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Website Address: [www.fresnocog.org](http://www.fresnocog.org)

JOINT  
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

**Date:** Friday, July 13, 2007  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Place:** COG Sequoia Conference Room  
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201

**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 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.

**I. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

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

| Item | Description | Enclosure | Action* |
|------|-------------|-----------|---------|
|------|-------------|-----------|---------|

**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. **Additional action or guidance may occur on any item, even if noted as information.**

|    |                                                                                                                    |     |             |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------|
| A. | TTC Executive Minutes of June 6, 2007                                                                              | Yes | Approve     |
|    | PAC Executive Minutes of June 15, 2007                                                                             | Yes | Approve     |
| B. | 2006-07 Transportation Funding Claims                                                                              | Yes | Approve     |
|    | 1. City of Kingsburg, Resolution 2007-28                                                                           |     |             |
|    | 2. City of San Joaquin, Resolution 2007-29                                                                         |     |             |
| C. | Administrative Amendment No. 8 to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program                              | No  | Approve     |
| D. | Monthly Legislative Update                                                                                         | Yes | Information |
| E. | Farmland Conservation Model Program Update                                                                         | No  | Information |
| F. | Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Third Quarter Progress Report                                                          | Yes | Accept      |
| G. | Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting LLC at the Board on 7-19-07 | No  | Information |
| H. | Air District Eight-Hour Ozone Plan – Letter to the Governor                                                        | Yes | Information |
| I. | FCRTA Items                                                                                                        |     |             |
|    | 1. Award Procurement of Four (4) Buses for Mendota Prison Employee Transit Service, Resolution 2007-09.            | Yes | Accept      |

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

- |    |                                                                                           |     |         |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------|
| 2. | FCRTA's Transit Services in Support of the Fresno County Heat Emergency Contingency Plan. | Yes | Approve |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------|

|    |                        |     |             |
|----|------------------------|-----|-------------|
| J. | Regional Clearinghouse | Yes | Information |
|----|------------------------|-----|-------------|

|    | Project                                                          | Applicant             |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | USDA Rural Development Grant – Rural Housing Preservation Grants | Self-Help Enterprises |
| 2. | USDA Rural Development Grant – Rural Housing Preservation Grants | Fresno County         |
| 3. | FY 2007/08 Federal Planning Funds. FHWA PL Funds                 | State of California   |
| 4. | FY 2007/08 U.S.C., Chapter 53, Section 5303 and 5305 Programs    | State of California   |
| 5. | FY 2007/08 State Planning and Research Studies                   | State of California   |

### III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

- |    |                                                                                                                                        |     |                        |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| A. | Measure "C"                                                                                                                            |     |                        |
| 1. | Measure "C" Update Activities                                                                                                          | No  | Info/Discussion        |
| 2. | 1987-2007 Measure "C" Expenditure Plan, Sixth Edition                                                                                  | Yes | Initiate 45 day review |
| 3. | 2007-2027 Measure C Expenditure Implementation Plan Part 1 - Local Agency Pass-Through Fund Handbook<br>PUBLIC HEARING – JULY 19, 2007 | Yes | Approve                |
| 4. | Measure "C" Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Program Consultant Selection Process                                                | No  | Approve                |
| B. | Triennial Performance Audits                                                                                                           | Yes | Accept                 |
| C. | High Speed Rail Update                                                                                                                 | Yes | Info/Discussion        |
| D. | Blueprint Update, Resolution 2007-27                                                                                                   | Yes | Approve                |
| E. | Establish Formal Position on Pending Legislation and Overview of Proposition 84                                                        | Yes | Action                 |
| F. | 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.**

**\*\*All enclosures are available on our website at [www.fresnocog.org](http://www.fresnocog.org) – Committees and Agendas**



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**JOINT  
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**Date:** Friday, July 13, 2007  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Place:** COG Sequoia Conference Room  
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**I. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

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**A. TTC Executive Minutes of June 6, 2007  
PAC Executive Minutes of June 15, 2007**

**B. 2006-07 Transportation Funding Claims**  
**1. City of Kingsburg, Resolution 2007-28**  
**2. City of San Joaquin, Resolution 2007-29**

**Summary:** 2007/08 Transportation Development Act Claims. The amounts claimed for Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds are:

| <b>Jurisdiction:</b> | <b>LTF Fund:</b> | <b>STA Fund:</b> | <b>Total Funds:</b> |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| City of Kingsburg    | 365,131          | 116,527          | 481,658             |
| City of San Joaquin  | 125,784          | 40,135           | 165,919             |

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

**Action:** Staff recommends approval of the funding claims by adopting Resolution 2007-28, and Resolution 2007-29.

**C. Administrative Amendment No. 8 to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program**

**Summary:** Administrative Amendment No. 8: This amendment was approved on June 13, 2007 by the Executive Director of the Council of Fresno County Governments as authorized by the Policy Board. Modifications to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program are as follows:

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

*Change to the Hazard Elimination Safety Program/ Highway Safety Improvement Program:*

Construction for project FRE040401, a lump sum, was increased by \$211,800 for the City of Fresno's Clinton and West Intersection project. These funds were awarded by Caltrans after a competitive application process. These additional funds were added into the 2006/2007 Federal Fiscal Year. [DEVERE]

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

**D. 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 Jennifer Dansby if you have any questions regarding the listed bills, or if you require a more in-depth analysis of any particular bill. [DANSBY]

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

**E. Farmland Conservation Model Program Update**

**Summary:** The Farmland Conservation Model Program working group met on June 26, 2007 at Fresno COG offices to review the latest proposal submitted by the American Farmland Trust to develop a farmland conservation program for first, Fresno County, then the remaining San Joaquin Valley counties. Working Group members in attendance chose to accept the proposed work plan submitted as part of the proposal. Fresno COG is currently awaiting a contract from the California Highway Patrol who is serving as administrator for the San Joaquin Valley Partnership seed grants. Once a contract is signed, Fresno COG staff and project partners are expecting to fast-track the development of the program through to completion. Immediate tasks for the Farmland Conservation Model Program consist of looking at the feasibility of a project oversight committee and the structure that such a panel would take as well as assigning tasks making up the Work Plan. [SOBRADO]

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

**F. Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Third Quarter Progress Report**

**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 enclosure for this item indicates the distribution of funding to the member agencies. For the third quarter of FY 2006-07, a total of \$163,224.35 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 \$162,020.12 conducting AVA activities and the Fresno COG claimed \$2,375.00 for program administration. A total of 1,091 vehicles were abated this quarter. [THOMPSON]

**Action:** Staff recommends acceptance of the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement FY 2006-07 Third Quarter Status Report.

**G. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting LLC at the Board Meeting on 7-19-07**

**Summary:** California Consulting staff will provide an update to the Policy Board on 7-19-07. [SAMUELIAN]

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

**H. Air District Eight-Hour Ozone Plan – Letter to the Governor**

**Summary:** At the June 28, 2007 Policy Board Meeting, the County of Fresno requested an urgency item related to the San Joaquin Valley Air District's Eight-Hour Ozone Plan. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) recently approved the eight-hour ozone plan for the Valley. As part of this plan, the Air District is requesting an "extreme" classification, which would delay the attainment deadline from 2013 until 2024. Attainment of the standard by 2013 requires over a 75% reduction in nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, which is not achievable with current technology. Also included in the ozone plan are updated motor vehicle budgets. EPA needs to make an adequacy finding on these updated vehicle budgets; otherwise, San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) cannot add new transportation projects or make changes to existing projects (a transportation "lockdown"). The Policy Board agreed to send a letter to support timely submission of all necessary components of the plan, as well as to address concerns over the possibility of revisiting the issue of the attainment deadline. Included in your package is a draft copy of the letter. [PAUKOVITS]

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

**I. FCRTA Items**

**1. Award Procurement of Four (4) Buses for Mendota Prison Employee Transit Service, Resolution 2007-09.**

**Summary:** Provided in your agenda package is a June 28, 2007 memorandum regarding the procurement of four (4) wheelchair accessible, thirty-five (35) passenger buses powered by compressed natural gas and pumps, so that we could provide employee transit service to the new Mendota prison.

To date we have not received permission to declare the selected vendor. We feel that the matter may be resolved very soon. With Caltrans approval, an award may be approved by our respective governing boards towards the execution of a purchase order. I am hopeful that this may occur at our July 19, 2007 Meeting. [WEBSTER]

**Action:** The FCRTA General Manager recommends concurrence with the current process towards the awarding of a purchase order, to procure four (4) wheelchair accessible, thirty-five (35) passenger buses powered by compressed natural gas, by adopting Resolution 2007-09 (enclosed) at our July 19, 2007 Meeting.

## 2. FCRTA's Transit Services in Support of the Fresno County Heat Emergency Contingency Plan.

**Summary:** Provided in your agenda package is a June 19, 2007 memorandum regarding the Plan. [WEBSTER]

**Action:** The FCRTA General Manager recommends that we take appropriate steps to cooperate with the intent of the Fresno County Heat Emergency Contingency Plan.

### J. Regional Clearinghouse

|   | Project                                                          | Applicant             |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | USDA Rural Development Grant – Rural Housing Preservation Grants | Self-Help Enterprises |
| 2 | USDA Rural Development Grant – Rural Housing Preservation Grants | Fresno County         |
| 3 | FY 2007/08 Federal Planning Funds. FHWA Funds                    | State of California   |
| 4 | FY 2007/08 U.S.C., Chapter 53, Section 5303 5305 Programs        | State of California   |
| 5 | FY 2007/08 State Planning and Research Studies                   | State of California   |

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

**Self Help Enterprises** is applying for a USDA Rural Development Grant for the preservation of housing for low and very low income households by providing them with loans and/or grants to repair their homes and bring them up to accepted thermal standards. The grant is in the amount of \$110,000 (Federal), and \$490,000 in matching State funds for a total of \$600,000.

**Fresno County** is applying for a USDA Rural Development Grant for the preservation of housing in rural Fresno County. The grant is in the amount of \$100,000 (Federal), and \$100,000 in matching State funds for a total of \$200,000.

**The State of California** received FY 2007/08 Federal Planning Funds from DOT for statewide metropolitan planning activities. Monies received are in the amount of \$39,522,228 (Federal) and \$5,120,523 in matching local funds for a total of \$44,642,751.

**The State of California** received FY 2007/08 U.S.C., Chapter 53, Sections 5303 and 5305 programs from DOT for the Metropolitan Planning Program and State Planning and Research Programs. Monies received are in the amount of \$14,567,868 (Federal) and \$188,122 in matching local funds for a total of \$16,455,990.

**The State of California** received FY 2007/08 State Planning and Research Funds from DOT for the Partnership Planning Grant and CA Regional Blueprint Planning Programs. Monies received are in the amount of \$6,059,625 (Federal) and \$1,514,906 in matching local funds for a total of \$7,574,531.

**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. Measure "C"

##### 1. Measure C Update Activities

**Summary:** Staff will provide an update on Measure "C" progress at the Committee meetings this month. [GOODWIN/BOREN]

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

##### 2. 1987-2007 Measure "C" Expenditure Plan, Sixth Edition

**Summary:** The sixth update to the 1987-2007 Measure "C" Expenditure plan projects the Measure has accumulated \$738.7 million in locally generated sales tax during its twenty year life. \$184.7 million of the sales tax has or will be returned to local agencies for Local Transportation Purposes. Another \$24.95 million has or will be used to administer the agency and environmentally clear and administer the projects in the highway building program. The remaining \$529.15 million has or will be accrued to the Urban and Rural Capital Projects fund, allowing the region to leverage an additional \$587.97 million in state and federal grants and \$65.33 million in interest and other local revenues to deliver \$1,182.45 billion in highway projects to the urban and rural areas of Fresno County.

Focusing on the Urban and Rural Capital Projects fund, there are two Urban projects and four Rural projects remaining in the plan.

For the Urban program, SR 180 (Brawley to Hughes) began construction in April 2007 and is expected to be completed in December 2008 at a cost of \$70.16 million. Staff will be approaching the California Transportation Commission in July to receive a \$60.56 million STIP allocation for SR 180 (Clovis to Temperance), which along with an additional \$11.5 million in Measure money, will allow the project to begin construction in the fall of 2007 for completion in 2009 at a cost of \$100.77 million.

In the Rural program, the Academy project segment from SR 180 to SR 168, is expected to be complete in 2007/08 at a cost of \$18.15 million and the segment from Mountain View to SR 180 is anticipated to be complete in 2008/09 at a cost of \$42.15 million. \$25.50 million STIP funding for SR 180 (Temperance to Academy) will not be available until 2008/09 and \$33.83 million in Measure money is reserved to complete this project at an estimated cost of \$89 million. A Federal Demonstration Earmark enabled a \$20.97 million project, SR 180 I-5 Connection, to be brought forward from the candidate list and added to the rural plan. The project includes a \$1-4 million improvement in Mendota, a \$2 million improvement in Firebaugh, and reserves \$14-17 million for the I-5 Connection pending the completion of a \$1.5 million study by Caltrans to identify the corridor. STIP funding for SR 180 out past Academy to Frankwood will not be available within the planning window of the original Measure, therefore, those segments are deferred to the Measure "C" Extension Program. The design and environmental clearing of the SR 180 West Passing Lanes will likewise not be complete within the planning window of the original Measure and are also deferred to the Measure "C" Extension Program. [BESHEARS]

**Action:** Initiate the 45 day review process for the Sixth Edition of the 1987-2007 Measure "C" Expenditure Plan. Adoption is scheduled for September and then it will be transmitted to the Fresno County Transportation Authority for their action.

**3. Public Hearing: July 19, 2007: 2007-2027 Measure C Expenditure Implementation Plan, Part 1 - Local Agency Pass-Through Fund Handbook**

**Summary:** The Final Draft Local Agency Handbook for Measure C was included in your agenda packet. All comments received to date have been included in the document.

With regards to the Policy Board adoption of the Handbook, the 45-day review was initiated by the TTC at their June 6, 2007 meeting. Because the COG revised its meeting schedule in July out of courtesy for our members (the Board meeting is on 7-19-07 due to the annual League of Cities Meeting during the week of their regular Board meeting) the review period falls one day short of the 45 days. The 45 day review process was established expressly for member agency review and comment. In order to allow our member agencies the full 45 day review and comment period identified in our Joint Powers Agreement, staff will take member agency comments on the draft document up until July 20, 2007, with the formal adoption date being on that date. However, member comments are strongly encouraged to be submitted prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> so that they can be addressed. If members comment subsequent to the public hearing, and the comment is significant, the adoption date could be delayed as a result, adding at least a month to the entire process and affecting when Measure funds will be available to members.

All public comments are due by the July 19<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing. Utilizing this approach allows COG to meet the deadline for the adoption of the Handbook while still preserving the member agency 45 day review and comment period called for in the JPA. [GOODWIN/BOREN]

**Action:** Staff recommends adoption of the 2007-2027 Measure C Expenditure Implementation Plan, Part 1 - Local Agency Pass-Through Fund Handbook pending any additional comments.

**4. Measure "C" Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Program Consultant Selection Process**

**Summary:** One of the components of the Measure "C" Regional Transportation Program adopted by Fresno County voters in November 2006 involves development and adoption of a Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Program by all COG member agencies by January 1, 2009. In order to expedite this process, the process for recruiting a consulting firm to conduct the study is underway and Request for Qualification materials have been received from the following firms:

1. Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas Inc.
1. Omni-Means Engineers & Planners
2. Fehr & Peers Transportation Consultants
3. Associated Transportation Engineers

Based on a review of the Qualification packet materials submitted, each of the four firms is qualified to conduct the Regional Mitigation Fee Program study and therefore will be asked to submit formal proposals to conduct the study. Usually after a selection committee reviews the proposals and conducts the interviews, they select a preferred consultant and forward their recommendation on to the TTC, PAC and Policy Board. However the timelines associated with this project are very tight. COG staff requests the TTC/PAC support a recommendation to allow the selection committee's recommendation go directly to the Policy Board (July 19, 2007). The selection committee is composed of the following TTC/PAC members:

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ron Manfredi (Kerman)  | Don Pauley (Kingsburg)   |
| Scott Mosier (Fresno)  | John Wright (Clovis)     |
| Stan Nakagawa (County) | Sherri Ehlert (Caltrans) |
| Barbara Goodwin (COG)  | Tony Boren (COG)         |

[BOREN]

**Action:** Staff recommends TTC and PAC authorize the selection committee to directly submit their preferred consultant recommendation to the Policy Board. The Policy Board will be asked to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the firm ultimately selected by the Policy Board.

## **B. Triennial Performance Audits**

**Summary:** Pacific Mutual Consultants has completed Triennial Performance audits on the Council of Fresno County Governments and the four Transit Operators in Fresno County per Section 99246 of the PUC.

**Council of Fresno County Governments** – The performance audit found the agency conducts its management of the TDA program in a competent, professional manner while operating in a complex intergovernmental environment, has satisfactorily complied with all state legislative mandates for Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, and increased its visibility with the community, stakeholders and partner agencies through its efforts with the One Voice advocacy program and the passage of the "Measure C" extension.

Three recommendations are given:

1. Consider modifying the annual TDA claim form to include a standard assurances list for the transit operators
2. Consider developing a simplified comprehensive guide of transportation funding sources for inclusion in the orientation package for new Board members
3. Develop step-by-step desk procedures that document "how to" administer or implement various COG programs. (This is already under development with a "Policies and Procedures" Manual)

**Fresno Area Express** – The audit found that FAX has complied with all TDA compliance requirements and gives three recommendations:

1. Report Paratransit contract employees in the State Controller Report.
2. Perform "final" review of State Controller's Report for consistency with the Transit Productivity Evaluation Report.
3. Continue to develop marketing tools to recruit bus mechanics.

**Clovis Transit** – The audit found that Clovis Transit had met all TDA compliance requirements with the exception of a late submittal of the State Controllers Report in FY 2005, and gives three recommendations:

1. Perform "final" review of State Controllers Report for consistency and accuracy.
2. Develop and document a standardized complaint handling process.
3. Expand the mobility training program as resources allow.

**Fresno County Rural Transit Agency** – The audit found that FCRTA has complied with all TDA compliance requirements and gives two recommendations:

1. Consider steps of succession planning.
2. Review the effectiveness of marketing expenditures.

**Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission** – The audit found the FCEOC has complied with all applicable TDA compliance requirements and gives one recommendation:

4. Continue to work closely with Fresno COG and Partner Agencies on the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan.

[BESHEARS]

**Action:** Staff recommends acceptance of the Triennial Performance audits provided by Pacific Mutual Consultants.

### **C. High Speed Rail Update**

**Summary:** As of this writing, the Fiscal Year 2007-08 State budget has not been adopted so it is unknown how much funding will be available to continue the work of the High-Speed Rail Authority. The most recent information from COG's lobbying firm, California-Consulting, is that the Joint Assembly and Senate Budget Conference Committee approved on July 2 a \$55 million budget augmentation for the Authority. However, Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed only \$1.2 million in funding for the Authority. The Authority had requested \$103 million, enough to allow it to continue detailed environmental and engineering design work and begin purchasing land.

A \$9.95 billion bond, already twice postponed, is scheduled for the November 2008 election. While the Governor has expressed his support for high-speed rail, he wants the bond postponed yet again until the Authority secures funding commitments from private investors and the federal government to fund the rest of the estimated \$40 billion construction cost.

While the future of high-speed rail in California is unclear, the work of the Authority nevertheless continues. The Authority's staff recently provided a preview to the Authority Board of the environmental studies on the Altamont Pass and Pacheco Pass competing approaches to the Bay Area from the Central Valley. Several public hearings will be held during the public review period of the Draft Bay Area to Central Valley EIR/EIS, including one in Merced in either late August or early September. COG staff will announce the specific date, time, and place when that information becomes available.

Also, of more direct impact to Fresno County, the Authority has issued a Progress Report on Visalia-Tulare-Hanford Station Feasibility Study (enclosed), which identifies potential sites and alignments for a high-speed train station in that area. The Authority will use this information to determine if any of the alternatives should be taken forward into the project-level EIR/EIS process for study along with the current preferred alternative.

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

### **D. Blueprint Update, Resolution 2007-27**

Two activities are currently taking place in Phase 2 of the Blueprint. Local agency planners are working to develop goals, objectives and policies that will reflect the values and vision that evolved from Phase 1 of the outreach process. Concurrently, we are preparing to model several development options that will provide a basis for defining the alternative growth scenarios that we will analyze in the process of selecting "preferred growth scenario".

In addition to these activities, two San Joaquin Valley Partnership seed grants have been awarded within Fresno County - one to Fresno COG to study Ag land preservation and one to the City of Fresno to study the feasibility of the "Metro Rural Loop" concept. Both of these studies will be considered, along with other input, during the development of alternative growth scenarios for the Blueprint planning process. In order to clarify all of these relationships, we have prepared a resolution for the Policy Board to consider that supports the analysis of several alternative growth scenarios as part of the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program. Ultimately, the Preferred Growth Scenario that is selected will facilitate the vision for improved quality of life within Fresno County and the San Joaquin Valley. It will address future growth through the integration of transportation, housing, land use, environmental resources, other infrastructure and services. [STECK]

**Action:** Staff recommends approval of Resolution 2007-27 that supports the analysis of several alternative growth scenarios as part of the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program.

**E. Establish Formal Position on Pending Legislation and overview of Proposition 84**

**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.

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

**AB 1742 (Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials) State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund: administrative costs.**

A verbal update will be made at the TTC/PAC meeting. General background information on this bill can be found in your agenda package.

For informational purposes only, staff will provide a verbal update on Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water Bond Act, which passed in 2006. Basically, the state will sell \$5.4 billion in general obligation bonds to fund projects relating to safe drinking water, water quality and supply, flood control, waterway and natural resource protection, water pollution and contamination control, state and local park improvements, public access to natural resources, and conservation efforts. The bond money will be made available to various state agencies and for loans and grants, primarily to local agencies and nonprofit organizations.

Included in your agenda packet is the June legislative progress report submitted by Steve Samuelian of California Consulting. [DANSBY/ DEVERE]

**Action:** Staff recommends TTC/PAC determine the extent of support for AB 1742 after committee discussion.

**F. 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

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