

ANNOTATED AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, February 11, 2011
Time: 8:30 a.m.

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, February 11, 2011
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place:

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

Video Conferencing Available – please contact Mike Bitner at 559-233-4148 Ext. 216

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 January 14, 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: Information item. Direction may be given at the discretion of the Committee.

C. FY 2010-11 2nd Quarter Progress Report [BESHEARS]

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

Action: Staff recommends acceptance of the FY 2010-11 Second Quarter Progress Report as presented.

D. Transportation Development Act (TDA) Preliminary Estimates [FAWCETT]

Summary: Preliminary 2011/12 Estimates are provided for Local Transportation Fund.

Local Transportation Funds estimates are developed by the County Auditor Controllers Office. The 2011/12 estimate is \$1 million higher than the 2010/11 final estimate of \$24,000. This preliminary estimate takes the LTF back to the funding projection for 2009/10 which was \$25,000,000, but is still lower by \$2 million than actual receipts were in 2007/08, reflecting a gradual economic recovery currently underway.

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

E. Initiation of Annual Unmet Transit Needs [LONG]

Summary: The Fresno COG Policy Board must determine that public transportation needs within Fresno County will be reasonably met in Fiscal Year 2011-12 prior to approving claims of Local Transportation Funds for streets and roads. The Fresno COG's Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is responsible for evaluating unmet transit needs. Each year the SSTAC begins the process of soliciting comments from the public by sending approximately 400 letters to agencies and individuals interested in providing feedback on their public transportation needs within Fresno County. The request for comments letters, English and Spanish, are to be sent in February.

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

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

F. FY2009-10 Transit Productivity Evaluation Report [LONG]

Summary: The productivity evaluation is conducted annually to assess the progress of transit operators who receive State Transportation Development Act funds and to recommend potential productivity improvements. The California Public Utilities Code 99244 requires that "Each transportation planning agency shall annually identify, analyze, and recommend potential productivity improvements which could lower the operating costs of those operator's who operate at least 50 percent of their vehicle service miles . . . within the area under its jurisdiction." If operators fail to reasonably respond to recommended productivity improvements, local transportation funds cannot exceed the appropriation for the prior year.

The FY2009-10 Productivity Evaluation assesses the following transit agencies:

1. Fresno Area Express and Handy Ride
2. Clovis Stageline and Roundup
3. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
4. Consolidated Transportation Services Agencies for the Metropolitan and Rural Areas.

The FY 2009-2010 Transit Productivity Report was reviewed and accepted by the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) on January 18, 2011.

Action: Accept the FY2009-10 Transit Productivity Evaluation Report.

G. Public Transportation to National Parks Study – Final Report [Downs]

Summary: Overall Work Program Element 116 describes a National Park Transit Study intended to provide resources to conduct a focused transportation study of the operational and infrastructure issues related to the provision of public transit service between Fresno and Yosemite and Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks.

The feasibility study was designed to determine the viability of implementing one or more transit routes between the City of Fresno and Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Feasibility is determined by evaluating critical factors such as local support, ridership potential and financial sustainability.

This study examined two transit routes: one between the City of Fresno and Yosemite National Park and another between the City of Fresno and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The route to Yosemite would begin at the Fresno Greyhound Station (downtown), stop at the Amtrak station, Fresno Yosemite International Airport, Fresno State, north Fresno/State Route (SR) 41 hotels, Chukchansi Casino and Oakhurst before entering Yosemite National Park and stopping at Yosemite Village Center, Curry Village, Ahwahnee Hotel and Yosemite Lodge. The route (one-way) is

approximately 100 miles, and one-way travel time from the Fresno Greyhound Station to Yosemite Lodge would be about three hours.

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The results of the study indicate that substantial amounts of demand exist for both the Fresno-Yosemite route and the Fresno-Sequoia/Kings Canyon route. This is due to a combination of factors including growing attendance levels at the parks, the large population base of the Fresno region, the major transportation hubs (i.e., Fresno Yosemite International Airport and Amtrak Station) in Fresno, the number of hotel rooms both in Fresno and along the SR 41 corridor (Oakhurst, Wawona, etc.) and major generators such as Fresno State. The success of peer service provided by YARTS (to Yosemite National Park) and Sequoia Shuttle (to Sequoia National Park), from much smaller markets, reinforces the potential for success.

The full study report is available on the Fresno COG Website at www.fresnocog.org

Action: Staff recommends seeking grant funding to implement two demonstration routes to provide transit service from Fresno to Yosemite and to Sequoia/Kings Canyon national parks.

H. Formal FTIP Amendment No. 1 (Type 3) to the 2011 Federal Transportation Improvement Program [GARZA]

Summary: Fresno COG is currently amending the 2011 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). The 14-day public review and comment period for Amendment No. 1 to the FTIP will commence on February 8, 2011 and will close on February 21, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.; written comments are welcome. All documentation associated with this amendment will be available for viewing on the Fresno COG website at www.fresnocog.org beginning February 8, 2011. The 2011 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) is the incremental implementation of the long-range Regional Transportation Plan and includes programming for fiscal years 2010/11 through 2013/14. Amendment No. 1 provides for the modification and addition of projects to the FTIP. For more information regarding the amendment process or the public review process, please contact Melissa Garza at 559-233-4148 ext. 210.

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

I. Call for Projects to amend the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Federal Transportation Plan (FTIP), and Transportation Conformity Finding [MONGE]

Summary: Fresno COG issued a Call for Projects on Friday January 21, 2011 for any needed changes to Capacity Increasing projects within the RTP and FTIP. This amendment will be a two part process and will be reflected as two separate amendments, Amendment No. 1 to the 2011 RTP and Amendment No. 2 to the 2011 FTIP. Only three types of project changes that affect Conformity are to be included in these amendments;

- Adding or deleting of a Capacity Increasing project
- Changing the limits or scope of a Capacity Increasing project
- Changing the Open to Traffic Date of a Capacity Increasing project

All updates or changes should be submitted via FresnoTrak by Friday February 11, 2011.

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

J. Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) [BESHEARS]

Summary: On January 19, 2011 the State Controller issued instructions that the Governor's 2010-11 budget has \$1.5 billion representing three years PTMISEA funding. This equates to \$20.5 million for Fresno County Transit Operators. Our program has been running \$4.6 million per year. Further complicating the issue, the state announced they will not be doing a March bond sale, and as this program is bond funded, there is uncertainty as to when and how much bond money will be available, considering the problems with the state budget and bonding in general. Caltrans Division of Mass Transportation (DMT) advises the funds need to be obligated by June 30, 2012 per the budget act. DMT has asked for the first round of allocation requests to come in by June 1, 2011, to fund with a potential Fall bond sale. DMT will be holding two cycles in the next fiscal year for two additional opportunities to request the balance of those funds not awarded by June 2011. The timing of the sale of bonds will be critical to this process and DMT will be discussing extending the 2012 deadline with the Department of Finance and will adjust their project submittal schedule accordingly. The current suggestion is that Transit Operators submit their projects as early as possible, but consider projects that can be staged or phased over three years in case the entire amount is not available up front.

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

K. Update: EPA Proposal to Disapprove PM2.5 Plan [Dawson]

Summary: In November 2010, EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) proposed a partial approval and partial disapproval of the San Joaquin Valley 2008 PM2.5 Plan. The disapproval requires parts of the plan (prepared by the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District and the California Air Resources Board) to address and strengthen the State Implementation Plan (SIP) which provides detail on the procedures to be followed to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

An updated 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. EPA plans to issue a new proposal in May. In order to continue project delivery and due to the many uncertainties of this "disapproval proposal" process, Fresno COG will be amending the 2011 RTP and 2011 FTIP, and drafting a new Transportation Conformity Analysis. (see item "I" above) An updated summary is included in your meeting agenda packet. Staff will continue to update the committees as new information becomes available.

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

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. FY 2009/ 2010 Programming Delivery Update [GARZA]

Summary: Two types of federal transportation funding programs are available to Fresno COG's local agencies to spend on transportation projects. These are Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) dollars and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality dollars (CMAQ). In federal fiscal year (FFY) 2009/2010 the Fresno County region had an obligational authority target of \$15,644,979 in combined RSTP and CMAQ. This amount was a minimum delivery target calculated and set by the state. The Fresno County region was able to deliver \$15,368,498 worth of projects in 2009/2010. The region delivered 98.2% of the apportionment target, with \$276,480 remaining that will be added to our future apportionment target.

Timely delivery of transportation projects benefits our region when dealing with the constraints of Assembly Bill 1012 (AB 1012) where apportionments not spent within three years of their issuance are lost to the region. Fresno COG has up to this point never lost any funding due to AB 1012 restrictions. In 08/09, our RSTP and CMAQ apportionment balances were rescinded on a statewide basis due to the expiration of the Federal Transportation Bill SAFETEA-LU. However, in May 2010, the rescinded funds in the amount of \$19,063,962 were given back to the regions to use within 3 years. This does not add any

new programming capacity because all of our projects are programmed against future year obligational capacity.

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

B. **Blueprint Update [STECK]**

Summary: We are still 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 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 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 in June. Following is a list of upcoming meetings. Please contact Barbara Steck at bjsteck@fresnocog.org for details.

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- Feb 23rd – Valley Planners Meeting in Fresno @ 10:30 AM – SJV Roadmap Action Item
(Include Stakeholder groups)
- March 10th – COG Directors Meeting in Fresno @ 10:00 AM – SJV Roadmap Action Item
- March 25th Regional Policy Council – Information Item

~ TAKE TO LOCAL AGENCIES & EIGHT COG BOARDS IN APRIL/MAY ~

- June 24th – Regional Policy Council Meeting in Fresno @ 10:00 AM – SJV Roadmap Action Item

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.

C. **FY 2011-12 Draft Overall Work Program [BOREN]**

Summary: A summary memo is included in your packet and the draft FY 2011-12 Overall Work Program (OWP) will be distributed at the meeting. Staff will provide a presentation on the document at that time. Distribution of this draft OWP begins the review and comment period with adoption expected in May. The Intermodal Planning Group, the federal and state agency review committee, is scheduled to meet at Fresno COG on March 22, 2011 to review the OWP.

Action: Staff recommends that TTC and PAC initiate the 45 day review process.

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. San Joaquin Valley Railroad Study by Gary Hunter with Railroad Industries, Inc.

Summary: Gary Hunter, Chairman and CEO, Railroad Industries Incorporated, will present the results of a study of the 26-mile segment of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad in Fresno County between Tulare County and Fresno. Fresno County requested this study in response to developments in Tulare County with their portion of the Railroad.

Action: Staff recommends acceptance of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad Study.

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

Summary: 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.

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

**** Additional Presentations to be made at the Policy Board**

1. ARB support resolution from each city for Endorsement of Clean Car Campaign (presented at PAC in November)
2. John Hernandez/Leroy Brown – Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce – Job Creation

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

Policy Advisory Committee

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

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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. Direction may be provided at the discretion of the Committee.

B. Fresno COG 2011 One Voice Update [GARZA]

Summary: The most recent draft agenda for the Washington DC "One Voice" trip is included in your packet. A delegation of thirty-five participants, including seven elected officials, will be traveling to Washington, DC this year. We will be leaving Fresno on Saturday, February 26th and returning on Thursday, March 3rd.

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

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Appointment of Board Member to CalVans [VEENENDAAL]

Summary: KCAPTA is now in the process of transitioning its vanpool program into a new JPA made up of seven Councils of Governments that will be responsible for the oversight and operation of the program. The project scope was presented at a prior board meeting, with the decision to join the new agency. The Fresno COG is now being asked to appoint a Policy Board member to serve on the CalVans Board.

There will be no direct expense to Fresno COG as a result of being a member of the JPA. It will however enable the Council to provide input to the new agency and direct its activities so that they compliment those being undertaken to reduce the number of cars on the roadway and improve the overall air quality of the Valley.

The present vanpool operation will continue to operate as it has over the past several years. The operation will remain in Hanford at the present location. All assets related to the vanpool operation

will be transferred from KCAPTA to CalVans. Staffing will depend on the number of vans in use and the number of satellite offices established in the outlying areas.

Meetings will be conducted monthly using the video conferencing system housed at Fresno COG. Representatives may need to travel to Fresno COG for these meetings. The JPA will not have staff or assets until July 1st. Prior to this time staff will be setting up the internal structure needed for the organization to be functional.

Action: Recommend the Fresno COG Policy Board appoint a representative to serve on the CalVans Board.

B. Strategy Research Institute Report [MANROSS]

Summary: Dr. Manross will provide a verbal update at the PAC and Policy Board meetings this month. A written report is included in the package.

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

C. Sacramento "One Voice" Trip – April 5th and 6th [GARZA]

Summary: Fresno COG's annual Sacramento "One Voice" advocacy trip is scheduled for April 5th and 6th. Staff and our lobbyist, Steve Samuelian, are preparing for the trip. If you are interested in participating, or for further details, please contact Melissa Garza at (559) 233-4148 ext. 210 or mgarza@fresnocog.org.

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

D. San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council "Valley Voice" Sacramento [GARZA]

Summary: The Regional Policy Council, made up of members from the 8 Valley Regional Planning Agencies, developed a legislative platform, and authorized The San Joaquin Valley Legislative Affairs Committee (VLAC) to announce its 2010 "Valley Voice" Sacramento Trip. The trip was made on Wednesday and Thursday, February 2-3, 2011. Fresno County representatives included: City of San Joaquin Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Fresno County Supervisor Judy Case, Fresno COG Executive Director, Tony Boren and Melissa Garza, Fresno COG Planner. Staff will provide a report at the meeting.

The dates for the "Valley Voice" Washington D.C. trip are scheduled for September 14-15, 2011. Advocacy Issues that will be discussed at the State and Federal meetings are enclosed for review. Please contact Melissa Garza if you have questions.

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

E. Abandoned Vehicle Abatement – FY 2010/11 First Quarter Summary Status Report [THOMPSON]

Summary: Status reports are typically submitted quarterly to ensure proper distribution of funding to the member agencies. This status report contains the following information:

- The gross amount of money received by the Authority from the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund during the quarter.
- An itemized statement of the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund monies expended by the Authority during the quarter.
- An accounting of money expended for major purchases, if any.
- An accounting of unexpended revenues from the Abandoned Vehicle Trust Fund.
- An accounting of the total number of vehicles and parts thereof abated by the Authority during the quarter.

The enclosure for this item indicates the level of activity and distribution of funding to the member agencies. During the quarter, member agencies expended \$304,841.41 conducting AVA activities. A total

of 1,252 vehicles were abated this quarter, compared to 1,086 vehicles abated during the same quarter of the previous fiscal year, an increase of over 15%.

Action: Staff recommends acceptance of the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement FY 2010/11 First Quarter Summary Status Report.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

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**