

**JOINT
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Date: Friday, March 17, 2006
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201

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 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.

I. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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

II. 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 Executive Minutes of February 8, 2006
PAC Executive Minutes of February 17, 2006**

B. FY 2006/07 Section 5310 Regional Program of Projects, Resolution 2006-05

Summary: In its State designated role as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Fresno County, the Council of Fresno County Governments serves as the Regional Evaluation Committee for federal Section 5310 grant applications. The purpose of the 5310 program is to provide annual capital grants for 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 FY06 grant applications was March 3, 2006. COG staff received eleven applications. The Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission is requesting funding for eight large vans and a hydraulic vehicle repair lift. Both WestCare and Community Catalyst are each requesting funding for one van. These applications have been scored and ranked by COG staff with input from a sub-committee of the Social Service Transportation Advisory Committee (SSTAC). Included in the agenda packet is the FY2006/2007 list recommended for policy approval by COG staff and the SSTAC.

Once the FY2006/2007 Priority List is adopted by the COG Policy Board, the results will be forwarded to Sacramento for consideration during the statewide scoring and ranking process. Caltrans headquarters has requested this list be adopted with a resolution. A resolution has been prepared and is included in your agenda packet. [SOBRADO]

Action: COG staff recommends approval of the FY2006/2007 Regional Priority List for Section 5310 funds by adoption of Resolution 2006-05.

C. Air Quality Consultant Contract Extension

Summary: Since the early 1990s, federal regulations and air quality plans have prompted the eight Transportation Planning Agencies (TPAs) in the San Joaquin Valley to coordinate efforts with regard to air quality issues. Fresno COG has historically managed the air quality contracts on behalf of the San Joaquin Valley TPA Director's Association.

In July 2004, Fresno COG entered into two-year contracts for both Valleywide Air Quality Planning and Coordination Services (Cari Anderson Consulting) and Valleywide Air Quality Policy Services (Sierra Nevada Air Quality Group). Both contracts contain a provision that allows for a two-year extension, if agreed to by all parties. In February 2006, the TPA Directors approved the continuation of these contracts from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2008. The total cost per year for both contracts will remain the same, and the costs are shared by each of the eight TPAs based on county population. [PAUKOVITS]

Action: Staff and the Valley TPA Directors recommend approval of the contract extensions for Cari Anderson Consulting and Sierra Nevada Air Quality group.

D. California Transportation Commission 2005 Annual Report to the Legislature

Summary: The 2005 year contained both good and bad news for transportation. The good news is that the Governor, with support from the Legislature, authorized the first full transfer of gasoline sales tax revenues to transportation under Prop 42. That transfer provided over \$1.3 billion for transportation investment through the State Transportation Improvement Program, the Traffic Congestion Relief Program, and local subventions for road repair and transit. The bad news is that state funding for transportation remains unstable, unreliable, increasingly inflexible, and woefully inadequate. Even as the Governor and the Legislature were providing the \$1.3 billion infusion to transportation this past year, another \$1.9 billion was being delayed or diverted while the last traces of a stable and reliable funding program were disappearing. The Proposition 42 funding was exhausted by September, 2005, quickly consumed by the backlog of deferred projects. Once again, the California Transportation Commission has been forced to halt making new project allocations, pending budget action to approve the next Prop 42 transfer or other transportation funding for 2006-07. Without such action, there will be no State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) project allocations in FY 2006-07, not even to meet STIP commitments to reimburse local agencies for funds they have advanced under AB 3090 arrangements.

Unfortunately, for the first time the state transportation program reached a remarkable and disturbing milestone this year when the 2006 STIP Fund Estimate revealed that, from this time onward, there will no longer be any STIP funding coming from the State Highway Account—no funding at all from either the state or federal per-gallon fuel taxes.

All State Highway Account revenues are now needed to cover state highway maintenance and operations costs and the capital costs of the State Highways Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP). For the first time, annual revenues from the basic per-gallon fuel tax and from truck weight fees are insufficient even to meet ongoing state highway maintenance, operations, and rehabilitation costs. As a result, those revenues, which are restricted under the California Constitution to transportation purposes, are no longer available for the construction of transportation improvements. State funding for transportation improvements is now dependent entirely on sales tax transfers, including Prop 42 transfers (about 70%) and direct transfers to the Public Transportation Account (about 30%). Over the last five years, these transfers have proven to be a notoriously unstable and unreliable revenue source, subject to suspension and diversion in each annual budget. In order to be effective, a transportation program requires stable and reliable resources because it usually takes several years of environmental, design, and right-of-way work to get a transportation project ready for construction.

A complete copy of the 179 page report is available at the California Transportation Commission website: www.catc.ca.gov [BOREN]

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

E. Transportation Development Act (TDA) Preliminary Estimates

Summary: Preliminary estimates for the 2006/07 Transportation Development Act Local Transportation Fund (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) have been provided by the Fresno County Auditor Controller and California State Controller respectively.

The 2006/07 Local Transportation Fund is estimated at \$28,500,000 representing an increase of 3.6% from last year's estimate. The 2006/07 State Transit Assistance fund is estimated at \$3,262,602 representing a 17% increase from last year. [BESHEARS]

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

F. Abandoned Vehicle Abatement – FY 2005-06 Second Quarter Status Report

Summary: As stated in the 2003 Fresno County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority Plan, the Fresno COG, as administrator of the AVA Program, shall submit a quarterly status report to the Fresno County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority. The Service Authority has directed the quarterly status report first be presented to the Policy Advisory Committee for review and recommendation. Status reports are submitted quarterly to ensure proper distribution of funding to the member agencies. This status report contains the following information:

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

The enclosure for this item indicates the distribution of funding to the member agencies. For the second quarter of FY 2005-06, a total of \$170,726.66 in AVA funds was available for distribution to member agencies and to the Fresno COG for program administration. During the quarter, member agencies expended \$168,410.61 conducting AVA activities and the Fresno COG claimed \$1,680 for program administration. A total of 1,264 vehicles were abated this quarter. [THOMPSON]

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

G. Aggregate Availability in California

Summary: Caltrans Director Will Kempton has written to us to call attention to the tremendous amount of aggregate that will be needed to supply the projects that support improvement of the State's transportation infrastructure and the need for new aggregate sources. The construction industry shares the Department's concern and warns of possible shortages and cost increases for aggregate. Caltrans is encouraging the development of new material sources of aggregate reserves that are identified and developed within California, but recognizes that the permitting of any new mining locations must be done in accordance with federal, State and local laws and regulations while being environmentally sensitive. Please refer to the letter and map in your packet. [STECK]

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

H. Regional Clearinghouse

	Project	Applicant
1.	USDA Rural Development Grant – Furnishing Mendota Day Care Center	I-5 Social Services Corporation

Summary: Your agenda package includes this month's Clearinghouse Calendar containing "Project Notification and Review Reports" for grant proposal.

I-5 Social Services Corporation is applying for a USDA Rural Development Grant in the amount of \$29,500 (Federal) and \$30,000 in matching funds for a grant total in the amount of \$59,500. [SOBRADO]

Action: Per Board procedure, unless an item is pulled from the Consent Calendar, tacit authorization is given for staff to forward any comment(s) received, or any Committee/Board comment(s) generated as a result of this informational item, to the appropriate agency. It is understood that if in the event this item should be pulled from the consent calendar, discussion and comment by the Committee members and the public will be taken.

I. Monthly Legislation 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 Committee.

J. Council of Fresno County Governments 2004/05 Financial and Compliance Audit

Summary: Brown, Armstrong CPA has completed the 2004/05 Audit. The report identifies no findings of non compliance and includes all reports required by state and federal funding agencies.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and changes in Fund Balance show revenues of \$3,576,268, expenditures of \$3,330,822 for a net increase of \$245,446. Fund balances at end of year are \$1,480,248 of which \$1,024,570 is reserved for contractual encumbrances, \$92,119 designated for self insurance, and \$363,559 is unreserved. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff recommends acceptance of the 2004/05 Financial Audit.

K. FCRTA Item: Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) 2004/05 Financial and Compliance Audit

Summary: Brown Armstrong CPA has completed the 2004/05 Audit. The report identifies no findings of non compliance and includes all reports required by state and federal funding agencies.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and changes in Fund Balance show operating revenues of \$409,519, operating expenditures of \$3,475,572, grant revenues of \$2,724,357 and capital contributions of \$183,158 for a net decrease of \$158,538. Fund balances at end of year are \$1,763,369 of which \$1,274,302 are invested in capital assets and \$489,067 is unreserved. Note 7 to the financial statements shows FCRTA's fare box ratio is 12.9% which is above the minimum 10% required by statute. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff recommends acceptance of the FCRTA 2004/05 Financial Audit.

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. AB1878 (Presentation by Tom Higgins of Assemblymember Parra's Office)

Summary: Presentation by Tom Higgins of Assemblymember Nicole Parra's office on Assembly Bill No. 1878 regarding the establishment of a Southern San Joaquin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council. [THOMPSON]

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

B. Short Seas Shipping - Presentation by Ron Silva of Westar Transport

Summary: Ron Silva from Westar Transport will be giving a presentation on the possibility of using "Short Seas Shipping" to move commercial goods within California. Summary information is included in your agenda packet. [BOREN]

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

C. Measure "C" Extension Facilitator Contract

Summary: G. Gary Manross Ph.D. with Strategy Research Institute was hired by Fresno COG last year to serve as both the pollster and facilitator for the Measure "C" Reauthorization efforts. The Measure "C" Subcommittee's work is now complete and assuming all necessary approvals are obtained, the proposed Expenditure Plan will be placed on the November 2006 ballot. Now that the Measure "C" Reauthorization Committee's work is complete, staff wishes to retain Dr. Manross to assist the Measure "C" Public Outreach Subcommittee with their public outreach and education efforts, as well as budgeting a Follow-Up Voter Tracking Survey in the late summer to verify that the proposed Expenditure Plan will obtain the 2/3 voter support necessary for passage. (The Chamber may undertake this effort.) There is enough funding left in Dr. Manross' existing contract to fund his services through May 2006 and Dr. Manross proposes adding an additional \$47,500 to fund his services through October. Sufficient funds have been included in the 2006/07 OWP for this action.

5 months Professional Services @ \$5,000	\$25,000
5 months reserve for out of pocket expenses @ \$1,500	\$ 7,500
Tracking Poll	<u>\$15,000</u>
Total	<u>\$47,500</u>

Dr. Manross' proposal will (i) educate and inform Stakeholders, (ii) nurture and oversee Outreach efforts with respect to informing Fresno County Voters of the need to keep Measure "C" in place for another two decades, and (iii) design and administer the Tracking Poll to "test" ballot language and provide the "intelligence" needed for making the final "Go, No-Go" decision. The Tracking Poll will survey 500 moderate propensity voters. Interview length will not exceed 12 minutes. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff recommends approval of an increase of Strategy Research Institute's contract in the amount of \$47,500 to cover Measure "C" Extension Outreach and Tracking Poll.

D. Appointments to the COG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

Summary: The SSTAC was formed in May 1988 by the COG Policy Board to: respond to State legislation and to coordinate social service transportation; assist the COG Board in identifying transit needs throughout Fresno County; review and recommend action for the COG to address at its Unmet Transit Needs Hearing; and advise the COG on any other major transit issues. The COG Board appoints SSTAC members for a term of three years.

During the January 31, 2006 meeting, two SSTAC members whose terms expired agreed to accept re-appointments to the Council. Those members include Jan Kafton, National Federation of the Blind; and Phyllis Baltierra, Firebaugh Senior Site Coordinator. In addition, two individuals have requested appointment to SSTAC: Mr. Carlos Duarte, Fresno Area Express Paratransit Coordinator; and Ms Linda Descoteaux, Administrative Supervisor Fresno Madera Area Agencies on Aging. Both applicants attended the January SSTAC meeting and are being recommended by SSTAC for membership.

In the interest of improving the diversity of SSTAC and to comply with Article III, Section 99238 of the Transportation Development Act, staff is requesting nominations for additional members. Specifically, staff is seeking members who represent ethnic minority groups and potential transit users who are 60 years of age or older. [DOWNS]

Action: Staff recommends approval of the reappointment of two existing members, and that the Policy Board seek and appoint two new members to SSTAC that represent ethnic minority groups and potential transit users who are 60 years of age or older..

E. Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS) Update

Summary: The PTIS is a planned five-phase study that will identify and evaluate viable alternative mass transportation options and land use strategies for Fresno County. When completed, the PTIS will have developed ridership and cost projections for various scenarios to establish a long-range plan leading to optimum connectivity within the region. The information is intended to aid Fresno County policy makers with understanding the impacts of transportation and land use policy decisions.

The first phase of the study contained four major elements or tasks. Task 1 entailed a review of current plans and studies including the general plans for the incorporated cities and the county; current long and short-range urban and rural transit plans; and a variety of associated transportation planning studies such as the City of Fresno's Pre-Major Investment Study and the Caltrans Growth Response Study. The purpose of this task was to identify the transit supportive strengths and opportunities within existing planning policies and studies.

Task 2 prepared case studies of other regions including Portland, Oregon; Sacramento, California; and San Diego, California. The case studies were part of a peer evaluation process designed to identify possible lessons that can be applied to Fresno County and utilized by policy makers as they evaluate current and proposed transportation and land use policies.

Task 3 was a detailed land use and infrastructure assessment that focused on identifying the existing level of transit and pedestrian supportive development in our cities. Because studies such as the Downtown Fresno Transportation Infrastructure Study, the Growth Response Study, Pre-Major Investment Study, and the Fresno Area Express Long-range Transit Plan focus infrastructure within the FCMA, the urbanized area of the FCMA was specifically excluded from this process to make better use of limited study funds. In addition to an evaluation of transit supportive development in individual cities, part of the process incorporated a more detailed evaluation of three proposed transit corridors including:

- The BNSF rail Corridor
- The Southeast Corridor (Sanger, Parlier, Reedley, and Orange Cove)
- The Highway 99 and UP rail Corridor.

The final task, Task 3, will focus on public outreach. The purpose of this task is to share the information gathered through the PTIS process and provide an opportunity for public comment on the process and the findings.

An executive summary of Phase 1 of the PTIS is included in your agenda package. [DOWNS]

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

F. Early Authorization of Proposed Staffing in FY 2006/07 Budget

Summary: Included in the 2006/07 Budget are personnel changes to fund an authorized but previously unbudgeted Planner I position and to convert an authorized, unbudgeted Planner position to an Executive Assistant. Due to increased work loads, primarily surrounding the recently authorized California Blueprint Planning effort, staff wishes to fund these positions in April. We have sufficient salary savings to cover the costs.

Also included in this action is a request to hire Valley Research and Planning Associates on a "services as needed" basis to help us as we develop the strategic approach to implement the California Blueprint program. There is \$4,000 budgeted for Temporary Help to pay for this service. There is also some additional contingency in Salary and Benefits as described below,

should the need for services exceed the \$4,000. However in any event the total services required will not exceed \$10,000, which is our “cap” for sole source contracting.

Included in the 2005/06 budget was a Planner II position which became vacant in December and a reserve to retain our previous Deputy Director on a part- time “services as needed” basis which went unused when he accepted employment as Director of the Fresno County Transportation Authority. The contingency from these two positions is adequate to cover the cost of this recommendation. [BESHEARS]

Action: Authorize the Executive Director to implement personnel changes programmed in the 2006/07 Budget three months in advance and hire Valley Planning & Research for “services as needed” not to exceed \$10,000.

G. “One Voice” – Updates –Sacramento Efforts

Summary: Working in tandem with our state lobbyist (Steve Samuelian, California Consulting Inc.) Fresno COG staff will be leading a delegation of elected officials, public administrators and interested community stakeholders to Sacramento March 13th -15th in an effort to promote projects of regional importance and educate policymakers on transportation issues that are important to the Fresno County region. The meeting schedule for the trip is enclosed. Staff will provide an update on the results of Fresno COG’s Sacramento “One Voice” efforts at the committee meetings this month. [DEVERE]

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

H. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Update

Summary: Our work on the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint planning process has now begun in earnest. During March, several COG staff from around the Valley attended a training session at UC Merced. The purpose of the training, entitled “Systematic Development of Informed Consent”, was intended to hone our skills at developing informed consent among Blueprint stakeholders.

We are currently scheduling meetings with our Policy Board members to discuss the Blueprint process with them and discuss their responses to questions we have posed. We will be scheduling meetings with TTC and PAC as well. Other imminent tasks include determining how we will address our decision making process and our outreach strategy. Our goal is to have a diverse and enthusiastic representation participating in the Blueprint planning process. The enclosures include questions we will be asking and a summary of the overall decision-making process. [STECK]

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

I. Tolling and Pricing Opportunities Update

Summary: Last month staff informed our committees and the Policy Board that we had submitted a letter expressing interest in pursuing grant funding through the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Value Pricing Pilot Program. The grant funding would be used to identify and develop feasible, innovative road pricing projects to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution linked to increases in truck traffic in and through the San Joaquin Valley. The letter was requested through members of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

On March 1, 2006 COG staff received electronic correspondence from FHWA regarding our "Letter of Interest". In summary, the letter states that FHWA is aware of the importance of SR 99 and I-5 to efficient freight movement in California, as well as the broad recognition of this by political leaders, including the Governor of California. FHWA also states that while withholding judgment until receipt and review of a final proposal, our initial plan to focus on key steps--engaging stakeholders, evaluating options and selecting the best option, developing support, and finally pursuing implementation funding--appears to be viable. Going further, FHWA states that Caltrans as the owner/operator of the state highway system would be the logical entity to submit the grant proposal. With this in mind, COG staff has contacted Caltrans District 06 acting Director Alan McCuen to determine Caltrans willingness to serve as the lead agency on the project or in the event they cannot serve as the lead agency, partnering with Fresno COG on the application submittal.

In any event, Fresno COG (acting as project lead for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley) will submit a Value Pricing Pilot Program grant application to FHWA by the March 31, 2006 deadline, subject to Policy Board approval. [BOREN/GOODWIN]

Action: Fresno COG staff recommends the TTC/PAC and Policy Board approve submittal of the Value Pricing Pilot Program grant application to the Federal Highways Administration.

J. Measure "C" Reauthorization Update

Summary: On February 24, 2006 the Fresno COG Measure "C" Reauthorization Steering Committee approved the 2006 Measure "C" Extension Expenditure Plan by a vote of 18 ayes, 1 no (Valley Taxpayers Coalition) and 1 abstention (Sierra Club-Tehipite Chapter). Included as hand-outs are the approved Expenditure Plan and a schedule that identifies the remaining work to be completed in order to place the Expenditure Plan on the November 2006 ballot. The COG Policy Board will not be able to take a formal vote of support on the Expenditure Plan until the accompanying program level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been completed and public comment requirements have been met. Once these requirements are met the Policy Board will be requested to certify the EIR and approve the Expenditure Plan in June 2006. [BOREN].

Action: Fresno COG staff recommends the Policy Board vote to support the preliminary endorsement of the 2006 Measure "C" Extension Plan

K. 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 Committee.

L. California Rural Assistance Technology Education (CRATE)

Summary: The California Rural Assistance Technology Education (CRATE) Project has been designed to support affordable housing and community facilities programs and projects in rural areas of the state, with an emphasis on promoting opportunities for homeownership, especially for low-income and minority families. To achieve this goal, the CRATE Project seeks to help recipients (rural cities) to improve and increase their capacities to provide homeownership assistance by incorporating heretofore financially and technically prohibitive GIS data mapping technologies into their housing initiatives. Through CRATE, recipients will be trained to utilize a

new and *free* Internet-based GIS program – Neighborhood Knowledge California (NKCA) <http://www.nkca.ucla.edu/beta> – that has been developed by the UCLA Advanced Policy Institute (API) specifically for community and rural users. [RAMIREZ]

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

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

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