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Fresno, California 93721

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COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS AGENDA

Date: Thursday, February 28, 2008
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 COG on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the COG on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.**

B. Staff Recognition – 35 Years of Service – Barbara Goodwin, Executive Director

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. Administrative Amendment No. 11 to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program	Yes	Information
B. 511 Status Report and Memorandum of Understanding	Yes	Information
C. FY 2006-07 Transit Productivity Evaluation Report	Yes	Accept
D. Preliminary Transportation Development Act Estimates	Yes	Approve
E. Initiation of the 2008 Unmet Transit Needs Process	No	Information

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARING: Adoption of the Measure "C" Extension 2007 Local Agency Handbook, Other Revenue Program Funding	Yes	Approve
B. Public Transportation and Infrastructure Study (PTIS) Phase II Request for Proposals	Yes	Approve
C. Advanced Funding and Call for Projects	Yes	Approve

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

D. Greenhouse Gas Plan, Resolution 2008-08	Yes	Info/Action
E. Route 99 as an Interstate	Yes	Info/Action
F. 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

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 January 24, 2008	Yes	Approve
B. Farmland Conservation Model Program Update	No	Information
C. Monthly Legislative Update	Yes	Information
D. 2006-07 COG Financial Audit	Yes	Accept

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fresno COG's 2008 Legislative Platform: Amendment #1	Yes	Approve
B. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting LLC at the Board on 2-28-08	Handout	Information
C. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint – Monthly Update	Yes	Info/Discussion
D. 2008 Washington, D.C. "One Voice" Report	Yes	Info/Discussion
E. 2008 Sacramento "One Voice" Update	Yes	Info/Discussion
F. FY2008-09 Draft Overall Work Program and Budget	Yes	Concur With Initiation of 45-day Review

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

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

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Government Code Section 54957 Public Employment – Title: Executive Director
- B. Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Executive Director
- C. Possible Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code Section 54957.6)
Agency Negotiator (Board Member, to be chosen by COG Policy Board);
Unrepresented Employee: Executive Director

IX. OPEN SESSION

- A. Discussion & Approval of Amendment to Executive Director Employment Contract

*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, February 28, 2008

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. Staff Recognition – 35 Years of Service – Barbara Goodwin, Executive Director

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A. Administrative Amendment No. 11 to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program

Summary: Administrative Amendment No. 11: This amendment was approved on January 16, 2008 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:

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ):

Clovis project FRE070103: The limits of this project on Clovis Ave. are being changed from "Santa Ana Ave. to Dakota Ave." to "Gettysburg Ave. to Dayton Ave." This is a minor change in the project scope and it is consistent with the environmental document for the project.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Section 5311:

FCRTA project FRE021701: Annual Operating Assistance is being increased by \$157,124 federal dollars. Additional funds for this project reflect actual available dollar amounts provided by FTA. The overall project cost is increased by 2% with the addition of these funds.

Hazard Elimination Safety/Highway Safety Improvement Program (HES/HSIP):

Caltrans project FRE040401: Construction is being increased by \$600,000 federal dollars in this lump sum. The dollars being added are for various City of Reedley--Reed Avenue projects. The addition of these funds represents a 13% increase to the lump sum listing. An additional technical change was made to the accounting document (CTIPS) to reflect the proper funding source of this lump sum.

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

Highway Bridge Program (HBP):

Various Sponsors project FRE040501: An addition of \$1,614,800 total dollars was added to this lump sum account in FFY 2007/08 for construction of various bridge projects identified by Caltrans. The addition of these funds represents a 15% increase to the lump sum listing.

Local Programs:

Caltrans project FRE071202: The ID number of this project was changed from FRE071901 to FRE071202 as there were multiple projects with the same ID number.

Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP):

County project FRE020648: Funding in the amount of \$35,500 federal dollars was transferred from preliminary engineering to construction in FFY 2007/08 in this lump sum A/C overlay project. The overall project cost is not impacted by this action.

Coalinga project FRE020650: The project description in this SR 33/198 Beautification project was modified to remove the word "intersection". The description is now consistent with work being completed. Additional changes to this project include shifting all right of way funds to construction. The overall project cost was not impacted by this action.

Recreational Trails Program:

Various Sponsors project FRE072101: The projects contained within this lump sum are for motorized uses only and the description has been modified accordingly. An additional change was made to the ID number of this project. It was changed to FRE072101 from FRE071901 as there were multiple projects with the same ID number.

Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S):

Various Sponsors project FRE071901: An additional \$67,000 of federal dollars was added to this lump sum project listing for construction in FFY 06/07. This increase was made available on 10/18/07 by Caltrans Headquarters for the Fresno County Scandinavian Middle School project. The total lump sum listing increase is 10%. An additional technical change was made to the accounting document (CTIPS) to reflect the proper funding source of these various lump sum projects. [DEVERE]

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

B. 511 Status Report and Memorandum of Understanding

Summary: In 2006, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) extended an offer to the eight Central Valley COGs to join their traveler information or 511 system. The eight Central Valley COGs / counties include: Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Stanislaus, Merced, and San Joaquin Counties. The 511 system would enable anyone within the San Joaquin Valley with a cellular telephone to dial '511' and be routed through the SACOG 511 system to Caltrans Highway Information Network. The San Joaquin Valley is one of the last regions in the Western United States where travelers cannot access road information on their cell phones.

To make 511 accessible to the Central Valley, Fresno COG staff worked with Caltrans and SACOG to come up with the most cost-effective way to enable access. The result is the 'baseline 511 system'. There would be no cost to San Joaquin Valley COGs for enabling cellular access to Caltrans road information within the San Joaquin Valley through the SACOG 511 system. Caltrans will pick up the cost of calls originating in the Central Valley through the SACOG 511 system for the Caltrans Highway Information Network. This offer only includes cellular phone access and not land-based telephone system access. If we want to include land-line access to 511, Central Valley COGs will be responsible for the switching costs needed to reprogram AT&T phone systems to route calls to 511.

To participate in the SACOG 511 system in any capacity, SACOG requires a memorandum of understanding with each participating Council of Governments. Please find included in this packet a copy of the SACOG 511 System memorandum of understanding that was circulated to interested Valley COGs for comment. If there are no comments, the SACOG 511 draft memorandum of understanding would be presented to the SACOG Policy Board for their approval. Once approved, the SACOG 511 system memorandum of understanding would be directed to participating Central Valley COGs for signing. Please contact Todd Sobrado at Fresno COG at (559) 233-4148 for additional questions or comments. [SOBRADO]

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

C. FY 2006-07 Transit Productivity Evaluation Report

Summary: The productivity evaluation is conducted annually to assess the progress of transit operators who receive State Transportation Development Act funds and to recommend potential productivity improvements. The California Public Utilities code 99244 requires that "Each transportation planning agency shall annually identify, analyze, and recommend potential productivity improvements which could lower the operating costs of those operator's who operate at least 50 percent of their vehicle service miles . . . within the area under its jurisdiction." If operators fail to reasonably respond to recommended productivity improvements, local transportation funds cannot exceed appropriation for the prior year.

The FY2006-07 Productivity Evaluation assesses the following transit agencies:

1. Fresno Area Express and Handy Ride
2. Clovis Stageline and Roundup
3. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
4. Consolidated Transportation Services Agencies for the Metropolitan and Rural Areas.

The FY 2006-2007 Transit Productivity Report was reviewed and accepted by the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) on January 15, 2008. [LONG]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend acceptance of the FY2006-07 Transit Productivity Evaluation Report.

D. Preliminary Transportation Development Act Estimates

Summary: Preliminary 2008/09 Estimates provided for the State Transit Assistance and Local Transportation Fund are included in your agenda packet and may be used to develop your 2008/09 budgets.

State Transit Assistance estimates of \$10,206,277 were developed by the State Controller's Office. The State Controller estimates are based on actual revenues and reflect the amount presently carried in the Governor's Budget. The estimate is subject to change should the actual revenue estimates vary or the state legislature negotiate a different amount with the Governor during the budget process. The estimate is 6.5 percent lower than last year's estimate; last year's estimates included \$6.5 million in Proposition 1B funding -- Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) which was subsequently subtracted out during the legislative process. This year's estimates consist only of funds that would normally spill over into the Public Transit Account.

Local Transportation Fund estimates of \$32,873,000 were developed by the Fresno County Auditor Controller's Office and are typically conservative. The estimate is up 9.5% from last year's preliminary estimate but only 3% from the Auditor's revised estimate for 2007/08. Administration costs increased \$6,000 to cover County Auditor accounting services. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend approval of the preliminary estimates. Final estimates using May population estimates will be brought back in May.

E. Initiation of the 2008 Unmet Transit Needs Process

Summary: The COG Policy Board must determine that public transportation needs within Fresno County will be reasonably met in Fiscal Year 2008-09 prior to approving claims of Local Transportation Funds for streets and roads. The COG's Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is responsible for evaluating unmet transit needs. Each year the SSTAC begins the process of soliciting comments from the public by sending approximately 400 letters to agencies and individuals interested in providing feedback on their public transportation needs within Fresno County. The request for comments letters, English and Spanish, were sent out on February 4, 2008.

In addition to the request for written comments, SSTAC will be holding three information-gathering meetings during the month of February 2008. The meetings will be held as follows:

Tuesday, February 12, 2008 - 6:00pm

Mendota City Hall - Council Chambers
643 Quince Street
Mendota, CA 93640

Wednesday, February 20, 2008 - 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Selma Senior Center
2301 Selma Street
Selma, CA 93662

Thursday, February 21, 2008 – 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Caltrans in Manchester Center (Yosemite Room)
2015 E. Shields, #100
Fresno, CA 93726

Copies of the request for comments letters are included in your package. [LONG]

Action: This is an information/discussion item. Direction may be given at the discretion of the Board.

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARING: Adoption of the Measure "C" Extension 2007 Local Agency Handbook, Other Revenue Program Funding

Summary: Last month COG initiated the 45 day review and comment period for the *Measure "C" Extension 2007 Local Agency Handbook, Other Revenue Program Funding*. The document (included in your agenda package) contains policies and guidelines for the following 2007 Measure "C" Extension Funding Subprograms:

1. Public Transportation Infrastructure Study/Transit Consolidation
2. ADA/Seniors/Paratransit
3. Farmworker/Car/Vanpools
4. New Technology Reserve
5. Rail Consolidation

The draft document was presented to the COG committees and Policy Board as well as the Measure "C" Citizens Oversight Committee over the course of the last month, with no significant comments received to date. The document will have completed its required 45 day review and

comment period by the time the COG Policy Board is requested to take an action at its February 28, 2008 meeting. [BOREN]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend approval of the *Measure "C" Extension 2007 Local Agency Handbook, Other Revenue Program Funding*.

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

Summary: In 2006, Fresno County Voters approved a half-cent sales tax called Measure C. Measure C includes a projected \$5 million reserve for the completion of the PTIS and the formation of a regional transit agency.

The PTIS is to evaluate mobility needs and opportunities, and to identify strategies for public transit and transit supportive infrastructure development that will result in wider acceptance and use of non automobile transportation modes such as public transit, bicycle and pedestrian travel. In addition to the development of viable alternative public transportation options for Fresno County, this study seeks to develop ridership projections and cost estimates for various growth and development scenarios that will be used to establish a long-range plan leading to optimum connectivity within the region.

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 original PTIS budget was set at \$3 million; however, because significant work has already been completed including Phase I of the PTIS and other related planning studies such as the Fresno Downtown Transportation and Infrastructure Study (DTIS), a Bus Rapid Transit Plan, City of Fresno Activity Center Study, City of Fresno South East Growth Area Specific Plan and a Metro Rural Loop Feasibility Study, staff does not anticipate needing \$3 million to complete the PTIS. Further, the Request for Proposals informs prospective consultants that proposal budget will be a factor in the selection process.

Additionally, the Downtown Fresno Streetcar Feasibility Study has been included in the scope of services for the Phase II PTIS. Funding for the streetcar study has been capped at \$250,000, which is the amount that the COG Policy Board approved in September 2007. A copy of the PTIS RFP is included in your agenda package. [DOWNS]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend the Fresno COG Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to issue a Request for Proposals to conduct Phase II of the Public Transportation and Infrastructure Study.

C. Advanced Funding and Call for Projects

Summary: On January 24th, the SAFETEA-LU Programming Subcommittee met to discuss policies and issues related to the programming of advanced funding for the next Federal Transportation Funding Act (Act). The 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) will program funding from 2008/09 through 2011/12; the FTIP will contain one year of SAFETEA-LU funds and three years of funding from the next Federal Transportation Funding Act.

To insure that no funds are lost to the region Fresno COG must develop a full program of projects for 2008/09 and additional "easy to deliver" projects in the later years of the FTIP that can be advanced in order to meet funding obligation requirements. As part of identifying these "easy to deliver" projects, staff recommended that the current "lifeline" concept be continued. The "lifeline" concept previously allowed 60% of RSTP funds and 30% of CMAQ funds to be set aside for use

by member agencies for projects of their choosing, as long as the planned projects qualify for the identified funding source and relate to priorities set by the Policy Board.

The SAFETEA-LU Programming Subcommittee reached consensus on the following:

- Program two years worth of funding (First Call for Projects) from the next Federal Transportation Funding Act, acknowledging that it is possible that currently available fund sources within SAFETEA-LU may not be a part of the next Act.
- For RSTP, the Subcommittee agreed to have maximum "lifeline" funding available for the First Call for Projects. Approximately \$18,430,500 of the apportionments for FFY 2009/10 and 2010/11 will be available to local agencies for their preferred projects. Over the length of the next Federal Transportation Funding Act, the split between "lifeline" and "regional bid" funds will remain at a 60/40 split.
- For CMAQ, the Subcommittee agreed to have a 50/50 split in the First Call for Projects. The estimated apportionment of \$22,241,800 for FFY 2009/10 and 2010/11 will be equally divided between a "lifeline" and "regional bid" call for projects. Both bid pots will have roughly \$11,120,900 available. Over the length of the next Federal Transportation Funding Act, the split between "lifeline" and "regional bid" funds will remain at a 30/70 split.
- Within the CMAQ "regional bid" pot, \$4,448,400 or 20% of the available pot will be solely dedicated to projects meeting a minimum cost effectiveness (\$30 per pound) threshold per adopted Fresno COG policy. Over the life of next Act (6 years) a minimum of 20% of available funding must be applied to projects meeting this minimum cost effectiveness threshold. [DEVERE/PAUKOVITS]

Action: Staff, TTC and PAC recommend the Policy Board approve issuing a formal "Call for Projects" per SAFETEA-LU Subcommittee recommendations.

D. Greenhouse Gas Plan, Resolution 2008-08

Summary: Through discussions with the Attorney General's office, Fresno COG has agreed to adopt policies that will address greenhouse gas emissions in the region. These policies include efforts to address greenhouse gas emissions through development of a climate change plan and practices that affect transportation, land use, energy and public education. Many of these policies are consistent with existing efforts of local jurisdictions and also are similar to discussions that are occurring elsewhere in California. The draft resolution and policy statements are included in your package. [PAUKOVITS]

Action: Information/Action item. Staff, TTC and PAC recommend the COG Policy Board consider approval of Resolution 2008-08. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Board.

E. Route 99 as an Interstate

Summary: Included in the agenda packet is a letter from Malcolm Dougherty, Caltrans District 6 Director regarding technical studies needed prior to Route 99 being further pursued as an Interstate. This information was requested via the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley in November. The cost of the needed study is \$500,000, half was proposed from the State of California and the remaining balance (\$250,000) to come from the seven valley counties that have SR 99 in their jurisdiction. The funds would come from the various counties Regional share of state funds.

At the same November Transportation Working Group meeting and at a suggestion from the COGs, Caltrans stated they would also research the potential for an economic study that would answer the following question:

It is clear that there is an economic benefit to improving a highway from a two or four lane non-freeway to a multi-lane freeway. But is there any real business expansion and jobs creation related to Interstate designation and the cost of upgrades (but no additional lanes) compared to just doing the upgrade to multi-lane freeway.

Caltrans stated at our recent Valley COG Directors meeting and Regional Policy Council Meeting that such a study would cost about \$50,000. The general consensus of the Directors was to explore the economic study first, which would validate the need for interstate status to further economic stimulus, versus added lane capacity which is known to provide economic stimulus. A request to have the Economic Development Corporations invest in the economic study was also made. The Policy Council took no action, but expressed great concern over a \$500,000 study. They asked that the matter be referred back to each of the COGs for their various opinions. A more detailed and written synopsis of the economic study has been requested of Caltrans, since their report was verbal. A subsequent letter clarified that the entire valley cost would be \$115,000 for the recommended study approach.

While all Valley COGs desire the expansion of SR 99 as outlined in the Business Plan, there is less certainty that economic gains would be realized if 99 was designated an Interstate. The uncertainty is centered on the need to commit future funds to upgrade the facility to Interstate standards (knowing that many but as yet unidentified waivers might be granted) but also knowing that the interstate investments would likely add little if any additional lane capacity. Also without a federal earmark or other federal program to specifically invest in 99, separate from funds already coming to California, there are no "new funds" that would aid in the facility upgrade.

The Transportation Technical Committee, after some discussion, recommended the economic study proceed first. The Policy Advisory Committee expressed its preference to do both studies, but if only one study proceeds the economic study should be done first. This is their recommendation to the Policy Board.

Action: Information/action item. Provide guidance on this issue.

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 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

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 January 24, 2008

B. Farmland Conservation Model Program Update

Summary: From January 15, 2008 through January 17, 2008, the American Farmland Trust (project consultant), Fresno COG staff, and the Fresno County Farm Bureau conducted targeted outreach to the agricultural community and general public in Fresno County to solicit feedback on the Farmland Conservation Model Program. American Farmland Trust, in cooperation with the Fresno County Farm Bureau, held small breakfast and lunch meetings with farmers in several locations throughout Fresno County. These small meetings were intended to accommodate the time constraints that most successful farmers have. Additionally, the meetings were designed to provide agricultural participants with a level of comfort that would enable them to be candid with

their views. The information we received in these meetings was very informative. As a group, the Agricultural Community provided us with feedback pertaining to water and soils that we are incorporating into the Farmland Conservation Model Program GIS mapping exercise.

Outreach to the general public consisted of two evening meetings held on Wednesday, January 16, 2008 in Parlier and Thursday January 18, 2008 in Fresno. The event in Parlier was attended by ten members of the public. While the numbers were low, the feedback received was excellent. The group was able to reach a depth of conversation that could not be realized in a much larger group setting.

The second public meeting was held at the UC Merced Fresno Center on Shaw Avenue and was very well attended. An undergraduate class comprised of around 30 students from Fresno Pacific University was in attendance as well as approximately 30 people from the general public. To summarize, in all of the meetings, agricultural conservation was considered very important to Fresno County. Many people believe that something must be done. Water and soils are also considered very important variables associated with agriculture in Fresno County.

The presentation format was similar in all the outreach meetings. Participants were given an overview of the economic significance of agriculture by the Fresno County Department of Agriculture. Ed Thompson of the American Farmland Trust then spoke about the Farmland Conservation Model Program and presented the Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping exercise. Participants were then involved in an exercise designed to identify the most important components affecting agriculture in Fresno County. Water and soil quality were by far the most significant variables noted in every meeting held. Comments and feedback were encouraged from the agricultural community and the general public in order to gauge the sentiment toward the project.

Currently, the consultant is in the process of incorporating the comments into work to date on the project. This includes the GIS mapping exercise. We are also in the process of securing much more detailed water data to incorporate into the GIS model. Next steps in the Farmland Conservation Model Program include starting the 'farmland conservation toolkit' for law makers and elected officials in Fresno County. This document is intended to inform decision makers of the policy tools and funding mechanisms that can be applied within Fresno County. We will also be releasing for review and consideration all documentation incorporating the feedback received from the outreach process.

Please contact Todd Sobrado, Planner II with the Fresno COG at todds@fresnocog.org or (559) 233-4148 with questions or to receive additional information. [SOBRADO]

Action: This is an information/discussion item. Direction may be given at the discretion of the Board.

C. Monthly Legislative Update

Summary: The state legislature began the new 2008 session on January 7th. Any carry-over bills from 2007 would have needed to be reintroduced at the start of the legislative session and then passed out of their respective house of origin by January 31, 2008 to be considered by the full legislature during the year. February 22nd is the last day for new bills to be introduced.

Monthly Legislative Report: A report is included in your agenda package that includes current bills that are relevant to the COG.

- To locate current and past year **state bill information** go to the Official California Legislative Information webpage at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

- To locate current and past year **federal bill information** go to THOMAS, The Library of Congress's bill information website (in the spirit of Thomas Jefferson) at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Proposition Bond Implementation: Included in your agenda packet is a report downloaded from the League of California Cities website and dated November 2007, summarizing the status of the implementation of the Proposition bond monies approved by voters in 2006. You can also locate bond information on Proposition 1B (Transportation), Proposition 1C (Housing), Proposition 1D (Education), Proposition 1E (Flood Control), and Proposition 84 (Natural Resources) on the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan website located at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/bonds/gmbond/gmbond.htm>

Governor's Proposed 2008-09 Budget: On January 10th the Governor released his proposed State budget for fiscal year 2008-09. Included in your agenda packet is a three-page report provided by the Governor's office with highlights from the budget specific to transportation and housing. The full text of the budget can be located at <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/>.

The Governor's budget provides generally good news for transportation as it fully funds Proposition 42 and provides repayment of outstanding Proposition 42 loans for a total of \$1.5 billion. The budget will fund Proposition 1B programs at \$4.7 billion including \$500 million for the Trade Corridors Improvement Fund Program and \$200 million for the State and Local Partnership Program. In addition, the budget provides \$771 million in Proposition 1C bond allocations including \$200 million for regional Planning and Infill Incentive Program and \$95 million for the new Transit-Oriented Development Incentive Program.

The budget proposes to provide \$1.2 million to the California High-Speed Rail Authority for its operational expenses, same as last year. However, last year the California High-Speed Rail Authority received \$15.5 million for capital improvements and this year's budget reduced that to zero.

The Governor's budget proposes to eliminate the \$14.5 billion deficit by cutting nearly all General Fund programs by 10% to total about \$9 billion. The Governor is also proposing major cuts in education and health and welfare programs.

The Governor has declared a fiscal emergency. Because of this, the Legislature will convene in Special Session to consider making adjustments to address the current year's \$3.3 billion shortfall. The Governor is proposing to delay various payments to meet this year's cash-flow needs including the postponement of monthly payments from the Highway Users Tax Account to cities and counties for local streets and roads maintenance. The payments would be postponed for the months of April through August of 2008 resulting in approximately \$500 million in savings that would go toward meeting the state's immediate cash flow needs. The Governor's office has articulated that the \$950 million appropriated in the current year's budget for Proposition 1B's local streets and roads program (\$550 allocated directly to cities and \$400 million directly to counties) should help cities and counties with their road maintenance needs until the gas tax payments resume in September.

In May, the Governor will release a revised budget to be considered by the legislature. If all goes well, we will have an enacted budget by the start of the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008.
[DANSBY]

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

D. 2006-07 COG Financial Audit

Summary: Dedekian, Small & Markarian have completed the 2006/07 COG Financial Audit. The report identifies no findings of non-compliance and includes all reports required by state and federal funding agencies.

The Statement of Revenues, and Changes in Fund Balance show revenues of \$3,981,080, expenditures of \$3,967,521, for a net increase of \$13,559. Fund balances at end of year are \$1,645,206 of which \$1,467,770 is reserved for contractual encumbrances, \$90,111 designated for self insurance, and \$87,325 is unreserved. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff and PAC recommend acceptance of the 2006-07 COG Financial Audit.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fresno COG's 2008 Legislative Platform: Amendment #1

Summary: In January, the Policy Board approved the 2008 Fresno COG Legislative Platform. However, the Board recommended that staff return in February with additional language under the topic: **Water Supply, Storage and Quality** to better reflect the current water needs of Fresno County.

In response, staff consulted with Mario Santoyo, Assistant General Manager for the Friant Water Authority, who is considered an authority on water issues in our region. Mr. Santoyo and his staff provided three additional bullet points of information for our Legislative Platform that hopefully, will better address our legislative position on the water needs in Fresno County. If approved by the Policy Board, the additional information will be added to the Legislative Platform as Amendment #1 and will read as follows:

TOPIC: WATER SUPPLY, STORAGE and QUALITY

Existing Bullet in Legislative Platform:

- Support legislation and bond proposals that adequately address the water supply, water storage, and water quality needs of Fresno County with special recognition for the importance of agriculture to the county's economy.

Proposed New Bullets for Legislative Platform as Amendment #1:

- Support legislation and bond proposals that would aid in developing new above-ground water storage facilities on the San Joaquin River to provide adequate supplies of water for agricultural and municipal purposes while providing water and temperature control for river restoration and enhancing flood management and control.
- Support efforts of the Upper Kings Basin Water Forum and other integrated water management planning efforts to enhance beneficial uses of available water, particularly during flood events, through additional groundwater recharge and water banking facilities.
- Support federal and state legislation and administrative activities directed at achieving meaningful and effective environmental and physical repairs and improvements to the Delta (including, but not limited to, levee and channel rehabilitation, conveyance facilities, water quality improvements and solutions to fishery and environmental problems) to permit exports of full supplies of water to water agencies and users along the western San Joaquin Valley.

Staff recommends that we include the additional information by approving Amendment #1 to the 2008 Fresno COG Legislative Platform. [DANSBY]

Action: Staff recommends the Policy Board approve Amendment #1 to the 2008 Fresno COG Legislative Platform.

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

Summary: California Consulting staff will provide an update on Sacramento Lobbying Activities. [SAMUELIAN]

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

C. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint – Monthly Update

The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint is an eight county regional planning process that will provide a vision for sustainable growth in the Valley to the year 2050. The Blueprint will provide local agencies with tools to implement this vision in a manner intended to enhance the quality of life for all residents.

Summary: During the fall months we provided updates on the Blueprint planning process to all our member agencies at their city council and board meetings. Our visits were intended to inform and engage our members and the community in this unique planning process. We are now moving into Phase III of the process where we will be refining and testing the five alternative growth scenarios (included in your packet) in order to understand their impacts on traffic congestion and air quality. These preliminary scenarios were developed by the Blueprint technical committee and edited by the Blueprint Roundtable. We hope to take this information to the public for their feedback in April. As part of that effort, we will again be scheduling presentations at all city council meetings, at the Board of Supervisors and LAFCo. As we move forward in our analysis of options, we need an involved citizenry and electorate. We are on an extremely tight schedule during this phase as we coordinate our outreach activities with the other seven COGs in the Valley to move local preferences on UC Davis so that they can be considered in the Valleywide regional analysis. We will need the help of all of our member agencies and community partners to make this a truly successful endeavor. We have hired Jeffrey Scott Advertising to assist us with the marketing efforts over the next several months.

Please join us at the monthly Blueprint Roundtable meetings on the 4th Wednesday from 9:30 – 11:30 AM in the Sequoia Conference Room at COG. Our website www.fresnocog.org has information on all aspects of the Blueprint. Or contact Barbara Steck at 559-233-4148 or by email at bjsteck@fresnocog.org. [STECK]

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

D. 2008 Washington, D.C. “One Voice” Report

Summary: Thirty-four delegates participated in Fresno COG’s 2008 “One Voice” trip to Washington D.C. February 9th – 14th. Delegates promoted nine regional projects and three policy priorities during the visit. Staff will provide details on the trip after our return on February 14th.

To date, our One Voice efforts have secured over \$13 million in earmarks for Fresno County projects. The fruits of One Voice are greater than just funding, however. The relationships we have and will continue to develop back in Washington and among our One Voice delegation are invaluable benefits of this undertaking. [STECK]

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

E. 2008 Sacramento "One Voice" Update

Summary: At the Policy Board meeting in January, the Board approved a list of regionally significant issues for advocacy during the Fresno COG's Sacramento "One Voice" trip scheduled for Monday, March 10th and Tuesday, March 11th.

Included in your agenda packet are the following items for your review:

1. Sacramento "One Voice" Trip Announcement
2. Final List of Policy Board approved Issues ranked in priority order
3. Preliminary trip outline

We would like to encourage our member agencies and our community leaders to participate in this worthwhile effort as we have heard at both the federal and state level that it reflects positively on our region when we can come together as a group and advocate for a set of common goals that will ultimately benefit the Fresno County region.

If you would like more information about the 2008 Sacramento "One Voice" effort or are interested in participating in the trip please contact Jennifer Dansby by phone: (559) 233-4148 or email: jenniferd@fresnocog.org. We ask that you let us know of your interest to participate in the trip by February 22nd. [DANSBY]

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

F. FY2008-09 Draft Overall Work Program and Budget

Summary: The FY 2008-09 Draft Overall Work Program and Budget and a summary memo are included in your agenda packet. The PAC initiated the 45-day review and comment period at their meeting on February 15th with adoption scheduled for May 2008. The Intermodal Planning Group, the federal and state agency review committee, is scheduled to meet on March 24, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. to review the OWP. [BOREN]

Action: Staff and PAC recommend that the Board concur with the initiation of the 45-day review process.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

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

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Government Code Section 54957 Public Employment – Title: Executive Director
- B. Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Executive Director
- C. Possible Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code Section 54957.6)
Agency Negotiator (Board Member, to be chosen by COG Policy Board);
Unrepresented Employee: Executive Director

IX. OPEN SESSION

- A. Discussion & Approval of Amendment to Executive Director Employment Contract

*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