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

#### ANNOTATED AGENDA

##### TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, February 12, 2010  
Time: 8:30 a.m.

##### POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, February 12, 2010  
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* |
|------|-------------|-----------|---------|
|------|-------------|-----------|---------|

#### Transportation Technical Committee

The Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) will consider Items I – IV prior to the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting. This portion of the meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m.

##### I. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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

##### 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 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. TTC/PAC Executive Minutes of January 15, 2010

###### B. 2009-10 Transportation Funding Claims – [FAWCETT]

**Summary:** At the time of mailing of this meeting package, there were no transportation funding claims submitted.

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

###### C. National Parks Study Consultant Selection Update [Downs]

**Summary:** Overall Work Program Element 116 describes a National Park Transit Study intended to provide resources to conduct a focused transportation study of the operational and infrastructure issues related to the provision of public transit service between Fresno and Yosemite and Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was released on October 20, 2009, and eight proposals were received. Proposals were received from LSC, Moore & Associates, JAI, Fehr & Peers, HDR, TPG, Majic, and DTS.

After reviewing and scoring the proposals, four of the firms were selected to participate in a formal presentation and interview process. LSC, Moore & Associates, JAI and Fehr & Peers were interviewed on January 26th at the Fresno COG. The selection committee was comprised of YARTs General

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

Manager, Dick Whittington; FCRTA General Manager, Jeffrey Webster; Fresno County Economic Development Manager, Kristi Johnson; National Parks Conservation Association representative, Emily Schrepf; and Clark Thompson, Fresno COG. Hisham Hemaidan, Madera County, participated in the proposal reviews, but was unable to attend the formal presentations.

The selection committee, by a unanimous vote, is recommending Fehr & Peers for the study. Fehr & Peers prepared an excellent proposal as well as providing a compelling presentation. The OWP provides \$50,000 for this project, and the Fehr & Peers proposal is for \$49,700.

**Action:** Staff recommends the Fresno COG Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a scope of services and enter into a contract with Fehr & Peers to conduct Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park Transit Market Assessment & Feasibility Study.

**D. FY 2008-09 Fresno COG Financial Audit [BESHEARS]**

**Summary:** Dedekian, Small & Markarian have completed the 2008/09 audit. The report identifies no findings of non compliance and includes all reports required by state and federal funding agencies.

The statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance show revenues of \$5,486,742, expenses of \$5,131,752, for a net increase in fund balance of \$354,990. Fund balances at year end is \$1,918,552 of which is reserved for employee health benefits and encumbrances.

**Action:** Staff recommends acceptance of the 2008/09 Audit.

**E. FY 2008-09 Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Financial Audit [BESHEARS]**

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**Action:** Staff recommends acceptance of the 2008/09 Audit.

**F. Annual Transit Productivity Report [LONG]**

**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 the appropriation for the prior year.

The FY2008-09 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 2008-2009 Transit Productivity Report was reviewed and accepted by the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) on January 19, 2010.

**Action:** Accept the FY2008-09 Transit Productivity Evaluation Report.

**G. Initiation of the Unmet Transit Needs Process [LONG]**

**Summary:** The Fresno COG Policy Board must determine that public transportation needs within Fresno County will be reasonably met in Fiscal Year 2010-11 prior to approving claims of Local Transportation Funds for streets and roads. The Fresno 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, are to be sent in February.

In addition to the request for written comments, SSTAC will be holding three information-gathering meetings during the month of February. The location and time for these meetings has not been determined.

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

**H. Public Transportation Infrastructure Study Update [Downs]**

**Summary:** Over the past several months, the PTIS has undertaken several technical studies and analysis including:

- Summary of travel markets, transit needs, and planned public transportation improvements;
- Summary maps and brief description of transit friendly employment centers, market conditions, and characterization of transit corridors;
- Transit technology and service alternatives feasibility assessment;
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The PTIS Scope of Services includes more detailed evaluation of a limited number of city cores and corridors. In January, five public workshops were conducted and participants were invited to take part in exercises to help plan pedestrian friendly and transit supportive neighborhoods. The workshops were held for Downtown Fresno, Downtown Clovis, Blackstone Corridor, Shaw Corridor and the Cedar Corridor. Future workshops are planned for the Golden State Corridor, and Downtown Reedley.

Downtown Fresno and Clovis were selected because the FCMA, as the population center, is much more likely to develop high capacity transit systems and benefit from transit supportive development. Reedley was selected because it is outside of the Fresno/Clovis Urbanized Area, but has a population that may be large enough to benefit from transit supportive planning; however, at the direction of the Committee, Reedley could be substituted with any Fresno County city core.

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

**I. TDA Preliminary Estimates [BESHEARS/FAWCETT]**

**Summary:** Preliminary 2010/11 Estimates are provided. The STA was eliminated from the Governor's Budget last year. Successful lawsuits filed by Transit Associations challenging the transfer of funds from the State Transportation Account do not reinstate the program as the courts have yet to

determine fiscal ramifications. In addition, a recent controversial proposal from the Governor's office to eliminate the gas tax would cement the transfer in statute.

**Local Transportation Funds estimates are developed by the County Auditor Controllers Office.** The 2009/10 tax receipts are coming in 10% lower than anticipated due to reduced sales tax collections and the projection for 2010/11 is \$24,000,000. This is \$4 million lower than the 2009/10 estimate.

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

### III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### A. **Golden State Corridor Economic Development/Infrastructure Improvements Study – Update [DAWSON]**

**Summary:** Staff will provide a verbal update on the process for selecting the consulting team for the Golden State Corridor Economic Development / Infrastructure Improvements Study. Ten proposals were received on December 16, 2009. The proposals were reviewed and scored by the Consultant Selection Committee. On the Committee were representatives of the cities of Fowler, Selma, Kingsburg, the County of Fresno, Caltrans, the city of Fresno and Fresno COG. Five proposals were selected to proceed to the oral interview/presentation process held on February 1, 2010. The Interview Panel selected the Quad Knopf Team as the preferred firm to execute the work of this contract. Quad Knopf received high ratings on their written proposal, oral interview and presentation. Enclosed in your packet is the overview of the project, description of Quad Knopf's approach, and the sub-contractors who will be participating with the Quad Knopf Team.

**Action:** Staff recommends that PAC/TTC approve the selection of the Quad Knopf Team and recommend the Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for the Golden State Corridor Economic Development / Infrastructure Improvements Study, not to exceed \$515,000.

#### B. **SB 375-Recommendation Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Target for Fresno Region [CAI]**

**Summary:** As reported back in November, the Fresno County SB375 Task Force has been meeting monthly and working towards submitting a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction target for the Fresno region to the Air Resources Board (ARB) by March 1, 2010. Several land use scenarios combined with different transportation projects have been created under the guidance of the Task Force. Fresno COG staff is currently working on modeling the scenarios, and the GHG implications of these scenarios will be presented to the Task Force on Feb. 10. The Task Force will be making a recommendation on the target scenario for the GHG emission reduction target for Fresno County.

Modeling results of the target scenarios as well as the recommendation from the Fresno County SB375 Task Force Committee will be presented at the TTC/PAC meeting.

**Action:** Staff recommends approval of the target scenario recommended by the Fresno County SB375 Task Force Committee.

#### C. **Fresno COG Participation in 2010/2011 Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants [SOBRADO]**

**Summary:** As part of the 2010/2011 Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant call for projects issued in the January Fresno COG meeting cycle, Fresno COG is participating in two projects. The first project is on behalf of Fresno County, the Fig Garden Homeowners, and possibly the City of Fresno. The second project would be in partnership with the Fresno Advocacy Center (FAC)

**Project 1: Fresno County, the Fig Garden Homeowners Association (FGHA) and possibly, the City of Fresno:**

*The Old Fig Garden Community Transportation & Land Use Plan:* This application proposes to engage stakeholders to create a land use and transportation plan that addresses traffic calming on key through corridors, connections and land use transitions to the City's planned high-intensity transit corridors on Shaw and Blackstone, safe-passage provisions for bike, trail, safe-routes-to-school, in a manner that

respects and sustains the unique historical and scenic qualities of the Fig Garden neighborhood (the Fresno County Records and Landmarks Commission just approved their application as a Historic District, one of three in Fresno County).

A similar proposal was submitted by Fresno County last year under Caltrans' Community-based Transportation Planning program. Fresno County intends to resubmit this year. Caltrans has suggested that the County submit the project under two grant categories – Community Based Transportation Planning and Partnership Planning. In addition, Fresno County will update the application to better meet the program objectives. COG staff will have more complete information to relay to TTC/PAC after its meeting with the County on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Project 2: Fresno Advocacy Group (FAC)**

The second project is tentative at the time of this writing. There is a meeting scheduled with the project applicants for February 17, 2010 to finalize the details of this project. The project details for the Caltrans Environmental Justice Grant are as follows:

The Fresno Advocacy Center (FAC) in partnership with Fresno COG as fiscal agent, seeks monies for activities they wish to perform as part of the creation of a Carver/Hinton Neighborhood Plan. FAC is a Fresno-based nonprofit organization focusing on the areas of economic development, health and safety, and education for low-income communities. Their executive director is Gwen Morris, a Planning Commissioner for the City of Fresno. The organization is funded in part, by Fresno Unified School District.

The Hinton Center neighborhoods and Carver Elementary School are in West Fresno, an economically challenged, racially diverse community in Fresno County. Several developers have begun or are completing several large commercial and housing developments that surround the community. The objectives of the Plan would be, but are not limited to:

- establish enjoyable, pedestrian-active neighborhood,
- foster a sense of community in which residents look out for and help one another,
- stabilize housing (i. e., avoid gentrification)
- reduce dependence on vehicles and create healthier environments,
- reduce crime,
- reverse blight and abandonment,
- increase economic opportunities (i.e., first source hiring).

**Action:** Information item only. Direction to be provided at the discretion of the Committees.

#### **D. Blueprint Update [T.WEBSTER]**

**Summary:** On February 3<sup>rd</sup> Fresno COG entered into a contract with Mintier Harnish planning consultants, on behalf of the eight Valley MPOs. The contract calls for a very aggressive scope of work that should be completed by October of this year. The four primary tasks include a summary of the SJ Valley Blueprint work to date, an implementation plan, a planners toolkit and an outreach and monitoring strategy. Staff will be working closely with member agencies throughout the process.

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

#### **E. Rail Update [THOMPSON]**

**Summary:** A meeting of the Fresno COG Rail Committee has been set for Friday, February 19, 2010, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the COG Sequoia Conference Room. There will be a presentation and discussion of the Draft Fresno Freight Rail Realignment Study. The Draft Study is available for review on our website at [www.fresnocog.org](http://www.fresnocog.org). Also, representatives from Tulare County will provide an update on efforts to acquire and preserve a segment in their County of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad for freight rail and future passenger rail. The Committee will also review rail transportation goals, policies and actions for inclusion in the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan.

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

**F. 2011 RTP Update [THOMPSON]**

**Summary:** Staff will provide a verbal update of actions related to the 2011 RTP since your meeting in January.

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

**G. California Transportation Commission 2009 Annual Report to the California Legislature [FAWCETT]**

**Summary: Overview of 2009** - The California Transportation Commission (Commission) shifted from programming to implementation mode for the nine Proposition 1B programs before the close of fiscal year 2008-09. The Commission has programmed all Proposition 1B dollars within its purview with the exception of the remaining cycles of the State-Local Partnership Program (SLPP). Detailed descriptions and progress of Proposition 1B programs are provided in subsequent sections of the annual report. The Commission has also worked with statewide transportation stakeholders to deliver other programs within its purview, allocating over \$7.6 billion in state and federal transportation funding in the 2008-09 fiscal year, helping the state to achieve transportation construction activity in excess of \$9.0 billion in state construction contracts alone. This outcome, considering the ongoing budget uncertainties, highlights the strong and dedicated commitment of all those involved. A copy of the full report is available on our website under the meeting package information.

***Six issues will capture the transportation community's attention in 2010.***

- The state's ongoing budget deficit and its impact on available transportation resources.
- Programming and funding the 2010 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
- Incorporating greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures into the planning, programming and implementation of transportation projects.
- Preservation of the state's transportation system, and how the needs continue to grow beyond available resources.
- Federal Transportation Bill re-authorization and how it may impact California's leveraging ability.
- Continuing pursuit of reliable funding to address the state's transportation system needs.

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

**H. West Area Transportation and Circulation Study Update [T. WEBSTER]**

**Summary:** Fehr and Peers have conducted a preliminary traffic analysis of the study area including traffic counts, several traffic demand model runs, and baseline reviews. Several staff-level meetings with the consultant, the County of Fresno, the City of Fresno and Fresno COG have taken place to identify critical direction for the study.

Fehr and Peers has also conducted a series of stakeholder interviews. The report on the interviews, a contract deliverable is currently underway. A steering committee meeting took place on February 09, 2010. A progress report was submitted to the committee and direction was provided to the consultant team.

Preliminary recommendations based on financial constraints and roadway demands are also underway, and a draft report is expected in February or March of 2010.

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

**I. The Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010, H.R. [BESHEARS, GARZA]**

**Summary:** In December 2009, the House introduced an anticipated "jobs package", Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010, that will provide states with sizeable infrastructure and potential job-saving initiatives to help weather the current economic lull. Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010 redirects \$75 billion in Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) savings from Wall Street to Main Street to fund infrastructure and job investments to further stabilize jobs and provide additional emergency funding to help families who

are suffering. It is emphasized that the companion bill that is still in the Senate is roughly half the house bill, and there is no guarantee on passage.

Due to the strict delivery requirements in the House bill, FHWA has gotten out in front of the legislative process and recommended that the state may assume Stim 2 funds of \$2.57 billion, which is equal to the actual level of funding received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Caltrans has provided each MPO with preliminary estimates of Stim 2 funds for their region. Each regional estimate may be different from what the region received under ARRA. Like ARRA, this package is aimed at funding "shovel ready" projects; however, there is a 90 day contract delivery timeline requirement for 50% of all Stim 2 projects. In order for the state to meet the 90 days contract delivery timeline, amendments to add the Stim 2 preliminary estimates should be completed and federally approved by March 1, 2010. The estimated gross amount available for this region is \$33,245,046.

**Fresno COG Activity:**

Backing up from the March 1, 2010 anticipated Apportionment date, through our FTIP federal review and approval process, an amendment to the FTIP including eligible Stim 2 projects must be released for Inter Agency Consultation on February 5, 2010. Staff issued an urgency notice to member agencies requesting eligible projects. We will include these on FTIP Amendment # 20. The Executive Director of Fresno COG, as authorized by the Policy Board, will take action on the proposed amendment on February 19, 2010. Fresno COG anticipates State and Federal approval by March 1, 2010. The details of this amendment can be viewed at [www.fresnocog.org](http://www.fresnocog.org).

COG staff has been actively participating in dialogue at both a state and national level, tracking policy recommendations and evaluating the needs of our region.

Staff will provide a verbal update of ongoing activities at the meeting.

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

**J. Formal Amendment #20 to the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program, [BESHEARS, GARZA]**

**Summary:** Fresno COG is currently amending the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). The 14-day public review and comment period for Amendment #20 will commence on February 5, 2010 and close on February 18, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.; written comments are welcome. All documentation associated with this amendment are available for viewing on the Fresno COG website at [www.fresnocog.org](http://www.fresnocog.org) beginning February 5, 2010.

The 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) is the incremental implementation of the long-range Regional Transportation Plan and includes programming for fiscal years 2008/09 through 2011/12. Amendment #20 provides for the modification and addition of projects into the FTIP.

For more information regarding the amendment process or the public review process, please contact Melissa Garza at 559-233-4148.

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

**K. 2010-11 Overall Work Program Draft [BOREN]**

**Summary:** A summary memo and the draft 2010-11 Overall Work Program (OWP) will be distributed at the meeting. Staff will provide a presentation on the document at that time. Distribution of this draft OWP begins the review and comment period with adoption expected in May. The document is available on our website under OWP and also under the meeting package items in Committees & Agendas. The Intermodal Planning Group, the federal and state agency review committee, is scheduled to meet on March 2, 2010 to review the OWP.

**Action:** Staff recommends that TTC initiate the 45-day review process.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Items from Staff**

B. Items from Members

## JOINT Transportation Technical Committee / Policy Advisory Committee

The TTC and the PAC will meet as a joint Committee to consider scheduled public presentations brought before the Committees. This portion of the meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m.

### V. PRESENTATIONS

A. **Cemex – Morrow Mountain – Jolene Polyack**

B. **Broadband Presentation – Stan Santos, Vice President, CWA Local 9408**

**Mr. Santos will address the Committees regarding staffing cutbacks and the effects on rural as well as inner city services and deployment of broadband in California.**

C. **Caltrans Monthly Report**

**Summary:** Caltrans staff will provide an update on Caltrans activities.

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

### Policy Advisory Committee

The Policy Advisory Committee will consider all Transportation and Administrative Items on the Agenda

### VI. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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### VII. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

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## VIII. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. **Golden State Corridor Economic Development/Infrastructure Improvements Study – Update [DAWSON]**

**Summary:** Staff will provide a verbal update on the process for selecting the consulting team for the Golden State Corridor Economic Development / Infrastructure Improvements Study. Ten proposals were received on December 16, 2009. The proposals were reviewed and scored by the Consultant Selection Committee. On the Committee were representatives of the cities of Fowler, Selma, Kingsburg, the County of Fresno, Caltrans, the city of Fresno and Fresno COG. Five proposals were selected to proceed to the oral interview/presentation process held on February 1, 2010. The Interview Panel selected the Quad Knopf Team as the preferred firm to execute the work of this contract. Quad Knopf received high ratings on their written proposal, oral interview and presentation. Enclosed in your packet is the overview of the project, description of Quad Knopf's approach, and the sub-contractors who will be participating with the Quad Knopf Team.

**Action:** Staff recommends that PAC/TTC approve the selection of the Quad Knopf Team and recommend the Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for the Golden State Corridor Economic Development / Infrastructure Improvements Study, not to exceed \$515,000.

### B. **SB 375-Recommendation Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Target for Fresno Region [CAI]**

**Summary:** As reported back in November, the Fresno County SB375 Task Force has been meeting monthly and working towards submitting a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction target for the Fresno region to the Air Resources Board (ARB) by March 1, 2010. Several land use scenarios combined with different transportation projects have been created under the guidance of the Task Force. Fresno COG staff is currently working on modeling the scenarios, and the GHG implications of these scenarios will be presented to the Task Force on Feb. 10. The Task Force will be making a recommendation on the target scenario for the GHG emission reduction target for Fresno County.

Modeling results of the target scenarios as well as the recommendation from the Fresno County SB375 Task Force Committee will be presented at the TTC/PAC meeting.

**Action:** Staff recommends approval of the target scenario recommended by the Fresno County SB375 Task Force Committee.

### C. **Fresno COG Participation in 2010/2011 Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants [SOBRADO]**

**Summary:** As part of the 2010/2011 Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant call for projects issued in the January Fresno COG meeting cycle, Fresno COG is participating in two projects. The first project is on behalf of Fresno County, the Fig Garden Homeowners, and possibly the City of Fresno. The second project would be in partnership with the Fresno Advocacy Center (FAC)

#### **Project 1: Fresno County, the Fig Garden Homeowners Association (FGHA) and possibly, the City of Fresno:**

*The Old Fig Garden Community Transportation & Land Use Plan:* This application proposes to engage stakeholders to create a land use and transportation plan that addresses traffic calming on key through corridors, connections and land use transitions to the City's planned high-intensity transit corridors on Shaw and Blackstone, safe-passage provisions for bike, trail, safe-routes-to-school, in a manner that respects and sustains the unique historical and scenic qualities of the Fig Garden neighborhood (the Fresno County Records and Landmarks Commission just approved their application as a Historic District, one of three in Fresno County).

A similar proposal was submitted by Fresno County last year under Caltrans' Community-based Transportation Planning program. Fresno County intends to resubmit this year. Caltrans has suggested

that the County submit the project under two grant categories – Community Based Transportation Planning and Partnership Planning. In addition, Fresno County will update the application to better meet the program objectives. COG staff will have more complete information to relay to TTC/PAC after its meeting with the County on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Project 2: Fresno Advocacy Group (FAC)**

The second project is tentative at the time of this writing. There is a meeting scheduled with the project applicants for February 17, 2010 to finalize the details of this project. The project details for the Caltrans Environmental Justice Grant are as follows:

The Fresno Advocacy Center (FAC) in partnership with Fresno COG as fiscal agent, seeks monies for activities they wish to perform as part of the creation of a Carver/Hinton Neighborhood Plan. FAC is a Fresno-based nonprofit organization focusing on the areas of economic development, health and safety, and education for low-income communities. Their executive director is Gwen Morris, a Planning Commissioner for the City of Fresno. The organization is funded in part, by Fresno Unified School District.

The Hinton Center neighborhoods and Carver Elementary School are in West Fresno, an economically challenged, racially diverse community in Fresno County. Several developers have begun or are completing several large commercial and housing developments that surround the community. The objectives of the Plan would be, but are not limited to:

- establish enjoyable, pedestrian-active neighborhood,
- foster a sense of community in which residents look out for and help one another,
- stabilize housing (i. e., avoid gentrification)
- reduce dependence on vehicles and create healthier environments,
- reduce crime,
- reverse blight and abandonment,
- increase economic opportunities (i.e., first source hiring).

**Action:** Information item only. Direction to be provided at the discretion of the Committees.

**D. Blueprint Update [T.WEBSTER]**

**Summary:** On February 3<sup>rd</sup> Fresno COG entered into a contract with Mintier Harnish planning consultants, on behalf of the eight Valley MPOs. The contract calls for a very aggressive scope of work that should be completed by October of this year. The four primary tasks include a summary of the SJ Valley Blueprint work to date, an implementation plan, a planners toolkit and an outreach and monitoring strategy. Staff will be working closely with member agencies throughout the process.

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

**E. Rail Update [THOMPSON]**

**Summary:** A meeting of the Fresno COG Rail Committee has been set for Friday, February 19, 2010, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the COG Sequoia Conference Room. There will be a presentation and discussion of the Draft Fresno Freight Rail Realignment Study. The Draft Study is available for review on our website at [www.fresnocog.org](http://www.fresnocog.org). Also, representatives from Tulare County will provide an update on efforts to acquire and preserve a segment in their County of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad for freight rail and future passenger rail. The Committee will also review rail transportation goals, policies and actions for inclusion in the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan.

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

**F. 2011 RTP Update [THOMPSON]**

**Summary:** Staff will provide a verbal update of actions related to the 2011 RTP since your meeting in January.

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

G. **California Transportation Commission 2009 Annual Report to the California Legislature [FAWCETT]**

**Summary: Overview of 2009** - The California Transportation Commission (Commission) shifted from programming to implementation mode for the nine Proposition 1B programs before the close of fiscal year 2008-09. The Commission has programmed all Proposition 1B dollars within its purview with the exception of the remaining cycles of the State-Local Partnership Program (SLPP). Detailed descriptions and progress of Proposition 1B programs are provided in subsequent sections of the annual report. The Commission has also worked with statewide transportation stakeholders to deliver other programs within its purview, allocating over \$7.6 billion in state and federal transportation funding in the 2008-09 fiscal year, helping the state to achieve transportation construction activity in excess of \$9.0 billion in state construction contracts alone. This outcome, considering the ongoing budget uncertainties, highlights the strong and dedicated commitment of all those involved. A copy of the full report is available on our website under the meeting package information.

***Six issues will capture the transportation community's attention in 2010.***

- The state's ongoing budget deficit and its impact on available transportation resources.
- Programming and funding the 2010 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
- Incorporating greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures into the planning, programming and implementation of transportation projects.
- Preservation of the state's transportation system, and how the needs continue to grow beyond available resources.
- Federal Transportation Bill re-authorization and how it may impact California's leveraging ability.
- Continuing pursuit of reliable funding to address the state's transportation system needs.

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

H. **West Area Transportation and Circulation Study Update [T. WEBSTER]**

**Summary:** Fehr and Peers have conducted a preliminary traffic analysis of the study area including traffic counts, several traffic demand model runs, and baseline reviews. Several staff-level meetings with the consultant, the County of Fresno, the City of Fresno and Fresno COG have taken place to identify critical direction for the study.

Fehr and Peers has also conducted a series of stakeholder interviews. The report on the interviews, a contract deliverable is currently underway. A steering committee meeting took place on February 09, 2010. A progress report was submitted to the committee and direction was provided to the consultant team.

Preliminary recommendations based on financial constraints and roadway demands are also underway, and a draft report is expected in February or March of 2010.

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

I. **The Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010, H.R. [BESHEARS, GARZA]**

**Summary:** In December 2009, the House introduced an anticipated "jobs package", Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010, that will provide states with sizeable infrastructure and potential job-saving initiatives to help weather the current economic lull. Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010 redirects \$75 billion in Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) savings from Wall Street to Main Street to fund infrastructure and job investments to further stabilize jobs and provide additional emergency funding to help families who are suffering. It is emphasized that the companion bill that is still in the Senate is roughly half the house bill, and there is no guarantee on passage.

Due to the strict delivery requirements in the House bill, FHWA has gotten out in front of the legislative process and recommended that the state may assume Stim 2 funds of \$2.57 billion, which is equal to the actual level of funding received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Caltrans has provided each MPO with preliminary estimates of Stim 2 funds for their region. Each

regional estimate may be different from what the region received under ARRA. Like ARRA, this package is aimed at funding “shovel ready” projects; however, there is a 90 day contract delivery timeline requirement for 50% of all Stim 2 projects. In order for the state to meet the 90 days contract delivery timeline, amendments to add the Stim 2 preliminary estimates should be completed and federally approved by March 1, 2010. The estimated gross amount available for this region is \$33,245,046.

**Fresno COG Activity:**

Backing up from the March 1, 2010 anticipated Apportionment date, through our FTIP federal review and approval process, an amendment to the FTIP including eligible Stim 2 projects must be released for Inter Agency Consultation on February 5, 2010. Staff issued an urgency notice to member agencies requesting eligible projects. We will include these on FTIP Amendment # 20. The Executive Director of Fresno COG, as authorized by the Policy Board, will take action on the proposed amendment on February 19, 2010. Fresno COG anticipates State and Federal approval by March 1, 2010. The details of this amendment can be viewed at [www.fresnocog.org](http://www.fresnocog.org).

COG staff has been actively participating in dialogue at both a state and national level, tracking policy recommendations and evaluating the needs of our region.

Staff will provide a verbal update of ongoing activities at the meeting.

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

**J. Formal Amendment #20 to the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program, [BESHEARS, GARZA]**

**Summary:** Fresno COG is currently amending the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). The 14-day public review and comment period for Amendment #20 will commence on February 5, 2010 and close on February 18, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.; written comments are welcome. All documentation associated with this amendment are available for viewing on the Fresno COG website at [www.fresnocog.org](http://www.fresnocog.org) beginning February 5, 2010.

The 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) is the incremental implementation of the long-range Regional Transportation Plan and includes programming for fiscal years 2008/09 through 2011/12. Amendment #20 provides for the modification and addition of projects into the FTIP.

For more information regarding the amendment process or the public review process, please contact Melissa Garza at 559-233-4148.

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

**IX. ADMINISTRATIVE 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. Monthly Legislative Update [FAWCETT]**

**Summary:** A report is included that includes current bills in the 2009 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, Laural Fawcett, if you have any questions.

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

**B. Monthly Report – California Consulting LLC [BOREN]**

**Summary:** Steve Samuelian of California Consulting Inc. will provide a verbal report to the Policy Board this month on his consulting activities for the COG during the month.

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

**C. Monthly Report – Strategy Research Institute [BOREN]**

**Summary:** Gary Manross, SRI, will provide a written report this month on his consulting activities for the COG.

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

**D. Regional Clearinghouse – [SOBRADO]**

**Project**

*US Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grant*

**Applicant**

Parlier Unified School District

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

1. *Parlier Unified School District – US Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grant.*  
\$ 51,731– Federal, \$42,326 – Applicant: \$94,057 - Total

**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.

**X. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. 2010-11 Overall Work Program Draft [BOREN]**

**Summary:** A summary memo and the draft 2010-11 Overall Work Program (OWP) will be distributed at the meeting. Staff will provide a presentation on the document at that time. Distribution of this draft OWP begins the review and comment period with adoption expected in May. The document is available on our website under OWP and also under the meeting package items in Committees & Agendas. The Intermodal Planning Group, the federal and state agency review committee, is scheduled to meet on March 2, 2010 to review the OWP.

**Action:** Staff recommends that PAC initiate the 45-day review process.

**B. Fresno COG's 2010 Legislative Platform [FAWCETT]**

**Summary:** Staff and legislative consultant Steve Samuelian have completed the 2010 DRAFT Legislative Platform, a copy of which is included in this package for approval. This document will serve as the official guidance for the Executive Director and staff in representing issues important to Fresno County, and to secure support for these issues from the legislature.

**Action:** Staff recommends that the Policy Board authorize the Fresno COG's 2010 Legislative Platform as the official positions on transportation and other associated legislative policies.

**C. Fresno COG's 2010 Sacramento One Voice Trip [FAWCETT]**

**Summary:** Final preparations for Fresno COG's annual trip to the state legislature are underway. The 2010 Sacramento "One Voice" trip dates of March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> have been confirmed. The final draft of the regional issues that will be discussed, as well as the scheduled meetings with state representatives have been included in your package.

**Action:** Staff recommends that the Policy Board authorize the Fresno COG's 2010 Regional Issues Priority List to be carried forth to the state legislature for discussion at the 2010 "One Voice" meetings scheduled with state representatives.

**D. Valley Regional Planning Agencies 2010 "Valley Voice" [FAWCETT]**

**Summary:** The Regional Policy Council, made up of members from the 8 Valley Regional Planning Agencies, has developed a legislative platform, and authorized The San Joaquin Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC) to announce its 2010 "Valley Voice" Sacramento Trip. The dates for the trip are Wednesday and Thursday, February 3-4, 2010. Fresno County representatives include: City of San Joaquin Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Fresno County Supervisor Judy Case, Fresno COG Executive Director, Tony Boren. Staff will provide a report at the PAC meeting.

The dates for the "Valley Voice" Washington D.C. trip are May 4-5, 2010. Advocacy Issues that will be discussed at the State and Federal meetings are enclosed for review. Please contact staff person, Laural Fawcett, if you have questions.

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

**E. Washington DC 'One Voice' Update [STECK]**

**Summary:** Twenty-nine 'One Voice' delegates are participating in the eighth annual advocacy trip to Washington D.C. (February 6-11<sup>th</sup>). Staff will provide a verbal update at the February 12<sup>th</sup> TTC/PAC meeting.

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

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

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

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