

EXECUTIVE MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, May 13, 2011

Time: 8:30 a.m.

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, May 13, 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
Debbie Hunsaker, Alert O Lite, Chamber of Commerce
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
Will Washburn, Building Industry Association
Janet Dailey, Fresno County
Ken Hamm, FAX

Others Attending:

Jack Castro, City of Huron
Paul Marquez, Caltrans
Tony Boren, Fresno COG
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Les Beshears, Fresno COG
Jeff Long, Fresno COG/FAX
John Downs, Fresno COG/FAX
Melissa Garza, Fresno COG

Lauren Dawson, Fresno COG
Mike Bitner, Fresno COG
Clark Thompson, Fresno COG
Kathy Chung, Fresno COG
Kristine Cai, Fresno COG
Todd Sobrado, Fresno COG
Kai Han, Fresno COG
Marla Day, Fresno COG

The meeting was called to order by Scott Mozier, Chair.

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 April 8, 2011 | Approve |
| B. Transportation Development Act (TDA) Final Estimates Resolution 2011-13 and Resolution 2011-14 [FAWCETT] | Approve |
| C. FY 2010-11 Third Quarter Progress Report [BESHEARS] | Accept |
| D. Golden State Corridor- Amended Cooperative Agreement, Resolution 2011-11; Contract Amendment [DAWSON] | Adopt/
Approve |
| E. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) Public Transportation, Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement (PTMISEA) | Approve |

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| Applications, FCRTA Resolution 2011-02 [WEBSTER] | |
| F. Approve FCRTA's Application to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, State Office for Domestic Preparedness - Fiscal Year 2009-10 and 2010-11 Proposition 1B California Transit Security Grant Program for California Transit Assistance Funds, Resolution 2011-03 [WEBSTER] | Approve |
| G. Transit Planning Documents | Initiate 45 day review |
| 1. Urban and Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CSTA) FY 2011-12 Operations Program and Budget [JOSEPH] | |
| 2. FCRTA Item: FY 2011-12 Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Budget [WEBSTER] | |
| 3. Short Range Transit Plan – FY 2011-16 [WEBSTER] | |
| 4. Clovis Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CSTA) FY 2011-12 Operations Program and Budget [HALTERMAN] | |
| 5. Short Range Transit Plan for the Fresno Urban Area 2012-16 [Long] | |
| H. Obligational Authority [BESHEARS/GARZA] | Information |
| I. Grant Writing Workshop [MONGE] | Information |
| J. Call for Cycle 3 Federal Safe Routes to Schools Projects [THOMPSON] | Information |
| K. Urban Greening Grant Program [Thompson] | Information |
| L. Videoconferencing Update [BITNER/HAN] | Information |
| M. FY 2011 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Amendment Update [GARZA] | Information |

For complete summary of these items, please see the May 13, 2011 Annotated Agenda.

A motion was made by Debbie Hunsaker (Alert-O-Lite) and seconded by Chip Ashley (Sierra Club) to approve the Transportation Consent Items as presented. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. FY 2011-12 Final Overall Work Program and Budget – Resolution 2011-03 [BOREN]

Tony Boren and Les Beshears presented this item. The draft FY 2011-12 Overall Work Program (OWP) was released for review and comment in February 2011 for its required 45 day review and comment period. Comments have been received and addressed by COG staff and all revisions that have occurred since the release of the draft document have been highlighted in the accompanying OWP memo to the COG Policy Board (enclosure). This year, in an effort to facilitate a clearer understanding of our budget process, we have also developed a Financial Summary which is intended to serve as a companion piece to the Overall Work Program. Ideally these two documents working in tandem will provide additional transparency to the nuances of Fresno COG's OWP and budgeting process.

The FY 2011/12 Overall Work Program totaling \$16,200,255 reflects a decrease of 6% (\$950,202) from the approved FY 2010-11 budget. The decrease was due to federal revenues being decreased \$211,506 to reflect completion of the FTA 5307 funded *Very Fast Starts* rapid transit project and a lower draw on FHWA PL reserves. State revenues increased 8% largely due to a Prop 84 state planning grant for sustainable communities, which offsets lower funding activity in Blueprint planning. Local revenues decreased 18% (\$1,140,072) largely due to completion of the Measure "C" funded Public Transportation Infrastructure Study.

This year, in an effort to inform and educate the Policy Board in greater detail, in addition to the newly developed Financial Summary, Les Beshears gave a presentation on the FY 2011-12 OWP at the meeting explaining the new format for the budget. The complete FY 2011-12 OWP is available on our website at www.fresnocog.org and on the CD included in the meeting package. Hard copies are available on request.

Following the presentation, a motion was made by Debbie Hunsaker (Alert-O-Lite) and seconded by Nicholas Paladino (Cycling Club) recommending approval of the FY 2011-12 Overall Work Program by adopting Resolution 2011-03. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. FY 2010-11 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 4 [BESHEARS]

Les Beshears presented this item explaining the request for the budget increase. **WE 214 - Measure "C" ADA/Seniors** - The Taxi Scrip program is gaining in popularity and expanding. The program provided \$172,000 in scrip to Seniors in 2009/10 and appears to be heading to \$280,000 in 2010/11, however due to an oversight in the budget process, only \$84,000 was appropriated. This amendment is a technical correction to increase the budget appropriation \$196,000. There is adequate apportionment available to accomplish this.

WE 820 Valley RTPA Coordination – The Air District has provided \$79,700 in funding for a valley wide license for transportation modeling software including Cube Base, Cube Voyager, Cube Cluster, and Cube Land. As the recipient for this grant, we will draw down the funds and pay the vendor, however all eight counties will have access to the software. The license of the software is for one year therefore in order to renew in future years, the cost will be pro rated between the valley MPO's. Fresno COG's pro rata share at that time will be around \$7,800.

A motion was made by Dennis Manning (FARRC) and seconded by Nicholas Paladino (Cycling Club) to recommend the Policy Board authorize OWP Amendment #4 increasing the budget \$275,700 to \$17,230,157. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

C. Rail Update [BOREN]

Tony Boren, Executive Director gave a brief update on activities regarding High Speed Rail. Mr. Boren reported that a Public Meeting will be held on May 17th from 5-7 at the Exhibit Hall. Information on this meeting is available on the Fresno COG website at www.fresnocog.org. There was a brief discussion regarding proposed alignments. Mr. Mozier mentioned a Supplemental Alternative Analysis that is available on the High Speed Rail Authority website.

Staff will keep the report back to the Committee as more information is available.

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

III. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

Les Beshears reported that the City of Clovis submitted an amended 2010-11 Transportation Funding Claim reflecting a revision of the preliminary estimates of carry-over funds. This claim was distributed to the Committee and will be added to the Policy Board agenda for approval. A motion was made by Ms. Hunsaker (Alert-O-Lite) and seconded by Ken Hamm (FAX) to recommend the Policy Board approve Resolution 2011-15. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. Items from Members

Renee Mathis (Clovis) reported that the Clovis Bicycle Plan will be presented to the City Council for approval on May 16.

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,



Tony Boren, Executive Director

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, Caltrans gave a brief update reviewing the May report that was included in the meeting package.

Neil Bretz has been named Acting Deputy Director for District 6.

Mr. Boren mentioned that the Policy Board requested staff to send a letter of support on behalf of Malcolm Dougherty recommending him to replace Cindy McKim as Caltrans Director.

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

2. Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS) final for approval, Kimley Horn presentation [DOWNS]

John Downs (FAX) introduced Julie Eldridge, Kimley Horn. Ms. Eldridge gave a PowerPoint presentation. The PTIS final report and associated recommendations have been reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and stakeholder agencies. The report and associated recommendations and materials have been amended based on comments received during the review and is available for view on the Fresno COG website.

A summary of the Study findings and recommendations was included in the meeting package.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Lynn Gorman (County) and seconded by Bruce Rudd (City of Fresno) to recommend acceptance of the PTIS final report and associated recommendations. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

Dennis Manning (FARRC) suggested that the New Tech Advisory Committee should be reconvened. Staff will follow up with Mr. Manning.

Policy Advisory Committee

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

Members Attending:

Rob Woolley, City of Clovis
David Elias, City of Fowler
Lynn Gorman, County of Fresno
Bruce Rudd, City of Fresno
Luis Patlan, City of Kerman

Don Pauley, City of Kingsburg
Krystal Chojnacki, City of Mendota
Cruz Ramos, City of San Joaquin
Brian Haddix, City of Sanger

Others Attending:

Jack Castro, City of Huron
Paul Marquez, Caltrans
Lydia Zabrycki, Quad Knopf
Jeff Roberts, Building Industry Association
Tony Boren, Fresno COG
Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Les Beshears, Fresno COG
Jeff Long, Fresno COG/FAX
John Downs, Fresno COG/FAX

Melissa Garza, Fresno COG
Lauren Dawson, Fresno COG
Mike Bitner, Fresno COG
Clark Thompson, Fresno COG
Kathy Chung, Fresno COG
Kristine Cai, Fresno COG
Todd Sobrado, Fresno COG
Kai Han, Fresno COG
Marla Day, Fresno COG

VI. 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 April 8, 2011 | Approve |
| B. Transportation Development Act (TDA) Final Estimates Resolution 2011-13 and Resolution 2011-14 [FAWCETT] | Approve |
| C. FY 2010-11 Third Quarter Progress Report [BESHEARS] | Accept |
| D. Golden State Corridor- Amended Cooperative Agreement, Resolution 2011-11; Contract Amendment [DAWSON] | Adopt/
Approve |
| E. Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) Public Transportation, Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement (PTMISEA) Applications, FCRTA Resolution 2011-02 [WEBSTER] | Approve |
| F. Approve FCRTA's Application to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, State Office for Domestic Preparedness - Fiscal Year 2009-10 and 2010-11 Proposition 1B California Transit Security Grant Program for California Transit Assistance Funds, Resolution 2011-03 [WEBSTER] | Approve |
| G. Transit Planning Documents | Initiate 45 day
review |
| 1. Urban and Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CSTA) FY 2011-12 Operations Program and Budget [JOSEPH] | |
| 2. FCRTA Item: FY 2011-12 Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Budget [WEBSTER] | |
| 3. Short Range Transit Plan – FY 2011-16 [WEBSTER] | |
| 4. Clovis Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CSTA) FY 2011-12 Operations Program and Budget [HALTERMAN] | |
| 5. Short Range Transit Plan for the Fresno Urban Area 2012-16 [LONG] | |
| H. Obligational Authority [BESHEARS/GARZA] | Information |
| I. Grant Writing Workshop [MONGE] | Information |
| J. Call for Cycle 3 Federal Safe Routes to Schools Projects [THOMPSON] | Information |
| K. Urban Greening Grant Program [Thompson] | Information |
| L. Videoconferencing Update [BITNER/HAN] | Information |
| M. FY 2011 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Amendment Update [GARZA] | Information |

For a complete summary of these items, please see the May 13, 2011 Annotated Agenda.

Bruce Rudd (Fresno) asked that Item B be pulled for discussion. A motion was made by Lynn Gorman (County) and seconded by Luis Patlan (Kerman) to approve the Transportation Consent Items with the exception of Item B. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. Transportation Development Act (TDA) Final Estimates Resolution 2011-13 and Resolution 2011-14 [FAWCETT]

Mr. Rudd (Fresno) asked for clarification of the distribution. Mr. Beshears stated that the Policy Board sets the apportionment levels. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Rudd (Fresno) made a motion to approve the item; the motion was seconded by Cruz Ramos (San Joaquin). A vote was called for and the motion carried.

Mr. Rudd (Fresno) suggested that staff look in to possible modifications for next year's process.

VII. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

B. FY 2011-12 Final Overall Work Program and Budget – Resolution 2011-03 [BOREN]

Mr. Boren and Mr. Beshears presented this item. The draft FY 2011-12 Overall Work Program (OWP) was released for review and comment in February 2011 for its required 45 day review and

comment period. Comments have been received and addressed by COG staff and all revisions that have occurred since the release of the draft document have been highlighted in the accompanying OWP memo to the COG Policy Board included in the meeting package. This year, in an effort to facilitate a clearer understanding of our budget process, we have also developed a Financial Summary which is intended to serve as a companion piece to the Overall Work Program. Ideally these two documents working in tandem will provide additional transparency to the nuances of Fresno COG's OWP and budgeting process.

The FY 2011/12 Overall Work Program totaling \$16,200,255 reflects a decrease of 6% (\$950,202) from the approved FY 2010-11 budget. The decrease was due to federal revenues being decreased \$211,506 to reflect completion of the FTA 5307 funded *Very Fast Starts* rapid transit project and a lower draw on FHWA PL reserves. State revenues increased 8% largely due to a Prop 84 state planning grant for sustainable communities, which offsets lower funding activity in Blueprint planning. Local revenues decreased 18% (\$1,140,072) largely due to completion of the Measure "C" funded Public Transportation Infrastructure Study.

This year, in an effort to inform and educate the Policy Board in greater detail, in addition to the newly developed Financial Summary, Les Beshears gave a detailed presentation on the FY 2011-12 OWP. The complete FY 2011-12 OWP is available on the Fresno COG website at www.fresnocog.org and on the CD included in the meeting package. A hard copy will be provided to each member agency. The hard copy will be mailed to the City Managers who were not in attendance.

Members of the review committee thanked staff for the revisions. Mr. Rudd (Fresno) suggested that a Five Year Pro-forma be included in the 2012-13 OWP. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Ramos (San Joaquin) and seconded by Ms. Gorman (County) to recommend approval of the FY 2011-12 Overall Work Program by adopting Resolution 2011-03. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. FY 2010-11 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 4 [BESHEARS]

Mr. Beshears presented this item explaining the request for the budget increase.

WE 214 - Measure "C" ADA/Seniors - The Taxi Scrip program is gaining in popularity and expanding. The program provided \$172,000 in scrip to Seniors in 2009/10 and appears to be heading to \$280,000 in 2010/11, however due to an oversight in the budget process, only \$84,000 was appropriated. This amendment is a technical correction to increase the budget appropriation \$196,000. There is adequate apportionment available to accomplish this.

WE 820 Valley RTPA Coordination – The Air District has provided \$79,700 in funding for a valley wide license for transportation modeling software including Cube Base, Cube Voyager, Cube Cluster, and Cube Land. As the recipient for this grant, we will draw down the funds and pay the vendor, however all eight counties will have access to the software. The license of the software is for one year therefore in order to renew in future years, the cost will be pro rated between the valley MPO's. Our pro rata share at that time will be around \$7,800.

Following a short discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Rudd (Fresno) and Ms. Chojnacki (Mendota) recommending the Policy Board authorize OWP Amendment #4 increasing the budget \$275,700 to \$17,230,157. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

C. Rail Update [BOREN]

Tony Boren, Executive Director gave a brief update on activities regarding High Speed Rail. Mr. Boren reported that a Public Meeting will be held on May 17th from 5-7 at the Exhibit Hall. Information on this meeting is available on the Fresno COG website at www.fresnocog.org. There was a brief discussion regarding proposed alignments. Mr. Mozier mentioned a Supplemental Alternative Analysis that is available on the High Speed Rail Authority website.

Staff will keep the report back to the Committee as more information becomes available.

This was an information item and required no further action by 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. Dowling On-Call 2011-12 Contract [BITNER] | Approve |
| B. Monthly Legislative Update [GARZA] | Information |
| C. California Consulting LLC Report [BOREN] | Information |
| D. Regional Clearinghouse [Sobrado] | Approve |

	Project	Applicant
1.	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Section 202 Supportive Housing Capital Advance Grant Program	Southern California Presbyterian Homes

For a complete summary of these items, please see the May 13, 2011 Annotated Agenda.

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman (County) and seconded by Mr. Rudd (City) to approve the Administrative Consent Items as approved. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Award of Contract for Valley-Wide Modeling Software Corporate License [BITNER]

Mike Bitner (Fresno COG) presented this item to the Committee. Mr. Bitner explained that the eight San Joaquin Valley MPOs have been coordinating transportation modeling activities for more than 20 years and all have standardized on Citilabs transportation modeling software known as Cube and Cube Voyager.

Currently each of the 8 San Joaquin Valley MPOs purchase their own modeling software with a total Valley wide combined cost approximately \$175,000. Each MPO also pays an annual maintenance fee with a total valley wide combined cost of \$26,000.

The current software license limits the software to running on one computer at a time and does not allow concurrent instances of the Cube/Voyager software to exist. In addition, in order to take full advantage of the Valley Wide Model Improvement Project additional modeling software is needed (Cube Cluster and Cube Land).

Fresno COG, representing the San Joaquin Valley MPO's, has negotiated an agreement with the Citilabs Corporation to purchase a valley-wide corporate license for the required modeling software including Cube Base, Cube Voyager and adding Cube Cluster and Cube Land.

The selection of these products will allow each of the eight San Joaquin Valley MPOs to take equal advantage of the model update work being performed under the ongoing San Joaquin Valley Model improvement Project. In addition, the Valley wide corporate license will greatly enhance the San Joaquin Valley MPOs ability to better forecast future year greenhouse gas emissions and meet their obligations for conformity and the requirements of AB 32 and SB 375.

The San Joaquin Valley Corporate license will result in a significant cost savings and improved flexibility. If Fresno COG were to purchase a corporate license alone it would cost us \$158,000 and the annual maintenance fee would be \$23,000.

The actual cost of the San Joaquin Valley corporate license after crediting the 8 MPOs for their existing installed software is \$46,625. The new annual maintenance fee will be \$33,000 a year

which will be prorated between the valley MPOs. Our pro rata share will be around \$7,800 and is not due until January 2013.

Mr. Bitner pointed out that the San Joaquin Valley Executive Directors have approved the purchase of the corporate license. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is funding the proposed Corporate License upgrade and the first year's annual maintenance fee.

A motion was made by Ms. Gorman (County) and seconded by Mr. Rudd (Fresno) to recommend approval of the contract with Citilabs for the San Joaquin Valley Corporate License and authorizing the Executive Director to contract with Citilabs Corporation in the amount not to exceed \$79,700. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint - Contract Amendment with Mintier Harnish to Expand the Scope of Work on the Deliverables Including the Planners Web-Based Toolkit [STECK]

Barbara Steck (Fresno COG) reported that Fresno COG is the lead agency for the SJV Regional Blueprint program and in that role administers any contracts associated with the project. The consulting firm of Mintier Harnish was hired by the Valley MPO Directors in February 2010 to complete the documents associated with the Valleywide Blueprint that was adopted in April 2009. The deliverables included:

- SJV Blueprint Planning Process Summary Report (September 2010)
- Draft SJV Blueprint Guidance Framework (Implementation Strategy) February 15, 2011 (Including an Institutional Arrangements whitepaper requested by the Regional Policy Council)
- SJV Blueprint – Planners Toolkit (web based) – beta version is available at <http://toolkitvalleyblueprintorg.alias.strangecode.com/>

In essence, this consultant has completed the deliverables in the original scope of work, except for the final edited version of the "Guidance Framework" and the web-based planners toolkit. The project was delayed for an additional 3 months at the behest of the local agency planners participating in the Valley Blueprint Planners Work Group. These delays have cost Mintier Harnish in both scheduling timelines and unanticipated rewrites. Ms. Steck stated that an equitable approach would be to amend the Mintier Harnish contract in order to reimburse them for the additional work associated with the project delays (including the web based toolkit) through June 30, 2011. This would ensure a smooth transition of the website to Merced County Association of Governments (who will be hosting it) and to whomever we determine should administer the toolkit site in the upcoming year. It would also accommodate the final revisions that need to be incorporated from the review period.

A motion was made by Krystal Chojnacki (Mendota) and seconded by Mr. Patlan (Kerman) to concur with the staff and the Valley MPO directors' recommendation for approval of a contract amendment with Mintier Harnish to modify the scope of work on the web-based planners' toolkit, not to exceed \$20,714. This amendment will be covered by SJV Blueprint 3rd year grant funds. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

QUORUM: Kingsburg and Sanger were out of the room, San Joaquin left the meeting.

C. Farmland Conservation Study – Authorization to Sign Contract with Strategy Research Institute to Conduct Polling Research [BOREN]

Mr. Boren briefly explained that in 2007, Fresno COG was awarded a San Joaquin Valley Partnership grant in the amount of \$200,000 to develop a Farmland Conservation Model Program. The purpose of the program was to identify strategies to preserve farmland in the San Joaquin Valley by carefully balancing urban development and agricultural areas in the region. The American Farmland Trust was hired as a consultant for the project and conducted the study under the guidance of a Fresno COG Steering Committee consisting of agricultural stakeholders, community leaders and various member agency staff.

The Farmland Conservation Model Program was completed in December 2008 and made a series of recommendations to help preserve agricultural land in Fresno County. During the review and

comment period for the document it became clear that the strategies proposed in the Model Program did not have strong consensus support from the community. Therefore at this point in the process, at the request of the Steering Committee, Strategy Research Institute (Dr. Gary Manross) was brought into the process to meet with a number of prominent agricultural stakeholders in an effort to determine what were the barriers (from their perspective) to developing a comprehensive approach to preserving farmland in Fresno County. Upon completion of the interviews, it became clear that public opinion on the issue of farmland preservation from the agricultural community was very diverse, and the best approach to truly gauge whether there was public support for farmland preservation from throughout the community was to conduct a public opinion survey to gauge public sentiment on the topic.

With this direction in mind, COG staff budgeted \$25,000 in this year's OWP and Budget to conduct the polling. Dr. Manross has recently completed development of the survey instrument and it has been reviewed and approved by members of the Steering Committee for release in the field. Fresno COG policy requires that all contracts above \$10,000 must be approved by the Policy Board.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Rob Woolley (Clovis) and seconded by Ms. Gorman (County) to recommend the Policy Board authorize Fresno COG Executive Director to enter into a contract with Strategy Research Institute to conduct public opinion research related to development of the Farmland Model Conservation Program in an amount not to exceed \$25,000. A show of hands was requested, and the motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Roberts, Building Industry Association, asked Mr. Boren when the report will be completed and released. Mr. Boren suggested that the report should be available in a few weeks.

QUORUM: Sanger left the meeting. Kingsburg returned to the meeting.

D. Strategy Research Institute – Contract Renewal [BOREN]

Mr. Boren went on to explain that Strategy Research Institute Inc. (Dr. Gary Manross) has been serving as consultant to Fresno COG in his current capacity since July 2008. Over the course of the last year, SRI Inc. has played a key facilitation role in bringing two major regional projects, the Regional Transit Consolidation Study and the Farmland Conservation Model Program study forward to a point where a determination can be made on whether there is interest in moving forward with the next steps in the process. In addition, SRI Inc. is also providing direct services to Fresno COG member agencies at reduced rates as a result of their on-going contract with Fresno COG.

Recently, at the request of the Fresno Works Committee, which is overseeing high speed rail matters in Fresno County, SRI Inc. met with California High Speed Rail Authority staff to determine if there might be a role for SRI Inc. to play in resolving some of the contentious issues that have been raised by the agricultural community. This role is a logical fit for Dr. Manross given his consensus building experiences with Measure C and his recent outreach to the agricultural community as part of the Farmland Conservation Model Program.

SRI Inc.'s current contract with Fresno COG is a \$6,000 a month retainer which totals \$72,000 annually.

Ms. Gorman (County) suggested that the work Dr. Manross is currently doing has nothing to do with Measure C and that the retainer should not be renewed and that contracts be done with SRI on a case by case basis.

Mr. Rudd (Fresno) agreed with Ms. Gorman (County) and felt that the Fresno Works Committee should submit the request outlining the specific work to be done for them.

Ms. Chojnacki (Mendota) expressed her city's concerns. The City of Mendota is currently utilizing his services and feels that he is providing a worthwhile service that they would not be able to afford without the retainer.

Following the discussion, a motion was made by Don Pauley (Kingsburg) that the contract not be renewed but that SRI be used on a case by case basis with individual contracts. The motion was

seconded by Mr. Rudd (Fresno). A vote was called for with Clovis, Fowler, Fresno, Kerman, Kingsburg and Fresno County voting yes and Mendota voting no.

E. 2010 U.S. Census [CHUNG]

Kathy Chung (Fresno COG) gave a report on the results of the 2010 U.S. Census and recent American Community Surveys for Fresno County and its jurisdictions. A copy of the presentation was distributed to the Committee.

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

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

Les Beshears reported that the City of Clovis submitted an amended 2010-11 Transportation Funding Claim reflecting a revision of the preliminary estimates of carry-over funds. This claim was distributed to the Committee and will be added to the Policy Board agenda for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Rudd (Fresno) and seconded by Ms. Gorman (County) to recommend the Policy Board approve Resolution 2011-15. A vote was called for and the motion carried.

B. Items from Members

None

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.**

None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Boren".

Tony Boren, Executive Director

\md