

ANNOTATED AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, January 14, 2011

Time: 8:30 a.m.

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, January 14, 2011

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place:

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

Video Conferencing Available – please contact Tom Webster at 559-233-4148 Ext. 222

Dial in number for teleconferencing:

Toll Free Number: 877-455-8688

Participant Code: 278933

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. 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 November 5, 2010

B. FY 2010-11 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 informational/action item. Direction may be given at the discretion of the Committee.

C. FY 2010-11 First Quarter Progress Report [BESHEARS]

Summary: Included in your agenda packet is the FY 2010-11 First Quarter Progress Report which is a summary of funds expended and work completed in each work element during the first quarter, FY 2010-11.

Action: Staff recommends acceptance of the First Quarter Progress Report as presented.

D. Call for Projects – Bicycle Transportation Account 2011-12 Applications [GARZA]

Summary: The 2011-12 Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) Call for Projects was announced on December 15, 2010. Applications are due on **March 18, 2011** by the close of business. City or county agencies are eligible to apply. A city or county may apply on behalf on another local agency. The city or county assumes responsibility for the BTA application and the proper use and expenditure of BTA funds. Caltrans anticipates an annual appropriation of \$7.2

million for the Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA). No applicant shall receive more than 25 percent, \$1.8 million, of the total amount transferred to the BTA in a single fiscal year. BTA funds pay a maximum of 90 percent of the total cost of an eligible project. Local agencies must provide a minimum of 10 percent of the total project cost from sources other than the BTA. For more complete information see the BTA webpages at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/bta/btawebPage.htm>.

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

E. Call for Projects: Community Based Transportation Planning [GARZA]

Summary: Transportation Planning Grant funds are available for planning projects that improve mobility and lead to the planning, programming, and implementation of transportation improvement projects. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is currently accepting applications for the current Transportation Planning Grant Cycle. The funds available from the following six grant programs may be used for a wide range of transportation planning purposes. Caltrans provides transportation planning grants for:

- Environmental Justice (EJ)
- Community-Based Transportation Planning (CBTP)
- Partnership Planning (Partner)
- Statewide or Urban Transit Planning Studies (Urban)
- Rural or Small Urban Transit Planning Studies (Rural)
- Transit Planning Student Internships (Intern)

Applications are due via email by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 30, 2011. Hard copies will not be accepted. See Grant Guide for instructions. Details, including the application and grant guide, are available at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants.html>

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

F. CTC 2010 Annual Report to the Legislature [GARZA]

Summary: The California Transportation Commission has submitted the 2010 annual report to the Legislature. The Commission was able to allocate more than \$5 billion for transportation projects – marking the fifth consecutive year it has moved more than \$4 billion in funding and enabling the California Department of Transportation to attain a construction activity level in excess of \$9 billion this year. Perhaps even more significant from a long-term perspective, it was in 2010 that the Commission authorized the first design-build procurements and public-private partnership (P3) projects provided for under the landmark Senate Bill 4 legislation signed into law in 2009. To date, the Commission has approved one public private partnership and seven design-build projects.

The state's current economic challenges did provide one tangible benefit in 2010; lower construction costs that enabled utilizing contract award savings to fund additional projects that would otherwise be shelved. To date, the Commission has allocated more than \$5 billion of the \$11.6 billion of the Proposition 1B funds under its purview. However, due to the state's inability to sell bonds while the 2010-11 state budget was being deliberated, more than \$700 million in Proposition 1B funding leveraging \$3.3 billion in projects ready for construction were awaiting the availability of bond funding, as of November 2010.

The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) has also experienced its challenges in 2010. In May 2010, the Commission adopted the \$5.73 billion 2010 STIP covering highway and road projects through 2014-15. The Commission had to work with less revenue than expected, so in programming the 2010 STIP, many projects were forced to be deferred into later years. The 2010 STIP assumes that \$469 million of the \$1.094 billion estimated to be available for allocation in 2010-11 will be available from the sale of Proposition 1B bonds. If sufficient bond revenues do not materialize, even more STIP projects programmed in 2010-11 will be delayed.

According to the report, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009 provided much-needed funding for projects that might otherwise not have moved forward due to the

state's transportation funding challenges. California received and immediately put to use nearly \$2.6 billion in Recovery Act funds for highway and local street and road improvements across the state.

The annual report includes a more detailed discussion on the issues, options and recommendations to the Legislature and to the Administration. The 2010 Annual Report is available at <http://www.catc.ca.gov/reports/annualreports.htm>

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

G. FTA Section 5310 for Federal Fiscal Year 2010 and 2011 funds [SOBRADO]

Summary: Fresno COG is pleased to announce a call for projects for the following Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant programs for federal fiscal year 2010 / 2011. This is an abbreviated call for projects meaning that there is not much time to complete the application.

These programs provide the funding for the implementation of the Fresno County Social Services Public Transportation Plan adopted in 2008 by the Fresno COG Policy Board.

Section 5310 - Elderly and Disabled Specialized Transit Program Estimated funding is estimated at \$25 million

- Website for additional information: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/5310.html>
- Toll free assistance line: 1-888-472-6816
- Application due date to Fresno COG is **March 4, 2011**
- Application due to Caltrans on or before **May 6, 2011**.

Fact sheets are contained in the agenda packet. Please contact Todd Sobrado at Fresno COG with questions or to request additional information. [SOBRADO]

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

H. San Joaquin Valley Railroad Study [THOMPSON]

Summary: The San Joaquin Valley Railroad Study will be presented to your committee at your next meeting on February 11 at 10:00 a.m. The presentation will be given by Gary Hunter of the consulting firm Railroad Industries Incorporated. Because there is likely considerable interest in this study and prospects for retaining and improving the short line railroad between the County line at Reedley and Fresno, staff is providing this additional notification of the presentation.

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

I. EPA Proposal to Disapprove PM2.5 Plan [DAWSON]

Summary: On November 8, 2010, EPA's Regional Administrator signed a proposed rule, and issued a press release, to approve in part and disapprove in part the San Joaquin Valley 2008 PM2.5 Plan. The parts of the plan (prepared by the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District and the California Air Resources Board) that they propose to approve, strengthen the PM2.5 State Implementation Plan (SIP). The portions of the plan EPA proposes to disapprove do not meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act and EPA regulations. EPA is taking public comments until January 31, 2011.

A fact sheet explaining this action is included in your packet. EPA, ARB and the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District are confident that the inadequacies will be satisfactorily addressed when the Air District completes the April 2011 PM2.5 SIP Mid-Course review.

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

J. Transportation Technical Committee Member List Update [Boren]

Summary: A list of the current Transportation Technical Committee members is included in the meeting package. Please contact Marla Day if there are any updates.

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

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. High-Speed Rail Resolution 2011-01 [BOREN]

Summary: As has been reported previously, the Federal Railroad Administration has recently allocated \$4.3 billion in funding for development and construction of high speed rail facilities in the central San Joaquin Valley. Funding requirements state that construction of the first segment must be completed by the fall of 2017. With that in mind, included as an attachment is a Fresno COG Policy Board resolution that encourages the California High Speed Rail Authority to give a strong commitment to hiring local Fresno County businesses to complete the planning, environmental, design, engineering and construction work that will be required to complete the first segment of the high speed rail line. Justification for this request includes the following:

- Fresno County's unemployment rate as of September 2010 was at 15.2%;
- Fresno County boasts a strong, able, dedicated and talented workforce;
- It is estimated that 135,000 full time workers will be required to complete construction of the high speed rail line in the central San Joaquin Valley;
- Fresno County residents have consistently voiced strong support for high speed rail

Action: Staff recommends the Policy Board approve Resolution 2011-01 encouraging the California High Speed Rail Authority to give a strong commitment to hiring local Fresno County businesses to complete the planning, environmental, design, engineering and construction work that will be required to complete the first segment of the high speed rail line.

B. Fresno COG 2011 One Voice Projects/Issues List [GARZA/STECK]

Summary: Staff has been working with the project selection committee in preparation for Fresno COG's ninth "One Voice" advocacy effort in Washington D.C. (February 26th – March 3rd, 2011). The committee met to review and score the 8 projects that were submitted for consideration. A list of the projects, and project scores, is included in your agenda package. The committee met a second time to review the scores and develop a recommended list of projects to forward to the COG Policy Board for approval. The selection committee is recommending that all eight projects be include as the "Regional Priority Projects" for the 2011 One Voice list, with that caveat that the two top scoring projects be recognized as "number one" (socio-economic and transportation). Those projects are:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Never Give Up Gang Prevention Initiative | (#1 Socio-economic Issue) |
| 2. Golden State Corridor | (#1 Transportation Issue) |
| 3. State Route 180 East | |
| 4. Veterans Blvd. | |
| 5. Regional Data Center | |
| 6. Manning Avenue Bridge | |
| 7. Fresno High Speed Rail Station | |
| 8. Academy Avenue | |

The committee also discussed regional policy issues that might be considered for inclusion in our "One Voice" materials. A list of these issues, along with brief abstracts, is included in your package. In addition, we will be developing a strategy to make requests for the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill, which is being considered by the Congress and the Administration. An update on

these activities will be provided at the Policy Board meeting. A list of One Voice participants and a draft agenda for the trip are also included in your package.

Action: Staff recommends consideration and approval of the "One Voice" selection committee's list of regional priority projects and the list of regional policy issues.

C. FY 2009-2010 Annual Listing of Projects [GARZA]

Summary: Federal law requires Fresno COG to publish for public review an annual listing of projects for which federal funds have been obligated in the preceding year, as a record of project delivery and a progress report for public information and disclosure.

This report indicates that approximately \$67.1 million in federal funds were obligated for transportation projects in the region between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010. \$18.9 million of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds were obligated for transit projects and \$2.7 million was transferred from FHWA to FTA for transit projects.

The federal funds obligated for transportation projects were distributed amongst ARRA, CMAQ, DEMO, HBRR, HSIP, Local Rail, RIP, RSTP, SHOPP, SRTS, and STP projects. Approximately \$3.6 million of the obligated Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds were for bicycle/pedestrian facilities; 20 projects had bicycle/pedestrian components.

The listing is available for public viewing at www.fresnocog.org under RTP/FTIP: Annual Obligation Listings and is enclosed.

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

D. Blueprint Update [STECK/TWEBSTER]

Summary: We are currently in the process of reviewing the documents that comprise the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Roadmap (the implementation materials for the Valleywide Blueprint that was endorsed by Fresno COG and adopted by the Regional Policy Council in April 2009). The implementation deliverables include: 1) The Blueprint Planning Process Summary Report; 2) The SJV Blueprint Implementation Strategy; and 3) a web based Planners Toolkit. The schedule for reviewing and editing the Blueprint Roadmap is rather compact and will include input from the Blueprint project managers and COG directors from the eight Valley MPOs, the Valley Planners working group, interested community organizations and stakeholder groups and ultimately the Regional Policy Council, which will take action on the package at its March 25, 2011 meeting. The Blueprint Roadmap will provide local agencies with tools to assist them integrate the Blueprint smart growth principles into their general planning processes.

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

E. Proposition 84 Grants Update [TWEBSTER]

Summary: On December 03, 2010, the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) approved a \$1,000,000 grant award for the San Joaquin Valley MPOs to continue the implementation of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint and to assist in meeting the requirements of SB375. The amount requested for the grant was \$2.5 million. The work program will encompass three major planning efforts: 1) Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) development; 2) General Plan integration and update planning; and 3) a San Joaquin Valley Regional Greenprint. With minor exceptions, the work will focus primarily on the San Joaquin Valley cities with a population less than 50,000. It will also include the 8 counties.

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

F. Video Conferencing Update [TWEBSTER]

Summary: Fresno COG is the lead agency in the ongoing San Joaquin Valley Videoconferencing Infrastructure Project. The project's main goals are to reduce the cost of conducting business by reducing the need to travel to meetings, and to improve air quality by reducing the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) to attend face-to-face meetings.

Phase I of the project connected seven of the eight SJV MPOs through the purchase and installation of audio-video endpoints at each of the seven participating MPOs, and the additional installation of a central connection hub located at Fresno COG. This phase was very successful and has yielded a 100% return on investment (ROI), and a reduction of approximately 100,000 VMT in the first year of operation.

Phase II of the project aimed to connect the cities and counties around the Valley to the platform, beginning with the Fresno area. This phase arrived on the heels of a significant recession and budget crisis that impacted local agencies' ability to participate in the project. Many of the agencies that were committed to the project were forced to postpone their purchases and while a handful of participants did move forward with the purchase and installation of VTC endpoints. However, the core infrastructure upgrades and work needed to make the tie-in operational stagnated in 2010.

Work on the project has resumed and Fresno COG staff is working on the final in-house steps needed to complete the tie-in and finalize phase II. One of the project partners, CalVans, is in the process of purchasing endpoints as part of this phase and has available funding to complete the infrastructure upgrade needed to see the project through successfully for all participants.

Action: Staff recommends authorizing Fresno COG Executive Director to enter into the MOU with CalVans for Videoconference usage, and to contract with Sebastian Inc. for \$300,000 for equipment and labor, subject to reimbursement from CalVans.

G. Name Change/Logo/Website Update [VEENENDAAL]

Summary: The Fresno COG Policy Board approved an agency name change during their July 2010 Board Meeting, from Council of Fresno County Governments to Fresno Council of Governments. Fresno COG's JPA was then amended with the new name in order to make the change official.

Over the years staff has become aware of difficulties our current name presents in establishing us as a separate, regional agency due to the word "county" in our name, and because of the county outline shape in our logo. We are difficult to find in the phone book or other listings because we are formally listed under C for Council instead of the name our colleagues have informally adopted for us—Fresno COG.

The name change allows us to be consistent with the moniker of the majority of other RTPAs/MPOs throughout the state (i.e. San Diego (SANDAG), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Sacramento (SACOG) etc.)

The timing for a name and logo change was ideal due to the following factors:

- Our website is being redeveloped and the company we are hired for the project, (Jeffrey Scott Agency) agreed to redesign our logo as a part of the website development contract—therefore eliminating the cost to have it done separately.
- Many of our staff have new titles and need new business cards, so there will be no additional cost for changing the appearance of the cards when printing.
- We are very low on agency stationery and envelopes—again, there will be no additional cost for changing the appearance of the cards when printing.

The new Fresno COG logo is completed. Staff developed new business cards incorporating the logo, a list of our member agencies and the Fresno COG mission statement. New signage will go up around the Fresno COG offices during the month of January and the COG website, nearing completion, will be up and running by February 1, 2011.

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

III. OTHER BUSINESS

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

IV. 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.**

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

1. Caltrans Report [CALTRANS]

Summary: Caltrans staff will present an update.

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

2. California Forward – Kristine Walter

3. Air District Report- Tom Jordan, Senior Policy Advisor SJVAPCD

Tom Jordan, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, will present a general update on local Air District activities, the recent EPA proposed partial disapproval of the 2008 PM2.5 State Implementation Plan (SIP), and response to any air quality questions that the committee members may have.

Policy Advisory Committee

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

VI. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

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A. TTC/PAC Executive Minutes of November 5, 2010

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

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A fact sheet explaining this action is included in your packet. EPA, ARB and the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District are confident that the inadequacies will be satisfactorily addressed when the Air District completes the April 2011 PM2.5 SIP Mid-Course review.

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VII. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. High-Speed Rail Resolution 2011-01 [BOREN]

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- Fresno County's unemployment rate as of September 2010 was at 15.2%;
- Fresno County boasts a strong, able, dedicated and talented workforce;
- It is estimated that 135,000 full time workers will be required to complete construction of the high speed rail line in the central San Joaquin Valley;
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D. Blueprint Update [STECK/TWEBSTER]

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

E. Proposition 84 Grants Update [TWEBSTER]

Summary: On December 03, 2010, the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) approved a \$1,000,000 grant award for the San Joaquin Valley MPOs to continue the implementation of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint and to assist in meeting the requirements of SB375. The amount requested for the grant was \$2.5 million. The work program will encompass three major

planning efforts: 1) Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) development; 2) General Plan integration and update planning; and 3) a San Joaquin Valley Regional Greenprint. With minor exceptions, the work will focus primarily on the San Joaquin Valley cities with a population less than 50,000. It will also include the 8 counties.

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

F. Video Conferencing Update [TWEBSTER]

Summary: Fresno COG is the lead agency in the ongoing San Joaquin Valley Videoconferencing Infrastructure Project. The project's main goals are to reduce the cost of conducting business by reducing the need to travel to meetings, and to improve air quality by reducing the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) to attend face-to-face meetings.

Phase I of the project connected seven of the eight SJV MPOs through the purchase and installation of audio-video endpoints at each of the seven participating MPOs, and the additional installation of a central connection hub located at Fresno COG. This phase was very successful and has yielded a 100% return on investment (ROI), and a reduction of approximately 100,000 VMT in the first year of operation.

Phase II of the project aimed to connect the cities and counties around the Valley to the platform, beginning with the Fresno area. This phase arrived on the heels of a significant recession and budget crisis that impacted local agencies' ability to participate in the project. Many of the agencies that were committed to the project were forced to postpone their purchases and while a handful of participants did move forward with the purchase and installation of VTC endpoints. However, the core infrastructure upgrades and work needed to make the tie-in operational stagnated in 2010.

Work on the project has resumed and Fresno COG staff is working on the final in-house steps needed to complete the tie-in and finalize phase II. One of the project partners, CalVans, is in the process of purchasing endpoints as part of this phase and has available funding to complete the infrastructure upgrade needed to see the project through successfully for all participants.

Action: Staff recommends authorizing Fresno COG Executive Director to enter into the MOU with CalVans for Videoconference usage, and to contract with Sebastian Inc. for \$300,000 for equipment and labor, subject to reimbursement from CalVans.

G. Name Change/Logo/Website Update [VEENENDAAL]

Summary: The Fresno COG Policy Board approved an agency name change during their July 2010 Board Meeting, from Council of Fresno County Governments to Fresno Council of Governments. Fresno COG's JPA was then amended with the new name in order to make the change official.

Over the years staff has become aware of difficulties our current name presents in establishing us as a separate, regional agency due to the word "county" in our name, and because of the county outline shape in our logo. We are difficult to find in the phone book or other listings because we are formally listed under C for Council instead of the name our colleagues have informally adopted for us—Fresno COG.

The name change allows us to be consistent with the moniker of the majority of other RTPAs/MPOs throughout the state (i.e. San Diego (SANDAG), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Sacramento (SACOG) etc.)

The timing for a name and logo change was ideal due to the following factors:

- Our website is being redeveloped and the company we are hired for the project, (Jeffrey Scott Agency) agreed to redesign our logo as a part of the website development contract—therefore eliminating the cost to have it done separately.
- Many of our staff have new titles and need new business cards, so there will be no additional cost for changing the appearance of the cards when printing.

- We are very low on agency stationery and envelopes—again, there will be no additional cost for changing the appearance of the cards when printing.

The new Fresno COG logo is completed. Staff developed new business cards incorporating the logo, a list of our member agencies and the Fresno COG mission statement. New signage will go up around the Fresno COG offices during the month of January and the COG website, nearing completion, will be up and running by February 1, 2011.

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

VIII. 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 [GARZA]

Summary: The enclosed report includes current bills in the 2011 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, Melissa Garza, if you have any questions.

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

B. Strategy Research Institute Report [BOREN/MANROSS]

Summary: Dr. Gary Manross will provide a written report this month. The report is included in the meeting package.

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

C. California Consulting LLC Report [BOREN]

Summary: Steve Samuelian, California Consulting, LLC will provide a verbal report at the Policy Board. A written report is included in the meeting package.

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

D. Regional Policy Council Update [STECK]

Summary: In an effort to keep you informed about the activities of the Regional Policy Council, we are including the agenda for the Council's last meeting which was held in Merced on December 15, 2010. The minutes of the meeting will be distributed as they are made available. The Regional Policy Council's annual "Valley Voice" trip to Sacramento is scheduled for February 2-3. The Council's next regularly scheduled quarterly meeting will be held March 25th at 10:00 AM at Fresno COG.

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

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. CA Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley – Work Group Reorganization [STECK]

Summary: Some time back, the Partnership reassigned management of its Transportation Work Group from the Great Valley Center to the Valley COGs. Since that time, the Valley COG Directors suggested that the Land Use, Housing and Agriculture (LUHA) Work Group might also be better suited for Valley COG leadership since many of the work products are Blueprint related. The Partnership's Executive Committee concurred with this assessment; hence, the Valley COGs (Regional Planning Agencies) – working through the Regional Policy Council – have now assumed responsibility for both the Transportation and LUHA working groups. The timing is right for this kind of reorganization as the Partnership is in the midst of reporting 5th year progress on its Strategic Action Plan and the COGs will need to participate in this activity.

In December the Valley MPOs proposed further restructuring at the Work Group level. Because the transportation planning agencies are well aware of the need to integrate land use and transportation planning, we suggested combining the work of the Transportation and LUHA work groups into a combined Sustainable Communities Planning Work Group. While the Partnership is hoping for more stakeholder involvement in the process, that should not be a problem as the MPOs already work under extensive requisites for public participation in all the work we do.

The Partnership's work groups are usually “convened” by its board members and “managed” by a staff person. Ted Smalley (Tulare CAG executive director) as the Valley MPOs new representative to the Partnership Board will co-convene the task force with Barry Hibbard (convener of former LUHA work group). Barbara Steck will serve as the staff “manager” for this effort as part of Fresno COG's SJV Blueprint coordination activities.

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

B. California Partnership Funding Request FY 2010-11 – Overall Work Program Amendment No. 3 [BOREN]

(This item was tabled at the October Board meeting and is returned for further discussion)

Summary: The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is in the fourth year of its Strategic Action Plan with still much work to be accomplished. While the Governor extended his Executive Order on the Partnership indefinitely, state funding is not assured. Last year, the Partnership approached the Valley MPOs to assist with the \$142,000 shortfall in funding by contributing a pro rata share based on population. The Fresno COG did respond by contributing \$33,500 (23.64%, Fresno COG percentage of the eight county San Joaquin Valley population) out of last year's budget. The Partnership is requesting a similar amount this year.

If the Policy Board votes to provide funding to the Partnership, an Overall Work Program (OWP) budget amendment will be required, as no funding for this purpose was identified in the FY 2010/11 OWP adopted by the Policy Board in May 2010. In addition, federal funding is not allowed to be used for this these types of activities, so the \$33,500 would have to be paid by the COG member agencies' dues. Included is a chart that identifies each member agencies' current member dues and what the increase would be if the Policy Board votes to support the Partnership request.

The City of Coalinga has notified COG staff in writing that they cannot support the Partnership request due to funding constraints.

In September, the Policy Advisory Committee voiced their concerns regarding actions of a new Governor regarding the Partnership and suggested that, if possible, action should be postponed. Additional PAC comments focused on the fiscal challenges that cities and the County are facing, and funding the Partnership would be an additional cost. The item was then presented to the Policy Board in October for direction. The Board moved to postpone action on the item until after the November 2010 elections.

Action: Direction is to be provided at the discretion of the Policy Board.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Items from Staff
January 27, 2011 Policy Board Special Meetings Flyer
- B. Items from Members

XI. 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.**

***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**