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**COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
AGENDA**

Date: Thursday, October 26, 2006

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Council of Fresno County Governments
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, (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
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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: Joe De Los Santos with DLS Security – Connecting People to Service Wi-Fi Technology

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. Transportation Funding Claims		
1. County of Fresno, 2006-07, Resolution 2006-37	Yes	Approve
2. City of Clovis, 2006-07, Resolution 2006-39	Yes	Approve
B. Selection of Consultant to Conduct the Fresno-Madera County Freeway Interchange Deficiency Study Phase II	No	Approve
C. Why Your Community Needs Its Airport	Yes	Information
D. Bicycle Transportation Account – Call for Projects	No	Information
E. Caltrans Partnership Planning Applications	No	Information
1. Tolling & Pricing		
2. Eastside Cities		
F. Safe Routes to School – Call for Projects	No	Information
G. Regulation VIII Compliance Bulletin	Yes	Information
H. Workshop Announcement – Strategic Business Plan for the (Amtrak) San Joaquin Rail Corridor	Yes	Information

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

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARING: Formal Amendment No. 1 to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution 2006-38,	Yes	Approve
B. High Speed Rail Authority Board Vacancies (Continued from September 28, 2006)	Yes	Info/Action
C. Reasonable Available Control Measures (RACM) Discussion	No	Info/Discussion
D. Measure "C" Update	No	Info/Discussion
E. TRIP Report – Rough Ride in the City	Yes	Information
F. State Route 180 West Adoption Study – Continued Discussion	No	Info/Discussion
G. Caltrans Monthly Report	No	Info/Discussion
H. Letter from Will Kempton	Yes	Info/Discussion

COFCG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments

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

No Reaffirm

V. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

Approve Calendar Items

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A. Executive Minutes of September 28, 2006	Yes	Approve
B. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting, Inc., 10-26-06 COG Meeting	No	Info/Discussion
C. Monthly Legislative Update	Yes	Information
D. Regional Clearinghouse		
1. Head Start – Preschool & Early Head Start 2006 Refunding	Yes	Information
FRESNO COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION		

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fresno County Request to Form a Land Buffer Task Force	No	Approve
B. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint, Resolution 2006-36	Yes	Approve
C. 2007 Washington D.C. One Voice	Yes	Info/Discussion
D. California Consulting Contract	Yes	Info/Action
E. Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan	Yes	Info/Action

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

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

COFCG Sitting As the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority

VIII. ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT – FY 2005-06 FOURTH QUARTER STATUS REPORT AND YEAR-END SUMMARY

Yes Information

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

**COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
ANNOTATED AGENDA**

Date: Thursday, October 26, 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

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B. Presentation: Joe De Los Santos with DLS Security – Connecting People to Service Wi-Fi Technology

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A. Transportation Funding Claims

- 1. County of Fresno, 2006-07, Resolution 2006-37**
- 2. City of Clovis, 2006-07, Resolution 2006-39**

Summary: The County of Fresno and the City of Clovis 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:
County of Fresno	\$ 5,465,711	\$1,674,962	\$7,140,673
City of Clovis	<u>2,858,698</u>	<u>769,198</u>	<u>3,627,896</u>
Total Claims	8,324,409	\$2,444,160	\$10,768,569

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

Action: Staff, TTC, and PAC recommend approval of the funding claims by adopting Resolution 2006-37 and Resolution 2006-39.

B. 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.

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

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 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 contracts original budgeted amount. [BITNER]

Action: Staff, TTC, and PAC recommend 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.

C. 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 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.

D. 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.

E. 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 submitted 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.

F. 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]

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

G. 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 item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the committee.

H. Workshop Announcement – Strategic Business Plan for the (Amtrak) San Joaquin Rail Corridor

Summary: A meeting of the COG Rail Committee has been set for Wednesday, November 8, 2006, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Sequoia Conference Room. The focus of the meeting will be a workshop on the development of a Strategic Business Plan for the (Amtrak) San Joaquin Rail Corridor.

Caltrans Division of Rail has retained a consulting team with specific experience in rail corridor strategic planning and public outreach to develop the Strategic Business Plan. The intent of the Plan is to chart the course for the future development of the San Joaquin Corridor based on the goals and priorities established during the planning process. The enclosure for this item includes additional information.

This is an important workshop. It is relevant to other ongoing planning programs, including the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and the Blueprint Planning Program. It is an

opportunity for Fresno County to insure that our concerns regarding rail passenger service are incorporated and addressed in the Strategic Business Plan.

An evening workshop, oriented more to the general public, has also been set for Wednesday, November 8. That workshop will occur between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the State Building located at 2550 Mariposa Mall, across from Fresno City Hall. [THOMPSON]

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

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

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, TTC, and PAC recommend the approval of Formal Amendment No. 1 to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program by the adoption of Resolution No. 2006-38.

B. High Speed Rail Authority Board Vacancies (Continued from September 28, 2006)

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, John Welty and Dan Whitehurst indicate they would be interested, while James Hallowell indicates he would not. 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.

At the September 28, 2006 meeting of the Policy Board, Dennis Lujan, Mayor Pro-Tem of Selma, nominated Leland Bergstrom, Mayor of Kingsburg, as the applicant from Fresno County to fill one of the vacancies on the Authority Board, subject to his willingness to be the applicant. Jim Simonian, Mayor of Fowler, seconded the nomination. Mayor Bergstrom indicated he needed to think about it and, therefore, the original motion was withdrawn and substituted with another motion, subsequently adopted, to continue the matter to this meeting. Staff has since learned that Joe Levy was recently asked by Quentin Kopp, a member of the Authority Board, to submit an application for membership on the Authority Board. The COG Board may wish to recommend Mr. Levy for consideration, thereby lending strength to his application, either singly or in conjunction with other individuals from the list above, or from other sources. [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. 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.

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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. PAC recommended to the Policy Board that they continue to recognize the regional nature of this route, and that it is not only a Westside issue.

G. 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.

H. Letter from Will Kempton

Summary: Included in the package is a copy of the letter COG received from Will Kempton regarding State Route 180 project (Clovis to Temperance Avenue). [GOODWIN]

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

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

Approve Calendar Items

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A. Executive Minutes of September 28, 2006

B. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting, Inc., 10-26-06 COG Meeting;

Summary: California Consulting staff will provide an update to the Policy Board on 10-26-06. [SAMUELIAN]

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

C. 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 Committee.

D. Regional Clearinghouse

Summary: Your agenda package includes this month's Clearinghouse Calendar containing a "Project Notification and Review Reports" for one grant proposal.

1. Head Start – Preschool & Early Head Start 2006 Refunding
FRESNO COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Project	Applicant
1. Head Start-Preschool and Early Head Start 2007 Refunding Application	Fresno County EOC

Fresno County Economic Opportunity Commission is applying for Head Start-Preschool and early Head Start 2007 Refunding in the amount of \$28,285,001 (Federal) and \$7,071,250 in matching funds for a grant total in the amount of \$35,358,251. [SOBRADO]

Action: Per Board procedure, unless an item is pulled from the Consent Calendar, tacit authorization is given for staff to forward any comment(s) received, or any Committee/Board comment(s) generated as a result of this informational item, to the appropriate agency. It is understood that if in the event this item should be pulled from the consent calendar, discussion and comment by the Committee members and the public will be taken.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fresno County Request to Form a Land 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 first order of the Task Force should be to discuss and determine whether, and where, land buffers or transition areas are desirable, and to define the terms of "land buffers" and "transition areas". The basic objectives of the Task Force, subject to Task Force modification, could 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). This discussion will include appropriate boundaries between Fresno and Clovis.

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: Staff, TTC and PAC have previously recommended (May 2006), the Policy Board agree to allow COG to host the Land Buffer Task Force per the Fresno County Board of Supervisors' request. COG Staff, TTC, and PAC reaffirm the recommendation to allow COG to host the Task Force. TTC noted the Buffer issue is an appropriate topic for regional discussion. PAC recommended, as noted in the underlined sections in the summary, an expansion/clarification of certain issues. PAC also recommended the use of an independent moderator (non-COG staff) to be secured for this effort.

B. 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 to provide an update on Blueprint activities (schedule enclosed). 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: Staff, TTC, and PAC recommend approval of Resolution 2006-36 in support of the California Regional Blueprint Planning Process.

C. 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 and will hold the first project selection committee meeting on October 25th from 1:30-5:00 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. The deadline for submittal of local projects is December 15th. 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. Please contact Barbara Steck at 233-4148 or bsteck@fresnocog.org if you have any questions. [STECK]

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

D. 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: Staff requests a 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 the term of contract. TTC, noting this is a policy decision versus a technical recommendation, will defer to PAC for a recommendation.

PAC, after some discussion, recommended the following: 1) extend the existing contract with California Consulting to June 30, 2007 to align the cycle with the COG and member budget cycle; 2) include a California CPI adjustment to the contract between December 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007; 3) allow COG to pay the required filing fee with the State; and 4) prepare an RFP and conduct a process so that a contract could be awarded by June 1, 2007.

E. Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan

Summary: As reported in last month's agenda, COG staff has begun the process of preparing the Fresno County Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan. The RHNA Plan determines each jurisdiction's existing and projected housing needs for all income levels. Local governments, through their Housing Elements, are individually accountable for demonstrating capacity to accommodate these housing needs for the 5-year planning period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2013.

State Housing Element law requires that several factors be addressed in the development of the methodology that determines each jurisdiction's housing needs. These factors include, for example,

opportunities and constraints to development of additional housing within each jurisdiction, agreements between a county and cities in a county to direct growth toward incorporated areas of the county, the market demand for housing, etc. The enclosed survey includes all of the factors that must be considered and was reviewed by a working group that met earlier this month. Staff requests your assistance in insuring the prompt completion and return of the survey. [THOMPSON]

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

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

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

COFCG Sitting As the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority

VIII. ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT – FY 2005-06 FOURTH QUARTER STATUS REPORT AND YEAR-END SUMMARY

Summary: As stated in the 2003 Fresno County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority Plan, the Fresno COG, as administrator of the AVA Program, shall submit a quarterly status report to the Fresno County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority. The Service Authority has directed the quarterly status report first be presented to the Policy Advisory Committee for review and recommendation. Status reports are submitted quarterly to ensure proper distribution of funding to the member agencies. This status report contains the following information:

- The gross amount of money received by the Authority from the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund during the quarter.
- An itemized statement of the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund monies expended by the Authority during the quarter.
- An accounting of money expended for major purchases, if any.
- An accounting of unexpended revenues from the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund.
- An accounting of the total number of vehicles and parts thereof abated by the Authority during the quarter.

The enclosures for this item indicate the costs incurred by member agencies during the quarter, the number of vehicles abated by member agencies, and the distribution of funding to the member agencies. For the fourth quarter of FY 2005-06, a total of \$173,850.08 in current AVA revenues was available for distribution to member agencies and to the Fresno COG for program administration. During the quarter, member agencies expended \$139,194.04 conducting AVA activities and the Fresno COG claimed \$1,680 for program administration. A total of 979 vehicles were abated this quarter.

For the entire FY 2005-06, a total of \$694,380.18 in revenues was received by the AVA Service Authority. Total expenditures by the AVA Service Authority were \$618,951.09, resulting in a \$75,429.09 carryover of funds. Combined with the \$30,491.77 carryover of funds from FY 2004-05, the first year of program operation, results in a total carryover amount of \$105,920.86 into the current FY 2006-07.

Program staff is naturally concerned about this large and growing amount of carryover funds. This issue has been a focus of quarterly AVA Working Group meetings. While it is to be expected that many of our member agencies need time to adjust their ordinances, procedures and staffing in order to take advantage of this program, there are still a few member agencies that have not yet participated in the program or whose involvement is minimal. Staff continues to work with these agencies to encourage their participation and to provide assistance. A workshop on the AVA Program, conducted by the California Highway Patrol, will be held next month. Attendance by all AVA Service Authority member agencies is strongly encouraged. [THOMPSON]

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

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

