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**COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
POLICY BOARD
Executive Minutes**

Date: Thursday, April 29, 2010
Time: 7:00 pm
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

Members Present: Mayor Trinidad M. Rodriguez, City of Kerman, Chair
Mayor Dennis Lujan, City of Selma, Vice Chair
Mayor Harry Armstrong, City of Clovis
Councilmember Rico Aguayo, City of Fowler
Councilmember Lee Brand, City of Fresno
Mayor Ramon Dominguez, City of Huron
Mayor Bruce Blayney, City of Kingsburg
Mayor Robert Silva, City of Mendota
Mayor Victor Lopez, City of Orange Cove
Mayor Armando Lopez, City of Parlier
Mayor Mary Fast, City of Reedley
Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, City of San Joaquin
Supervisor Judy Case, County of Fresno

Sharri Bender-Ehlert, Caltrans
Janelle Kelley, Legal Counsel
Tony Boren, Executive Director

QUORUM: At the start of the meeting there were 11 members present representing 92.63% of the population and there was a quorum. (Clovis, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Selma and Fresno County)

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dennis Lujan, Vice Chair, at 7:07 p.m.

I. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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

Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) asked for a moment of silence in memory of former mayor of Reedley, Joe Rhodes.

Gary Shinaver, candidate for Superior Court Judge briefly addressed the Board.

QUORUM: Mayor Rodriguez, Kerman and Mayor Dhaliwal, San Joaquin arrived. There were 13 members present representing 94.55% of the population.

II. PRESENTATIONS

A. Tulare County Association of Governments Presentation on Status and Implications of Proposed Railroad Abandonment in Tulare County –

Bob Bloomer, Tulare County Association of Governments and Supervisor Allen Ishida, Tulare County gave a powerpoint presentation on the impact of railroad abandonment in the Valley. A copy of the presentation is available on our website. There was a brief discussion following the presentation. Mayor

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

Lopez (Orange Cove) mentioned the impact on his city from the rail abandonment that happened there. Mr. Boren (COG) noted that the Valley COGs will be presenting this item during their trip to Washington the week of May 3rd. Mayor Lujan (Selma) asked staff to explore the impact on Fresno County. Mayor Fast (Reedley) stated that she hopes to build relationship with Kern County regarding this issue. Supervisor Case (County) noted that the Farm Bill covers infrastructure development for rural communities. Mayor Dhaliwal (San Joaquin) will be traveling to Washington on the Valley Voice trip and assured the Board that the item will be approached as a valleywide effort.

Mayor Lujan turned the meeting over to Chairman Rodriguez.

B. State Route 180 Braided Ramp Presentation – Neil Bretz, Caltrans Project Manager.

Mr. Boren pointed out that the project is our number one project under the STIP. There is an opportunity to receive some funds for this project from the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) and other sources. Mr. Bretz gave a brief update on the status and highlights of the project. A map was available for the Board to see the plans for the project.

Updates on this project will be provided as they become available.

Chairman Rodriguez, acknowledged Senator Gloria Romero, District 24. Senator Romero serves as the Chair of the Senate Education Committee. Senator Romero briefly addressed the Board on the importance of education.

Fresno COG Sitting As the Transportation Policy Committee

III. 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 Policy Board or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken.

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|--|-------------|
| A. PB Americas Contract Extension [BESHEARS] | Approve |
| B. Blueprint Update [STECK] | Information |
| C. Obligational Authority FFY 2009-10 [BESHEARS/GARZA] | Information |
| D. Initiation of Unmet Transit Needs Process [LONG] | Information |
| E. Prop 84 Update [TWEBSTER] | Information |
| F. Jobs for Mainstreet 2010 - Stim 2 Follow Up [GARZA/BESHEARS] | Information |

For a summary of these items, please see the April 29, 2010 Annotated Agenda.

A motion was made by Mayor Blayney (Kingsburg) and seconded by Mayor Lopez (Parlier) to approve the Transportation Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. SB375 - Recommending Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Target for the Fresno County Region [CAI]

Kristine Cai (COG) addressed the Board and gave a brief powerpoint presentation. Ms. Cai reported that 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 also allows the regions to submit their own target numbers for CARB to consider.

Ms. Cai went on to report that as the MPO for the Fresno County region, Fresno COG has been working closely with the Fresno County SB375 Task Force since November 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 planning activities such as general plan updates, new and

updated specific plans that have taken place since 2007 RTP plus intensifications at various locations in the County; the third scenario-"alternative 2" is structured with more aggressive corridor and activity center planning in the metropolitan area in addition to the land use proposed in Alternative 1.

The SB375 Task Force unanimously recommended Alternative 1 as the target scenario with the understanding that:

1. City of Fresno's South East Growth Area (SEGA) plan is not adopted, and is still under environmental assessment.
2. The proposed corridor intensification is still being studied. The results of the City of Fresno's Corridor Study will be incorporated in the City's general plan update.
3. No location specific information such as Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) level data and maps will be transmitted to the CARB.

After a brief discussion and expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Blayney (Kingsburg) and seconded by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) to approve Alternative 1 as the target scenario as recommended by the Fresno County SB375 Task Force. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. Regional Bid Policy [BESHEARS]

Les Beshears (COG) reported that currently Fresno COG's 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. Mr. Beshears pointed out that 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. There have been various requests to modify this policy and staff asked the Policy Board to make a one time exception for projects submitted for Stimulus II funding, on the basis that it encouraged project sponsors to deliver projects early and under budget. Mr. Beshears stated that Fresno COG 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.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Armstrong (Clovis) and seconded by Councilmember Aguayo (Fowler) 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. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

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

Clark Thompson (COG) reported that Fresno COG is currently updating the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and related documents to incorporate current information and activities concerning its 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.

Mr. Thompson pointed out that 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 for their review and comments. The documents will also be posted on the COG website. Hard copies will be provided upon request.

This was an information/discussion item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

D. Rail Update [THOMPSON]

Mr. Thompson gave a brief update on rail issues. Mr. Thompson reported that Amtrak ridership is up. It was also pointed out the May 8th is National Train Day. Curt Pringle, Chairman of the California High Speed Rail Authority recently visited Fresno. Information regarding the Fresno Heavy Maintenance Facility was provided to Mr. Pringle. Ongoing planning and analysis of the High Speed Rail Corridor continues. Environmental documents are to be released this fall.

This was an information/discussion item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

E. Caltrans Report [CALTRANS]

Sharri Bender-Ehlert (Caltrans) gave an update on Caltrans activities. Ms. Ehlert reported on the new gas tax that will go into effect on July 1st.

This was an information/discussion item and required no further action by the Policy Board.

V. REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) and seconded by Mayor Lopez (Parlier) to reaffirm all actions taken while sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee. A vote was called for and the motion carried unanimously.

VI. 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 Policy Board or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If comment or discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence with an opportunity for any member of the public to address the Committee concerning the item before action is taken.

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| A. March 25, 2010 Executive Minutes | Approve |
| B. On-Call Modeling Assistance Contract Amendment [BITNER] | Approve |
| C. Monthly Legislative Update [FAWCETT] | Information |

For a summary of these items, please see the April 29, 2010 Annotated Agenda.

A motion was made by Mayor Lujan (Selma) and seconded by Mayor Armstrong (Clovis) to approve the Administrative Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried unanimously.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Letter of Support – State Route 180 Braided Ramps as Candidate Project for Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) Funding [BOREN]

Mr. Boren, Executive Director, noted in May 2010, the California Transportation Commission will be reprogramming project savings from projects that were originally funded through the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA). The CMIA program was one part of Proposition 1B which raised nearly \$20 billion in funding for transportation projects statewide. Due to the recession, a number of the projects in the original CMIA program have come in under budget, so there are project savings that must be reprogrammed by the California Transportation Commission. In an attempt to capture some of the CMIA project savings funding for the Fresno region, Fresno COG in conjunction with the Fresno County Transportation Authority and Caltrans have developed a proposed funding package that would fully fund the State Route 180 Braided Ramps project. In order to deliver the project in a timely manner, Caltrans District 6 will be utilizing the Design-Build process which will shorten the delivery schedule by eighteen months.

As has been discussed previously, the State Route 180 Braided Ramps are currently Fresno COG's number one regional transportation priority and are scheduled to receive \$29.6 mil. in STIP funding in 2013/14. If CMIA funding is obtained, the westbound braided ramp would tentatively be open to traffic in November, 2013 and the eastbound ramp open to traffic in August, 2015. A copy of the letter of support was handed out to the Board.

After an expressed opportunity for comment, a motion was made by Mayor Fast (Reedley) and seconded by Councilmember Aguayo (Fowler) to authorize the COG Policy Board Chairman to sign and submit a Letter of Support for the State Route 180 Braided Ramps as Fresno COG's Candidate Project for the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account Project Savings funding that will become available through the CTC. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. Monthly Report – California Consulting LLC [SAMUELIAN]

Summary: Steve Samuelian of California Consulting Inc. gave a verbal report to the Policy Board on his consulting activities for the COG during the month. A written report was included in the meeting package.

Mr. Samuelian reported on the recent Enterprise Zone hearings and further action that is being taken.

Mr. Samuelian also presented the following items:

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

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

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

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

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 in 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

Resolution 2010-12 was handed out for review and approval.

After an expressed opportunity for public comment, a motion was made by Mayor Lujan (Selma) and seconded by Mayor Silva (Mendota) to approve Resolution 2010-12 in support for the safe, clean, and reliable drinking water supply act of 2010 to be placed on the November 2010 Ballot. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

Mr. Boren announced a San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Executive Forum will be held on June 25th. Information on the Forum will be included in the May meeting package.

B. Items from Members

1. Mayor Lopez gave further information on funeral arrangements for Mayor Rhodes of Reedley. Staff will email the information to all members.

2. Mayor Lopez (Parlier) asked to add a letter of support for Crescent View Charter School as item to the May agenda.

3. Mayor Lopez (Orange Cove) asked that immigration discussion also be added to the May agenda.

4. Mayor Lujan (Selma) and Mayor Lopez (Parlier) thanked COG staff for assisting with the recent Latino Mayor's luncheon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Boren, Executive Director

Attachment A

Observers and Non-Members
COG Board Meeting
April 29, 2010

Neil Bretz, Caltrans
Bob Bloomer, Tulare County Association of Governments
Allen Ishida, Supervisor, Tulare County
Gary Shinaver, Candidate for Superior Court Judge
Gloria Romero, Senator (California), District 24, Chairman of Education Committee
Steve Samuelian, California Consulting, LLC
Jeffrey Webster, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
Russell Clemings, Fresno Bee
Les Beshears, Fresno COG
Mike Bitner, Fresno COG
Kristine Cai, Fresno COG
Kathy Chung, Fresno COG
Lauren Dawson, Fresno COG
Melissa Garza, Fresno COG
Tom Webster, Fresno COG
Marla Day, Fresno COG