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POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date: Friday, May 18, 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 April 13, 2007	Yes	Approve
B.	Transit Planning Documents		
1.	Urban & Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) Operations Program & Budget, 2007-08	Yes	Concur w/Review
2.	Clovis Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) 2007-08 Operations Program & Budget	Yes	Concur w/Review
3.	Short Range Transit Plan for the Fresno Urban Area 2007-11	Yes	Concur w/Review
4.	Short Range Transit Plan for the Rural Fresno County Area 2007-08	Yes	Concur w/Review
5.	FCRTA Item: 2007-08 Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Budget	Yes	Concur w/Review
C.	Appointments to the COG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council	Yes	Approve
D.	On-Call Modeling Assistance Contract Extension	No	Approve
E.	San Joaquin Valley COG's Video Teleconferencing Project	No	Information
F.	San Joaquin Valley 511 System Update	No	Information
G.	Monthly Legislative Update	Yes	Information
H.	Federal Grant Opportunity	Yes	Information
I.	Presentation at COG Policy Board meeting on 5-31-07 regarding Aggregates by John Buada	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

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|---|-----|-------------|
| J. Request for Presentation at COG Policy Board on 6-28-07 from Dr. Ed Moreno regarding "Emerging Infectious Diseases" | No | Information |
| K. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting, Inc. at Board Meeting on 5-31-07 | No | Information |
| L. Regional Clearinghouse | Yes | Information |

	Project	Applicant
1.	USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant – Police Protection Equipment and Emergency Generators	City of Mendota
2.	USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant –Fire Protection Equipment	City of Mendota
3.	US Department of Housing and Urban Development – Supportive Housing for the Elderly	Southern California Presbyterian Homes
4.	US Department of Housing and Urban Development – Community Development Block Grants	County of Fresno

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

- | | | |
|--|-----|-----------------|
| A. Transportation Development Act Final Estimates, Resolution 2007-13, Resolution 2007-14 | Yes | Approve |
| B. FY2007-08 Overall Work Program and Budget, Resolution 2007-06 | Yes | Approve |
| C. Environmental Impact Report (EIR) - 2007 RTP, 2007 FTIP Amendment #7, and Conformity Analysis, Resolution 2007-15 | Yes | Approve |
| D. 2007 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), FTIP Amendment #7, and Conformity Analysis, Resolution 2007-16 | Yes | Approve |
| E. Cost Effectiveness Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Policy, Resolution 2007-17 | Yes | Approve |
| F. Adoption of Annual Availability Advisory Percentages for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Participation, Resolution 2007-12
PUBLIC HEARING: 5-31-07 | Yes | Approve |
| G. Contract Renewal with California Consulting | Yes | Approve |
| H. Legislative Positions | Yes | Approve |
| I. Proposed Legislation Affecting Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program | Yes | Approve |
| J. Measure "C" Update | Yes | Info/Discussion |
| K. Blueprint Update | Yes | Info/Discussion |
| L. Status Report on the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan | No | Info/Discussion |
| M. 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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**POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ANNOTATED AGENDA**

Date: Friday, May 18, 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 April 13, 2007

B. Transit Planning Documents

1. Urban & Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) Operations Program & Budget, 2007-08

Summary: Included in your agenda packet is the Consolidated Transportation Service Agency's (CTSA) Operations Program and Budget, 2007-08 for the Fresno Urban and Rural CTSA. The document is designed to provide an overview of how and in what manner the Consolidated Transportation Service Agencies will be providing service over the next fiscal year. The Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) reviewed the document on May 8th. [JOSEPH]

Action: Staff, SSTAC and TTC recommend concurrence with the initiation of the 45 day review for adoption on June 28, 2007 by the COG Policy Board.

2. Clovis Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) 2007-08 Operations Program & Budget

Summary: Included in your agenda packet is the Clovis Consolidated Transportation Service Agency's (CTSA) Operations Program and Budget, 2007-08 for the Clovis Urban Area. The document is designed to provide an overview of how and in what manner the Clovis Consolidated Transportation Service Agency will provide service over the next fiscal year. The Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) reviewed the document on May 8th. [HALTERMAN]

Action: Staff, SSTAC and TTC recommend concurrence with the initiation of the 45 day review for adoption on June 28, 2007 by the COG Policy Board.

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

3. Short Range Transit Plan for the Fresno Urban Area 2007-12

Summary: The Short-Range Transit Plan for the Fresno-Clovis Urbanized Area (SRTP) is the annual update to the operating plan and capital programs for Fresno Area Express (FAX) and Clovis Transit. The purpose of this Plan is to promote a comprehensive, coordinated and continuous planning process for transit service in the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA). This Plan represents a short-range evaluation of transit needs and proposes specific recommendations for implementing the long-range objectives of Fresno County's Regional Transportation Plan. The Plan will guide the provision of transit services in the FCMA over the next five years.

The Draft Short-Range Transit Plan must undergo a 45 day review process before the plan can be adopted by the Council of Fresno County Governments (COG) Policy Board. Upon completion of the 45 day review period, COG staff will prepare a final draft of the Plan. The Plan is scheduled for adoption by the COG Board on June 28, 2007. The Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) reviewed the document on May 8th. [LONG]

Action: Staff, SSTAC and TTC recommend concurrence with the initiation of the 45 day review for adoption on June 28, 2007 by the COG Policy Board.

4. Short Range Transit Plan for the Rural Fresno County Area 2007-12

Summary: Included in your agenda package is a copy of the draft Short Range Transit Plan for the Rural Fresno County Area, 2007-12. The document addresses public transportation for the cities of Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, San Joaquin, Selma and the County of Fresno. The Plan provides a five-year, action-oriented program designed to implement the Public Transportation Element of the Regional Transportation Plan. The Plan will also provide a basis for local governments to demonstrate that public transportation needs within their jurisdiction have been, and may continue to be, reasonably met. The Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) reviewed the document on May 8th. [WEBSTER]

Action: The General Manager, SSTAC and TTC recommend concurrence with the initiation of the 45 day review for adoption on June 28, 2007 by the COG Policy Board.

5. FCRTA Item: 2007-08 Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Budget

Summary: Provided in your agenda package is a copy of the Draft 2007-08 Budget. It is available for your review, comment, and action during a forty-five (45) day review period that will culminate on June 28, 2007 with the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) Board Meeting. The numbers in the Draft Budget are subject to refinement following: service contract negotiations, an opportunity for public presentations to each FCRTA member agency; and a public presentation before the Board of Directors. [WEBSTER]

Action: The FCRTA General Manager, SSTAC and TTC recommend concurrence with the initiation of the 45-day review of the 2007-08 Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Budget scheduled for approval consideration by the FCRTA Board on June 28, 2007.

C. Appointments to the COG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

Summary: The SSTAC was formed in May 1988 by the Council of Fresno County Governments (COG) Policy Board to; respond to State legislation and to coordinate social service transportation; assist the COG Board in identifying transit needs throughout Fresno County;

review and recommend action for the COG to address at its unmet transit needs hearing; and advise the COG on any other major transit issues. The COG Board appoints SSTAC members for a term of three years.

During the April 17, 2007 meeting, Mr. Bob Hand, Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living – Fresno requested to become a member of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). Mr. Hand is being recommended by SSTAC for membership. [DOWNS]

Action: Staff, SSTAC and TTC recommend the COG Policy Board appointment of one new member to the SSTAC.

D. On-Call Modeling Assistance Contract Extension

Summary: The On-Call Modeling Services contract provides COG staff with needed assistance in creating specialized script files, trouble shooting modeling problems and providing specialized training in dealing with the latest air quality regulations. The contract provides the following benefits:

- Assists COG staff with development of new and refined script when needed especially for air quality and conformity purposes.
- Research and develop new scripts and processes that will help staff use the model more effectively.
- Troubleshoots major and minor problems.
- Assists in the professional development of the COG modeling and demographic staff.
- Assures that staff is aware of the latest land use techniques and data.
- Keeps staff informed on the latest modeling techniques and software.

Dowling Associates has developed the Fresno COG model and is currently completing our land use update and revalidating the model. Because of Dowling's experience with our model and our experience with their technical staff we recommend the extension of the On-Call Modeling services contract. [BITNER]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend approval to the COG Board of the contract extension and authorization for the Executive Director to contract with Dowling Associates for on-call modeling assistance in the amount not to exceed \$10,000 per year.

E. San Joaquin Valley COG's Video Teleconferencing Project

Summary: In April, 2007 Fresno COG staff researched the cost and feasibility of connecting the eight San Joaquin Valley COGs through a video-conferencing system. The system will allow the COGs to communicate via camera and video screen display in much the same way as web-cams. The goal of the project is to reduce the vehicle miles traveled (VMT), by reducing or eliminating the need to travel long distances for face-to-face meetings.

Fresno COG has received consultations/proposals from two qualified videoconferencing firms with a third proposal pending. These proposals include all necessary equipment and installation for the SJV COGs video-conferencing platform:

Consulting Firm	Proposed Cost
KerTel Communications Inc.	\$248,000.00 High \$155,000.00 Low
Commercial Video and Sound	\$180,000.00 High \$135,000.00 Low

On April 26, 2007 COG staff submitted a grant application to Valley Clean Air Now (Valley CAN) requesting \$30,000.00 to help fund the project. In addition, COG is requesting \$25,740.00 in grant funds from the SJVAPCD. The remaining balance for the project is to be divided between the participating SJV COGs on a pro-rated basis. Once all proposals have been received and consensus reached among the valley COGs on the type of technology to be utilized and the cost sharing, staff will bring forward an action item for the Policy Board's consideration. [TWEBSTER]

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

F. San Joaquin Valley 511 System Update

Summary: In the spring of 2006, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) extended an offer to the eight valley COGs to join the SACOG 511 or traveler information system. While there has been dialogue regarding the offer, it is just recently that the San Joaquin Valley COGs have discussed the feasibility of this offer in terms of the entire Central Valley.

A 511 or traveler information system is a one-stop shop for traveler-related information within a region. The Sacramento region, the Bay Area, Los Angeles and San Diego all have 511 systems in place. By providing access to traveler information through 511 in the San Joaquin Valley, commuters and travelers will be able to access traveler information through 511 from everywhere in California.

This past month, the Fresno COG in partnership with Caltrans Districts 6 and 10 as well as Kern COG, Tulare COG, Kings COG, Madera COG, Merced COG, Stanislaus COG, and San Joaquin COG applied for a special planning grant through Caltrans to plan and implement a 511 system for the San Joaquin Valley. The grant was very well received by program partners with results expected to be released in July 2007.

Within SAFETEA-LU, Congress and President Bush issued a mandate that a nationwide 511 system be in place by 2010. To facilitate access to travel information through 511 within the eight Valley COGs, Fresno COG worked with Caltrans and SACOG to define a 'base-line' or basic 511 system for the San Joaquin Valley for as little cost as possible.

This past week, a 'base-line' system was defined for the San Joaquin Valley that is being made available to the eight Valley COGs at no cost. Discussion will be taking place in the coming weeks between the eight Valley COGs to determine if action should be taken on the offer. When implemented, commuters and travelers throughout the San Joaquin Valley will be able to access Caltrans road information through the SACOG 511 using their cell phones.

If the eight Valley COGs choose to proceed with the base-line 511 system through SACOG, access to road conditions could be made available throughout the San Joaquin Valley through 511 within a matter of months. It is worthwhile to note that joining the SACOG 511 system does not obligate the eight Valley COGs to remain a part of the SACOG 511 system. If as part of the planning process for the San Joaquin Valley 511 grant, it is determined that the needs of the eight Valley COGs are best met by implementing our own system, access to 511 information for the San Joaquin Valley through the SACOG system can be redirected elsewhere.

A 'base-line' 511 system consists of access to Caltrans road conditions through the SACOG 511 system in the San Joaquin Valley. Should Fresno COG or any of the other Valley COGs desire to provide 511 system access to wireline or 'land-based' phones or add additional information or features such as access to transit agencies, there will be additional costs involved. Each Valley COG that elects to add such access or features will be responsible for their payment.

Once the eight Valley COGs approve of the 'base-line' 511 system and are on the system, they can select access and additional features that they would like to make available through 511 in the San Joaquin Valley. [SOBRADO]

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

G. Monthly Legislative Update

Summary: A summary of current state and federal legislative activity is in your agenda packet for committee review and information.

Please contact staff person Renee 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.

H. Federal Grant Opportunity

Summary: Our Washington D.C. lobbyist has forwarded information on FY 07 Economic Development Assistance Programs. The memo is included in your packet. [STECK]

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

I. Presentation as COG Board meeting on May 31, 2007 Regarding Aggregates by John Buada

Summary: At the request of the Policy Board, John Buada will make a presentation to the Board on May 31, 2007 regarding the aggregate issue and aggregate needs in Fresno County. Included on our website is a link [SMARA Mineral Land Classification page and report](#) which provides aggregate information for California. Additional information is included in your agenda packet. [GOODWIN]

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

J. Request for Presentation at COG Policy Board on 6-28-07 from Dr. Ed Moreno regarding "Emerging Infectious Diseases"

Summary: Dr. Ed Moreno, has requested an opportunity to make a presentation before the Policy Board at their June 28, 2007 meeting regarding "Emerging Infectious Diseases". [GOODWIN]

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

K. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting, Inc. at Board Meeting on 5-31-07

Summary: California Consulting staff will provide an update to the Policy Board on 5-31-07. [Samuelian]

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

L. Regional Clearinghouse

	Project	Applicant
1.	USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant – Police Protection Equipment and Emergency Generators	City of Mendota
2.	USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant – Fire Protection Equipment	City of Mendota
3.	US Department of Housing and Urban Development – Supportive Housing for the Elderly	Southern California Presbyterian Homes
4.	US Department of Housing and Urban Development – Community Development Block Grants	County of Fresno

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

City of Mendota is applying for USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant for public safety equipment for police protection equipment and emergency generators in the amount of \$58,300 (Federal) and \$47,700 in matching funds for a grant total in the amount of \$106,000.

Southern California Presbyterian Homes is applying for a 2007 Section 202 Supportive Housing Capital Advance Grant Program for affordable housing for seniors aged 62 and over in the amount of \$9,736,600 (Federal), \$25,000 in matching funds, and \$1,557,857 in local funds for a grant total amount of \$11,319,457.

Fresno County is applying for a US Department of Housing and Urban Affairs for a community redevelopment block grant for a total of \$5,654,371 (Federal) and \$1,785,125 in other funds for a total of \$7,439,496. [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.

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Transportation Development Act Final Estimates, Resolution 2007-13, Resolution 2007-14

Summary: Preliminary estimates for the 2007/08 Transportation Development Act Local Transportation Fund (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) were released in February based on the January 2006 population numbers. Final revised estimates are provided when the State Department of Finance releases the January 2007 population numbers on May 1.

The LTF apportionment table has been modified to reflect the staff recommendation that \$114,749 Article 4 & 8 funds be claimed to provide matching funds for the Blueprint Planning Process. A memorandum explaining the recommendation is included with the apportionment tables. The Air District has been asked to contribute matching funds for the grant, however the actual amount of their contribution has not yet been determined therefore two apportionment tables are provided comparing the LTF apportionment with the claim for Blueprint Matching funds (worst case) to the LTF apportionment without the claim. It is anticipated that the actual claim will be somewhere in between.

Action: Staff and TTC recommend the COG Board adopt the final LTF estimate including a claim for Blueprint Matching funds by approving Resolution 2007-13, and the final STA estimate Resolution 2007-14.

B. FY2007-08 Overall Work Program and Budget, Resolution 2007-06

Summary: The draft FY 2007-08 Overall Work Program and Budget (OWP) containing an annualized budget of \$5,746,810 and a total budget of \$6,996,810 (including carryover projects) was presented to our COG committees and released for its required 45 day public review and comment period in February 2007. The Final FY 2007-08 OWP presented for adoption this month reflects several administrative and fiscal changes to the draft presented in February. The final FY 2007-08 OWP presented for adoption this month reflects an increase of \$377,475 from the draft OWP and now totals \$7,374,285 (including carryover). The revisions are due to the following:

- WE 110-Regional Streets and Highways: \$11,220

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) is conducting a nationwide Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP) effort which provides census data on demographic characteristics, home and work locations and journey to work travel flows. Historically AASHTO has partnered with all states (including California) and shared the cost for developing the information. California's share of the match for the national effort is \$720,140. Caltrans will be providing \$120,140 of the match and are looking for the state's Metropolitan Planning Organizations to provide the remaining \$600,000. Fresno COG's pro-rata share of the match is \$11,220.

- WE 121-Job Access and Reverse Commute Program (JARC) & WE 122-New Freedom: \$166,469

Last year a new single Work Element (314-Public Transit-Human Services Transportation) was added to the OWP. This work element provides funding for new federal transit programs established in SAFETEA-LU. These new programs, *Section 5316-Jobs Access Reverse Commute* and *Section 5317-New Freedom Program* are focused on providing transportation services for persons with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with lower incomes by ensuring that agencies coordinate transportation resources provided through multiple federal programs. At the request of Federal Highway Administration, this work element is now being broken into two work elements WE 121-JARC and WE 122-New Freedom. The New Freedom program requires a match ranging from 50% to 80%, therefore COG must show a source of those funds for OWP purposes, however, the match will be funded by the agencies who are awarded the grants. We are adding \$166,469 to the budget to reflect this.

- WE 410-San Joaquin Valley Blueprint: -\$214

The Blueprint planning process has entered its second year of activity with a \$1.95 million grant from Caltrans. The first year's planning process was funded at the \$2 million level. We were fortunate to have the 20% match of \$500,000 contributed by the Valley Air District. We have now asked them to provide the second year's match but need a strategy to cover the match if the District chooses not to participate again or participate at a lower level. In an effort to be conservative, we are including the "worst case scenario" for budgeting purposes, realizing that we can amend the budget in the event that the Air District provides a match at some level.

As is typical of many of our Valleywide endeavors, we share costs and revenues with our fellow Valley COGs on a population based formula (Fresno = 23.54%). The \$1.95 million grant has a \$487,500 match for a total program of \$2,437,500. Fresno COG's share of the 20% match is \$114,749. Merced COG, the fiscal agent for the Valleywide project is distributing \$1,525,000 off the top for grant administration, Great Valley Center regional planning activities and to guarantee a \$150,000 base amount for the smaller COG's – leaving a net pro rata distribution of \$912,500. Our share of that, plus our \$150,000 base amount is \$364,786. (See enclosures for details.)

We are proposing to use Local Transportation Fund (LTF) Article 4 and 8 monies for our share of the match, which would also use population to determine the share for each of our member agencies (see enclosed LTF Apportionment to Member Agencies Table). We are proposing LTF to match the grant as it is the only local funding source we have available to us at this time.

A point of comparison: Our 2005/06 LTF surplus amounted to over \$3.6 million. The \$114,749 match we need for the second year of the Blueprint would have taken only 3% of that surplus. We believe that this is the most prudent approach for us to pursue in accounting for the match, knowing that we can make adjustments if and when the Valley Air District decides to partner with us on the matching funds.

- WE 411-Farmland Model Conservation Program: \$200,000

Fresno COG was successful in obtaining a San Joaquin Valley Partnership Seed Grant in the amount of \$200,000 to develop a Farmland Model Conservation Program. This required development of a new work element (411) and the addition of the \$200,000 grant into our FY 2007-08 OWP

Appendix I of the final OWP summarizes all comments received during the review period together with responses to those comments. The Intermodal Planning Group, consisting of representatives from the Federal Highways Administration, Federal Transit Administration and Caltrans met on March 21, 2007 to review the document. The responses to comments and the OWP itself were found to be adequate. The document has completed the 45-day review and is ready for adoption. [BOREN]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend the COG Board approve the FY 2007-08 OWP by adoption of Resolution 2007-06.

C. Environmental Impact Report (EIR) - 2007 RTP, 2007 FTIP Amendment #7, and Conformity Analysis, Resolution 2007-15

Summary: The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) consists of a policy, action, financial and environmental element; the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) serves as the RTP's environmental element. Consistent with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regulations, a new programmatic EIR for the RTP was developed to evaluate potentially significant environmental effects of the plan and to identify strategies to avoid or mitigate significant environmental effects. The Draft EIR was made available for a 45-day review and public comment period beginning on March 13, 2007. The Draft EIR was mailed to interested stakeholders, the State Clearinghouse, and made available on the Fresno COG website. A public hearing was held on April 26, 2007. Comments were received from the Native American Heritage Commission, the Attorney General's Office, CA Fish and Game, and Central Transit Development Corporation. Due to the timing of the close of the comment period and committee schedule, final documents will not be available until mid-May 2007. The final EIR will include copies of the comments; staff and consultants will work to develop appropriate responses. [PAUKOVITS]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend the COG Board certify the final EIR by approval of Resolution 2007-15.

D. 2007 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), FTIP Amendment #7, and Conformity Analysis, Resolution 2007-16

Summary: In March 2007, Fresno COG released the draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), and Conformity Analysis for a 45-day review and public comment period. Public comments were received in March and April, and a public hearing was held on April 26, 2007.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): The 2007 RTP represents the long range planning vision for Fresno County's regional transportation system through the year 2030. Comments were received from Caltrans, the Air District, and members of the public regarding a number of issues. The final RTP will address these comments, which relate to planning requirements, Air District rules, safety and security of the transit system, public private partnerships, Personal Rapid Transit (PRT), and airports.

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. Technical comments were received from Caltrans and will be included in the FTIP amendment to be adopted on May 31, 2007.

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. Minor editorial comments were received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Air District.

Final documents will include responses to comments and edits as appropriate. Due to the timing of the close of the comment period and committee schedule, final documents will not be available until mid-May 2007. Documents will be available on the website at www.fresnocog.org. CDs and hard copies will be made available upon request. Caltrans and FHWA approval is expected to occur prior to July 1, 2007. [PAUKOVITS/DEVERE]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend the COG Board adopt the 2007 RTP, 2007 FTIP Amendment #7, and Conformity Analysis by approval of Resolution 2007-16.

E. Cost Effectiveness Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Policy, Resolution 2007-17

Summary: As part of the development of local air quality measures for the 8-hour Ozone Plan, the San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) proposed to develop a process across the Valley for distributing 20% of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to projects that meet a minimum cost-effectiveness beginning in FY 2011. The CMAQ program funds transportation projects or programs that will contribute to attainment or maintenance of the national ambient air quality standards. The CMAQ program was created under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, and continued under subsequent transportation legislation, TEA-21 and SAFETEA-LU. The eight San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) currently receive approximately \$40 million per year in CMAQ funding, subject to state and federal formulas; Fresno COG receives approximately \$9 to \$11 million per year.

While all CMAQ funding must go to transportation-related projects that demonstrate an air quality benefit, the eight San Joaquin Valley MPOs currently have different criteria and processes for allocating funding to eligible agencies and projects. There is currently no minimum cost-effectiveness established for the CMAQ program, and according to recent national studies, the numbers vary widely across the country. SAFETEA-LU, including new CMAQ guidance released by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 2006, directs States and MPOs to give priority to cost-effective congestion mitigation activities that provide air quality benefits. Though SAFETEA-LU establishes these investment priorities, it also retains local authority in project selection, meaning that changes to local procedures are not required by the SAFETEA-LU.

The San Joaquin Valley MPOs, including Fresno COG, propose to adopt the local cost-effectiveness CMAQ policy through the enclosed Policy Board Resolution. The percentage (20%) of funds will be converted to a dollar amount as part of periodic reviews and updates to the

CMAQ policy. The policy is scheduled to be implemented in FY 2011 since the current federally approved 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Programs (FTIPs) have committed CMAQ funds through FY2010.

Due to changes in technology and costs over time, Fresno COG and other MPOs will revisit the minimum cost-effectiveness standard, as well as policy feasibility, at least once every four years. A periodic review of the policy is also necessary due to potential changes in federal transportation legislation, apportionments, and project eligibility. [PAUKOVITS]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend the COG Board approve the policy by adoption of Resolution 2007-17.

F. Adoption of Annual Availability Advisory Percentages for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Participation, Resolution 2007-12, PUBLIC HEARING: 5-31-07

Summary: We have completed the annual update to our DBE bidders list. Everyone on the list was contacted and requested to update vendor information that we are required to compile per 49CFR Part 26. The results were compiled in the database. We presently have 266 vendors in our program of which 36 claim DBE status. This equates to a 13% "Annual Anticipated DBE Participation Level" (AADPL).

A public notice was put in the Fresno Bee noticing this public hearing identifying the ADDPL, and \$600,000 in state and federal contracting opportunities programmed in the 2007/08 Overall Work Program and Budget.

During the 2006/07 fiscal year we did eight procurements totaling \$1,068,000. DBE participation was \$382,959 or 36% exceeding our adopted goal of 13%. This goal was met using 100% race neutral methodology. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff recommends that the COG Board adopt Resolution 2007-12 setting our 2007/08 voluntary Annual Anticipated DBE Participation Level at 13%, to be obtained by Race Neutral Methods.

G. Contract Renewal with California Consulting

Summary: Fresno COG's contract with California Consulting is in effect until June 30, 2007, having been extended by the COG Policy Board in October 2006 so the annual contracting process for state lobbying services would better align with both the COG's and its member agency budget cycles. Direction by the Policy Board at that time was to enter into negotiations with California Consulting prior to the contract's end. If a successful negotiation (approvable by the Board) was not achieved, then the Board would have the option of instructing staff to initiate a Request for Proposal from eligible firms.

The COG Policy Board has received regular reports from California Consulting on its efforts, and has at previous meetings indicated its satisfaction including complimentary remarks with the services thus far rendered. Staff is also satisfied with the efforts, finds our working relationship to be very good, and is pleased with the firm's responsiveness to our requests.

In March, California Consulting submitted a request to renew the contract with a monthly retainer of \$3000 per month, plus expenses. This was based on the scope of services within the contract and per direction provided by the COG Policy Board for its Sacramento One Voice agenda. The current contract is \$2000 inclusive of "normal" business expenses (i.e. Sacramento One Voice expenses were additional). California Consulting noted that they have business expenses reimbursed in addition to the monthly retainer from their other clients.

Fresno COG staff opened negotiations, noting that the proposed monthly retainer would be a 43% increase over the existing contract, not including the added expense reimbursements. Staff

pointed out that the funds available for COG's lobbying services come from the same fund source that each of its members would themselves use to pay for their individual lobbying efforts. Staff and California Consulting have subsequently negotiated the following agreement, subject to the Policy Board's approval:

- \$2,500 monthly retainer (\$30,000 annually, a 19% increase)
- 600 annual filing fees (October 2006 Policy Board agreement reflected in current contract)
- 1,200 annual expense reserve (requires itemizing for reimbursement, and travel is subject to pre-approval. California Consulting states normal expenses are generally around \$30/month. The reserve allows room for unusual expenses, including the Sacramento One Voice trip.)

Member dues would be affected, with a 10.29% increase. A spread sheet is included in your package which shows the net difference between the 2006-07 level and the proposed 2007-08 level. [GOODWIN]

Action: Staff recommends approval of the negotiated contract as outlined above.

H. Legislative Positions

Summary: In an effort to be responsive to pending legislation Fresno COG will be actively reviewing and making recommendations on priority legislation to the PAC and Policy Board. As pieces of legislation are brought to our attention by action request or by research, staff will make available the necessary background information to allow for formal position recommendation by both the PAC and Policy Board. In an effort to formalize this process, staff is developing a policy document to determine both goals and strategies on how to best track and respond to legislation.

Currently staff is in the process of analyzing the following bills to determine the benefits and impacts these pieces of legislation will have on Fresno COG and its member agencies:

- Torlakson SB 445-Road Users Taskforce (per request)
- Lowenthal SB 974-Ports: congestion relief: environmental mitigation: regulatory fee.
- Ruskin AB 468-Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (per request)
- Arambula AB 575-The Highway Safety Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Fund of 2006: emission reductions.
- Arambula AB 997-Infill capital outlay project and planning grants and loans (per request)
- Arambula AB 1129-Rural regional affordable housing trust (per request)

A verbal update will be made at the PAC meeting. Enclosed in your package is general background information on these bills. [DEVERE]

Action: Staff recommends PAC determine the extent of support on the aforementioned pieces of legislation after committee discussion.

I. Proposed Legislation Affecting Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program

Summary: Assembly Bill 468 (Ruskin) proposes changes to state code governing the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (AVA) Program. The bill addresses several concerns that exist with our own program and many other programs up and down the state and that have been discussed previously with your Committee and the Board.

The purposes of the proposed bill are to:

1. Clarify terms. The definition of "abandoned vehicle" is clarified to mean a motor vehicle that meets any of several conditions including left on a street or highway for a period of 72 hours or more in violation of a local ordinance. The definition of "abandoned vehicle abatement" is clarified to mean the voluntary or involuntary removal of an abandoned vehicle from public or private property and that the vehicle does not need to be made

- inoperable or scrapped after it has been removed. Cost recovery is clarified to mean costs for both voluntary and involuntary removal and disposal.
2. Allow each Service Authority to define conditions for eligibility within the limits of the code for their geographic area. Differences in geographical area, population density, and social-economic makeup of the various jurisdictions require different approaches to the distribution of funds to member agencies within the service authority in order to recover a portion of the actual costs of abating vehicles.
 3. Permit any funds unexpended in a fiscal year to be used by the service authority in the following fiscal year for certain motorist aid programs for the service authority's jurisdiction and capital purchases for the implementation of the abandoned vehicle abatement program by the service authority. Unexpended funds would not be returned to the State Transportation Fund as the current CHP guidelines require.

The City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County serves as the AVA Service Authority for San Mateo County and is the sponsor of AB 468. They have requested a letter of support from all the AVA Service Authorities throughout the state. Our normal practice would be to present the matter to our Board to receive their authorization for a support letter. However, in this case, because of the time-sensitive nature of the request, the clear benefits to our program from the legislation, and the Board's familiarity with the issues that the legislation will address, staff recommends the PAC authorize the Executive Director to submit the enclosed letter of support for Assembly Bill 468. Staff will report to the Board at its meeting later this month on the bill and the action of your committee. [THOMPSON]

Action: Authorize the Executive Director to submit the enclosed letter of support for Assembly Bill 468.

J. Measure "C" Update

Summary: Staff will provide an update on Measure "C" progress at the Committee meetings this month. Included in your agenda packet is a list of the Board approved Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee. [GOODWIN/BOREN]

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

K. Blueprint Update

Summary: We are now moving into Phase 2 of the Blueprint planning process where we will determine planning principles, goals and measurable outcomes that reflect the values and vision that members of the community identified during Phase 1. We will also be discussing a range of alternative growth scenarios we will be modeling as we move forward. A map of the base case scenario – the "Status Quo Alternative" is included in your packet. More detailed versions of the Status Quo maps are on our website at www.fresnocog.org under Blueprint. A second "Blueprint Planners Workshop" is scheduled for 1:30 PM here at COG on Wednesday, May 23rd. Land use and transportation planners from throughout the county have been invited to discuss these issues. [STECK/CAI]

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

L. Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan Status Report

Summary: The Draft 2007 Fresno County Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan has been posted on the COG website and provided to each of our member agencies. The Government Code provides that 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 Plan was also submitted to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for its review. **The 60-day local revision process is set to expire June 7, 2007.**

COG staff conducted a meeting on April 23 to review the Draft Plan with interested individuals and staff from various agencies. In addition, staff offered to meet with each jurisdiction separately to review the document, and has met with Clovis and County staff. If interested, there is still time for COG staff to meet separately with your agency to review the Plan and discuss its meaning for your community. [THOMPSON]

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

M. 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.

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.**

