

EXECUTIVE MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Place:

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

Members Attending:

Scott Mozier, City of Fresno, Chair
Nicholas Don Paladino, Fresno Cycling
Noe Martinez, City of Reedley
John Mulligan, City of Sanger
John Donaldson, League of Women Voters
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County
Chip Ashley, Sierra Club

Dennis Manning, FARRC
Jeffrey D. Webster, FCRTA
Renee Mathis, City of Clovis
Gary Joseph, FCEOC
Debbie Hunsaker, Alert-o-lite
Will Washburn, Provost & Pritchard

Others Attending:

Paul Marquez, Caltrans
Juan Garza, California Consulting
Walt Plachta, Blackburn Consulting
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Jeff Long, Fresno COG/FAX
Kristine Cai, Fresno COG

Laural Fawcett, Fresno COG
Clark Thompson, Fresno COG
Kathy Chung, Fresno COG
Todd Sobrado, Fresno COG
Marla Day, Fresno COG

Meeting was called to order by Nicholas Paladino (Fresno Cycling) Vice Chair at 8:35 am.

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 February 11, 2011
- B. FY 2010-11 Transportation Funding Claims – [FAWCETT]
- C. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency 2009/10 Financial and Compliance Audit [Beshears]
- D. Fresno COG 2009/10 Financial and Compliance Audit [Beshears]
- E. Formal Amendment (Type #5) to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (Amendment No. 2), the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan (Amendment No. 1) and the Corresponding Conformity Analysis - PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 24, 2011 [GARZA/MONGE]
- F. Results for the 2011 COG Administered FTA Sections 5316 (JARC) and 5317 (New Freedom) Grant Programs [SOBRADO]

For a complete summary of these items, please see the March 11, 2011 Annotated Agenda.

Staff asked to pull Item I E for an update. A motion was made by Renee Mathis (Clovis) and seconded by Dennis Manning (FARRC) to approve the Transportation Consent Items with exception of I E. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

E. Formal Amendment (Type #5) to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (Amendment No. 2), the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan (Amendment No. 1) and the Corresponding Conformity Analysis - PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 24, 2011 [GARZA/MONGE]

Lindsey Monge (Fresno COG) corrected the reference to Amendment No. 2. The Amendment is actually Amendment No. 3 due to having to release an administrative amendment during the week. There were no other changes.

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

A motion was made by Renee Mathis (Clovis) and seconded by Jeffrey Webster (FCRTA) to approve Item I E as an information item. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

Scott Mozier (Fresno), Chair arrived at 8:40 and took over as Chair of the meeting.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Blueprint Update [STECK]

Barbara Steck (Fresno COG) presented this item. A powerpoint presentation was made and Bernard Jimenez (County) assisted Ms. Steck in demonstrating the "ToolKit" on the website. Ms. Steck reminded the Committee that in early 2006 the eight Regional Planning Agencies (MPOs) in the San Joaquin Valley came together in an unprecedented effort to develop a coordinated valley vision – the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint. This eight county venture has been conducted in each county, and was ultimately integrated to form a preferred vision for future development throughout the Valley to the year 2050. The Blueprint is a bottom up, voluntary endeavor that is intended to engage and guide local agencies in their pursuit of sustainable development patterns within their own jurisdictions and throughout the Valley.

The Blueprint planning process - Eight individual Valley MPOs planning in unison

Phase 1: Values and Vision – gathered from community input

Phase 2: Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures based upon Values and Vision

Phase 3: Evaluation of alternative "what if" growth scenarios in each county

- Selection of preferred county level scenarios for Valleywide analysis
- Evaluation of four Valleywide alternative scenarios
- Adoption of Smart Growth Principles and Preferred Growth Scenario for Valley

Phase 4: Develop documents to memorialize the Blueprint planning process, suggest strategies for implementation and provide a toolkit to assist planners with integrating the Blueprint Smart Growth Principles into local planning processes.

On April 1, 2009, after a full vetting in each of the eight San Joaquin Valley Counties, the Regional Policy Council reviewed the Valley MPOs' collaborative work on the Blueprint and took the following actions:

- Adopted a list of Smart Growth Principles to be used as the basis of Blueprint planning in the San Joaquin Valley.
- Adopted Scenario B+ as the Preferred Blueprint Growth Scenario for the San Joaquin Valley to the year 2050. This preferred scenario will serve as guidance for the Valley's local jurisdictions with land use authority as they update their general plans.

Since its inception, the Blueprint planning process has been billed as a bottom up and voluntary process. Those assurances remain as the Valley Regional Planning Agencies move forward in their work with

their member agencies to help integrate the Blueprint Smart Growth Principles into local planning processes. The documents being discussed today have been developed to help in this pursuit.

In February 2010, the Valley RPAs entered into a contract with Mintier Harnish to prepare three deliverables that comprise the Blueprint Roadmap:

- SJV Blueprint Planning Process Summary Report (September 2010)
- Draft SJV Blueprint Guidance Framework [Implementation Strategy] (February 15, 2011)
- SJV Blueprint – Planners Toolkit (web based) – the as yet unreleased beta version is available at <http://toolkitvalleyblueprintorg.alias.strangeocode.com/>

The Blueprint Project Managers from each RPA, the Valley Planners Working Group, the RPA Directors and other stakeholder groups have all been involved in reviewing and commenting on the three deliverables that comprise the Blueprint Roadmap. The first two documents along with the comments received on the Guidance Framework through February 15, 2011 are available online at <http://www.fresnocog.org/document.php?pid=187>

At the Valley Planners Working Group meeting on February 23, 2011, the following items emerged as concerns related to the draft Guidance Framework:

1. The document should describe what traffic modeling was done during the development of the Blueprint. If traffic modeling was not done, the document should disclose that.
2. The document needs to state that the Blueprint is completely voluntary.
3. The word “implementation”, as it is used in the document needs to be defined. For example since the Blueprint is voluntary, then “implementation” would apply to those wanting to incorporate the 12 Blueprint Smart Growth Principles and density targets in their local general plan and development codes. In short if an agency or agencies desire to promote or incorporate the Blueprint into their policies and land use/transportation planning efforts then the Guidance Framework would provide them with assistance in implementing the Blueprint.

The Valley Regional Planning Agencies have engaged their local jurisdictions in the Blueprint Planning Process for five years. As promised, it has been an inclusive, bottom up endeavor that is voluntary in nature. I believe that Caltrans intends for Blueprint planning to become an ongoing process that will lend itself to the upcoming work on Sustainable Communities Strategies. The outreach and engagement alone, along with information sharing and relationship building, will likely have long term benefits. What may be on many local agency planners' minds at this point is the lack of resources to do the work necessary to move toward implementation. Prop 84 will help, but the extent of need may be greater than the resources available. That remains to be seen.

Ms. Steck stated that this item was on the agenda this month as an information item prior to the material being presented to the Regional Policy Council. The Valley RPA Directors will discuss the comments and concerns received thus far on the Blueprint Roadmap deliverables to determine how best to respond and move this body of work on to the Regional Policy Council for their review on March 25th and their ultimate acceptance on June 24th. The schedule calls for each RPA to engage their member agencies in discussions on the documents so that any comments or concerns about the deliverables can be gathered for consideration and direction by the Regional Policy Council on June 24, 2011. Following the June 24th meeting, the Roadmap documents will be revised to reflect Regional Policy Council direction.

There was a brief discussion regarding updates to city/county general plans and the Regional Transportation Plan. Ms. Steck noted that money has been budgeted to revise criteria in the RTP.

Ms. Steck asked that members contact her if they would like a hard copy of the materials.

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

B. Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS) Update [Downs]

John Downs (Fresno COG/FAX) reported that the PTIS final report is being assembled and draft recommendations have been circulated to the Technical Advisory Committee and stakeholder

agencies. A Smart Growth Conference took place on March 2nd and 3rd at the Fresno Art Museum Auditorium where stakeholders heard perspectives from smart growth experts about the benefits and opportunities smart growth could provide Fresno County. Participants also engaged in discussions about strategies for implementing PTIS recommendations and other smart growth strategies.

The PTIS is on track for completion this May. Mr. Manning suggested that links to appendices be linked to the documents to make it easier to find. Mr. Downs will have the appendices linked to the document. Mr. Mozier asked for a brief summary of the effects of operating on Smart Growth principles. A brief discussion regarding densities and justification of light rail followed.

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

C. SB 325 – Central California Railroad Authority Act [THOMPSON]

Clark Thompson (Fresno COG) reported that SB 325, the Central California Railroad Authority Act, would establish the Central California Railroad Authority as a measure of last resort to prevent the abandonment of short-haul rail lines in Kern, Tulare, Kings and Fresno counties. Short-haul railroads often hold monopolies over rail shippers and receivers and, because of increasing rates and other factors, are forcing them to ship by truck. As rail traffic decreases on the short-haul rail lines, they are then abandoned and the track and ties sold for their scrap value. Just recently, a 30-mile segment of short-haul rail from Jovista in northern Kern County to Exeter in Tulare County has been completely abandoned and the track removed.

The systematic removal of short-haul rail segments has significant environmental and economic impacts to Central California. Removing the rail option increases the number of goods shipped by truck, impacting local air quality and increasing maintenance costs for both local roads and state highways. The rail option can contribute to local economic development, particularly in an environment of rising fuel prices. Ideally, the Central California Rail Authority may eventually play a key role in establishing a short-haul network through the entire San Joaquin Valley, stretching from Kern County to the Port of Oakland, largely for agricultural and petroleum-based products.

Scott Mozier voiced his concerns regarding a possible barrier on Rails to Trails.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Chip Ashley (Sierra Club) and seconded by Nick Paladino (Fresno Cycling) to recommend authorizing the Fresno COG Board Chair to sign the enclosed letter in support of SB 325, the Central California Railroad Authority Act. A vote was called for and the motion carried with the City of Fresno abstaining.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

There were no items from Staff.

B. Items from Members

Dennis Manning referred to a High Speed Rail story that was published in the Fresno Bee regarding the delay in the EIR and possible alignment changes. Mr. Manning would like to have a presentation at the next meeting regarding the status. Mr. Mozier suggested that Ms. Steck ask for consensus from the Policy Advisory Committee on the report.

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.**

There were no public presentations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Barbara Steck, Deputy Director

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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]

Paul Marquez handed out a revised Caltrans report and briefly reviewed the new format with the Committee. Brian Haddix (Sanger) asked for an update on Route 180 East. Mr. Marquez will send the information to him. Mr. Marquez also mentioned that Caltrans is working the City of Huron regarding State Route 269.

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

2. Status Update of the Route Adoption Study of the West Bound 180 Corridor Presentation – Bob Hull, Caltrans [SOBRADO]

Bob Hull, Caltrans, gave an update of the Route Adoption Study. Information and a map were included in the meeting package. The Study is being released for public comment March 15th – May 9th. Public Hearing will be conducted on Wednesday, March 30th from 4:30 – 7:30 at Kerman Community Center.

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

Policy Advisory Committee

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

Members Present:

David Elias, City of Fowler
Robert Woolley, City of Clovis
Gerald Forde, City of Huron
Ron Manfredi, City of Kerman
Don Pauley, City of Kingsburg
Krystal Chojnacki, City of Mendota

Frank Steenport, City of Orange Cove
Lou Martinez, City of Parlier
Rocky Rogers, City of Reedley
Cruz Ramos, City of San Joaquin
Brian Haddix, City of Sanger
Bernard Jimenez, Fresno County

Others Attending:

Paul Marquez, Caltrans
Bob Hull, Caltrans
Cathy Johnson, BSK Consulting
Amer Hussain, BSK Consulting
Juan Garza, California Consulting
Walt Plachta, Blackburn Consulting
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Jeff Long, Fresno COG/FAX

Kristine Cai, Fresno COG
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Todd Sobrado, Fresno COG
Lauren Dawson, Fresno COG
Marla Day, Fresno COG

REQUEST TO ADD URGENCY ITEM TO THE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

To add this item a 2/3 vote is required finding that:

- (1) There is a need to take immediate actions; and
- (2) That need for action came to the attention of COG subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

A motion was made by Brian Haddix (Sanger) and seconded by Lou Martinez (Parlier) to add the item to the agenda as Item VII. D. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

Mr. Elias requested that Mr. Sobrado present the item at this time.

ITEM - HANDOUT

VII. D. Resolutions (2011-04: FTA Section 5304) and (2011-05: Planning) in Support of the City of Fresno's Application for Caltran's Planning Grants to Plan the High Speed Rail Station in Downtown Fresno [SOBRADO]

Requested by: City of Fresno

Mr. Sobrado (Fresno COG) reported that the City of Fresno is pursuing three FTA grants in order to secure funding for the planning of the High Speed Rail Station that will be constructed in downtown Fresno.

Funding successfully secured through these grants would be used to fund the preliminary planning, conceptual design, and public outreach necessary to coordinate existing and future modes of transportation that will be incorporated into the multi-modal station and circulation downtown:

These grants include:

- 1) FTA Community-Based Transportation Planning (CBTP) Grant;
- 2) FTA Partnership Planning Grant; and
- 3) FTA Urban Transit Planning Studies Grant

The City will be seeking the maximum request of \$300,000 from each grant. The CBTP will be applied for directly by the City, whereas the others will be pursued through a partnership with the Fresno COG where the COG is the primary applicant. The grant deadline is March 30, 2011. Please contact Todd Sobrado for additional questions or to request more information.

A motion was made by Don Pauley (Kingsburg) and seconded by Ron Manfredi (Kerman) to recommend the Policy Board approve Resolutions 2011-04 and 2011-05. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

VI. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

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

A motion was made by Rocky Rogers (Reedley) and seconded by Robert Woolley (Clovis) to accept the revision. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

VII. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Blueprint Update [STECK]

Barbara Steck (Fresno COG) presented this item. A powerpoint presentation was made and Bernard Jimenez (County) assisted Ms. Steck in demonstrating the "ToolKit" on the website. Ms. Steck reminded the Committee that in early 2006 the eight Regional Planning Agencies (MPOs) in the San Joaquin Valley came together in an unprecedented effort to develop a coordinated valley vision – the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint. This eight county venture has been conducted in each county, and was ultimately integrated to form a preferred vision for future development throughout the Valley to the year 2050. The Blueprint is a bottom up, voluntary endeavor that is intended to engage and guide local agencies in their pursuit of sustainable development patterns within their own jurisdictions and throughout the Valley.

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and direction by the Regional Policy Council on June 24, 2011. Following the June 24th meeting, the Roadmap documents will be revised to reflect Regional Policy Council direction.

Don Pauley (Kingsburg) referred to the Prop 84 tasks and ask about staff providing technical assistance to local agencies.

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

B. Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS) Update [Downs]

John Downs (Fresno COG/FAX) reported that the PTIS final report is being assembled and draft recommendations have been circulated to the Technical Advisory Committee and stakeholder agencies. A Smart Growth Conference took place on March 2nd and 3rd at the Fresno Art Museum Auditorium where stakeholders heard perspectives from smart growth experts about the benefits and opportunities smart growth could provide Fresno County. Participants also engaged in discussions about strategies for implementing PTIS recommendations and other smart growth strategies.

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C. SB 325 – Central California Railroad Authority Act [Thompson]

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A motion was made by Ron Manfredi (Kerman) and seconded by Cruz Ramos (San Joaquin) to recommend that the Policy Board authorize the Fresno COG Board Chair to sign the letter in support of SB 325, the Central California Railroad Authority Act. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

VII. D. Resolutions (2011-04: FTA Section 5304) and (2011-05: Planning) in Support of the City of Fresno's Application for Caltran's Planning Grants to Plan the High Speed Rail Station in Downtown Fresno [SOBRADO]

This item was covered at the beginning of the meeting.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

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- A. Monthly Legislative Update [GARZA]
- B. California Consulting LLC Report [BOREN]
- C. Regional Clearinghouse [SOBRADO]

	Project	Applicant
1.	FAA – Airport Improvement Project - FYI	City of Fresno

For a complete summary of these items, please see the March 11, 2011 Annotated Agenda.

A motion was made by Robert Woolley (Clovis) and seconded by Rocky Rogers (Reedley) to approve the Administrative Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion was approved.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. High Speed Rail Update [Boren]

There was no update.

B. Fresno COG 2011 One Voice DC Trip Update [GARZA]

Brenda Veenendaal (Fresno COG) provided an update at the meeting. Information about Fresno COG's One Voice activities is available online at: <http://www.fresnocog.org/document.php?pid=216>.

A copy of the final agenda of meetings that were held in Washington DC during the recent One Voice trip was handed out. Ms. Veenendaal asked for comments from the members of the Committee that attended the trip. Mr. Haddix and Mr. Rogers were in attendance. They both expressed that the trip was worthwhile but suggest that the number of projects and issues be cut back. A debriefing meeting for the participants will be held on March 16th to discuss suggestions/ideas for upcoming trips.

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

C. Fresno COG 2011 One Voice Sacramento Trip – April 5th and 6th [GARZA]

Laural Fawcett (Fresno COG) covered this item and gave an update at the meeting. Information about Fresno COG's One Voice activities is available online at: <http://www.fresnocog.org/document.php?pid=216>

Ms. Fawcett referred to the list of issues that were taken to Sacramento last year and asked members to contact Melissa Garza if there are any additional items to be added. If interested in attending the trip please let Ms. Garza know as soon as possible. A draft agenda should be out shortly. Juan Garza, California Consulting reported that they are working with COG staff on this agenda.

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

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

Ms. Steck reported the request by TTC to have a presentation at the April meeting on the High Speed Rail EIR status. Mr. Pauley suggested that this should be added only if the City of Fresno is at the meeting to discuss and answer questions. It was decided that the item should be added for April.

B. Items from Members

Krystal Chojnacki (Mendota) reported on their recent trip to Washington.

David Elias thanked Fresno COG management staff for meeting with the sub committee and answering questions regarding the Overall Work Program budget.

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.**

There were no public presentations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Steck, Deputy Director

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***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**