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EXECUTIVE MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, March 12, 2010

Time: 8:30 a.m.

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, March 12, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place:

**COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA**

Transportation Technical Committee Members Attending:

Nicholas Don Paladino, Fresno Cycling Club
Jeffrey D. Webster, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
Dennis Manning, FARRC
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Bruce Carpenter, California Highway Patrol
John Donaldson, League of Women Voters

Kathy Millison, City of Clovis
Gary Joseph, Fresno County Economic Opportunities Corp.
Janet Dailey, Fresno County
Renee Mathis, City of Clovis
Noe Martinez, City of Reedley

Others Attending:

Roman Benitz, NAS Lemoore
Will Washburn, Provost & Prichard
Frank Spees, City of Fresno
Chip Ashley, Sierra Club
Jeff Long, Fresno COG/FAX
John Downs, COG/FAX

Clark Thompson, Fresno COG
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Stephanie Maxwell, Fresno COG
Kristine Cai, Fresno COG
Todd Sobrado, Fresno COG

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.**

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Steck, Deputy Director.

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.**

There were no public presentations.

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.

Because of the Committee not having a Vice Chair or Chairperson in attendance for the meeting, Barbara Steck (COG) had Item IV. Election of Vice Chair moved up on the agenda.

IV. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

A nomination was made by Janet Dailey (Fresno County) and seconded by Dennis Manning (FARRC) to elect Nicholas Paladino (FCC) for Vice Chairperson.

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

There being no additional nominations, a motion was made by John Donaldson (LWV) and seconded by Dennis Manning (FARRC) to close nominations and proceed to elect by acclamation. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| A. TTC/PAC Executive Minutes of February 12, 2010 | Approve |
| B. 2009-10 Transportation Funding Claims – [FAWCETT] | Approve |
| 1. City of Coalinga Resolution 2010-05 - \$574,723 | |
| 2. Fresno County Resolution 2010-06 - \$4,996,337 | |
| 3. City of Fresno Resolution 2010-07 - \$14,660,134 | |
| C. FY 2009-10 Second Quarter Progress Report [BESHEARS] | Accept |
| D. Grading Results for 2010 COG Administered FTA Sections 5316 (JARC) and 5317 (New Freedom) Grant Programs [SOBRADO] | Information |
| E. CA Interregional Blueprint/CA Transportation Plan - Workshops [STECK] | Information |
| F. Blueprint Update [STECK] | Information |

A motion was made by Dennis Manning (FARRC) and seconded by Jeff Webster (FCRTA) to approve the Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

For a summary of these items please see March 12, 2010 Annotated Agenda.

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Valley Model Improvement Contract

Kristine Cai (COG) reported on this item. The contract award for development of short and long term model improvement plan for San Joaquin Valley MPO traffic models to meet the requirements of SB 375 was included for consideration.

In October 2009 the San Joaquin Valley MPOs were awarded \$2.5 million from Proposition 84 funds by the Strategic Growth Council. These funds were awarded for San Joaquin Valley model development and data gathering to meet the requirements of SB 375.

Allocation of the money from the Strategic Growth Council is several months away. In an effort to get a “jump start” on the model improvements the Valley MPOs have issued an RFP for a preliminary contract to develop a detailed short range and long range model improvement plan.

The short range plan included a detailed scope of work for improvements that will be focused on fulfilling the AB 32 and SB 375 requirements for the first cycle of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Plans to be completed in 2014/15. In addition the contract provides for development of a preliminary long range model improvement plan that will outline goals beyond 2012 such as: organizational structure, ongoing maintenance capacity, ultimate requirements for SB 375 and other local requirements.

Fresno COG is the lead MPO for this project. A Request for Proposal was issued for this project and six proposals were received. On March 3rd the review committee made up of modeling staff from each San Joaquin Valley MPO, and a Valley COG Director met and selected the consultant team of Fehr & Peers for the project.

Funding for this contract comes from Valley Blueprint funds identified for “model improvements.”

Kristine Cai (COG) explained to the Committee the qualifications that Fehr & Peers have for the development of the Short and Long Term Model Improvement Plan and how other projects that they worked on in the past were done to a high standard. Ms. Cai also commented that Fehr & Peers has a good working relationship with COG.

A motion was made by Jeff Webster (FCRTA) and seconded by Bernard Jimenez (County of Fresno) to recommend authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract, not to exceed \$150,000 with Fehr & Peers for development of the Short and Long Term Model Improvement plans. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. Rail Update

Clark Thompson (COG) provided a verbal update of developments regarding various High-Speed rail and Maintenance Facility matters.

Mr. Thompson informed the Committee that the High-Speed Rail Authority is in the process of hiring a new Executive Director. Mehdi Morshed, the director since the Authority was established in 1996, has now retired. There are about 40 candidates for his position.

Mr. Thompson informed the Committee on the latest information about the Heavy Maintenance Facility and how the Authority would proceed. Currently the Authority is developing project level Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) for all the various segments. The time frame for the completion on the EIR to issue a record of decision would be September 2011, (this also includes the 15% design). After the adoption/certification of the EIR, the Authority will move into designing the system which will, hopefully, be under construction by 2012 in order to take advantage of the ARRA funds that are available.

Mr. Thompson commented that many believe the segment between Fresno and Bakersfield is in a very strong position to capture a substantial amount of the ARRA funds in California.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Committee.

C. Fresno County Regional Transit Consolidation Plan Contract

John Downs (COG) reported that on December 16, 2009, Fresno COG released an RFP for a Fresno County Regional Transit Consolidation Plan. Proposals were received from Nelson/Nygaard and the Transit Resource Center. Both firms participated in a formal interview process on February 17, 2010. The proposal selection committee included Jeffrey Webster, FCRTA General Manager; Shonna Halterman, General Services Manager for the City of Clovis; and Kenneth Hamm, Director of the Department of Transportation/FAX, City of Fresno. Dr. Gary Manross participated in the interview process as a non-voting member.

The selection committee, by a unanimous vote, recommended Nelson/Nygaard to prepare the plan. The Nelson/Nygaard team has extensive experience with similar projects including having prepared the 2007 Regional Public Transportation Agency Formation Study for the Fresno COG. This is a Measure C funded project with a \$100,000 budget. The Nelson/Nygaard proposal was for \$99,186.

A motion was made by Jeff Webster (FCRTA) and seconded by Bernard Jimenez (Fresno County) to recommend Fresno COG Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a scope of services and enter into a contract with Nelson/Nygaard to prepare the Fresno County Regional Transit Consolidation Plan. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

D. Public Transportation Infrastructure Study Update

John Downs reported on this item. During the February meeting, staff was asked to provide an update on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) planning activities.

FAX has received comments on the very small starts (VSS) grant project initiation package that was submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Among the comments received; FTA thought too many stations were proposed which would lead to increased capital costs as well as increased travel time. In addition, FTA had concerns about the fleet proposed to operate the system.

An amended initiation package was prepared which increased the average station stop spacing from 0.37 of a mile to 0.64 of a mile. Staff also clarified the concerns about the proposed fleet which would be part of FAX's existing fleet but branded with a unique paint scheme or full bus wrap. Staff is currently conducting more extensive public outreach regarding the station spacing in order to determine the community preference for station locations.

This will be critical, as FAX does not propose to operate a local service along with the BRT service because of the cost. This has the potential to increase the walking distance for many passengers.

A Downtown Fresno streetcar feasibility study was included as a task in the PTIS, and is not to exceed \$250,000. The streetcar task was initiated in March starting with stakeholder interviews on March 2, and a streetcar open house was held on March 4.

The PTIS consultant team continues to refine the land use scenarios based on the public workshop conducted during January. The scenarios were reviewed by the PTIS and TAC before they were included in the various modeling tasks.

All PTIS memorandums and technical reports are available on the PTIS website at <http://www.fasttrackfresnocounty.com>. Once you are at the website, click on the Downloads button on the left side of the page to view or download the documents. If you would like to receive the PTIS newsletter you can sign-up at the website as well.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Committee.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

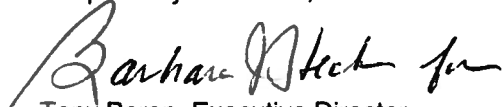
Barbara Steck (COG) called attention to an enclosure in the packet on a series of workshops that will be conducted by Caltrans. The Fresno workshop is on March 22, 2010 at Fresno City Hall.

B. Items from Members

Dennis Manning reported back, to the Committee regarding the Winona Minnesota grant. A letter of support was sent by Fresno COG. Also an international Personal Rapid Transit conference for PRT will be held in October in San Jose and that Fresno should consider attending the conference.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren, Executive Director

JOINT Transportation Technical Committee / Policy Advisory Committee

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

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Roman V. Benitez, Sr. Community Planner & Liaison Officer, Public Works Department Lemoore.**
Ramon Benites, Senior Planner gave a PowerPoint presentation on NAS. This presentation is available on our website at www.fresnocog.org – Committees & Agendas/handouts.
- B. Caltrans Monthly Report**
There was no report from Caltrans.
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POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10:15 AM

Policy Advisory Committee Members Attending:

Rocky Rogers, City of Reedley (Chair)
Lynn Gorman, Fresno County
Alan Bengyel, City of Orange Cove
David Weisser, City of Fowler
Bruce Rudd, City of Fresno
Lynn Gorman, County of Fresno

Kathy Millison, City of Clovis
Ron Manfredi, City of Kerman
Dan Spears, City of Sanger
Cruz Ramos, City of San Joaquin
Don Pauley, City of Kingsburg
Lou Martinez, City of Parlier

Others Attending:

Jeff Long, Fresno COG/FAX
Jeffrey Webster, FCRTA
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Les Beshears, Fresno COG
Stephanie Maxwell, Fresno COG

Laural Fawcett, Fresno COG
Clark Thompson, Fresno COG
Todd Sobrado, Fresno COG

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.**

Rocky Rogers (Reedley) expressed his gratitude to all the city managers and to the Sherriff's department for their support and assistance in the funeral of Officer Javier Bejar.

VII. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

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| E. CA Interregional Blueprint/CA Transportation Plan - Workshops [STECK] | Information |
| F. Blueprint Update [STECK] | Information |

For a summary of these items please see March 12, 2010 Annotated Agenda.

A motion was made by Alan Bengyel (Orange Cove) and seconded by Ron Manfredi (Kerman) to approve the Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Valley Model Improvement Contract

Kristine Cai (COG) reported on this item. The contract award for development of short and long term model improvement plan for San Joaquin Valley MPO traffic models to meet the requirements of SB 375 was included for consideration.

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Kristine Cai (COG) explained to the Committee the qualifications that Fehr & Peers have for the development of the Short and Long Term Model Improvement Plan and how other projects that they worked on in the past were done adequately. Ms. Cai also commented that Fehr & Peers has a good working relationship with COG.

Funding for this contract comes from Valley Blueprint funds identified for "model improvements."

Kristine Cai (COG) explained to the committee the qualifications that Fehr & Peers have for the development of the Short and Long Term model improvement Plan and how other projects that they worked on in the past were done to a high standard. Ms. Cai also commented that Fehr & Peers has a good working relationship with COG.

A motion was made by Lou Martinez (Parlier) and seconded by Lynn Gorman (County of Fresno) to recommend authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract, not to exceed \$150,000 with Fehr & Peers for development of the Short and Long Term model improvement plans. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. Rail Update

Clark Thompson (COG) provided a verbal update of developments regarding various High-Speed rail and Maintenance Facility matters.

Mr. Thompson informed the committee that the High-Speed Rail Authority is in the process of hiring a new Executive Director. Mehdi Morshed the director since the Authority was established in 1996, has now retired. There are about 40 candidates in the running for his position.

Mr. Thompson informed the Committee on the latest information about the Heavy Maintenance Facility and how the Authority would proceed. Currently the Authority is developing project level Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) for all the various segments. The time frame for the completion on the EIR to issue a record of decision is September 2011 (this also includes the 15% design). After the adoption certification of the EIR, the Authority will move into designing the system which will, hopefully, be under construction by 2012 in order to take advantage of the ARRA funds that are available.

Mr. Thompson commented that many believe the segment between Fresno and Bakersfield is in a very strong position to capture a substantial amount of the ARRA funds in California.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Committee.

C. Fresno County Regional Transit Consolidation Plan Contract

John Downs (COG) reported that on December 16, 2009, Fresno COG released an RFP for a Fresno County Regional Transit Consolidation Plan. Proposals were received from Nelson/Nygaard and the Transit Resource Center.

Both firms participated in a formal interview process on February 17, 2010. The proposal selection committee included Jeffrey Webster, FCRTA General Manager; Shonna Halterman, General Services Manager for the City of Clovis; and Kenneth Hamm, Director of the Department of Transportation/FAX, City of Fresno. Dr. Gary Manross participated in the interview process as a non-voting member.

The selection committee, by a unanimous vote, recommended Nelson/Nygaard to prepare the plan. The Nelson/Nygaard team has extensive experience with similar projects including having prepared the 2007 Regional Public Transportation Agency Formation Study for the Fresno COG. This is a Measure C funded project with a \$100,000 budget. The Nelson/Nygaard proposal was for \$99,186.

Kathy Millison expressed her concern on the scope of Scenarios. Mr. Downs explained that they had a proposal with a series of task outlined in it. A proposal was provided to us by Nelson/Nygaard with a scope of services. After Mr. Downs met with the selection committee they found that there were some details in the Scope of Services that were not agreed with, and would like to meet and go over what needed to be changed. Mr. Downs and the Committee were still convinced that Nelson/Nygaard was the best consultants for the job.

Don Pauley (Kingsburg) commented that the concept of consolidation of transit services has been somewhat controversial and that most likely the consolidation will be focused on the Fresno, Clovis, Metropolitan area. Mr. Pauley asked if there was support from Kathy Millison (Clovis) and Bruce Rudd (City of Fresno).

Bruce Rudd (City of Fresno) explained that the City of Fresno has always been supportive of the consolidation of Transit Services.

Lynn Gorman (Fresno County) noted that one of the issues of that the County and the smaller communities has always been what happens to the TDA funds. This has never been clearly answered in any processes to date. There needs to be a very clear answer as to what the ramification are for the transit funding.

Mr. Downs agreed that this was an issue that needed to be discussed.

Rocky Rogers (Reedley) questioned if there was going to be discussion in the scope in regard to ridership because ridership has decreased in Reedley.

Mr. Downs explained that Ridership is a trend and that the economy is bringing everything down. Regional consolidation has an opportunity at some level to improve ridership because it will increase the coordination between the different systems but this is not going to solve everything.

A motion was made by Dan Spears (Sanger) and seconded by Don Pauley (Kingsburg) to recommend the Fresno COG Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a scope of services and enter into a contract with Nelson/Nygaard to prepare the Fresno County Regional Transit Consolidation Plan.

D. Public Transportation Infrastructure Study Update

John Downs reported on this item. During the February meeting, staff was asked to provide an update on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) planning activities.

FAX has received comments on the Very Small Starts (VSS) grant project initiation package that was submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Among the comments received; FTA thought too many stations were proposed which would lead to increased capital costs as well as increased travel time. In addition, FTA had concerns about the fleet proposed to operate the system.

An amended initiation package was prepared which increased the average station stop spacing from 0.37 of a mile to 0.64 of a mile. Staff also clarified the concerns about the proposed fleet which would be part of FAX's existing fleet but branded with a unique paint scheme or full bus wrap.

Staff is currently conducting more extensive public outreach regarding the station spacing in order to determine the community preference for station locations. This will be critical, as FAX does not propose to operate a local service along with the BRT service because of the cost. This has the potential to increase the walking distance for many passengers.

A Downtown Fresno streetcar feasibility study was included as a task in the PTIS, and is not to exceed \$250,000. The streetcar task was initiated in March starting with stakeholder interviews on March 2, and a streetcar open house was held on March 4.

The PTIS consultant team continues to refine the land use scenarios based on the public workshop conducted during January. The scenarios were reviewed by the PTIS and TAC before they were included in the various modeling tasks.

The PTIS conducted several workshops in Fresno and Clovis and one to be held in the City of Reedley. The Consulting staff is working with Reedley staff to determine what the nature of the workshop is, rather than have it specifically about Public Transportation. Staff suggested that the workshops be about Economic Development, Bicycle Pedestrian or Design Building. Staff will work with the communities to see what the interest is for that area and what they would want focused on.

There will also be a workshop in the city of Selma on the Golden State Corridor. The cities of Fowler and Kingsburg will also be invited.

PTIS memorandums and technical reports are available on the PTIS website at <http://www.fasttrackfresnocounty.com>. Once you are at the website, click on the Downloads button on the left side of the page to view or download the documents. If you would like to receive the PTIS newsletter you can sign-up at the website as well.

This was an information item and required no further action by 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.

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|--|-------------|
| A. Monthly Legislative Update [FAWCETT] | Information |
| B. Monthly Report – California Consulting LLC [BOREN] | Information |
| C. Monthly Report – Strategy Research Institute [BOREN] | Information |

For a full summary of these items please see the March 12, 2010 Annotated Agenda.

A motion was made by Don Pauley (Kingsburg) and seconded by Bruce Rudd (City of Fresno) to approve the Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

X. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fresno COG's 2010 Sacramento One Voice Trip Report

Laural Fawcett (COG) reported on activities from the Sacramento One Voice trip and reviewed the agenda for the two days of meetings with legislators. Ms. Fawcett also informed the Committee that Kathy Millison did an impressive job on covering the SB 375 issue.

Alan Bengyel (Orange Cove) also expressed his gratitude to Kathy Millison (Clovis) on how well she questioned the representatives on the SB 375 and how she outlined the concerns in the Valley. Mr. Bengyel felt there were interesting responses from each of the representatives.

Mr. Bengyel also commented on the hearing with the Enterprise Zone staff that Steve Giel attended. Ms. Fawcett explained that she has not received any information on the outcome.

Kathy Millison (Clovis) commented that the Committee should be up to date on what the Task Force has been doing with SB 375 locally. Fresno COG has taken a proactive approach on SB 375. Ms. Millison asked Barbara Steck (COG) for an update on the Task Force. Ms. Steck explained that the Task Force has been moving forward with the target setting approach noting that it would be better to come up with targets to present to CARB rather than wait until June. The Modeling Staff has been working with member agencies to come up with scenarios and or ultimately a target. The deadline was March 1st for proposals to be turned into CARB. Ms. Steck also commented that there is a lot of confusion on the SB 375. CARB has been on the phone at the target setting meetings to answer any questions.

This was an information item and required no further action by the Committee.

XI. Other Business

A. Items from Staff

There was a lengthy discussion on the SB 375. Barbara Steck (COG) informed the committee that there will be an item on the agenda for next month on the SB 375. Ms. Steck also asked Kristine Cai (COG) to prepare a PowerPoint presentation that will explain the issue and resolve unanswered questions.

B. Items from Members

Don Pauley (Kingsburg) commented that Google came out with an announcement that they are looking for proposals or letters of interest from fifty to hundred thousand people for the Ultra High Speed Internet. Mr. Pauley suggested putting this into a regional perspective and asked if there enough interest in the smaller cities to explore the option.

Bruce Rudd (City of Fresno) informed the committee that the City of Fresno is moving towards partnerships in creating temporary housing opportunities for the homeless. The city is also exploring whether non-profits may be exempt from the RTMF.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Tony Boren, Executive Director

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