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POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date: Friday, April 13, 2007
Time: 10:00 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 PAC on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. Note: Prior to action by the PAC 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 March 16, 2007	Yes	Approve
B.	Traffic Monitoring Program Review and Update – Contract Award	No	Approve
C.	New Technology Reserve Subcommittee Meeting	Yes	Information
D.	Appointment of Westside Cities Representative to COG Rail Committee	No	Information
E.	Census 2010 LUCA (Local Update of Census Addresses) Program Workshop	Yes	Information
F.	Unmet Transit Needs Process Update	Yes	Information
G.	Land Buffer Task Force Update	No	Information
H.	Air District Eight-Hour Ozone Plan Update	No	Information
I.	Letters of Support of COG Resolution 2007-05- Foothill Highway/State Route 65 - Update	No	Information
J.	Presentation at COG Board – (CMAC) Community Media Access Collaborative – Jeff Hensley and Randy Reed	No	Information
K.	Monthly Legislative Update	Yes	Information
L.	Regional Clearinghouse	Yes	Information
	1. USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant -- Refurbish Fire Engine CITY OF FIREBAUGH		
	2. Business and Cooperatives Program – Rural Microenterprise Initiative (RMI) CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY FRESNO FOUNDATION		

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

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|--|-----|-----------------|
| 3. USDA Rural Development Grant—Purchase Fire Fighting
Emergency Equipment
CITY OF LATON | | |
| M. SJV Partnership Announces Successful Seed Grant Applications | Yes | Information |
| N. FCRTA Item - Adoption of the "FCRTA's Amended Policy for Prohibited
Substance Testing Program" (Resolution 2007-01). | Yes | Approve |
|
III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS | | |
| A. Draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Federal Transportation
Improvement Program (FTIP), Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
and Conformity Analysis – Public Hearing | No | Info/Discussion |
| B. Measure "C" Update | Yes | Info/Discussion |
| C. Blueprint Update | No | Approve |
| D. Legislative Update Related to State Bonds | Yes | Info/Discussion |
| E. Caltrans Monthly Report | No | Info/Discussion |
| F. Draft 2007 Fresno County Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan --
60 day Review and Comment Period/Local Revision Process | Yes | Info/Discussion |
| G. Contract Renewal with California Consulting | No | Info/Action |
|
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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**POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ANNOTATED AGENDA**

Date: Friday, April 13, 2007
Time: 10:00 a.m.
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 PAC on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the PAC 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 March 16, 2007

B. Traffic Monitoring Program Review and Update – Contract Award

Summary: In February, COG staff circulated a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking the services of a qualified consultant to review and update the Fresno COG traffic monitoring program in support of the Fresno COG Traffic Model. This project was authorized in the 2006-2007 Overall Work Program. The purpose of this project is to review and update the existing county wide traffic count program and make recommendations as to location, agency responsible, type and frequency of traffic counts in support of the county wide traffic monitoring program and the Fresno COG transportation model.

We received proposals from two qualified firms in response to the RFP:

Consulting Firm	Proposed Cost
Omni-Means, Ltd.	\$74,973.61
TJKM transportation Consultants	\$74,271.00

The selection committee met on March 26, 2007 to evaluate the proposals and unanimously recommended the selection of Omni-Means, Ltd. The committee determined that Omni-Means had the most direct relevant experience and had defined a scope of work and methodology which would best address the needs of COG and its member agencies. [BITNER]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend approval and authorize the Executive Director to contract with Omni-Means, Ltd for the Traffic Monitoring Program Review and Update project in the amount not to exceed \$75,000.

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. New Technology Reserve Subcommittee Meeting

Summary: The New Technology Reserve Subcommittee held its first meeting on March 20, 2007. The total estimated amount of New Technology Reserve funding over the 20-year Measure C period is approximately \$36,300,000. The primary focus of the meeting was to further define the term "New Technology" consistent with the intent of the Measure C Steering Committee and the language of the Measure C Expenditure Plan. It was the consensus of the Subcommittee that "New Technology" means fully automated, driverless transit such as personal rapid transit or similar systems. Personal rapid transit, unlike other forms of public transit and transportation improvements, does not have an established funding source and the Subcommittee recognized that development of personal rapid transit or some similar system would require private capital and a public/private partnership. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), light rail, and bus rapid transit, each of which has established funding streams or mechanisms, are excluded from this definition.

Personal rapid transit is characterized by non-stop, point to point service. There are no transfers and stations are located off-line. Personal rapid transit is viewed as a solution to the "last mile" transportation challenge, connecting people from a major transportation node to their final destination. Also enclosed is the Executive Summary of a January 2003 report by the Advanced Transit Association entitled Personal Automated Transportation: Status and Potential of Personal Rapid Transit.

The Subcommittee also determined that New Technology Reserve funds could be used for research and development, commonly recognized as a necessary component for any new technology. The Subcommittee stressed that no one is interested in spending public funds on a system that is not feasible.

The Subcommittee identified three steps in moving forward. First is the need to educate stakeholders on what it is the Subcommittee is doing and why it is doing it. Second is the need to evaluate alternative project locations and select one. And third is the pre-design stage which will provide drawings and illustrations of the actual system. David Mori with Jakes Associates will be invited to the next meeting in early May to present additional information on personal rapid transit. [THOMPSON]

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

D. Appointment of Westside Cities Representative to COG Rail Committee

Summary: The position of Westside Cities Elected Member representative on the Fresno COG Rail Committee is currently vacant. The position had been filled by George Conklin, former mayor of the City of Firebaugh. The Westside Cities include Coalinga, Huron, Firebaugh, Mendota, San Joaquin, and Kerman. The Policy Board will be asked to fill this position at its meeting on April 26, 2007. At this time staff would ask that you advise your mayor/COG Board member that this matter will be coming to them at the next Policy Board meeting so that they have time to consider a possible candidate. [THOMPSON]

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

E. Census 2010 LUCA (Local Update of Census Addresses) Program Workshop

Summary: The U.S. Census Bureau recently sent all jurisdictions an invitation to attend a promotional workshop for the LUCA (Local Update of Census Addresses) Program which allows governmental entities to review and update the addresses and maps used to distribute the 2010 Census questionnaires. The workshop will:

- Explain the LUCA program and how it will benefit jurisdictions.
- Describe three different participation options.
- Help you develop a strategy for your jurisdiction's review.

A copy of the invitation and reply form are included in your agenda package. One of the workshops will take place on Wed., April 18, 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Council of Fresno County Governments Sequoia Room.

The 2010 Census will directly affect how the more than \$200 billion in federal grant funding is distributed to state and local governments each year. A complete address list for your jurisdiction will help ensure it receives its fair share of funding for transportation, neighborhood improvements, public health, education, and much more.

It is important we do our best to participate in the LUCA program and other 2010 Census activities and work toward the most complete population count for Fresno County and each of our cities. The population counts will affect Fresno County's funding and will determine its allocation of seats to the California legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, a more complete census will result in more accurate data for studies and provide information for businesses to locate their stores, banks, corporate offices, manufacturing plants, etc. in our County, thus creating more jobs.
[CHUNG]

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

F. Unmet Transit Needs Process Update

Summary: The Fresno COG Policy Board must determine that public transportation needs within Fresno County will be reasonably met in Fiscal Year 2007-08 prior to approving claims of Local Transportation Funds for streets and roads. The Fresno COG's Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is responsible for evaluating unmet transit needs. Each year the SSTAC begins the process of soliciting comments from the public by sending nearly 500 letters to agencies and individuals interested in providing feedback on their public transportation needs within Fresno County. The request for comment letters were prepared in English and Spanish, and were mailed in February 2007. In addition to the request for written comments, SSTAC held three information-gathering meetings in February 2007.

The first meeting was held in the City of Firebaugh at the Firebaugh Community Center on February 20, 2007. The only persons in attendance were members of SSTAC, and no comments were received.

The second meeting was held in the City of Fowler at the Fowler City Council Chambers on February 21, 2007. There were seven individuals in attendance including SSTAC members. The only comment received came from Ms. Sandie Monis who expressed a need for an additional vehicle to service the City of Fowler. Ms. Monis explained that Fowler Transit lacked sufficient capacity to provide needed service to many Fowler residents. FCRTA staff indicated that the funding provided through Measure C will allow Fowler Transit to add an additional vehicle and driver during FY2007-2008.

The third meeting was held in the City of Clovis at the Clovis Senior Center February 22, 2007. No comments were received during the meeting.

In addition to the comment received at the information gathering meetings, SSTAC received two written comments. The first written comment came from Fresno City Council Member Brian Calhoun. In his email Council Member Calhoun requested transit service to be added to Northwest Fresno to facilitate travel from that area to Bullard High School. He specifically identified service on West Bullard Avenue to as far west as Polk. Council Member Calhoun also identified the needs of low-income and disabled residents in the areas around Herndon Avenue and Weber Avenue, and Herndon Avenue and Spruce Avenue.

The second letter came from the Traffic Operations Lieutenant at California State University, Fresno (CSUF). The letter asks for increased hours of service on weekdays and weekends, and for discounted monthly passes for CSUF students. The letter also asked for expanded service in the northeast and northwest sections of Fresno, as well as better transit service to CSUF from outlying communities. In addition, the letter requests a 1) a reroute of FAX Route 9 (Shaw Avenue) to wrap

around the campus, 2) for FAX to help provide campus circulator routes, and 3) support for an on-campus transit center.

At their March 20, 2007, meeting SSTAC determined that the Unmet Transit Needs requests from CSUF and Brian Calhoun were not reasonable to meet, and that the request from Sandie Monis would be addressed in the FCRTA FY2007- 2008 budget.

Copies of the comment letters are included in your package.

To respond to a question at TTC regarding the unmet transit needs process, it was explained that the process conducted for "unmet transit needs" by the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council is a separate process from any evaluation of needs that the City of Fresno (or the other transit system) conducts and is carried out within the context and constraints of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) and the findings made are relevant only to that source of funding. Since the City of Fresno uses all its TDA funding for its transit system, it must find that the requests are not reasonable to meet. However, this does not prevent the City of Fresno from further reviewing the requests. (DOWNS)

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

G. Land Buffer Task Force Update

Summary: With recent new home construction increasing over the last several years throughout Fresno County and the rest of the San Joaquin Valley, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors has begun exploring the use of land buffers as a tool for several cities in Fresno County to retain their unique identities amidst this rapid growth. Fresno COG was asked to facilitate dialogue among stakeholders in order to develop consensus by which to advise on a course of action. The Land Buffer Task Force held their second meeting on Friday, March 23, 2007. Several stakeholders were in attendance, including representatives from the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, Fresno County, the City of Fresno, the City of Clovis, UC Davis, the Fresno County Farm Bureau, American Farmland Trust, and the private sector. Some of the objectives/tasks identified at the meeting include:

1. Retention of community identity
2. Establishment of a long-term vision for our region and its communities
3. Determining what reasonable and attainable development looks like
4. Identifying easement issues
5. Identifying water Issues

A major goal of the Land Buffer Task Force was defined as developing a "tool box" of sorts regarding land buffers. The next meeting will be held in the Sequoia Room at Fresno COG in the next four to six weeks. [SOBRADO]

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

H. Air District Eight-Hour Ozone Plan Update

Summary: The San Joaquin Valley Air District recently released the Proposed 2007 Ozone Plan and will hold a public hearing and adopt the plan on April 30, 2007. The San Joaquin Valley is currently classified as a serious ozone nonattainment area with an attainment deadline of 2013. As part of this plan, the Air District is requesting an "extreme" classification, which would delay the attainment deadline until 2023. If approved by the Air District in April, the plan will then be forwarded to the California Air Resources Board and to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

In order to meet the ozone standard, the Valley needs to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, a component of ozone, by approximately 75 percent. The Air District is proposing several regulations, including (1) further regulations on industrial, commercial and agricultural operations; and (2) local rules requiring employee trip reduction for employers of a certain size. According to the Air District, regulations alone cannot achieve all of the necessary reductions.

The plan calls for additional reductions through increased incentive funding from state, federal and local sources and advanced technology development; it is estimated that \$188 million per year in incentive funding is necessary. The plan contains detailed expenditures for these funds (retirement of gross-polluting vehicles, etc.).

The Air District states that more than 90 percent of Valley residents will be living in areas that reach the attainment status for ozone by 2020. However, parts of Kern County and northwest Fresno will need additional emission reductions that are "only achievable by using advanced technologies and unsecured incentive funds"; in other words, there are no identified mechanisms to bring these areas into attainment for the eight-hour ozone standard. The draft plan is available online at www.valleyair.org. [PAUKOVITS]

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

I. Letters of Support of COG Resolution 2007-05- Foothill Highway/State Route 65 - Update

Summary: At its February 22, 2007 meeting, the COG Board adopted Resolution 2007-05 to support, in concept, the Foothill Highway/Freeway (State Route 65) planning study. A letter was mailed to each member agency requesting each member consider this issue and affirm the action of the Fresno COG. A few members have sent us their letters of support. We have been notified by several members that this item will be brought before their Council/Board at their April meetings. Please forward copies of your member's action to COG staff. [GOODWIN]

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

J. Presentation at COG Board – (CMAC) Community Media Access Collaborative – Jeff Hensley and Randy Reed

Summary: The Community Media Access Collaborative will make a presentation to the Board at their April 26th meeting. The subject will be public access and will include a discussion of upcoming changes to the cable industry in all parts of Fresno County. [BOREN]

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

K. Monthly Legislative Update

Summary: A summary of current state and federal legislative activity is in your agenda packet for Committee review and information. The 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/discussion item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

L. Regional Clearinghouse

	Project	Applicant
1.	USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant – Refurbish Fire Engine	City of Firebaugh
2.	Business and Cooperatives Program – Rural Microenterprise Initiative (RMI)	California State University, Fresno Foundation
3.	USDA Rural Development Grant – Purchase Fire Fighting Emergency Equipment.	City of Laton

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

City of Firebaugh is applying for USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant to refurbish a fire engine for the Firebaugh Fire Department in the amount of \$27,500 (Federal) and \$22,500 in matching funds for a grant total in the amount of \$50,000.

California State University, Fresno Foundation is applying for a Rural Business Opportunities grant to fund a Rural Microenterprise Initiative (RMI) through the Business and Cooperatives Programs for \$50,000. There is no additional funding so the grant total is \$50,000.

City of Laton is applying for a USDA Rural Development Grant to purchase Fire Fighting Emergency equipment in the amount of \$4,253 (Federal), \$1,823 (Applicant), and \$6,078 (State) for a total of \$12,155. [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.

M. SJV Partnership Announces Successful Seed Grant Applications

Summary: On March 29th the Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley announced the list of successful bidders for Seed Grants to transform the San Joaquin Valley. Fresno COG will receive a \$200,000 to develop a Farmland Conservation Model Program, working with several partners in this endeavor. The full list of recipients is included in your packet. [SOBRADO]

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

N. FCRTA Item - Adoption of the "Fresno County Rural Transit Agency's Amended Policy for Prohibited Substance Testing Program" - Resolution 2007-01

Summary: Provided in the Agenda package is a March 26th Memorandum stating that the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA), as a general public transit operator, is mandated by Federal Law to address and comply with prohibited drug and alcohol testing in order to continue to be an eligible recipient of Federal and State funding.

The FCRTA's current "Policy for Prohibited Substance Testing Program" was adopted for implementation purposes on July 19, 2001, in compliance with previous regulations pertaining to small public transit operators. Since that time the regulations have been amended, and require that we amend our policy to reflect the latest regulations.

Attached for your consideration is a copy of FCRTA's Amended "Policy for Prohibited Substance Testing Program". Following adoption, Staff will conduct In-Service Meetings with all FCRTA Associated Employees to explain the program in depth to them to ensure understanding. Each employee will be issued their own personal reference copy of the Policy. [WEBSTER]

Action: The FCRTA General Manager and TTC recommend approval of FCRTA's Amended "Policy for Prohibited Substance Testing Program" by adopting Resolution 2007-01.

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Conformity Analysis - Public Hearing

Summary: Fresno COG is currently updating our Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and related documents to incorporate legislative and project changes.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): The 2007 RTP represents the long range planning vision for Fresno County's regional transportation system through the year 2030. The previous RTP in 2004 also included information and projects through 2030; therefore, there were not significant changes to the planning assumptions. The 2007 RTP includes updates from Measure C and state bond programs, as well as updates provided by local agencies and Caltrans. The RTP includes additional information based on the requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Amendment #7: The FTIP is the incremental implementation of the long-range Regional Transportation Plan. SAFETEA-LU changed the timeframe of the FTIP from 3 to 4 years. Amendment #7 includes the fourth year of programming, updates to other projects, and modification of Fresno COG's Expedite Project Selection Procedures.

Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR): The RTP consists of a policy, action, financial and environmental element; the EIR serves as the RTP's environmental element. A new programmatic EIR for the RTP was necessary to evaluate potentially significant environmental effects of the plan and to identify strategies to avoid or mitigate significant environmental effects.

Conformity Analysis: An air quality conformity analysis is required in nonattainment areas to ensure that transportation plans and programs are (1) consistent with the state and local air quality plans, and (2) do not interfere with the timely implementation of transportation control measures. The Draft Conformity Analysis for the 2007 RTP and FTIP Amendment #7 demonstrates that all of our adopted transportation plans and programs are in conformance with the rules for the applicable air quality standards.

A CD containing all of the documents was mailed to Committee members on March 13, 2007 for their review and comments. A public hearing will be held at the Board Meeting on April 26, 2007. Written and verbal comments will be accepted through that time. Policy Board adoption is expected to occur in May 2007. [PAUKOVITS/ DEVERE]

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

B. Measure "C" Update

Summary: Staff will provide an update on Measure "C" progress at the Committee meetings this month. Included in your package are two preliminary draft funding spreadsheets which provide:

- a.) Estimated FY 2007/08 Multi-modal funding allocations for the overall Measure "C" program;
 - b.) Estimated FY 2007/08 Measure C Local Program Allocations
- [GOODWIN/BOREN]

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

C. Blueprint Update

Summary: The Fresno COG Policy Board has endorsed the list of values identified during Phase 1 of the Blueprint activities. The Roundtable has developed a vision statement based on those values and is requesting that the COG Board formally endorse that Vision. [STECK]

Roundtable's Proposed Blueprint Vision Statement

(Revised San Joaquin Valley Partnership Vision for Fresno County based upon Blueprint Values)

Fresno County will be composed of unique cities, communities and a diverse population in a connected high quality environment that is supported by:

- ◆ **A vibrant economy built on competitive strengths and world class education**
- ◆ **A healthy and sustainable environment where air, aquifers, surface waters, forests, soil, and wildlife resources are enhanced and protected.**

- ♦ **Cultural and Community Stewardship where all people enjoy fundamental rights as members of a free society, where the community takes ownership of problems and their solutions.**

The form of the Fresno/Madera Region envisions a system of high capacity multi-modal transportation corridors that interconnect the metro area with the rural areas and the state.

The wording of the vision statement prompted discussion at the Transportation Technical Committee where TTC member John Donaldson suggested that we edit the first and third bullets. The item was recommended for approval contingent upon the edited version being approved by the Roundtable. Staff worked with Dr. Donaldson and presented the following alternative to the Roundtable by email. While the several of the Roundtable's responses approved the changes, member Jeff Reid suggested that we present BOTH alternatives to the PAC and Policy Board. The alternative vision statement is listed below.

Roundtable's Proposed Blueprint Vision Statement – Edited after TTC's Comments
(Revised San Joaquin Valley Partnership Vision for Fresno County based upon Blueprint Values)

Fresno County will be composed of unique cities, communities and a diverse population in a connected high quality environment that is supported by:

- ♦ **A vibrant economy built on competitive strengths and world-class education outstanding educational preparation.**
- ♦ **A healthy and sustainable environment where air, aquifers, surface waters, forests, soil, and wildlife resources are enhanced and protected.**
- ♦ **Cultural and Community Stewardship ~~where all people enjoy fundamental rights as members of a free society, where the community takes ownership of problems and~~ their develops equitable and effective solutions.**

The form of the Fresno/Madera Region envisions a system of high capacity multi-modal transportation corridors that interconnect the metro area with the rural areas and the state.

Action: Staff, the Blueprint Roundtable and TTC recommend that PAC forward alternative Vision statements to the COG Policy Board for their selection and approval.

D. Legislative Update Related to State Bonds

Summary: COG staff will provide an update on Legislation affecting the Valley. [GOODWIN]

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

E. Caltrans Monthly Report

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

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

F. Draft 2007 Fresno County Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan -- 60 day Review and Comment Period/Local Revision Process

Summary: The enclosed Draft 2007 Fresno County Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan (draft 2007 RHNA Plan) has been posted on the COG website and provided to each of our member agencies. The overarching purposes of the Plan, along with similar plans developed for other regions of the state, are to address the statewide concern for "decent housing and a suitable living environment for every California family," and to reflect the shared responsibility among local governments for accommodating the housing needs of all economic levels.

Housing Element law requires quantification of each jurisdiction's share of the region's existing and projected housing need, by income level. This is otherwise referred to as each jurisdiction's regional housing need allocation, or RHNA. Each jurisdiction's RHNA establishes the minimum housing development capacity to be provided for in its housing element. The draft 2007 RHNA Plan encompasses the 7½ year planning period from January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2013, while the 5-year housing element planning period extends from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2013.

The methodology used to prepare the draft 2007 RHNA Plan was approved by the COG Policy Board on February 22, 2007. The methodology was used in the 2001 RHNA Plan and earlier RHNA Plans and reflects a city-centered and balanced development pattern. The methodology utilizes market areas, defined as subregions in which there is an interaction between employment opportunities and housing opportunities, in the gathering, analysis, and presentation of data.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65584.05, within 60 days following receipt of the draft allocation, a local government may request from the Fresno COG a revision of its share of the regional housing need in accordance with the factors described in paragraphs (1) to (9), inclusive, of subdivision (d) of Section 65584.04. The request for a revised share shall be based upon comparable data available for all affected jurisdictions and accepted planning methodology, and supported by adequate documentation. The draft 2007 RHNA Plan was also submitted to HCD for its review of the consistency between the existing and projected housing need identified in the draft 2007 RHNA Plan and the statewide housing need.

COG staff has scheduled a meeting with the RHNA Plan Working Group to discuss the draft 2007 RHNA Plan and answer any questions Working Group members may have. The Working Group is comprised primarily of member agency housing and planning staff but may also include city managers and others who want to better understand the application of the methodology that resulted in their jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need. **The meeting will be held Monday, April 23, at 10:00 a.m. in the COG Ash Conference Room.** [THOMPSON]

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

G. Contract Renewal with California Consulting

Summary: Negotiations are being conducted with Steve Samuelian, COG's State Lobbyist with the firm California Consulting. A full package with contract details will be available at the Policy Advisory Committee Meeting.

Action: Information/Action. Staff recommends approval of renewing the contract with California Consulting.

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.**

