

**COUNCIL OF FRESNO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
ANNOTATED AGENDA**

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2006

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Council of Fresno County Governments
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

I. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Board on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the Board on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.**

COFCG Sitting As the Transportation Policy Committee

II. 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 Board 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 Board concerning the item before action is taken.

A. Administrative Amendment No. 19 to the 2004-05 through 2009-10 Federal Transportation Improvement Program

Summary: Administrative Amendment No. 19: This amendment was approved on January 30, 2006 by the Executive Director of the Council of Fresno County Governments as authorized by the Policy Board. Modifications to the 2004-05 through 2009-10 Federal Transportation Improvement Program are as follows:

Change to the *Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ)*

- City of Fowler Lump-Sum Pedestrian Facilities project: The City of Fowler added \$1,400 of their unprogrammed CMAQ lifeline funds into the construction phase of this project for FY 2004/05.

Change to the *Regional Surface Transportation Program*.

- City of Fresno Peach Avenue project: The City of Fresno has transferred \$28,200 total dollars (\$25,000 federal) from the construction phase of this project to the preliminary engineering phase of this project for FY 2004/05. [DeVERE]

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

B. PM2.5 and Carbon Monoxide Air Quality Conformity Determination, Resolution 2006-03

Summary: An Air Quality Conformity Determination is required in nonattainment areas to ensure that transportation plans and programs are consistent with the state and local air quality plans and do not interfere with the timely implementation of transportation control measures. EPA designated nonattainment areas for the new PM2.5 standards, which

became effective on April 5, 2005 for most areas. Conformity for the PM2.5 standards will begin to apply on April 5, 2006 for the San Joaquin Valley.

In addition, EPA published an approval for the 2004 Revision to the California State Implementation Plan for Carbon Monoxide, effective January 30, 2006. The San Joaquin Valley MPOs must use the new budgets for conformity determinations that will be considered for approval by the federal agencies after January 30, 2006.

The PM2.5 and Carbon Monoxide Air Quality Conformity Determination demonstrates that all of our adopted transportation plans and programs contained in the 2004 RTP and the 2004-05 through 2009-10 FTIP, as amended, are in conformance with the rules for the applicable air quality standards and conform to provisions of the State Implementation Plans for the San Joaquin Valley.

Fresno COG staff discussed this document at the TTC, PAC and Policy Board meetings in January 2006. In addition, a 30-day public comment period concluded with a public hearing on January 26, 2006. No significant comments were received. Adoption of this document in February 2006 will allow FHWA to approve the conformity determinations for all eight of the San Joaquin Valley MPOs by April 2006. [BITNER/PAUKOVITS]

Action: Staff recommends adoption of the Conformity Analysis by approval of Resolution 2006-03.

C. FY 2004-05 Transit Productivity Evaluation Report

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 appropriation for the prior year.

The FY2004-05 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 Report is normally presented in November of each year, however, this year it was delayed in order to provide time for staff to receive all portions of the Report. The Report was reviewed and accepted by the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) on January 31, 2006. [DOWNS]

Action: Accept the FY2004-05 Transit Productivity Evaluation Report.

D. Section 5310 Program – 2006

Summary: In its State designated role as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Fresno County, Fresno COG serves as the Regional Evaluation Committee for Section 5310 grant applications. The purpose of the 5310 Program is to provide annual transportation capital grants aimed at serving the needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities where public mass transportation services are otherwise unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate.

Eligible applicants include private nonprofit corporations, public agencies where no nonprofit corporations are readily available to provide the proposed service, and public agencies that have been approved by the state to coordinate services for elderly persons and persons with disabilities. Eligible equipment includes accessible vans and buses, communication equipment and computer hardware and software that will provide support for the transportation system.

The State deadline for FY 2006 grant applications is March 3, 2006. COG staff has established an earlier deadline of February 13, 2004 for a regional review period. This will allow COG to check applications for completeness before they are submitted to Caltrans Headquarters in Sacramento. This strategy has been effective in prior years and resulted in funding of a majority of our local agencies' projects. [SOBRADO]

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

E. Tranny Awards – Call for Nominations

Summary: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) have each issued a "Call for Nominations" for their Annual Tranny Awards.

FHWA 2006 Transportation Planning Excellence Awards will be given in twelve different categories. These awards recognize outstanding initiatives across the country to develop, plan, and implement innovative transportation planning practices. Deadline for submittal of the Award Nominations is February 28, 2006. Information about the awards program and an online call for entries can be found at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/tpea>. For additional information, contact Jody McCullough, at 202-366-2825, or via email, at jody.mccullough@fhwa.dot.gov.

The CTF is accepting nominations for their 17th Annual Tranny Awards. To nominate a Person, Project, or Program for the award, nominators are to create a two page submittal in ten easy steps using the format prescribed in the attachment. Nominations are due March 1, 2006 and can be emailed to swest@westdirections.com or physically mailed to:

California Transportation Foundation
581 La Sierra Drive
Sacramento, CA 95864
916-489-1629
[SOBRADO]

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

F. Initiation of 2006 Unmet Transit Needs Process

Summary: The Fresno COG Policy Board must determine that public transportation needs within Fresno County will be reasonably met in Fiscal Year 2006-07 prior to approving claims of Local Transportation Funds for streets and roads. The 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 350 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 months of February and March 2006. The meeting dates and locations have not yet been determined. [DOWNS]

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

G. EPA Diesel Emission Reduction Request for Proposals

Summary: EPA recently announced the availability of funding for a federal grant program to reduce diesel emissions on the West Coast. This program is looking to fund projects that demonstrate new, innovative or experimental approaches to reducing diesel emissions. Past grant projects have included electrifying truck stops and cruise ship terminals, and converting restaurant waste oil to biodiesel fuel. Proposals must be considered in one of six categories: (1) Trucking, (2) Marine Vessels and Ports, (3) Construction and Distributed Generation, (4) Locomotives and Rail, (5) Agriculture, and (6) Cleaner Fuels. EPA anticipates awarding \$3,000,000 in grants, ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 each. All proposals should be submitted by March 23, 2006. Information on the grant funding is available on the EPA website (<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/airpage.nsf/grants/wcc+rfp>). Please contact Fresno COG staff if you have any questions or would like additional information. [PAUKOVITS]

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

H. Invitation to Roundtable Discussion with Will Kempton, Director of Caltrans

Summary: Appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger in November 2004, Mr. Kempton is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of California's state transportation system, including more than 50,000 lane miles of state highways stretching from Mexico to Oregon and from the Pacific Ocean to Nevada and Arizona. Please join us for a Roundtable Discussion on Governor Schwarzenegger's Proposed Infrastructure Bond on March 8, 2006 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the COG Sequoia Conference Room. [STECK]

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

III. TRANSPORTATION ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint – Valley COGs Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Summary: Last month the COG Policy Board approved the Overall Work Program Amendment for the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint. Now that the grant has been approved by Caltrans, the eight Valley COGs will enter into an MOU which defines the roles and responsibilities of each partner. Merced Association of Governments will serve as lead agency for the eight Valley COGs on this project. A copy of the MOU is included in your packet. [BESHEARS/STECK]

Action: TTC, PAC and Staff recommend approval of the MOU between the eight Valley COGs for the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint.

B. Tolling & Pricing Opportunities: Expression of Interest

Summary: The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Value Pricing Program is offering pre-implementation grant funding to identify and develop feasible, innovative road pricing projects to reduce traffic congestion. The Council of Fresno County Governments, acting as a project lead for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, has submitted an "Expression of Interest" in an effort to relieve highway congestion and air pollution linked to increases in truck traffic in and through the Valley.

The partnership proposes:

1. Bring key stakeholders together and develop consensus about the most feasible and viable road-pricing project or projects for the two major truck corridors in the San Joaquin Valley, State Route 99, and Interstate 5.
2. Hire technical consultants to conduct research and analysis about road-pricing systems and configurations that would relieve truck congestion and pollution. This work will include an evaluation of each system and configuration costs and benefits, and will be used to inform stakeholders in their deliberations.
3. Educate, through marketing and media outreach, policymakers, opinion leaders, and the general public about the selected project or projects and their benefits, with a goal of advancing these projects into the regional and state transportation plan for implementation.

Staff will keep committees apprised of feedback from FHWA. If FHWA encourages a full grant application (due March 31, 2006), staff will bring the issue forward to the COG Policy Board for action. The Policy Advisory Committee acted to support the proposal. [DeVERE]

Action: PAC recommends the Policy Board support the proposal.

C. Assembly Bill No. 1878, the Southern San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council Act.

Summary: Assembly Bill No. 1878, introduced by Assembly Member Parra on January 19, 2006, would create the Southern San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council, comprised initially of the councils of government (COG) of the counties of Kings, Madera, Merced, Tulare, and Fresno. This legislation, if enacted into law, would bring

additional planning responsibilities and opportunities to COGs in order to invigorate regional planning within the Southern San Joaquin Valley.

Each COG would appoint from their Board three voting members (and three alternate members) to serve on the advisory council. A COG for the counties of Kern, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin may also join the advisory council through the adoption of a resolution approved by the respective Board and by acceptance by a majority of the voting members of the advisory council. The legislation also addresses terms of service for Advisory Council members; appointments of chairperson and vice-chairperson; frequency of meetings; travel and per diem expenses; noticing requirements; and budgeting, auditing and contracting requirements. The legislation indicates it is not expected that the Advisory Council will hire or employ any permanent staff.

Stated generally, the purpose of the Advisory Council is to augment, and not supplant, the role of the individual metropolitan planning organizations in a cooperative planning process to address current and future mandates and joint challenges. The legislation notes that many issues addressed by councils of government do not end at the county line, but cross jurisdictional boundaries and, throughout the state, multicounty forums have been successful in addressing these types of issues. It is the intent of the legislation that actions of the Advisory Council be undertaken by consensus

The specific powers and functions of the advisory council as stated in the legislation are as follows:

- Assist metropolitan planning organizations in carrying out the urbanized transportation planning process by serving as the principle forum for collective policy discussion.
- Develop and adopt a southern San Joaquin Valley regional element of the transportation plan required by state and federal law, to be included in the regional transportation plans of each COG that participates in the regional council. This element shall address issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries and affect several counties, such as a transportation corridor, and may include air quality, highways, streets and roads, aviation, rail, goods movement, and transportation demand management efforts.
- Develop a unified and coordinated approach to air quality management planning process issues.
- Serve as a forum to encourage and facilitate regional data sharing, GIS development and mapping.
- Develop programs, plans, and policies that address any issues that the individual COGs would individually be authorized to act upon.

There was considerable discussion of this item at the Transportation Technical Committee meeting. Questions were asked about the composition, funding and staffing of the Advisory Council and even the motive and necessity for the legislation. As a result, staff has invited Assemblywoman Parra to make a presentation and respond to questions at the March 8 meeting of the TTC. The Policy Advisory Committee expressed similar concerns as the TTC and that they too receive a presentation from advocates of the legislation. A joint PAC/TTC meeting on this one item was suggested. [THOMPSON]

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

D. Rail Update

Summary: The COG Rail Committee met on February 3, 2006. Staff will provide a verbal report on Committee discussion of agenda items.

The Rail Committee did recommend the Policy Board approve the enclosed resolution recommending passenger rail service on the UP corridor subject to a modification of the resolution identifying the segment of the UP corridor as extending between Merced on the north and Bakersfield on the south. The Transportation Technical Committee directed staff to schedule this item as an action item on the Policy Advisory Committee agenda. The PAC acted to support the draft resolution subject to the addition of language that clarifies the double-tracked sections of track shall be grade separated through communities. [THOMPSON]

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

E. Caltrans Monthly Report

Summary: Caltrans staff will provide an update on Caltrans activities. [CALTRANS]

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

COFCG Sitting As the Council of Fresno County Governments

IV. REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

V. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

Approve Calendar 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 Board 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 Board concerning the item before action is taken.

A. Executive Minutes of January 26, 2006

B. Monthly Legislative Update

Summary: An enclosed summary of current state and federal legislative activity is in your agenda packet for committee review and information. The attached summary reflects legislation that is currently active and detailing various aspects of transportation.

Please contact staff person, Renee DeVere, if you have any questions regarding the listed bills or if you require a more in-depth analysis of any particular bill. [DEVERE]

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

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Draft 2006-07 Overall Work Program and Budget

Summary: A summary memo and the draft 2006-07 Overall Work Program (OWP) are included in the package. Staff will provide a presentation on the document. 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 in March 2006 to review the OWP. [BOREN]

Action: TTC, PAC and Staff recommend initiation of the 45-day review.

B. "One Voice" Updates - Washington D.C. and Sacramento Efforts

Summary: COG has two "One Voice" trips within this quarter. The group was in Washington D.C. from February 11th -16th and plan to be in Sacramento March 13-15 to promote projects of regional importance. Staff will provide an update on Fresno COG "One Voice" efforts at the committee meetings this month. [STECK]

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

C. Office Lease Issue – Exit Doors

Summary: When we moved into our new offices, we were made aware that the existing glass exit doors did not meet City of Fresno fire code and that they would need to be replaced. We have been exploring options with our landlord about replacement doors and will provide information to the Board about our findings. PAC recommended approval of the cost to replace doors with City fire code approved glass doors. [GOODWIN]

Action: Information/action item.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

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

*Items listed as information/comment still leave the option for guidance/direction actions by the Board.