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COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS AGENDA

Date: Thursday, September 27, 2007

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Council of Fresno County Governments
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations

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

Item	Description	Enclosure	Action
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Fresno COG Sitting As the Transportation Policy Committee

I. PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

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

- B. Presentation by Cynthia Cooper, Planning Director for Fresno Coalition for Arts, Science and History (FCASH) Regarding Upcoming FCASH Activities
- C. Presentation by Shannon Koontz, Pacific Gas & Electric Company
- D. Presentation to Staff Member Mike Bitner for 20 Years of Service to COG

II. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Board 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 Board concerning the item before action is taken.

- | | | |
|---|-----|-------------|
| A. Transportation Development Act (TDA) Trust 2006-07
Declaration of Surplus | Yes | Approve |
| B. 2007-08 Transportation Funding Claims | Yes | Approve |
| 1. City of Fowler, Resolution 2007-33 | | |
| 2. City of Huron, Resolution 2007-34 | | |
| 3. City of Kerman, Resolution 2007-35 | | |
| 4. City of Mendota, Resolution 2007-36 | | |
| 5. City of Parlier, Resolution 2007-37 | | |
| 6. City of Sanger, Resolution 2007-38 | | |
| C. Safe Routes to School | No | Information |

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

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARING: 2007 Measure "C" Expenditure Plan, Resolution 2007-39	Yes	Approve
B. Measure "C" Extension Update		
1. COG Serving as Policy Advisory Committee to Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA)	Yes	Approve
2. Development of Strategic Implementation Plan	No	Info/Discussion
C. Public Transportation Regional Agency Formation Study Results	Yes	Accept
D. Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS) (Phase II) Request for Proposals	Yes	Info/Action
E. Proposed Streetcar Circulator In Downtown Fresno, Request for Proposals	Yes	Info/Action
F. Greenhouse Gases – Attorney General Visit to Fresno COG	No	Info/Discussion
G. SAFETEA-LU Compliance	Yes	Info/Discussion
H. San Joaquin Valley Regional Goods Movement Action Plan	Yes	Concur w/Review
I. High Speed Rail Update	Yes	Info/Discussion
J. Caltrans Monthly Report	No	Info/Discussion

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments

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

No Reaffirm

V. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

Approve Calendar Items

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 Board 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 Board concerning the item before action is taken.

A. Executive Minutes of July 19, 2007	Yes	Approve
B. 2006-07 Fourth Quarter Progress Report	Yes	Accept
C. Census 2010 Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)	No	Information
D. Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Program Update	No	Information
E. Land Buffer Task Force/Farmland Conservation Update	No	Information
F. Monthly Legislative Update	Yes	Information
G. Financial Audit Contract	No	Approve
H. Regional Clearinghouse	Yes	Information

	Project	Applicant
1.	USDA RD525 Grants	Self-Help Enterprises

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting LLC	No	Information
B. Public Involvement Procedures Update	Yes	Info/Discussion
C. National Community Planning Month, Resolution 2007-40	Yes	Approve
D. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Update	Yes	Info/Discussion
E. 2008 Washington D.C. "One Voice" Call for Projects	Yes	Info/Discussion
F. Legislative Affairs	Yes	Info/Action

Fresno COG Sitting As the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority

VII. ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT REQUEST

Yes Approve

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

- | | | |
|--|-----|-------------|
| 1. First Annual Summit/California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley | Yes | Information |
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B. Items from Members

IX. REQUEST FOR PRESENTATION IN OCTOBER – The Volunteer Center of Fresno County

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

**All enclosures are available on our website at www.fresnocog.org – Committees and Agendas



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COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS ANNOTATED AGENDA

Date: Thursday, September 27, 2007
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Council of Fresno County Governments
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Fresno COG Sitting As the Transportation Policy Committee

I. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Public Presentations
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- B. Presentation by Cynthia Cooper, Planning Director for Fresno Coalition for Arts, Science and History (FCASH) Regarding Upcoming FCASH Activities
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II. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Board 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 Board concerning the item before action is taken.

A. Transportation Development Act (TDA) Trust 2006-07 Declaration of Surplus

Summary: The Transportation Development Act Trust received Local Transportation Fund (LTF) sales tax deposits of \$31,489,960 and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds of \$8,516,739 during 2006/07 resulting in a surplus of \$4,278,634. Per Board policy, these funds are distributed to members per contingency projects listed on the 2006/07 Transportation Development Act Claims. These funds will be in addition to the amounts already authorized per the 2007/08 TDA Apportionment. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend approval of the distribution of the 2006/07 Transportation Development Act Trust Surplus per the 2006/07 Adopted TDA Claims.

B. 2007-08 Transportation Funding Claims

- 1. City of Fowler, Resolution 2007-33
- 2. City of Huron, Resolution 2007-34
- 3. City of Kerman, Resolution 2007-35
- 4. City of Mendota, Resolution 2007-36
- 5. City of Parlier, Resolution 2007-37
- 6. City of Sanger, Resolution 2007-38

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

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

Jurisdiction:	LTF Fund:	STA Fund:	Total Funds:
City of Fowler	172,036	54,880	226,916
City of Huron	243,540	77,711	321,251
City of Kerman	441,739	162,130	603,869
City of Mendota	306,366	97,744	404,110
City of Parlier	425,130	151,219	576,349
City of Sanger	808,560	257,947	1,066,507

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

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend approval of the funding claims by adopting Resolutions 2007-33 through 2007-38.

C. Safe Routes to School

Summary: Calls for projects will be coming by the end of August or early September for both the Federal and State Safe Routes to School programs. The guidelines and application forms are currently in the final stages of being revised for this year's cycles. Cycle 7 of the State SR2S program will have \$54 million available statewide and Cycle 2 of the Federal SRTS program will have \$46 million available statewide, for a combined total of \$100 million for both programs this coming fiscal year. School districts are eligible to apply for funds under the Federal SRTS program. James Perrault, Caltrans District 6 Local Assistance Engineer, has asked that local jurisdictions spread the word to all school districts within their jurisdiction. The following website link provides program updates but, remember, the existing guidelines and application form as shown on the website will be revised prior to the call for projects.
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/saferoute2.htm>. [THOMPSON]

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

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARING: 2007 Measure "C" Expenditure Plan, Resolution 2007-39

Summary: The 45 day review process that was initiated in July has been completed 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. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend adoption of the Sixth Edition of the 1987-2007 Measure "C" Expenditure Plan by approval of Resolution 2007-39.

B. Measure "C" Extension Update

1. COG Policy Board Serving as Policy Advisory Committee to Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA)

Summary: The Fresno County Transportation Authority Administrative Manual requires appointment of a Policy Advisory Committee to the Fresno County Transportation Authority. Specifically, "Section 142105(d) Division 15 of the code requires appointment of a Policy Advisory Committee composed of one representative of each City in the County and one representative of the County with each representative on the Committee required to be an elected official. If a representative ceases to be an elected official, that representative shall cease to be a member of the Committee, and another representative from that City of County shall be appointed. This Section further requires that no person shall serve on the Authority Board and the Committee at the same time. In response to this Section of Division 15, the

Transportation Authority hereby designates the Policy Board of the Council of Fresno County Governments as the Policy Advisory Committee of the Authority to advise the Board on all significant issues encountered in delivery of the Extension Program as requested or otherwise called for in this Administrative Code with the condition that any Authority Board Member simultaneously serving on the Policy Board of the Council of Fresno County Governments designate an alternate elected official from his or her jurisdiction to serve on the Policy Advisory Committee."

The Fresno COG Policy Board may serve in this capacity, given that its make-up meets the requirements identified in the administrative code. The only caveat to this approach is that conceivably there may be a situation where our current COG Policy Board Chairman Trinidad Rodriguez; Councilmember Rico Aguayo and Mayor Alan Autry (COG Board members), who also sit on the FCTA Board, may have to excuse themselves or designate an alternate on issues before the COG while it is acting in its capacity as the Policy Advisory Committee to the Authority. The FCTA Policy Advisory Committee will function much like the COG's Mayors' Select Committee which meets on an as-needed basis.

The Authority Board released its Draft Administrative Code for a 45 day review and comment period at their August 29, 2007 meeting.

At the TTC, Dr. John Donaldson commented that even though the COG Board may have functioned in the way described above for the last Measure, he feels it is clear that a Board member cannot sit on both the Fresno County Transportation Authority Board and the COG Board acting as the Policy Advisory Committee for the FCTA. He further requested that a legal opinion be sought before final action on the item. [BOREN]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend support of the Fresno COG Policy Board serving as the Policy Advisory Committee to the Fresno County Transportation Authority.

2. Development of Strategic Implementation Plan

Summary: COG staff will provide a verbal update on the status of the Measure C Strategic Implementation Plan. [BOREN]

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

C. Public Transportation Regional Agency Formation Study Results

Summary: The Study, which included peer evaluations, policy level stake holder interviews, an evaluation of existing system performance and coordination efforts, found that Fresno County public transportation operators already have a high level of cooperation and coordination. Additionally, based on peer evaluations, Fresno County Operators are providing a cost effective and productive service. The Study recommends the formation of a "Transit Coordinating Council" which would consist of policy level members and technical staff support. The purpose of the Council would be to continue to explore improved coordination potentially leading a regional transit agency. [DOWNS]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend the Fresno COG Policy Board accept the Public Transportation Regional Agency Formation Study final report.

D. Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS) (Phase II) Request for Proposals

Summary: The purpose of the PTIS is to evaluate long term mobility needs and opportunities within Fresno County, and also identify strategies for public transportation and transportation infrastructure development that will result in wider acceptance and use of public transportation as a mobility option. The study will evaluate route alignments and provide cost estimates for capital costs, operating costs and ridership projections. The results and recommendations of the study can then be used by policy makers to determine how best to pursue a public mass transportation system for Fresno County.

Phase I of the PTIS evaluated existing and planned land uses, mapped residential and employment densities, and identified primary travel corridors for communities outside of the Fresno/Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA). Phase I also reviewed existing land use policies and developed a set of transit supportive recommendations. Phase I reports are available on the Fresno COG website at www.fresnocog.org.

The Measure C Extension Plan includes a projected \$5.1 million (\$255,000 annually) for the completion of the PTIS and the formation of a regional transit agency. A General Planning Task Order Request for Proposal (TORFP) has been developed for this process. The advantages of a General Planning Task Order include: maximizing the benefit of the Consultant's knowledge and experience; maintaining flexibility in the process so that new information, public comment and changing circumstances such as advances in technology can be addressed by adjusting work tasks; and lastly, it only encumbers funds for ordered tasks rather than for the entire project.

The TTC has recommended that the RFP be amended to include significant discussion of the Blueprint Planning process now underway. Additionally, in order to better integrate the PTIS and the Blueprint Planning Process, the Blueprint Steering Committee should also act as the Technical Advisory Committee for the PTIS. Staff will integrate the PTIS goals into the Blueprint Major Concepts Template to facilitate this process, and work with the Blueprint Steering Committee to develop a discussion of the Blueprint Planning effort for the PTIS RFP. [DOWNS]

Action: Staff recommends adopting the TTC and PAC recommendations.

E. Proposed Streetcar Circulator In Downtown Fresno, Request for Proposals

Summary: The Council of Fresno County Governments at the request of the City of Fresno is proposing to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to plan and design a streetcar circulator to link important Downtown Fresno destinations such as the Convention Center, Amtrak Station, Fulton Mall and Stadium. The requested scope of work consists of a feasibility analysis that includes the evaluation of alternative routes and equipment, preparation of preliminary planning and feasibility studies, conducting an environmental screening, and preparing a financing plan. The work will be conducted in two phases: the first phase, the feasibility analysis, will conclude with selection of a preferred alternative and preparation of a project description; the second phase of work will include the preliminary design and engineering, and preparation of all appropriate environmental documents. Both phases will include public outreach and involvement tasks.

The City of Fresno wishes to fast track the project and be in construction on the selected route within five years. In the interest of accelerating the project, federal funding will not be sought. A private public partnership is proposed to fund the construction on the final project.

If the RFP is approved after completing the required process including review by the TTC, PAC, COG Policy Board, Citizen Oversight Committee, and FCTA Board, the Phase I of the study would be paid for by Public Transportation and Infrastructure Study funds from Measure C. Phase I of the study is anticipated to be \$500,000. The second phase has been estimated to be between \$2.5 and \$3.5 million.

As a matter of process, if the project obtains its required approvals, the actual expenditure of those funds would be tied to the formal adoption of the next 'chapter' in the Measure "C" Strategic Implementation Plan by the COG Policy Board and the FCTA Board.

Discussions at the TTC focused on two primary issues:

- "Lack of sufficient information" available in order for the TTC to make an "informed" decision on the project.

- Belief that any streetcar or similar projects should logically evolve from the overall Public Transportation Infrastructure Study; to do otherwise would be putting the "cart before the horse" with regards to the transportation planning process required to move forward with a project of this magnitude.

The Citizen Oversight Committee narrowly supported the item with a split vote (eight to five). The dissenting comments were similar to those expressed at the TTC saying the streetcar study RFP appears to find the streetcar a preferred alternative without the appropriate level of preliminary planning. There was also concern that the streetcar study could reduce resources needed to complete the PTIS.

The PAC shared the concerns of the TTC and the Citizen Oversight Committee regarding the potential to reduce PTIS resources. The PAC was also concerned that the RFP, then titled 'Fulton Streetcar Study' did not reflect the scope of services that City of Fresno staff discussed at the PAC meeting, which was more of a downtown circulator intended to connect downtown destination points and encourage economic development.

The PAC recommendation to the COG Policy Board was for FAX staff to amend the Study RFP so that the outlined vision is greater than the current predetermined route, the cost be no more than \$250,000 from the PTIS, and it not delay or diminish the PTIS. A copy of the amended RFP is included in your agenda package. [DOWNS]

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

F. Greenhouse Gases – Attorney General Visit to Fresno COG

Summary: During the development of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Fresno COG's 2007 Regional Transportation Plan, the Attorney General's Office submitted comments on the need to address greenhouse gases. A response and additional information on greenhouse gases were included in the Final EIR that was adopted by the Fresno COG Policy Board in May 2007. To date, the Attorney General has submitted formal California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) comments to San Bernardino, San Diego, Sacramento, Orange County, Merced, Kern, Fresno, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Yuba, Richmond, and San Jose.

Fresno COG staff was recently contacted by the Attorney General's Office. Attorney General Jerry Brown visited Fresno COG on September 13th to discuss additional options to address greenhouse gases. In August 2007, a settlement was announced in the lawsuit against San Bernardino County. The settlement requires the county to measure how much it contributes to global warming and set targets to begin cutting its greenhouse gas emissions. The settlement plan includes (1) an inventory of all sources of greenhouse gases in the County, (2) an inventory of the greenhouse gas emissions level in 1990, currently, and projected for the year 2020, and (3) a target for emissions reductions. The press release from the Attorney General includes some of the feasible mitigation measures:

- High-density developments that reduce vehicle trips and utilize public transit.
- Parking spaces for high-occupancy vehicles and car-share programs.
- Limits on parking.
- Transportation impact fees on developments to fund public transit service.
- Regional transportation centers where various types of public transportation meet.
- Energy efficient design for buildings, appliances, lighting and office equipment.
- Solar panels, water reuse systems and on-site renewable energy production.
- Methane recovery in landfills and wastewater treatment plants to generate electricity.
- Carbon emissions credit purchases that fund alternative energy projects.

Staff will provide an update on the visit and greenhouse gas discussion. [PAUKOVITS]

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

G. SAFETEA-LU Compliance

Summary: Earlier this year, Fresno COG and the other San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) developed and submitted Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs). These long-range plans were developed in a "good faith effort" to achieve compliance with the provisions of SAFETEA-LU. In August 2007, Fresno COG received a letter indicating that our planning efforts are compliant with the requirements of SAFETEA-LU (a copy of the letter is included in the package). Four of the eight Valley MPOs received SAFETEA-LU compliance, while the others must make updates to various plans and programs. This compliance letter allows us to continue to make updates, as necessary, to the 2007 RTP. [PAUKOVITS]

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

H. San Joaquin Valley Regional Goods Movement Action Plan

Summary: Fresno COG is currently the Project Manager for the San Joaquin Valley Regional Goods Movement Action Plan. The draft plan will be reviewed by the eight Valley COGs in September and adopted in October. [BOREN/WEBSTER]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend initiating the 45 day review period with adoption of the San Joaquin Valley Goods Movement Action Plan in October.

I. High Speed Rail Update

Summary: There are several matters regarding high-speed rail to report:

The approved State budget includes \$20.7 million for the California High-Speed Rail Authority to continue engineering and environmental work on the high-speed rail project. The \$9.95 billion bond measure remains scheduled for the November 2008 ballot.

A meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Policy Council was convened via teleconference on August 22, 2007. Representing Fresno County were Rico Aguayo, Richard Fosse, Allie Kessler (for Supervisor Perea), Stan Nakagawa, Barbara Goodwin, Tony Boren, and Clark Thompson. The Policy Council adopted a high-speed rail policy position consisting of several elements noted in the enclosure for this item. The Policy Council policy position is nearly identical to the policy position adopted by the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley on August 10. Of particular note are that high-speed rail needs to serve the entire San Joaquin Valley (Bakersfield to Sacramento) and the region must stay together as it works towards implementation of the initiative; that Amtrak would remain as a complimentary service to high-speed rail; that \$15.5 million must stay in the 2007-08 budget as a minimum funding level; that the high-speed rail ballot measure must stay on the November, 2008 ballot; and, that a letter be submitted to the High-Speed Rail Authority supporting connection for the whole Valley from Bakersfield to Sacramento recommending that the Altamont corridor is the preferred alternative route. These positions were personally communicated at various public hearings held between August 23 – 30 on the Bay Area to Central Valley Draft Program EIR/EIS. The final decision on the route between the San Joaquin Valley and the Bay Area will be made by the Authority and the Federal Railroad Administration in October or November of this year.

The San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies' Directors' Committee will convene its Fall Conference on November 1 and 2 in Stockton. At that meeting a report will be presented that discusses the importance and possible impacts of high-speed rail to the eight counties comprising the San Joaquin Valley. The report will summarize valleywide, county, community and environmental issues; recommendations on project mitigation; valley expectations for high-speed rail; and, each COG's position on a high-speed rail bond proposal. [THOMPSON]

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

J. 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 Board.

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments

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

V. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

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A. Executive Minutes of July 19, 2007

B. 2006-07 Fourth Quarter Progress Report

Summary: Included in your agenda packet is the 2006-07 fourth quarter progress report which is a detailed listing of work performed and funding disbursed in each work element during the fourth quarter (April – June) FY2006-07. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend accepting the fourth quarter report as presented.

C. Census 2010 Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)

Summary: In August 2007, the Census Bureau sent all jurisdictions a letter about LUCA. This program allows each jurisdiction to review and update the addresses and maps used to distribute the 2010 Census questionnaires. The more complete the address listing for a jurisdiction, the more likely it will receive its fair share of funding for transportation, neighborhood improvements, public health, education, and much more.

Three LUCA Options

Each jurisdiction can choose one of three levels of participation:

Option 1 - The Census Bureau provides their address list, a count of addresses by census block, and map digital shapefiles for the jurisdiction. The jurisdiction provides corrections to this material.

Option 2 - The Census Bureau provides their address list, a count of addresses by census block, and map digital shapefiles for the jurisdiction. The jurisdiction provides a local address file and corrections to the map digital shapefiles.

Option 3 - The Census Bureau provides a count of addresses by census block and map digital shapefiles for the jurisdiction. The jurisdiction provides a local address file and corrections to the map digital shapefiles.

Fresno COG and County of Fresno will help you

The staffs of the Council of Fresno County Governments and the County of Fresno Computer Data Systems will help each jurisdiction complete the LUCA process.

If a jurisdiction chooses Option 1, Fresno COG/County will provide them with a list of corrections to the Census-provided address list (by computer matching the Census address list with the County's own address list for the jurisdiction).

If a jurisdiction chooses Option 2 or 3, Fresno COG/County will provide them with the County's own address list for the jurisdiction.

The material provided by the Fresno COG/County is sufficient for completion of the LUCA process, but a jurisdiction can also supplement it with their own review of the address lists, counts and digital shapefiles provided by the Census Bureau.

LUCA Schedule

Mon., Sept. 24, 2007 - Technical workshop conducted by Census Bureau staff, Council of Fresno County Governments, Sequoia Room, 2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201, Fresno, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Mon., Nov. 19, 2007 - Deadline for registering for LUCA and choosing a LUCA option

Mid-March 2008 - Deadline for jurisdictions to return LUCA results

Every jurisdiction in Fresno County is urged to participate in LUCA and work toward the most complete population count. The population counts will affect a jurisdiction's funding, and will determine our area's 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 item. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

D. Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Program Update

Summary: In August 2005, Congress passed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), reauthorizing funding for transportation services. As part of this reauthorization, agencies receiving funds for public and specialized transportation services must meet certain planning requirements. The Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedoms programs were developed with new funding and provisions to improve transportation services for individuals with lower incomes and persons with disabilities.

In order to develop these programs in Fresno County, Fresno COG and Fresno Area Express staff recently convened a meeting with SSTAC and other stakeholders to assist in defining funding priorities for federal human services transportation projects within Fresno County.

One requirement for funding is that projects must be part of a "locally-developed, Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan." This process is very important in that the results of the plan determine how federal monies are allocated for human services transportation programs. This plan must be developed through a process that includes representatives of public, private, and non-profit transportation services, human services providers and the general public.

For questions and more information, please contact Todd Sobrado at Fresno COG at 559-233-4148 or todds@fresnocog.org or Jeff Long at FAX at 559-621-1436 or jeff.long@fresno.gov. [SOBRADO]

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

E. Land Buffer Task Force /Farmland Conservation Update

LAND BUFFER TASK FORCE

Summary: At the July 2007 PAC and Policy Board meetings, Fresno COG staff reported that it was preparing a survey for city managers in order to gauge sentiments towards land buffers within Fresno County. The survey has been completed and will be distributed by email to city managers to complete with input from their elected officials.

For questions or to request more information, please contact Todd Sobrado at (559) 233-4148 or todds@fresnocog.org.

FARMLAND CONSERVATION MODEL PROGRAM

Summary: The Farmland Conservation Model Program Steering Committee is now meeting on a regular basis. A detailed project plan has been completed and accepted by project participants. The mapping and GIS components of the Farmland Conservation Model Program are also currently in process by American Farmland Trust (AFT) staff. Project participants have also completed a preliminary list of possible candidates to the Farmland Conservation Model Program advisory committee. It is expected that invitations will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

For questions and to request additional information, please contact Todd Sobrado at (559) 233-4148 or todds@fresnocog.org. [SOBRADO]

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

F. Monthly Legislative Update

Summary: An enclosed summary of current state legislative activity is in your agenda packet for committee review and information. The following are important dates ahead in the State Legislature:

2007

Sep. 7 – Last day to amend a bill on the floor of either House.

Sep. 14 - Last day for any bill to be passed.

Oct. 14– Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before September 14 and in the Governor's possession after September 14.

2008

Jan. 1 – Statutes take effect.

Jan. 7 – Legislature reconvenes.

Please contact staff person, Jennifer Dansby, if you have any questions regarding the listed bills in your agenda packet 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 Board.

G. Financial Audit Contract

Summary: The County Auditor/Controller selects our Financial Auditor. In 2005/06 they issued an RFP and selected Dedekian, George, Small, & Markarian Accounting Corporation. Existing Fresno County policy allows the auditor to be used for up to five years if satisfactory results are achieved. The firm provided satisfactory results for the 2005/06 audit and staff, TTC and PAC recommend using them again in 2006/07. This includes our Federal Single Audit as well as the Transportation Development Act Trust, and Claimant Member Agency program audits. The County Auditor/Controller concurs with this recommendation. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff and PAC recommend authorizing staff to contract with Dedekian, George, Small, & Markarian Accounting Corporation in the amount of \$42,750 for the 2006/07 Financial Audit.

H. Regional Clearinghouse

Project	Applicant
1. USDA RD525 Grants	Self-Help Enterprises

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

Self Help Enterprises is applying for a USDA RD525 Grant to continue and expand the post-occupancy education and 502 delinquency counseling for the unincorporated areas of seven counties in the San Joaquin Valley. The grant is in the amount of \$100,000 (Federal), and \$50,000 in matching State funds for a total of \$150,000. [SOBRADO]

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

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting LLC

Summary: California Consulting staff will provide an update to the Policy Board on 9-27-07. [SAMUELIAN]

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

B. Public Involvement Procedures Update

Summary: Fresno COG is beginning the update process for our 2003 Public Involvement Procedures. Federal legislation (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, known as SAFETEA-LU) requires metropolitan planning organizations such as Fresno COG to adopt such a plan to provide the public with opportunities to be involved in the transportation planning process. As a result, we are embarking on a four-month evaluation of our current public participation practices by requesting input and consultation on how to best engage the public and interested parties in our transportation planning process. The Participation Plan must meet requirements noted in the federal regulations, including, but not limited to:

- Developed in consultation with “interested parties”;
- Employ visualization techniques to describe plans and programs;
- Make information available in electronic means;
- Provide numerous and reasonable opportunities to comment on the planning process and its products;
- Hold meetings at convenient and accessible locations

SAFETEA-LU also updates the title of the document to a Public Participation Plan (PPP). Key dates leading up to the adoption of the Fresno COG Public Participation Plan are shown below:

Date	Update element
Thursday, August 9	Fresno COG staff begins consultation with all interested parties-mail and email invitation letter
Wednesday, August 22	Public Participation Survey available on website
Wednesday, September 12	Last day to submit surveys
Wednesday, October 3	Draft PPP update goes out with Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) package
Wednesday, October 10	45-day review initiated
Thursday, November 29	Final Draft PPP Adopted at COG Policy Board Meeting

In addition to the activities mentioned in the table above, we will be holding a peer panel focus group with public information officers from a range of government agencies, non-profit organizations and private businesses. We will also be hosting public meetings and additional focus groups with a wide variety of interested parties. [LAUCHNER/PAUKOVITS]

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

C. National Community Planning Month, Resolution 2007-40

Summary: October 2007 will be the second annual National Community Planning Month. Sponsored by American Planning Association (APA), the purpose of this month is to raise the visibility of planning efforts in communities across the U.S. and throw a spotlight on the many residents, leaders, officials, and professionals who contribute to making great communities. Staff recognizes this occasion as a great opportunity to increase exposure and awareness of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint and the efforts and the contributions of all of those involved in this 2050 visioning process. The Blueprint is a demonstration of how planners, community leaders, and community members are playing an instrumental part in addressing the foreseeable planning challenges of maintaining a balance between demands of growth and change, and residents' needs and desires.

From now until October, APA will be providing via their website www.planning.org both resources and suggested activities on how to incorporate National Community Planning Month into local activities. We feel that this year represents a perfect time to highlight to our community the ongoing efforts of the Regional Blueprint Planning Process. To take the first steps in increasing this awareness, we have included a sample resolution that may be taken to your individual councils proclaiming October National Community Planning Month. [DEVERE]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend the endorsement of National Community Planning Month through the adoption of Resolution 2007-40.

D. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint - Update

Summary: Fresno COG's Blueprint planning process has completed Phase I where we identified community values and vision. The other Valley COGs have also completed this task as we move forward with our joint Blueprint venture. We are currently working with local agency planning staff to develop the goals, objectives and performance measures that will reflect the community's expressed values. In addition, we have commenced the modeling phase of the project where we will begin to look at alternative growth scenarios and analyze the outcomes associated with each. We have made preliminary model runs on "single focus" growth options and will be presenting those to you next month. On the Valley wide front – Clovis Development Services Director John Wright is working with us to convene the second Valley Professional Planners meeting here at COG on Thursday, September 27th from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. For more information on that meeting contact Barbara Steck at bjsteck@fresnocog.org

One of the challenges we continually face is keeping our member agencies and the general public informed about the Blueprint planning process. We are scheduling another round of presentations to all of our member agencies' elected bodies this fall. We have also embarked on a media strategy in an attempt to reach the community at large. Executive Director Barbara Goodwin submitted an op. ed. piece that was printed in the Fresno Bee (included in package). We have also distributed a news release (included in package) that talks about higher projected population growth and compares demographic changes occurring in Fresno County and the Valley. KSEE-Channel 24 picked up on this and interviewed Fresno COG's demographer Kathy Chung. Our Blueprint Roundtable members from the building industry are preparing a follow-up opinion piece about housing issues associated with growth and affordable housing. We need our member agencies to assist us with getting the word out on Blueprint activities. We will discuss options for outreach at the meeting. [STECK/LAUCHNER]

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

E. 2008 Washington D.C. "One Voice" - Call for Projects

Summary: It is again time to begin the process of planning for our annual "One Voice" trip back to Washington DC where we will present a list of priorities for our region. Our trips over the past five years have been quite fruitful as noted in the enclosed brochure and in the *Fresno COG "One Voice" 2007 Summary and 2008 Recommendations* on our website at www.fresnocog.org.

The 2008 "One Voice" trip will take place February 9-14, 2008. In preparation, we have been in communication with our D.C. lobbyist, Simon & Company, to discuss their recommendations for project selection criteria. As noted in their memo, they are suggesting that we limit the number of projects to one in each appropriations category and that we remain in the \$2 to \$3 million maximum range for each. In addition, we need to solicit information on policy issues and regulatory reform that our member agencies and community partners may be concerned with so that we can raise those issues with our Washington delegation and their staff. We have mailed the call for projects, with proposals due to us on September 28th. (The information is also available on our website at www.fresnocog.org). We will schedule a project selection committee meeting on October 17th to review project proposals and make recommendations to the Policy Board in November. [STECK]

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

F. Legislative Affairs

Summary: In an effort to be responsive to pending legislation Fresno COG will be actively reviewing and making recommendations on priority legislation. 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 the Policy Board.

Proposition 1B: State- Local Partnership Program Funds

Included in your agenda package is a letter dated July 13, 2007 sent from the Valley COG Director's Policy Council to various state assembly and senate members regarding the State-Local Partnership Program (SLPP).

As a result of the passage of Proposition 1B in November of 2006, there is \$1 billion in bond proceeds available for the SLPP. Proposition 1B requires that the legislature must appropriate funds from the SLPP and that the funds are to be allocated by the California Transportation Commission over a five-year period and must be matched on a one-to-one basis with local funds. The state legislature is currently reviewing two proposals: SB 748 and AB 1351. Different approaches exist between the two bills on the guidelines required to allocate the funds.

At their July meeting, the Policy Council agreed to support the following specific points to be included in the funding guidelines for the State-Local Partnership Program:

- Toll road and bridge toll fees may not qualify as matching funds.
- Funds may not be used for road rehabilitation or maintenance.
- Size of projects to receive State-Local Partnership funding should have a total cost of no less than \$15 million.
- Decisions on funding should be delayed until 2009-10.

As the letter states, the Policy Council is not taking a formal stance on any particular bill, but they do agree to support the above listed points. We are aware that CSAC, the Regional Council of Rural Counties, and the League of California cities are also weighing in on the State-Local Partnership Program funding guidelines by supporting SB 748 (Corbett). [DANSBY]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend that the Policy Board send a follow-up letter to members of the state legislature reiterating the specific points outlined in the Policy Council's letter.

State Senate Bill 9: Proposition 1B: Trade Corridors Improvement Fund

SB 9, authored by Senator Lowenthal, proposes to allocate the \$2 billion made available in the Trade Corridors Improvement Fund through the passage of Proposition 1B. SB 9 establishes a

process by which the California Transportation Commission (CTC) selects and funds projects that reduce congestion and air pollution along trade corridors in California. More specifically, this bill:

- 1) Limits allocations to projects located in four specified trade corridors: a) Port of Oakland through Donner Pass to the California-Nevada state line, b) Port of Oakland to the San Joaquin Valley, and including the Tehachapi Pass, c) Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach through Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties to the California-Nevada state line, and d) Port of San Diego to the Orange County and Riverside County lines.
- 2) Requires the CTC to allocate funds to projects providing at least a 50% match using local, state, and federal monies. This bill exempts grade separation projects and projects improving border access from the local match requirement.
- 3) Projects must be included in a regional transportation plan and in a corridor plan.
- 4) Earmarks \$50 million for projects located outside of the four designated trade corridors.

- 5) Places greatest emphasis, with respect to determining allocation of the \$2 billion, on a trade corridor improvement project's ability to reduce emissions, including carbon dioxide.

Because time is of the essence for weighing in on pending legislation due to the legislative session ending on September 14th, and the fact that the Policy Board will not be meeting until after this date, Barbara Goodwin sent a letter dated August 29th (included in your agenda package) to Senator Lowenthal on behalf of the Fresno COG requesting certain amendments to SB 9. First, under item 1 above, SB 9 describes one of the four trade corridors as going from the Port of Oakland "to" the San Joaquin Valley and not "through" the Valley. This needs to be rectified as the State's Goods Movement Action Plan identifies the San Joaquin Valley as one of the four Trade Corridors so SB 9 and the State's plan need to be consistent. Secondly, the bill refers to several public agencies in relation to this particular corridor but does not list any in the Valley south of Stanislaus. So Barbara's letter includes the request that all of the Valley COG's be listed in the bill as stakeholders since any improvements either within or at the southern and northern ends of the Valley affect us all.

Enclosed in this letter to Senator Lowenthal is an excerpt from our Valley's Draft Regional Goods Movement Action Plan, 2007, that lists factors that the State should consider when programming the Proposition 1B Trade Corridor and Air Quality Mitigation Funding. [DANSBY]

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

Developing a Fresno COG Legislative Platform for 2008

COG staff would like to make the recommendation to the Policy Board that we develop a *Fresno COG Legislative Platform for 2008*. It is staff's intention that this first effort would lay the groundwork for future annual updates.

In recent years, the Fresno COG has become more involved with State and Federal legislative matters through the One Voice advocacy efforts, the contracting with state and federal lobbying firms, and the proactive position taking on bills in the state legislature. Through these efforts and more, COG has increasingly served as a unifying voice for the Fresno region. To build on this, staff believes the COG also needs a unified voice on legislative matters in the form of a Legislative Platform that could include advocacy goals for state and/or federal legislation, as well as regulatory and policy issues that are of importance to the region. With a Legislative Platform in place, COG management and our lobbyists can take a more proactive approach when advocating for common goals and would also be able to respond in a timelier manner to outside requests for COG input on legislative matters of importance.

Included in your agenda package are three samples of 2007 Legislative Platforms for your review: one from the Kern COG; one from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (the transportation planning agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area); and one from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

If the Policy Board gives the go-ahead for this project, then staff would like to suggest that an ad-hoc sub-committee be formed with members from the Board, PAC, COG management, and COG staff to help direct the development of the Legislative Platform.

In a similar effort, the Valley COG Directors and their Policy Council, which consists of two elected officials from each of the eight Valley counties, are planning to develop a San Joaquin Valley Legislative Platform to be used when appropriate, to present a unified voice on legislative matters. Staff will provide updates to our committees on this effort as needed. [DANSBY]

Action: Staff requests direction from the Policy Board on the development of a *Fresno COG Legislative Platform for 2008*.

Fresno COG Sitting As the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority

VII. ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT REQUEST

Summary: Section 22710(c)(2) of the Vehicle Code states that money received by an Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority shall be used only for the abatement, removal, and disposal as public nuisances of any abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicles or parts thereof from private or public property. The guidelines for program implementation, contained in the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program Handbook developed by the California Highway Patrol, state that major purchases exceeding \$2,500 require the participating jurisdiction to request approval from the Service Authority, and these requests shall include a detailed justification. When evaluating a request, a Service Authority shall ensure the funds are being expended in accordance with Section 22710(c)(2) and for the benefit of the AVA Program.

Fresno County has requested the Fresno County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority approve reimbursement of the cost to purchase two computers to be used exclusively by the Fresno County Sheriff's Department in its abandoned vehicle abatement program. Fresno County is requesting reimbursement of \$7,690.46. The enclosed quotation from Dell is the basis for the County's request. Fresno County would be reimbursed from its formula share of funding, so the funding amounts of other agency AVA programs are not affected by this request. [THOMPSON]

Action: Staff and PAC recommend approval of Fresno County's funding request.

Fresno COG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

1. First Annual Summit/California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

Summary: The Annual Summit for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley will be held on Thursday, October 4, 2007 at the Visalia Convention Center in Visalia, California. [GOODWIN]

Action: Information item only.

B. Items from Members

IX. REQUEST FOR PRESENTATION IN OCTOBER – The Volunteer Center of Fresno County

Summary: The Volunteer Center of Fresno County is requesting a 5 minute presentation before the COG Board at its October 25th Board meeting. Mr. Michael O'Hare, Field Coordinator would like to make the presentation regarding volunteering during regional national disasters.

Action: Approve the presentation for the October agenda.

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

**All enclosures are available on our website at www.fresnocog.org – Committees and Agendas