

ANNOTATED AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, October 14, 2011
Time: 8:30 am

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, October 14, 2011
Time: 10:00 a.m.

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

Video Conferencing Available – please contact Kai Han at 559-233-4148 Ext. 206
Dial in number for teleconferencing:
Toll Free Number: 877-455-8688
Participant Code: 278933

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations

The Fresno COG offices and restrooms are ADA accessible. Representatives or individuals with disabilities should contact Fresno COG at (559) 233-4148, at least 3 days in advance, to request auxiliary aids and/or translation services necessary to participate in the public meeting / public hearing. If Fresno COG is unable to accommodate an auxiliary aid or translation request for a public hearing, after receiving proper notice, the hearing will be continued on a specified date when accommodations are available.

Item	Description	Enclosure	Action*
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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 September 9, 2011

B. FY 2011/12 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claims – [FAWCETT]

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

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

C. Video Conferencing Update [HAN]

Summary: Fresno COG is the lead agency in the ongoing San Joaquin Valley Videoconferencing Infrastructure Project. The projects 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, in addition several Fresno County member agencies (Fowler, Kerman, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, San Joaquin and Selma) also installed video conferencing end points. The project also included installation of a central hub at Fresno COG.

The system upgrade was funded through an agreement with the Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (CalVans). This agreement provides CalVans with access to the videoconferencing equipment owned by Fresno COG. In exchange for this access CalVans is funding a significant upgrade to the Fresno COG video equipment.

The upgrade was successfully completed in early May. New videoconferencing equipment was installed and up-to-date software deployed. The upgrade increased the capacity of our system and streamlined the scheduling of the videoconferencing equipment. Videoconferences are able to be scheduled through Microsoft Outlook and have the ability to automatically connect based on the information in the Outlook Calendar. The upgraded system is also capable of recording and streaming video conferencing sessions. The upgraded system was immediately put to use as Fresno COG hosted EPA's Brownfield Funding Workshop with video cast to SJV COG's the very next day with success.

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

D. 2011 FTA Section 5310 Grant Program Results [SOBRADO]

Summary: On September 15, 2011, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved the final Section 5310 Program of Projects (POP) for Grant Cycle 057. Several applications were submitted through Fresno COG and all received funding. The applications awarded from Fresno County include:

Applicant	Project Description	Project Cost
Fresno County Employment Opportunities Commission	8 Large buses	\$560,000
Fresno Area Express	3 Medium buses	\$195,000
Westcare California, Inc	1 Minivan	\$44,000

The applicants have already been notified as to the status of their requests and have received instructions on the purchase process from Caltrans.

Please contact Todd Sobrado at 559.233.4148 with questions or to request additional information.

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

E. Fresno COG 2012 Meeting Calendar [BOREN]

Summary: A copy of the Fresno COG 2012 Meeting Calendar is included in the meeting package.

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

II. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Building Industry Association (BIA) request to Update the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) [BESHEARS]

Summary: On August 24, 2011, the Building Industry Association requested the RTMF fee be waived or frozen for a period of two years or until the development economy picked up. This item was taken through the committee process in September where it was emphasized to the BIA the RTMF rate structure was adopted pursuant to a complex legally mandated Nexus Study

and to deviate from that rate structure without revisiting the Nexus could result in legal implications. The BIA subsequently withdrew their request to waive the fee and requested the Nexus Study be revisited as soon as possible instead of waiting for the statutory update.

Section 66001(d) of the Government Code covering Impact Fees Development requires the RTMF fee to update the Nexus beginning the fifth fiscal year following the first deposit and every five years thereafter. Therefore we are not required to start the update process until January of 2014.

The City of Fresno has also voiced an interest in seeing the Nexus updated to focus on the proposed Freeway Deficiency Projects that were included in the original Nexus. The issue here is the ongoing effort by Caltrans to mitigate the effects of development on the State Highway system. A major RTMF project, the SR 180 Braided Ramps project was awarded \$55 million in SHOPP funding hence RTMF funding will not be needed, creating capacity that could be applied to Freeway Deficiency Projects.

There are pro and con arguments regarding accelerating the update.

Foremost, the Nexus must be done per statute and once done is legally binding. Statutory protocol must be followed in determining traffic impacts therefore the fee could go up or down. The BIA is aware of this risk.

The original Nexus included six major projects that are associated with the Measure with an estimated total cost of \$386.4 million, and seven freeway deficiency projects totaling \$41.5 million that were identified in a two phased study. Approximately half of the \$427.9 million cost of the projects studied is attributed to development, and eligible for reimbursement by RTMF fees. The additional funding to complete the Measure projects is tied to the adopted Measure "C" implementation schedule however, the additional funding to complete the Freeway Deficiency projects is only loosely identified in planning documents. Additional focus on the Freeway Deficiency projects will create increased competitive demands on currently diminished regional funding.

Should the Board wish to accelerate the update, PB America has proposed three options. 1.) A \$25,648 study would be a simple recalculation based on cost received directly from project sponsors. The Traffic & Land Use Forecast would not be updated. 2.) A \$48,215 option would involve PB America doing the cost updates but still would not update the Traffic & Land Use Forecast. 3.) A \$75,371 would be a general Nexus update including updates to the Traffic & Land Use Forecast. In light of the fact that Traffic & Land Use Forecast may have changed dramatically due to economic conditions, Staff would propose the \$75,371 update should the Board wish to accelerate the update. If the Board so directs, staff will take a budget amendment to the COG Board in November and the Transportation Authority will propose a budget amendment to their Board Dec. 7, 2011.

Action: Board direction is requested.

B. 2012 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Submittal [BESHEARS]

The California Transportation Commission has released the 2012 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Fund Estimate and will be adopting the 2012 STIP on March 28, 2012. In order to access the funding made available through the STIP, each region must develop and submit its own Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to the CTC for consideration. The 2012 STIP Fund Estimate covers a five year period- 2012/13 -2016/17 and provides good news in that there is additional programming capacity for the five year period through 2016/17. The bad news is that most of it is in the very last year-2016/17. Unfortunately, there is minimal new programming capacity in the first four years as the current program is over subscribed and the CTC is requesting that project sponsors move projects back.

The STIP Fund Estimate identifies \$36.987 million as the base transportation funding target for our region through 2015/16; however, the funding target includes the \$28.1 million in existing county shares that were freed up when the SR 180/168 Braided Ramps were funded with

Caltrans Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program (SHOPP) funding. Therefore our new programming capacity for the first four years averages out to around \$2.2 million a year. The STIP Fund Estimate assumes we will have \$15 million in new capacity in 2016/17; therefore, our five year program target is \$52.3 million.

The 2012 Regional Transportation Improvement Program submittal has been structured to adhere to the priority order established by the December 2010 Measure "C" Expenditure Plan. With that in mind, it is very important to note, that presently it is anticipated that the next phase of SR 180 East – Academy Ave. to Smith Ave- will be funded by a combination of Prop. 1B State and Local Partnership Program funding, Measure "C" funding and Regional Transportation Mitigation Fees (RTMF). Construction on this project is slated to begin in the summer of 2013; therefore, that project is not a part of this 2012 RTIP submittal. Going further, Measure "C" funding and RTMF fees will also be used to fund the design for the SR 180 West Landscape project. In addition, a significant part of the Right of Way (ROW) for SR 180 East – Smith Ave. to Frankwood Ave. will be funded with Measure "C" and RTMF fees; contingent on the utilization of \$10 million in project savings that Caltrans has identified on the recently completed segment of SR 180 (Temperance Ave. to Academy Ave). The next regional project in line for STIP funding after the completion of the SR 180 E-Smith Ave. to Frankwood Ave. segment is Veterans Blvd. The ROW for Veterans Blvd. is scheduled to begin in 2016/17 using Measure "C" and RTMF fees; however, funding to complete ROW may likely have to wait until the next STIP cycle in 2014.

Fresno COG's 2012 Regional Transportation Improvement Program will consist of the following projects:

Facility	Project Description	Funding Requested	Year(s)
SR 180 West	Hughes Ave. to Brawley Ave.- Landscaping	\$4.57 million	2015/16
SR 180 East	Smith Ave. to Frankwood Ave.	\$52.2 million	2013/14 2015/16
TE Reserves		\$3.29 million	2013-2015
Planning, Programming & Monitoring		\$ 322,000	2014/15
Total		\$60.38 mil.	

It should be noted that the combined funding request exceeds the five year target set by the CTC by approximately \$8.08 million; therefore, in order to grant the requested schedule the CTC must be willing to advance county shares from the next five year period. As pointed out above, the current program oversubscription and nature of future estimates make it uncertain if the CTC will be able to meet our request and grant this schedule. It is possible the CTC will move the requested project delivery schedule out to some future date. Programming adjustments will be made to the adopted Measure "C" Expenditure Plan to reflect the 2012 STIP after the CTC adopts the allocations in March 2012.

***SR 180 East – Academy Ave. to Trimmer Springs Rd. and SR 180 East – Trimmer Springs Rd. to Frankwood Ave. were re-scoped to Academy Ave. to Smith Ave. and Smith Ave. to Frankwood Ave.**

Action: Staff recommends the TTC and PAC support the submittal of the 2012 Regional Transportation Improvement Program as presented.

C. SB 375/ Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) Update [CA]

Summary: The Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375) requires the California Air Resource Board (ARB) to establish greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for passenger vehicles for the 18 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in the

State. The ARB published the final targets for the MPOs in February 2011. Due to lack of sensitive models in the last round of target-setting process, the 8 MPOs in the San Joaquin Valley were given placeholder targets of 5% reduction in 2020, and 10% reduction in 2035. The ARB will provide provisional targets for the Valley MPOs in 2012 with the expectation that models will have been improved with \$2.5 million funding from the Strategic Growth Council, and the Valley MPOs will make target recommendations to ARB Board in 2012.

SB 375 also requires each of California's MPOs prepare a "Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)" that demonstrates how the region will meet its greenhouse gas reduction target through integrated land use, housing and transportation planning. Once adopted by the MPO, the SCS will be incorporated into that region's federally enforceable Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The ARB will then determine whether the SCS will meet the targets set for the region; if not, then an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) should be developed.

Valley MPOs have been working together to investigate the best approach to coordinate SB 375 efforts. The primary issues are the format of targets, i.e., a valley-wide target or sub-regional targets or individual targets, and how the valley MPOs can work together on their SCS.

Fresno COG, in preparation for recommending our region's targets to the ARB in 2012, and development of the first SCS in our next RTP, will start working with our member agencies and stakeholders on scenario development in October. The kick-off meeting is scheduled on October 19th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Please contact Kristine Cai at kcai@fresnocog.org if you are interested in being involved in the process.

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

D. High Speed Rail Update [BOREN]

Summary: Staff will give a verbal update at the meeting.

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

III. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

- a. REMINDER: Transportation Forum – October 19th at Exhibit Hall - 8:30 am to Noon

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. **San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Roadmap Deliverables [STECK]**
 - A. **Blueprint Awards Announcement - Enclosure**
 - B. **Blueprint Roadmap Deliverables - Handout**

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

2. **Caltrans Report [CALTRANS]**

Summary: Caltrans staff will present a verbal update. A copy of the Quarterly Report is included in the meeting package.

Action: This is an information item. Direction may be given at the discretion of the Committees.

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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Summary: Fresno COG is the lead agency in the ongoing San Joaquin Valley Videoconferencing Infrastructure Project. The projects 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.

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Action: Staff recommends the TTC and PAC support the submittal of the 2012 Regional Transportation Improvement Program as presented.

C. **SB 375/ Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) Update [CAI]**

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October 19th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Please contact Kristine Cai at kcai@fresnocog.org if you are interested in being involved in the process.

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

D. High Speed Rail Update [BOREN]

Summary: Staff will give a verbal update at the meeting.

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

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

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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. California Consulting LLC Report [BOREN]

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

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

C. Regional Policy Council update – Policy Conference [BOREN]

Summary: The San Joaquin Valley Fall Policy Conference is being held October 13-14, 2011 at the Pines Resort in Bass Lake. Staff will give an update at the meeting.

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

D. Sheriff Mims Presentation to Board on Realignment [BOREN]

Summary: Sheriff Mims has asked to make a presentation at the October Policy Board meeting.

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

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Legislative Platform- Draft for Review [GARZA]

Summary: The legislative subcommittee made up of three volunteers from the Policy Advisory Committee which includes Lou Martinez (City of Parlier), Lynn Gorman (Fresno County), and Cruz Ramos (San Joaquin), continues to review and propose updates to the legislative platform in order to address the priority concerns that were suggested by the Policy Board. A draft of the 2012 Legislative Platform will be available as a handout during the PAC meeting for review. Staff will recommend final approval of the legislative platform during the Policy Board meeting in November which should reflect the most current priorities for advocacy during the 2012 state and federal legislative sessions.

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

B. 2012 Fresno COG One Voice [Garza]

Summary: We are in the process of planning for our annual Fresno COG One Voice trip to Washington, D.C where we will present a list of priorities for the region. One Voice is an advocacy effort that has brought together leaders from the Fresno County region, local educational institutions, community organizations, and local private businesses. These groups have formed the One Voice Committee and Project/Policy Selection Subcommittee.

Each year, the One Voice Committee chooses local projects and policy issues in a quest for federal funding and regulatory relief. The One Voice participants then travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with the region's congressional delegation, legislative staff and federal agencies and have extensive discussions and presentations about the region's priorities.

The 2012 One Voice trip will take place February 25 - March 1, 2011. Our trips over the past several years have been quite fruitful as noted in the Fresno COG website www.fresnocog.org under the "One Voice" tab.

Fresno COG held a 2012 One Voice kick-off meeting on September 28th. The Steering Committee felt that because the moratorium on earmarks is still in effect, the priorities of the Fresno County region should be reflected through the advocacy of regulatory reform. The committee suggested that instead of doing a "Call for Projects", as has been done in the past; agencies submit their priorities in a format that identifies regulatory relief, with examples of how the policy revision impacts local projects. The idea is that there will be a project tied to a policy issue; therefore, creating the entire picture of cause and effect.

Because it is expected that a large number of policy issues will be submitted, the committee would like to prioritize the list and format the binder materials to reflect those priorities. The tentative timeline for the 2012 One Voice priority selection process is as follows:

- Issue Call for Regional Priorities – Monday, October 17, 2011
- Deadline for Regional Priorities Submittal – Thursday, November 10, 2011 @ 5:00 PM
- Project Selection Subcommittee Meeting – Wednesday, November 30, 2011 @ 1:30 PM
- One Voice Committee Meeting – Tuesday, December 6, 2011 @ 3:00 PM
- COG Policy Board Approval of Project List – Thursday, January 29, 2012

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

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Items from Staff

Reminder: Transportation Forum, Wednesday, October 19th at the Exhibit Hall – 7:30 am to 12 noon.

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**