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ANNOTATED AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, April 16, 2010
Time: 8:30 a.m.

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, April 16, 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*
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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 March 12, 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. Claims may be distributed at the meeting, if received.

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

C. PB Americas Contract Extension [BESHEARS]

Summary: On October 29, 2009 the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Board adopted the RTMF fee and the fee is now being collected. Our contract with PB Americas has been expended; however, there are numerous complexities involved in collecting the fee that have surfaced and staff recommends increasing the contract with PB Americas \$15,000 to cover on-going support and advice through June 30, 2010.

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

Action: Staff recommends approval to increase the Contract with PB America \$15,000 to provide support and advice through June 30, 2010.

D. Recommending Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Target for Fresno Region [CAI]

Summary: As mandated by the SB375 legislation, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will release draft targets for greenhouse gas emission reduction for each of the 18 MPOs in the State on June 30, 2010. The final targets will be adopted by the CARB on September 30, 2010. The Statute allows the regions to submit their own target numbers for CARB to consider.

As the MPO for the Fresno County region, Fresno COG has been working closely with the Fresno County SB375 Task Force to try to suggest an "ambitious and achievable" target for the Fresno County Region. Three scenarios have been developed under the guidance of the Task Force. The first scenario- "baseline scenario" is based on 2007 RTP; the second scenario- "alternative 1" includes general plan updates, new and updated specific plans that have taken place since 2007 RTP plus some increased corridor and activity center development; the third scenario-"alternative 2" is structured with more aggressive corridor and activity center planning in the metropolitan area.

The SB375 Task Force will meet on April 14th, and the recommendation of a target scenario and a greenhouse gas reduction target from the Task Force will be presented to the TTC/PAC on April 16th.

Action: Staff recommends approval of the greenhouse gas reduction target recommended by the SB375 Task Force

E. Blueprint Update [STECK]

Summary: The consultant developing the Blueprint Roadmap will have a draft report, summarizing the planning stage of the Valley Blueprint, completed by the end of April. In addition, the consultant has begun work on the Blueprint implementation plan and toolkit, which are intended to assist local agencies with integrating the Blueprint principles into their planning processes.

Much of our efforts over the past several months have been directed toward SB 375. While the San Joaquin Valley MPOs will not have to include the "Sustainable Community Strategy" into the Regional Transportation Plans until 2014, we will be moving in that direction. Enclosed in your package are two slides that show the relationship of the Blueprint, SB 375's Sustainable Community Strategy and the Regional Transportation Plan.

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

F. Obligational Authority FFY 2009/10 [BESHEARS/GARZA]

Summary: On April 2, 2010 Fresno COG submitted the 2009/10 Obligation Plan to Caltrans Local Assistance. This plan documents Fresno COG's estimated schedule for project and fund delivery for the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2009/10 (October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010). The overall total Apportionment for 09/10 was \$18,635,654; however, last year's Obligational Target was over delivered by \$5,171,391 leaving \$13,464,264 as the projected FFY 2009 Obligation Target. As of January 31, 2010, our region has delivered \$1,480,329 or 11.0% of our target. The obligation plan outlines the delivery of the remaining \$11,983,935 target as well as Fresno's plan for capturing any available funds during the statewide open obligation period. The goal is to over deliver again this year and meet the projected apportionment amount of \$18,635,654.

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

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, in both English and Spanish, are to be sent in February.

In addition to the request for written comments, SSTAC held three information-gathering meetings.

The first meeting was held in the City of Kerman on February 17, 2010. 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 4:00 p.m., and coincided with a food distribution event at the Kerman Community/Teen Center. One comment was received for more frequent service between Kerman and Fresno.

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The final meeting was held in the City of Fresno on February 24, 2010. 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 5:30 p.m. Two representatives from California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) attended the meeting and discussed a potential unmet transit need in the unincorporated area south of the City of Fresno. An additional meeting is planned between CRLA, FCRTA and an SSTAC representative.

We have also received a letter from the Director of the County of Fresno, Department of Social Services with a recommendation to provide shuttle services from the Selma/Reedley area to Metropolitan Fresno and to expand service hours between the Mendota, San Joaquin and Firebaugh areas to and from the Metropolitan Fresno area.

The Unmet Needs Report will be scheduled in May to initiate the 45-day review and will be on the June meeting cycle for approval.

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

H. Prop 84 Update [TWEBSTER]

Summary: On March 17, 2010, several significant changes were made to the final guidelines of the Strategic Growth Council (SGC)/Proposition 84 Planning Grant Guidelines.

Focus Area 3 will remain at 10% of available funding.

A 20% off the top set-aside will be available for disadvantaged communities. This is IN ADDITION TO the priority points awarded to applications that include planning for disadvantaged communities.

There is a statewide acknowledgement that this will tip the scales toward favoring the San Joaquin Valley. The SGC has taken a supportive posture on that issue acknowledging both the severely disadvantaged status of the SJV and that the Urban Greening Grant had the opposite effect.

Focus areas 1 & 2 will now each have a minimum allocation of 25% funding. Previously, Focus Area 1 (cities and counties) were at 70% of funding targets with Focus Area 2 (MPOs) at 20%. The new minimum of 25% each, will leave the remainder of available funds, excluding Focus Area 3 and 20% set-aside for disadvantaged communities, as competitive.

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the desire to see the SJV apply together is a preference in Sacramento and that such an application would “certainly” be viewed as more competitive.

A Valleywide comprehensive program, rather than a planning or project level focus, is also the implied preference of the SGC. This leaves little time to begin.

Application deadlines have been pushed back to allow all applicants and the SGC staff more ample time to prepare. New timelines are to be determined, but SGC staff has indicated mid-July is a likely target.

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

I. Jobs for Main Street 2010 - Stim 2 Follow Up [GARZA/BESHEARS]

Summary: In February, we conducted a fire drill to collect projects for Jobs for Main Street 2010, otherwise known as Stim 2. The initial house legislation, H.R. 2847 got wrapped up with several other bills in the Senate to extend SAFETEA-LU, create jobs, and restore recession apportionments (Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment-HIRE). In the final adopted version, which has been signed into law by the President, all the provisions we knew as Stim 2 were stripped out and there is no current movement to put those provisions into a new law.

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

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Regional Bid Policy [BESHEARS]

Summary: Currently our policy on Lifeline allows member agencies to apply savings on Lifeline Projects to eligible Federal Aid RSTP or CMAQ projects of their choosing. However, savings from a Regional Bid project must be used on other Regional Bid projects or returned to the Regional Bid Pot for future programming. This works well for agencies that have multiple Regional Bid projects but not so well for smaller agencies that may only have a single Regional Bid project. We have had various request to modify this policy and asked the Policy Board to make a one time exception for projects submitted for Stimulus II funding, on the basis that it encourages project sponsors to deliver projects early and under budget. Staff recommends the Board permanently modify this policy to allow project sponsors to apply Regional Bid project savings to eligible Federal Aid RSTP or CMAQ project of their choosing.

Action: Staff recommends approval to modify the Regional Bid Policy to allow project savings to vest with the member agency and to be applied to eligible Federal Aid RSTP or CMAQ project of their choosing.

B. California Statewide Needs Assessment Project (Streets and Roads) (Input Needed) [BOREN]

Summary: A Statewide Needs Assessment was recently completed, which identified a funding shortfall of over \$70 billion for the State's local streets and roads pavement and non-pavement needs. This information was very helpful in protecting the Highway User Tax Account (HUTA) and Prop 42 funds in 2009-10. A copy of the final report is available at www.SaveCaliforniaStreets.org

An ongoing effort is underway to update the local streets and roads needs in order to develop a true picture of the situation. Fresno COG has been asked to highlight the issue with its member agencies and encourage them to participate in the survey. (Only 38% of Fresno County agencies responded to the 2008 survey.) Please go to the website listed above and provide this much needed information. Background information and instructions are provided in your package.

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

C. 2011 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), 2011 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) and Conformity Analysis [THOMPSON]

Summary: Fresno COG is currently updating the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and related documents to incorporate current information and activities concerning our transportation system and legislative and project changes. Fresno COG utilized a new software program, called FresnoTRAK, in the development of these documents. FresnoTRAK replaces different database programs used in the development of the RTP, FTIP, and Conformity documents with one interactive database program accessible to Fresno COG staff and member agencies on the internet. Project tracking and report preparation are greatly simplified as project changes are incorporated across planning and programming documents.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): The 2011 RTP represents the long range planning vision for Fresno County's regional transportation system through the year 2035. A new addition to the RTP is the inclusion of a Climate Change Element. This Element affirms Fresno COG's support of efforts to address greenhouse gas emissions and identifies strategies, many of which are already in process, to reduce emissions. The RTP will not, however, address requirements of SB 375, specifically the inclusion of a Sustainable Community Strategy. An SCS cannot be developed until the greenhouse gas emissions targets have first been established and that will not occur until September 30, 2010, after the date by which the RTP must be adopted. Fresno COG will fully comply with SB 375 in the 2014 RTP, the first RTP to follow establishment of the final regional targets. The RTP addresses requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP): The 2011 FTIP is the incremental implementation of the long-range Regional Transportation Plan, providing for a four-year programming of projects. It includes new projects and updates to other projects.

Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR): The RTP consists of policy, action, financial, climate change, and environmental elements. The SEIR serves as the RTP's environmental element. Since certification of the previous RTP EIR in May 2007, new projects have been included in the 2011 RTP, the timing of those projects has changed, and other changes have occurred. As a result of these changes, rather than prepare a complete new EIR, Fresno COG was able to use the previous EIR and update/change sections to address RTP project changes, as well as greenhouse gas/global warming (Climate Change) and other issues.

Conformity Analysis: An air quality conformity analysis is required in nonattainment areas to ensure that transportation plans and programs are (1) consistent with the state and local air quality plans, and (2) do not interfere with the timely implementation of transportation control measures. The Draft Conformity Analysis for the 2011 RTP and 2011 FTIP demonstrates that all of our adopted transportation plans and programs are in conformance with the rules for the applicable air quality standards.

Looking forward, the schedule for all eight Valley MPOs is essentially the same. Initiation of the 45-day review and comment period must commence on April 30 and must conclude on June 14. The Fresno COG Policy Board will conduct a public hearing on the RTP and related documents on May 27 and must adopt the documents on July 29. The period of time from the conclusion of the 45-day review and comment period to adoption by the Policy Board will be used to respond to any comments received, including at the public hearing.

A CD containing all of the documents will be mailed to Committee members prior to April 30, 2010 for their review and comments. The documents will also be posted on the COG website. Hard copies will be provided upon request.

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

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. Braided Ramp Presentation – Caltrans**
- B. Air District Quarterly Update – Tom Jordan**
- C. Tulare County Association of Governments Presentation on Status and Implications of Proposed Railroad Abandonment in Tulare County**
- D. Caltrans Monthly Report**

Policy Advisory Committee

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

VI. 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.**

VII. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

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IX. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

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A. On-Call Modeling Assistance Contract Amendment [BITNER]

Summary: The Fresno COG On-Call Modeling Services contract provides COG staff with needed assistance in creating specialized script files, trouble shooting modeling problems and specialized assistance in dealing with issues and regulations related to AB 32 and SB 375.

At the March 12, 2010 San Joaquin Valley COG Director's Association meeting the Director's agreed to pay \$3,000 each for work by Dowling Associates to develop consistent interregional trip estimates between each San Joaquin Valley MPO as required by SB 375 and for Sustainable Communities Development.

Each of the 8 San Joaquin Valley counties currently uses its own estimates of travel growth at the county boundaries and the proportions of through traffic. These forecasts of growth and through trips may be different, even for adjacent counties, making it difficult to consistently identify interregional travel and possibly consolidate travel forecasts from multiple MPOs. This task will provide for the development of consistent travel forecasts at the boundaries of each MPO and a methodology for keeping them consistent in the future.

The development of this methodology is needed now for baseline target setting to meet the requirements of SB 375 and for future Sustainable Communities Strategy development.

Dowling, who is our on-call contractor, will run the statewide traffic model in order to develop the interregional trips and methodology for the San Joaquin Valley MPOs.

The total cost of the project will be between \$18,000 and \$24,000. Each Valley MPO has agreed to contribute \$3,000 toward this contract and the Fresno COG on-call contract will be used to pay the consultant.

Action: Staff recommends approval of the contract amendment and authorization for the Executive Director to contract with Dowling associates on behalf of the 8 valley MPOs.

B. Monthly Legislative Update [FAWCETT]

Summary: The enclosed report includes current bills in the 2010 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.

X. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Monthly Report – California Consulting LLC [SAMUELIAN]

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. The report that was distributed at last month's Policy Board meeting is included in the meeting package.

The following are additional items that will be presented by Mr. Samuelian at the TTC and PAC meetings as well as the Policy Board.

1. SB 1445 (DeSaulnier) – Planning, Strategic Growth Council, and State funding for SB 375/Blueprint activities

Summary: This bill requires the Strategic Growth Council to consult with and coordinate its recommendations with the Planning Advisory and Assistance Council within the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

Vehicle Registration Fee: increases the state vehicle registration fee by \$1, starting July 1, 2011.

Background: SB 1445 is similar to SB 406 (DeSaulnier, 2009) which the Senate Local Government Committee passed by the vote of 3-2. Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed last year's bill because it allowed MPOs, COGs, and county transportation commissions to impose motor vehicle fees without local voter approval. This year's bill relies on a statewide fee, imposed directly by the Legislature.

Status: Because SB 1445 increases the state's vehicle registration fee, the Senate Rules Committee has ordered that the bill go to the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee for review, after it leaves the Senate Local Government Committee.

Support: California Association of Councils of Governments, American Planning Association-California Chapter, Association of Bay Area Governments. **Opposition:** Unknown.

Enclosures include CalCOG's letter of support, and an analysis of the latest version (03/24/10) of this bill.

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

2. Water Bond (Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010): Proposed Resolution of Support

Summary: California's water system is outdated and straining to meet the needs of its residents, farms, businesses and environment. Designed 30 years ago to serve 16 million residents, our water system now serves more than 38 million. A myriad of problems plagues our water system, including severely limited supplies of water, contamination and pollution of rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater, an environment at risk, crumbling and aging infrastructure and the Delta in crisis. The Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010 is a \$11.14 billion bond proposal on the November ballot that will provide funding to fix California's aging water infrastructure, protect the environment and restore reliability of water supplies.

Comparing issues considered to be among the MOST IMPORTANT to voters the 2010 gubernatorial election to the 2006 gubernatorial election (among registered voters)		
	2010 %	2006 %
Jobs and the economy	69	39
The state budget deficit	68	N/A
Education	60	45
Health care	51	36
Taxes	47	32
Illegal immigration	37	42
Water	36	N/A
Gasoline prices and energy	29	34
Crime and prisons	28	24
Environmental protection	26	28
Reforming the state constitution	25	N/A
Global warming	23	N/A

Action: Staff recommends a resolution of support for the safe, clean, and reliable drinking water supply act of 2010 to be placed on the November 2010 Ballot. Enclosed is the draft resolution and a current list of Supporters.

3. Resolution in Support for Continuance of State of California's Enterprise Zone

Summary: A resolution was adopted on March 25th, in support of the California Enterprise Zone Program which has also been distributed to Fresno COG member agencies as a boilerplate for each city to adopt its own resolution in support of this important economic issue.

Action: Information item only. Direction may be provided 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 – Committees and Agendas**