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**POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Date: Friday, April 18, 2008
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations

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

Item	Description	Enclosure	Action*
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I. PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Presentations

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

B. Presentation – Farmland Conservation Model Program/Land Buffer Task Force – Ed Thompson, California Director, American Farmland Trust

II. CONSENT ITEMS

All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by COG staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken.

A. Executive Minutes of March 14, 2008	Yes	Approve
B. National Train Day – May 10, 2008	No	Information
C. Unmet Transit Needs Update	No	Information
D. Farmland Conservation Model Program Update	No	Information
E. Land Buffer Task Force Update	No	Information
F. Fresno County Environmental Justice Plan	No	Information
G. Measure C Carpool/Vanpool Update	No	Information
H. Measure C Regional Public Transit Program Sub Category Claim, Resolution 2008-12	Yes	Approve
I. Local Preference Policy	No	Information
J. Monthly Legislative Update	Yes	Information
K. FY 2006-07 Section 5316 and 5317 Call for Projects	Yes	Information
L. Formal Amendment No. 13 to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program	Handout	Information
M. Support Letters for Proposition 1C Infill Infrastructure Grant Program	Yes	Information

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

- N. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities— Steve Samuelian, California Consulting LLC at the Board on 4-24-08 No Information
- O. Regional Clearinghouse Yes Information

	Project	Applicant
1.	Section 533 Housing Preservation Grants for FY 2008	Self-Help Enterprises
2.	Rural Business Enterprise Grant	Southeast Asian Institute for Advancement
3.	Rural Business Opportunity Grant	Southeast Asian Institute for Advancement
4.	Community Facilities Grant – security cameras	City of San Joaquin
5.	State Planning and Research Program Grant	State of California, DOT
6.	Transit Planning and Research Program Grant	State of California, DOT
7.	MPO Highway Planning	State of California, DOT
8.	Community Facilities Grant – Fire Dept.	City of Firebaugh

- P. FCRTA Board of Directors Authorization and Support for One Submitted Application in Response to the Fresno COG's "Call for Projects" – Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Funding, FCRTA Resolution 2008-02 Yes Approve
- Q. California Transit Assistance Fund (CTAF) Yes Approve

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Fiscal Years 2008-09 through 2010-11 Towing Service Contract Recommendation for the Freeway Service Patrol No Approve
- B. Recommended 2009 Federal Transportation Act Cycle / Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects Yes Approve
- C. Request by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for Fresno COG to Consider Accepting Administrative Responsibilities for the Airport Land Use Commission Yes Approve
- D. Clovis and Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) Public Transportation, Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement (PTMISEA) Applications, Resolution 2008-11 Yes Approve
- E. Joint High-Speed Rail/Rail Consolidation Study Yes Info/Action
- F. FY 2007-08 Obligation Plan Yes Info/Discussion
- G. Tulare County Rail Abandonment Yes Info/Action
- H. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint – Monthly Update Yes Info/Discussion
- I. FY 2007/08 Overall Work Program and Budget Amendment # 2- Video Conferencing No Approve
- J. Caltrans Monthly Report No Info/Discussion

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

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

*Items listed as information still leave the option for guidance/direction actions by the Committee.

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



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**POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ANNOTATED AGENDA**

Date: Friday, April 18, 2008
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2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

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B. Presentation – Farmland Conservation Model Program/Land Buffer Task Force – Ed Thompson, California Director, American Farmland Trust

II. CONSENT ITEMS

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A. Executive Minutes of March 14, 2008

B. National Train Day – May 10, 2008

Summary: To raise awareness of the vital role rail plays in our nation's transportation system and its likely even greater role in America's future, Amtrak will celebrate its first annual National Train Day during six weeks of celebrations culminating on Saturday, May 10, 2008. May 10 is the anniversary of the completion of the first transcontinental railroad at Promontory Point, Utah in 1869, thereby connecting the east coast and west coast for the first time by rail. There will be special promotions and an advertising campaign and on May 10 Amtrak will host events at four of its largest stations, including Los Angeles, where visitors may take part in a variety of activities including live musical performances, exhibits, trip planning, VIP appearances and trip giveaways.

Amtrak currently has more than 500 stations in 46 states and its ridership and revenue have never been stronger. During FY 2007, more than 25.8 million passengers traveled on Amtrak, setting a record for the most passengers ever since Amtrak began operation in 1971. Total ticket revenue for FY 2007 was more than \$1.5 billion, an increase of 11 percent over the previous year. It was the fifth straight year of increases for Amtrak and the trend continues. For the first quarter of FY 2008, more than 7 million passengers traveled on Amtrak, an increase of 11 percent, and revenue was up 14.6 percent to more than \$434 million.

These revenue and ridership increases at the national level are mirrored by similar increases by the San Joaquin Valley's *San Joaquins*, currently the sixth busiest corridor in the country. For more information on National Train Day and planned events, visit NationalTrainDay.com. [THOMPSON]

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

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

C. Unmet Transit Needs Update

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 were prepared in English and Spanish and were mailed on February 1, 2008. In addition to the request for written comments, SSTAC held three information-gathering meetings.

The first meeting was held in the City of Mendota on February 12, 2008. The meeting location was set to facilitate comments from the residents of Western Fresno county including: Coalinga, Firebaugh, Huron, Kerman, Mendota, San Joaquin, and the surrounding unincorporated communities. The meeting time was set for 6:00 p.m., during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

The second meeting was held in City of Selma on February 20, 2008. The location was selected to facilitate comments from the residents of Eastern Fresno county including: Fowler, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and the surrounding unincorporated communities. The meeting was set for 2:30 p.m.

The final meeting was held in City of Fresno on February 21, 2008. The meeting location was selected to facilitate comments from the residents of the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA) and surrounding unincorporated communities. The meeting time was set for 6.30 p.m.

One written comment was received as a result of the Request for Comments Letters, as well as two comments received at the meetings. A more detailed accounting along with copies of the comment letters and notes from the information gathering meetings will be included in the staff report scheduled for the June meeting package. However, based on information available at their March 18, 2008, meeting, SSTAC has recommended a finding that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet within Fresno County. [LONG]

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

D. Farmland Conservation Model Program Update

Summary: Progress on the Farmland Conservation Model Program continues. In the month of April, both the Steering Committee and Advisory Committee will meet to review and provide feedback on new developments. Ed Thompson, lead consultant with the American Farmland Trust will be in Fresno April 14 through April 21 to meet individually with members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, city managers of affected cities, and other stakeholders to brief and solicit feedback on the project. Work on the Farmland Conservation Model Program 'tool-kit' for policy makers is also ongoing. [SOBRADO]

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

E. Land Buffer Task Force Update

Summary: The Land Buffer Task Force reconvened for a meeting on March 26, 2008. Held at the Fresno COG offices, the meeting was attended by 20+ members. The main agenda item was to review survey results on Land Buffers from participating city managers from communities throughout Fresno County. The Committee discussed the fact that the objectives of the Land Buffer Task Force and the Model Farmland Conservation Program are complementary to one another. It was suggested that the activities of the Land Buffer Task Force be merged into those taking place with the Model Farmland Conservation Program. As a result of this decision, Ed Thompson, consultant on the Model Farmland Conservation program will be going out and meeting with affected city managers to discuss land buffers in their communities while he is in the area to work on the Model Farmland Conservation Program in mid-April.

Fresno COG staff will keep the Committees updated on new developments on the Land Buffer Task Force. [SOBRADO]

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

F. Fresno County Environmental Justice Plan

Summary: Fresno COG staff has completed a preliminary draft of the Fresno County Environmental Justice Plan and has forwarded it to the members of the Environmental Justice Task Force for review and comment. Staff is awaiting feedback to incorporate suggestions into the Plan. Once comments have been incorporated into the Plan, Fresno COG staff will reconvene the Task Force to determine next steps. We expect the Environmental Justice Task Force meeting to take place in the latter part of May.

Fresno COG staff will keep the Committees advised of new developments. [SOBRADO]

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

G. Measure C Carpool/Vanpool Update

Summary: The Measure C Farmworker/Carpool/Vanpool Implementation Plan was passed by the Fresno County Transportation Authority Board on April 3, 2008 as part of the "Measure C Extension 2007 Local Agency Handbook Other Revenue Program Funding" plan. COG staff is now publishing a job announcement for the hiring of a new staff member to handle the day to day responsibilities of the program as well as the Measure C Taxi Scrip program and other related duties. We have to have the new staff member on board by of June 1, 2008. At that time the Measure C Farmworker/Carpool/Vanpool and Taxi Scrip program applications will be released to the public. Completed Applications for funding will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. [LAUCHNER]

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

H. Measure C Regional Public Transit Program Sub Category Claim, Resolution 2008-12

Summary: Per the Fresno County Transportation Authority 2007/08 Measure "C" estimate there is approximately \$180,380 Public Transportation Infrastructure; \$491,380 ADA/Seniors/Paratransit; \$360,760 Farmworker Van Pools; and \$360,760 Car/Van Pools funds available. Per the Fresno County Transportation Authority's adopted guidelines, the Local Transportation Program certifications and Claim form shall be adopted by resolution. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff recommends approval of the 2007/08 Measure "C" Regional Public Transit Program Sub Category Claims for Public Transportation Infrastructure, ADA/Seniors/Paratransit, Farmworker Van Pools, Car/Van Pools by adopting Resolution 2008-12.

I. Local Preference Policy

Summary: At the request of the COG Policy Board, Fresno COG is currently drafting the local procurement preference policy to be reviewed by legal council. This policy, where legally applicable, will grant 5 points of preferential consideration to local firms and consultants when contracting for their services provided that 51% of the contract value is spent in Fresno County. [TWEBSTER]

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

J. Monthly Legislative Update

Summary: A report is included in your agenda package that includes current bills in the 2008 legislative session 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/>

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

K. FY 2006-07 Section 5316 and 5317 Call for Projects

Summary: The Fresno COG allocates Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) 5316 and New Freedom 5317 programs for the Urbanized Area and issued a call for the FY 2006 and 2007 apportionments. In January the Board adopted the Public Transit Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan as a requirement of the program. We are preparing to allocate the 2006 and 2007 funding concurrently. At a recent Intermodal Planning Group meeting, the Federal Transit Representative informed us that 2006 funding is set to expire in September of this year, therefore we are accelerating the call for the 2006 apportionments.

The Federal Transit Agency (FTA) changed the way the JARC and New Freedom programs are allocated with the funding now going through various Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) that were not previously involved in the program. The implementation has been complicated and the new requirements are such that many MPOs (many of whom are first time implementers like us) were caught unaware of the clock ticking on the first year funds. Several of the MPOs around the state that are in this position are letting the first year funds rescind. However, we are attempting to salvage those funds by doing an accelerated call for projects. We have been discussing projects in advance with our potential grant recipients and are developing a method for drawing down the 2006 funds.

COG 5316/5317

Apportionments	5316	5317	Applications Due
2006	\$439,768	\$164,804	April 9, 2008
2007	\$505,727	\$182,740	June 2, 2008

Applications for the 2006 Large- Urban apportionment of the Section 5316 JARC and 5317 New Freedom grant programs were due to Fresno COG on April 9, 2008. Applications for the 2007 Large-Urban apportionment are due to Fresno COG by June 2, 2008. [SOBRADO]

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

L. Formal Amendment No. 13 to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program

Summary: At the April 24th Policy Board meeting Fresno COG will be adopting Formal Amendment 13 to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). The projects included in this amendment are Section 5316/Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) projects and Section 5317 New Freedom projects. These funds are currently programmed in lump sum form by agency, year, and fund type. The individual projects for 5316 and 5317 will be determined by the April 2008 call for projects on these funds. The 5316 and 5317 funds must be entered into the 2007 FTIP prior to the release of the 2009 Draft FTIP in May 2008.

Fresno COG's 2007 Public Participation Plan categorizes amendments according to actions taking place. There are five different standardized types of amendments which have different noticing and participation requirements. Amendment 13 is a Type 3 amendment adding exempt projects into the FTIP. A Type 3 amendment must be posted on Fresno COG's website 14 days prior to action by the Policy Board. Details for Amendment 13 will be posted on Fresno COG's website on April 11th for public review and comment.

For questions regarding individual projects in this amendment please contact Renée DeVere. [DEVERE]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend the approval of Formal Amendment No. 13 to the 2007 Federal Transportation Improvement Program by the adoption of Resolution No. 2008-13.

M. Support Letters for Proposition 1C Infill Infrastructure Grant Program

Summary: Provided in your agenda packet are copies of letters of support from the Fresno COG supporting several Proposition 1C Infill Incentive Grant Program projects.

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

N. Status Report on Sacramento Lobbying Activities—Steve Samuelian, California Consulting LLC at the Board on 4-24-08

Summary: California Consulting staff will provide an update to the Policy Board. [SAMUELIAN]

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

O. Regional Clearinghouse

	Project	Applicant
1.	Section 533 Housing Preservation Grants for FY 2008	Self-Help Enterprises
2.	Rural Business Enterprise Grant	Southeast Asian Institute for Advancement
3.	Rural Business Opportunity Grant	Southeast Asian Institute for Advancement
4.	Community Facilities Grant – security cameras	City of San Joaquin
5.	State Planning and Research Program Grant	State of California, DOT
6.	Transit Planning and Research Program Grant	State of California, DOT
7.	MPO Highway Planning	State of California, DOT
8.	Community Facilities Grant – Fire Dept.	City of Firebaugh

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

1. **Self-Help Enterprises** is applying for a Fiscal Year 2008 Section 533 Housing Preservation Grant to be used in the city of Huron's 2005 HOME Investment Partnerships Program target areas as well as in other Valley jurisdictions. Funding Amounts are: \$110,000 Federal and \$250,000 Local for a total of \$360,000.

2. **Southeast Asian Institute for Advancement** is applying for a Rural Business Enterprise Grant for a Marketing Study, to identify direct-marketing opportunities, to develop a do-it-yourself marketing guide and to provide a direct-marketing training workshop for limited resources among farmers in Fresno County. Funding amount - \$72,800 Federal.

3. **Southeast Asian Institute for Advancement** is applying for a Rural Business Opportunity Grant for a feasibility and business study for the establishment of an "Agricultural Leadership Institute". Funding amount – Federal \$50,000.

4. **City of San Joaquin** is applying for a Rural Development Community Facilities Grant for Security Cameras. Funding amount \$30,000 – Federal and \$10,000 – Applicant for a total of \$40,000.

5. **State of California, Department of Transportation** is applying for State Planning and Research Program Grant for FY2008-09 State Planning and Research Studies, \$1,059,625 in Partnership Planning Grant Program, \$5,000,000 in CA Regional Blueprint Planning Program. Funding amount - \$6,059,625 – Federal and \$1,514,906 Local for a total of \$7,574,531.

6. **State of California, Department of Transportation** is applying for Transit Planning and Research Program Grant for FY 2008 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53, Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program - \$12,177,822; FY 2008 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 Section 5304 State Planning & Research Program - \$2,390,046. Funding amount \$14,690,877 – Federal and \$1,903,359 – Local for a total of \$16,594,236.

7. **State of California, Department of Transportation** is applying for MPO Highway Planning Grant for FY 2008/09 Federal Planning Funds; \$39,522,228 in FHWA PL Funds (Estimate). Funding amount \$39,522,228 – Federal and \$5,120,523 – Local for a total of \$44,642,751.

8. **City of Firebaugh, Fire Department** is applying for a Community Facilities Grant for Breathing air refill station and citywide siren warning system. Funding amount - \$24,750 – Federal, \$20,250 – Applicant for a total of \$45,000.

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.

P. FCRTA Board of Directors Authorization and Support for One Submitted Application in Response to the Fresno COG's "Call for Projects" – Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality Funding, FCRTA Resolution 2008-02

Summary: Provided in your Agenda Package is a Memorandum. The FCRTA has prepared, and /submitted, one (1) Application for possible Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality (CMAQ) funding including: Replacement of up to ten (10) twenty-two passenger CNG powered modified cut-away vans. They are programmed to replace sixteen (16) existing fourteen (14) passenger 1997 CNG modified vans. The Fresno COG has stipulated that such Applications require authorizing Resolutions from the respective governing boards. Attached is FCRTA Resolution 2008-02. It has been prepared for FCRTA Board of Director consideration, during their April 24, 2008 Meeting. [JWEBSTER]

Action: The FCRTA General Manager recommends, following an expressed opportunity for public comment, that the FCRTA Board of Directors consider adoption of Resolution 2008-02.

Q. California Transit Assistance Fund (CTAF)

Summary: Proposition 1B included \$600 million for Transit System Safety, Security and Disaster Response to be available over a ten year period per SB 88. Our share of the first year's apportionment is \$821,939. The program is to be administrated similar to the Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Program (PTMISEA) in that the funds are allocated to Transit Operators per the formula used to allocate State Transit Assistance. Section 99313 and 99314 project applicants submit projects to the MPO. The MPO then forwards the projects to the State Office of Homeland Security (OHS) and the OHS instructs the State Controller to make allocations directly to the applicant.

The State Controller's office first notified us of this program in January; however, at the time the Department of Homeland Security had not published grant guidelines. Initially Fresno COG was left off the mailing list, fortunately after repeated attempts, contact with the Department was made. The deadline for submittal of these projects is April 11, 2008; however, funds not requested in the year of apportionment will carry over to the following year but may be subject to changes in legislation. Currently, the Department will allow applicants to submit a project based on future allocations, but will not guarantee the amount of year to year allocations.

Eligible activities include:

A) A capital project that provides increased protection against a security or safety threat, including, but not limited to the following:

- Construction or renovation projects that are designed to enhance the security of public transit stations, tunnels, guideways, elevated structures or other transit facilities and equipment.
- Explosive device mitigation and remediation equipment.
- Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear explosives search, rescue or response equipment.
- Interoperable communications equipment.
- The installation of fencing barriers, gates or related security enhancements that are designed to improve the physical security of transit stations, tunnels, guideways, elevated structures or other transit facilities and equipment.
- Other security related projects approved by OHS.

B) A capital project that increases the capacity of transit operators to prepare for disaster response transportation systems that can move people, goods, emergency personnel and equipment in the aftermath of disaster.

Operators interested in submitting a project should contact Les Beshears for application details. Due to the compressed deadline, Office of Homeland Security is willing to accept the Investment Justification (project summary) as a place holder until the complete application can be transmitted. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend authorization of the allocation of \$821,939 from the California Transit Assistance Fund (CTAF) for Transit System Safety, Security and Disaster Response (TSSSDRA) to Transit Operators per PUC 8879.55(a)(c) and 8879.55(a)(c).

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fiscal Year 2008-09 through 2010-11 Towing Service Contract Recommendation for the Freeway Service Patrol

Summary: Three proposals were submitted in response to the Request for Proposals for Towing Service for Fresno's Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) for fiscal years 2008-09 through 2010-11:

- Myers Towing Service LLC
- Curtis Contracting Co., Inc. DBA Curtis Towing
- Eagle Towing and Transport, Inc.

Interviews were conducted on April 3, 2008, with a representative from each of the FSP partners (Fresno COG, California Highway Patrol, Caltrans District 6) in attendance. The FSP partners recommend Curtis Towing, with a Cost per Hour per Truck proposal of \$85.00 per hour, for the fiscal years 2008-09 through 2010-11 towing service contract for the Freeway Service Patrol. [THOMPSON]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend approval of Curtis Towing for the fiscal years 2008-09 through 2010-11 towing service contract for the Freeway Service Patrol.

B. Recommended 2009 Federal Transportation Act Cycle / Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects

Summary: On February 28, 2008, the Fresno COG Policy Board approved the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) 2009 Federal Transportation Act Cycle 1 Call for Projects. Over \$11 million was available for the competitive bid portion of the CMAQ program. The application deadline was March 28, 2008; approximately 45 projects totaling over \$25 million were submitted for consideration. The CMAQ scoring committee met on April 8, 2008 to evaluate the applications. Included in your package are summaries of the submitted projects, as well as the projects recommended for funding. [PAUKOVITS]

Action: Action item. Staff and TTC recommend approval of the projects recommended by the Scoring Committee.

C. Request by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for Fresno COG to Consider Accepting Administrative Responsibilities for the Airport Land Use Commission

Summary: On March 25, 2008 the Fresno County Board of Supervisors unanimously endorsed a request that Fresno COG accept administrative and staffing responsibilities for the Fresno County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC). The ALUC is a statutorily defined body that advises the cities and the County on compatible land uses in the vicinity of the nine public airports in Fresno County.

At the present time, three Councils of Governments in California, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, administer Airport Land Use Commission functions. In addition, there are two counties within the state (San Diego and Kern) that address airport land use issues through administrative bodies other than the County land use agency. COG staff is currently in discussions with the above listed COGs to identify the funding sources that each of them use to staff their respective ALUCs.

State Statute, Public Utilities Code 21670 requires the ALUC be made up of seven commissioners consisting of two city representatives, appointed by a city selection committee; two County representatives, appointed by the Board of Supervisors; two aviation experts, appointed by a selection committee comprised of the managers of the public use airports; and one representative of the general public appointed by the other six members of the Commission. Current membership would not change with approval of the recommended action. The formal transfer of administrative responsibilities for the ALUC from Fresno County to the COG would be accomplished by the creation and execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) detailing the responsibilities and obligations of each party. [BOREN/GOODWIN]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend supporting the transfer of administrative/staffing responsibilities for the Airport Land Use Commission from the County of Fresno to Fresno COG.

D. Clovis and Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) Public Transportation, Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement (PTMISEA) Applications, Resolution 2008-11

Summary: The Council of Fresno County Governments allocates Public Transportation, Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement funds to eligible Transit Operators per PUC 8879.55(a)(2) and 8879.55(a)(3). The City of Clovis is applying for \$735,257 for Rolling Stock Procurement. The FCRTA is applying for \$377,542 for rolling stock and \$43,148 for CNG Pump Procurements. The amounts are within the adopted Allocation. Staff has reviewed the application and recommends approval. Fresno Area Express and FCRTA have previously applied for a portion of their allocations. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend authorization of the City of Clovis application for \$735,257 for Rolling Stock Procurement and the FCRTA applications for CNG Pumps for \$43,148 and Rolling Stock Replacement Vans for \$377,542 by approving Resolution 2008-11.

E. Joint High-Speed Rail/Rail Consolidation Study

Summary: The future alignment of high-speed rail through the City of Fresno is along the Union Pacific (UP) corridor in order to provide for a downtown Fresno station location. The future consolidation of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and UP railroads is also likely to occur along the UP corridor. Both the Rail Consolidation Subprogram described in the Measure C Extension Local Agency Handbook and the draft FY 2008-09 Overall Work Program recognize the potential to evaluate these two projects concurrently. Furthermore, it is important to move forward quickly to determine right-of-way requirements needed to accommodate both projects along the UP corridor, and other factors, as this will affect projects currently submitted and under review by the City of Fresno adjacent to the UP corridor.

COG staff has been exploring with High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) staff the possibility of conducting a joint study to develop the information required by both projects and by developers and the City of Fresno. The study would be conducted by URS (with a local office), which is currently under contract to the Authority, and would be funded jointly by the Authority and the Fresno County Transportation Authority through the Measure C Rail Consolidation Subprogram. The High-Speed Rail Authority would be the contract administrator. There is precedent for a joint study of this nature. For example, the Authority has entered into an agreement with the Orange County Transportation Authority and Caltrans to jointly fund studies of mutual benefit within the LOSSAN corridor in Southern California. A scope of work for the joint study, developed with participation by a subcommittee of the COG Rail Committee, is enclosed. [THOMPSON]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend approval of a jointly funded high-speed rail / rail consolidation study by URS subject to Policy Board approval of the Scope of Work. The local share of funding from the Fresno County Transportation Authority Rail Consolidation Subprogram shall not exceed \$250,000.

F. FY 2007-08 Obligation Plan

Summary: Under Assembly Bill AB 1012, enacted in October 1999, agencies are required to obligate federal funds within three years of receiving their apportionments. To obligate is to acquire the necessary authorization for spending federal funds (e76). Regional agencies are required to submit a plan to Caltrans to obligate any apportionment balances older than two years and to ensure that none of the apportionment balances reach three years of age. To accomplish this, Metropolitan Planning Organizations must submit an Obligation Plan to Caltrans for the determination of obligational authority needs for the remainder of the federal fiscal year. Fresno COG staff has prepared this plan in coordination with our member agencies.

Fresno COG began the federal fiscal year with a \$23.7 million apportionment balance. \$16.2 million in new apportionment was added to this amount in 2007. To ensure that we do not lose any funds from previous years (funds between 2 and 3 years old) we must obligate a minimum of \$4.4 million. However, we can obligate up to \$16.2+ million, the apportionment level for this year. To ensure that we reach our obligational target, staff has developed the enclosed Obligation Plan. This plan outlines for Caltrans what projects will be submitted to them during the remainder of the 2007/08 federal fiscal year. [DEVERE]

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

G. Tulare County Rail Abandonment

Summary: At its meeting on Friday, March 28, 2008, the Fresno COG Rail Committee received a presentation from officials in Tulare County regarding the proposed abandonment of the Exeter Branch feeder railroad line in their county. These officials included Paul Saldana, President and CEO of the Tulare County Economic Development Corporation, and Tom Sparks, member of the Tulare County Association of Governments. They wanted to make the Rail Committee aware of the proposed abandonment and its implications for Fresno County and other counties in the San Joaquin Valley and to solicit the assistance of the Fresno COG to oppose the proposed abandonment.

Tulare County is concerned that the proposed abandonment would negatively impact the economic development prospects of communities served by the branchline and the region's air quality, would sever a vital link in transporting goods from farm to market, and would preclude any future potential use of the rail line for passenger rail service. The enclosed staff report and resolution further detail these concerns.

It was noted during the Rail Committee meeting that further abandonment of the Exeter Branch line was likely, perhaps first between Exeter and Dinuba and then between Dinuba and Reedley and into Fresno County. Because there are regional implications, a regional response is warranted. The Committee discussed the importance of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Regional Advisory

Committee (BRAC), the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council, and the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley addressing the abandonment of branchlines from a regional perspective.

The Committee voted to recommend the Fresno COG Policy Board support the Tulare County Association of Governments' opposition to the abandonment of the Exeter Branch feeder railroad line. In this regard, Tom Bailey, Chair of the COG Rail Committee, sent a letter (handout) to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) opposing the abandonment. The deadline for submittal of the letter to the STB was April 8, 2008. COG staff and the Rail Committee will continue to monitor this issue and present information and recommendations to COG Committees and the Policy Board as warranted. [THOMPSON]

Action: The Fresno COG Rail Committee and TTC recommend the Fresno COG support the Tulare County Association of Governments' opposition to the abandonment of the Exeter Branch feeder railroad line.

H. 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: We are now in the midst of Phase III of the Blueprint planning process where we are refining the five alternative growth scenarios (included in your packet) in order to understand their impacts. While we will be conducting additional traffic and air quality analysis, we have started our third round of public and member agency outreach. As part of that effort, we have again scheduled presentations at all city council meetings in conjunction with community workshops, and at the Board of Supervisors. 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. Our next step is to move local preferences on to 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.

The next Blueprint Roundtable will be a workshop format on Thursday, May 1st from 8:00 a.m. to noon 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 Committee.

I. FY 2007/08 Overall Work Program and Budget Amendment # 2- Video Conferencing

Summary: Staff has been working with the Valley COGs to develop valley-wide Video Conferencing capabilities. A \$10,000 grant from Valley Clean Air Now (CAN) has already been secured, a \$32,000 Grant from the Air District's REMOVE program is being pursued, and \$88,000 in local funding is programmed in the 2008/09 OWP currently under review. As a condition of the Air District Grant, all the Valley agencies have agreed to acquire their own equipment and participate. Two of them, San Joaquin and Merced already have their equipment in place.

Staff is presently looking at proposals from KerTel, Solutionz, and Communications, Sound and Video. In addition to the cameras and equipment that each agency will need to acquire, specific equipment and bandwidth is required to host the system. We are the logical candidate to acquire the hosting equipment as we recently acquired the bandwidth required to provide such a service.

The proposal has developed to the point that we are now amending the 2007/08 budget to bring forward the funding to have the capabilities to implement the program as soon as the Air District

grant is approved and signed agreements are in place with the cooperating Valley agencies.
[BESHEARS]

Action: Staff recommends authorization of the 2007/08 Overall Work Program and Budget Amendment # 2- \$130,000 for Video Conferencing equipment.

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 Committee.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

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

*Items listed as information still leave the option for guidance/direction actions by the Committee.

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

