180 West Route Adoption study. [GOODWIN]

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

J. 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 Committee.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

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

***Items listed as information still leave the option for guidance/direction actions by the Committee.**