

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Date: Friday, May 19, 2006
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: COG Sequoia Conference Room
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201

I. PRESENTATIONS

A. 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.**

B. Presentation - COG Board Community Workshop – Dr. Jackie Ryle, Facilitator

Summary: On May 5th the COG hosted a COG Policy Board Community Workshop. The goal of the workshop was to reconsider the mission of the organization and help establish the vision for the organization as it moves into the future. Dr. Ryle served as the Facilitator for the workshop and will make a presentation to the Board regarding the results of the Workshop.

Action: Information/Discussion.

C. Presentation at COG Board on May 25 - Fresno County Gang Predicament – Alvin Harrell, Deputy District Attorney, Gang Division

Summary: Due to the increasing problem of gang violence and related gang issues in all the cities in Fresno County, COG Boardmember, Scott Brockett (Reedley) requested that this item be placed on the agenda for a presentation, discussion and consideration of action. Alvin Harrell, Deputy District Attorney will make a presentation on the present gang problem in Fresno County and the new gang that is coming into California. Mr. Brockett will have a sample resolution available for the Board which is asking for collective support from the cities in order to seek grants on gang issues and enforcement.

Action: Information/Action.

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. Executive Minutes of April 14, 2006

B. Transportation Development Act Final Estimates, Resolution 2006-08, Resolution 2006-09

Summary: Preliminary estimates for the 2006/07 Transportation Development Act Local Transportation Fund (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) were released in March based on the January 2005 population numbers. Final revised estimates are provided when the State Department of Finance releases the January 2006 population numbers. The January 2006 population numbers were released on May 1 and updated LTF and STA estimates are included in your agenda packet. [BESHEARS]

Action: Adopt the final estimates by approving Resolution 2006-08 and 2006-09.

C. Transportation Funding Claim, 2005-06 City of Fresno, Resolution 2006-10

Summary: The City of Fresno has submitted their 2005/06 Transportation Development Act Claim. The amounts claimed for Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds are:

Agency	LTF Fund	STA Fund	Total
City of Fresno COG [BESHEARS]	\$17,206,046	\$1,254,013	\$18,460,059

Action: Staff and TTC recommend approval of the City of Fresno Transportation Funding Claim by adoption of Resolution 2006-10.

D. Transit Planning Documents

1. Urban & Rural Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) Operations Program & Budget, 2006-07

Summary: Included in your agenda packet is the Consolidated Transportation Service Agency's (CTSA) Operations Program and Budget, 2005-06 for the Fresno Urban and Rural CTSA. The document is designed to provide an overview of how and in what manner the Consolidated Transportation Service Agencies will be providing service over the next fiscal year. The Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) reviewed the document on April 25th and recommended initiation of the 45-day review. [JOSEPH]

Action: Staff, SSTAC and TTC recommend concurrence with the initiation of the 45 day review of the document for adoption on June 22, 2006.

2. Clovis Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) 2006-07 Operations Program & Budget

Summary: Included in your agenda packet is the Clovis Consolidated Transportation Service Agency's (CTSA) Operations Program and Budget, 2006-07 for the Clovis Urban Area. The document is designed to provide an overview of how and in what manner the Clovis Consolidated Transportation Service Agency will provide service over the next fiscal year. The Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) reviewed the document on April 25th and recommended initiation of the 45-day review. [HALTERMAN]

Action: Staff, SSTAC and TTC recommend concurrence with the initiation of the 45 day review of the document for adoption on June 22, 2006.

3. FCRTA Item: 2006-07 Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Budget

Summary: Provided in your agenda package is a copy of the Draft 2006-07 Budget. It is available for your review, comment, and action during a forty-five (45) day review period that will culminate on June 22, 2006 with the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) Board Meeting. The numbers in the Draft Budget are subject to refinement following: service contract negotiations, an opportunity for public presentations to each FCRTA member agency; and a public presentation before the Board of Directors. [WEBSTER]

Action: The FCRTA General Manager and TTC recommend initiation of the 45-day review of the 2006-07 Fresno County Rural Transit Agency Budget scheduled for approval consideration by the FCRTA Board on June 22, 2006.

E. Appointments to the COG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council

Summary: The SSTAC was formed in May 1988 by the Council of Fresno County Governments (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 April 25, 2006 meeting, Ms. Terri Staples of Fresno requested appointment to SSTAC. Ms. Staples is a 76 year old disabled transit user and who will be listed as a *Potential Transit User 60 years of age or older*. Ms. Staples is being recommended by SSTAC for membership. [DOWNS]

Action: Staff, SSTAC and TTC recommend the appointment of one new member to SSTAC.

F. Administrative Amendment No. 21 to the 2004-05 through 2009-10 Federal Transportation Improvement Program

Summary: Administrative Amendment No. 21: This amendment was approved on April 24, 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 Coalinga Lump-Sum Alley Paving project: The City of Coalinga has added \$22,400 of their unprogrammed CMAQ lifeline funds into the construction phase of this project for FY 2005/06.

Change to the *Regional Surface Transportation Program*.

- City of Clovis Lump-Sum Widening Narrow Pavement/Median Islands project: The City of Clovis has added \$84,700 of their unprogrammed RSTP lifeline funds into the construction phase of this project for FY 2005/06. [DEVERE]

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

G. Roundabout Design Course

Summary: The Institute of Transportation Studies at The University of California Berkeley is presenting a new 2 day course on Roundabout design.

This course will provide information on how to determine where roundabouts may be a better and more feasible option than traditional intersections. The course will guide transportation practitioners through the various design aspects and processes for roundabouts at existing and new intersection locations, taking into consideration the needs of all road users (motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists). It will cover designs of a variety of different types of roundabouts, depending on the type of road user anticipated--from high capacity multi-lane roundabouts to modern single-lane roundabouts to mini-roundabouts (typically used for traffic calming). Best practices as well as design pitfalls for roundabouts will also be covered. This is a hands-on training, and attendees will be engaged in various design related exercises.

The class will be June 13-14, 2006 at the University of California Berkeley Richmond Field station. Registration and Fee is \$195. To register visit www.techtransfer.berkeley.edu
[BITNER]

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

H. Free Traffic Safety Evaluation Service for Your City

Summary: The Institute of Transportation Studies at The University of California Berkeley offers a free traffic safety evaluation service for your city. Traffic crashes that cause injury, death, and property damage can be reduced by improving local enforcement and engineering practices and programs.

Tech Transfer's Traffic Safety Evaluation (TSE) service will review your city's or county's traffic safety conditions, programs and needs, as well as provide recommendations for developing and implementing new strategies to improve local traffic safety.

A request for the TSE service can be initiated by either a local public works or police department. Once contacted, TSE will schedule a two-day visit to your city or county on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information visit www.techtransfer.berkeley.edu or contact Jen Wong at 510 665-3523. [BITNER]

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

I. Notice of Preparation of Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Proposed 2006 Measure "C" ½ Percent Sales Tax Extension Expenditure Plan

Summary: The 2006 Measure "C" Extension Expenditure Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was released for a 45 day review and comment on April 14, 2006. The review and comment period terminates on June 1, 2006. The DEIR has been mailed to interested stakeholders and the State Clearinghouse. It is also available on the Fresno COG website and at Fresno County libraries.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that a Draft Environmental Impact Report be prepared and distributed for a 45 day-review by regulatory and other affected agencies and persons, prior to preparation of the Final EIR. The Draft EIR provides the opportunity for comments on the proposed project and the Draft EIR. Once comments are received following the 45-day review period, comments will be considered and responses will be incorporated in the Final EIR to address any changes or additions necessary to clarify and/or supplement the information contained in the document. [BOREN]

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

J. 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 Renée 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.

K. Regional Clearinghouse

	Project	Applicant
1.	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for 2006 Section 202 Supportive Housing Capital Advance Grant Program	Southern California Presbyterian Homes.
2.	U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grant	West Hills Community College District
3.	U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grant	Orange Cove County Fire Protection District
4.	U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grant	City of San Joaquin
5.	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant for FY2006-07	County of Fresno

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

Southern California Presbyterian Homes is applying for a US Department of Housing and Urban Development for 2006 Section 202 Supportive Housing Capital Advance Grant Program in the amount of \$5,399,400 (Federal), \$25,000 (Applicant), and \$400,000 local funding for a grant total in the amount of \$5,824,400

West Hills Community College District is applying for a US Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grant in the amount of \$31,893 (Federal), and \$10,671 (Applicant) for a grant total in the amount of \$42,564.

Orange Cove County Fire Protection District is applying for a US Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grant in the amount of \$19,525 (Federal), and \$15,975 (Applicant) for a grant total in the amount of \$35,500

City of San Joaquin is applying for a US Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grant in the amount of \$31,890 (Federal), and \$10,674 (Applicant) for a grant total in the amount of \$42,564..

County of Fresno is applying for a US Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant for FY2006-07 in the amount of \$4,084,944 (Entitlement) and \$1,500,000 (Program Income) for a total amount of \$5,584,944. [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.

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2006-07 Overall Work Program and Budget, Resolution 2006-04

Summary: The draft FY 2006-07 Overall Work Program and Budget (OWP) which totaled \$5,803,052 (including carryover projects), was presented to our COG committees and released for its required 45 day public review and comment period in February, 2006. The Final FY 2006-07 OWP presented for adoption this month reflects an increase of \$676,933 from the draft OWP, and now totals \$6,479,985. The bulk of the additional funding (\$587,983) comes from the need to incorporate a new work element into the OWP. The new Work Element (314-Public Transit-Human Services Transportation) provides funding for new federal transit programs established in SAFETEA-LU. These new programs, *Section 5316-Jobs Access Reverse Commute* and *Section 5317-New Freedom Program* are focused on providing transportation services for persons with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with lower incomes by ensuring that agencies coordinate transportation resources provided through multiple federal programs. In addition, Work Elements 313-Environmental Justice, and 118-Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan have been added to reflect those work efforts in the upcoming year.

Additional changes to the draft OWP now reflected in the Final OWP include the following:

- \$50,000 to hire a consultant to complete the Regional Transportation Plan Environmental Impact Report. Our 2004 Regional Transportation Plan will need to be updated in FY 2006-07 to become SAFETEA-LU compliant, and with that update will come the need to update the RTP Environmental Impact Report which was last updated in 1994.
- \$50,000 has been set aside as a carryover from FY05-06 for a consultant (Dowling & Assoc.) to conduct regional traffic modeling work required for Work Element 313 (Environmental Justice).
- \$39,645 to fund a temporary help position for modeling activities associated with the RTP update and Conformity Determination.
- \$7,368 to fund Fresno COG's pro-rata share of the California Progress Report. The *California Progress Report* is a project managed and coordinated by the California Center for Regional Leadership (CCRL) in partnership with CALCOG and many of the state's Councils of Governments. This report is being developed to provide a statewide, comprehensive, one-stop document that measures progress for broad measures of prosperity and community health across the regions that make up the state.
- \$1,900 to purchase Arc View software to support our regional traffic modeling activities.
- \$1,000 increase to COG VIEW budget (Cog's Internet Homepage)
- \$2,250 adjustment to EPA Grant Administration (Water Quality Project)
- \$14,400 adjustment to reflect one years worth of in-kind contribution to the Fresno-Madera County Freeway Interchange Deficiency Study Phase II project.
- \$556 in additional match requirement for the Southeast Asian Transit Awareness Project

Appendix E of the final OWP summarizes all comments received during the review period together with responses to the comments. The Intermodal Planning Group, consisting of representatives from

the Federal Highways Administration, Federal Transit Administration and Caltrans met on March 21st, 2006 to review the document. The responses to comments and the OWP itself were found to be adequate. The document has completed the 45 day review period and is ready for final approval. [BOREN]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend the approval the FY 2006-07 Overall Work Program and Budget by approval of Resolution 2006-04.

B. San Joaquin Valley COG's State Transportation Bond and State Legislative Position

Summary: In an effort to speak in "One Voice" on identified Valleywide issues, the eight Valley COG Directors met to discuss areas of agreement. As part of that process, an issues paper (included in the agenda packet) has been developed and is being presented to each of the Policy Boards for their consideration and approval. Once this approval is gained on the following topics, a unified proposal will be presented to our representatives in Sacramento.

- State Bond Proposal - must include minimum \$1 billion for Highway 99
- Permanent Proposition 42 Fix
- State Transportation Improvement Program – Additional Funding
- Goods Movement Emphasis – Valley Issues
- Funding to reward Self Help Counties

Included in your packet is a copy of SB 1266, (*Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006*), which has passed both the Senate and Assembly and awaits the Governor's approval in order to be placed on the November 2006 ballot. [GOODWIN]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend approval of the positions outlined in the attached issue paper for the topics listed above.

C. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint – 5 Items for Approval and/or Consideration

Summary: We have been providing our committees and Policy Board with a running commentary on the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint project since the funding availability was announced last summer. During this time, we have been working with our colleagues at the other seven Valley COGs to operationalize the process that will guide our activities over the next two years. This month we have three action items and two information items pertaining to the Blueprint. [STECK]

1. Blueprint Decision Making Process

Summary: The enclosed memo describes the Blueprint Decision making Process. There are three graphics attached that communicate the proposed Blueprint Decision Making Process:

1. Decision Making Diagram - Illustrates the bottom up approach to this planning process;
2. Process Matrix – Outlines the sequence of activities and major decision making points;
3. Planning Process Project Schedule

Action: Staff and TTC recommend approval of the Blueprint Decision Making Process and the associated Blueprint Graphics/Charts listed above.

2. Blueprint Citizen Participation Plan

Summary: The enclosed memo provides an overview of the Draft Citizen Participation Plan. This plan proposes the following elements to invite the public to participate while developing the Blueprint Plan:

- Use existing Committees, Clubs and Organizations
- Form a Blueprint Roundtable Advisory Committee
- Use Fresno COG website & COG Outlook
- Use media releases
- Use e-mail/direct mail
- Document comments received and how they were considered in the planning process

Action: Staff and TTC recommend approval of the Blueprint Citizen Participation Plan.

3. Blueprint Regional Advisory Committee (BRAC)

Summary: The enclosed memo describes the formation of a committee that will address the Valleywide perspective of the Blueprint project. The purpose of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint Advisory Committee is to make regional recommendations pertaining to the creation of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint. The intent for each committee member is to:

- Become a champion of the final SJV Regional Blueprint vision;
- Advocate implementation of the SJV Regional Blueprint products to the local jurisdictions;
- Promote the SJV Regional Blueprint strategies at the state and federal levels.

The memo further describes the committee's responsibilities, appointment and interest group representation. In addition to eight elected officials (one appointed by each COG Governing Board), there is a diversity of interest groups that will be represented.

Action 1: Request COG Policy Board to appoint an elected official to sit on the Blueprint Regional Advisory Committee as the elected official from Fresno County.

Action 2: Information item - attached is an application for others who are interested in serving on this committee.

4. Blueprint Technical Outline

Summary: The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Program will incorporate the use of many technical tools. These tools will be broken up into several categories; Land Use, Transportation and Public Participation. The enclosed memo describes the current status of modeling activities.

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

5. Blueprint Summit – June 28, 2006

Summary: The final item in this section is a notice of the upcoming Blueprint Summit which will be held in Fresno on June 28, 2006. Leaders from the entire San Joaquin Valley will be in attendance. We encourage your participation.

The purpose of the Valley Blueprint Summit will be to:

- Help publicly launch the Blueprint effort
- Highlight the Blueprint process
- Highlight how people can become engaged in the Blueprint effort
- Include an opportunity for attendees to share ideas about the future of the region

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

D. Future Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Procedures

Summary: As indicated earlier this year, new air quality regulations have required that the eight San Joaquin Valley MPOs coordinate both conformity determinations and certain formal amendments to the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). Beginning in April 2006, the San Joaquin Valley MPOs must demonstrate conformity for PM2.5 pollutants. There are several methods to demonstrate conformity, including the use of "emission budgets" developed by the Air District; these budgets indicate the level of emissions that are allowed. Emission budgets are typically developed at the county level and allow each MPO to operate somewhat independently of each other. The Air District will not develop budgets for PM2.5 until 2008, and for at least two more years, the eight counties of the Valley must coordinate transportation programming activities. Staff will provide an overview of these requirements and the coordinated schedule through 2008 as they relate to future amendments. [DEVERE/PAUKOVITS]

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

E. Timely Implementation of Transportation Control Measures

Summary: In October 2001, the San Joaquin Valley Transportation Planning Agencies (TPAs) and local jurisdictions began identifying transportation projects that could be included in the Air District's 2002 Ozone Plan. The projects were referred to as "Reasonably Available Control Measures" (RACMs). RACM is a general term referring to strategies used for air pollution control, such as a measure to reduce traffic congestion at intersections. Over 1200 measures were identified and submitted to the Air District. These measures were also included in the PM-10 Plan to reduce particulate matter emissions.

In 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the 1200 RACMs as part of the PM-10 plan. However, they were approved as Transportation Control Measures (TCMs), instead of simply RACMs. The difference is that once measures are defined as TCMs, they are subject to a number of requirements. To enforce these requirements, federal regulations require that priority funding be given to TCMs, and the region must demonstrate that each TCM is being implemented in a timely manner. If timely implementation is not demonstrated, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) cannot approve the Valley's conformity determination, which is the air quality analysis submitted by the TPAs with transportation plans and programs.

Over the last 12 months, the TPAs and consultants have explored a number of ways of eliminating the TCM requirements or improving the situation:

- The TPA Director's Association wrote a letter to EPA Region 9 requesting relief.
- The air quality policy consultants for the Director's Association followed up with an informal proposal to EPA to revise the air quality plan and replace the 1200 measures. EPA did not support this approach, but suggested ways to reduce the workload.
- The policy consultants recommended that the TPAs not pursue potential legislative relief until first working with EPA and FHWA to reduce the workload.

While EPA approved the entire package of RACMs as TCMs, many of the 1200 measures do not meet the TCM definition in the Clean Air Act or are not eligible for federal funding. Such measures would not be subject to the timely implementation requirements. The following steps have been pursued by the TPAs to reduce the number of measures requiring timely implementation documentation:

- Developed criteria to identify measures that would no longer need timely implementation documentation.
- Held a workshop in March 2006 to make a "final" determination on the status of all 1200 measures.
- Resulting from the meetings and the March 2006 workshop was the elimination of approximately 460 of the 1200 measures.

In summary, the workload has been substantially reduced, but not eliminated. Included in the package is the list of measures that must be tracked for timely implementation. As part of the conformity determination for the 2006 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), Fresno COG staff has contacted all of our member agencies for project updates. Again, failure to provide this information or complete these projects could result in a conformity lapse, halting over \$250 million in transportation funding to the San Joaquin Valley each year. Please contact Fresno COG staff if you would like additional information. [PAUKOVITS]

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

F. County of Fresno Request for COG to Host a Land Buffer--Green Belt Task Force

Summary: Over the last several months, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors has been considering the formation of a Land Buffer Task Force to assess the possibility of establishing land buffers between cities within Fresno County.

On April 25, 2006, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors approved the criteria for Land Buffer Task Force membership (comprised of approximately 40 groups/individuals) and requested the Council of Fresno County Governments to initiate the establishment of, and to administer, a regional Land Buffer Task Force. The Board of Supervisors felt that Fresno COG was the appropriate regional forum to approach this important discussion, and best suited to encourage involvement by all interested parties in a collaborative effort. Pursuant to this action, the County Board of Supervisors formally requested that COG place an item proposing the formation of a Land Buffer Task Force on its May agenda for consideration by the Policy Board at its May 25, 2006 meeting.

As indicated in the staff report prepared for the April 12th Board of Supervisors hearing (attached), the basic objectives of the Task Force would be to:

- Identify funding and management mechanisms necessary to purchase/hold the identified land-buffer areas in perpetuity for land-buffer/greenbelt purposes; and
- Develop implementation policies for local agencies' consideration and adoption to preserve those identified geographical areas.
- The Task Force should also, with participation of the affected cities, designate subcommittees to identify potential areas between the Fresno/Clovis Metropolitan Area and the Cities of Sanger and Kerman, between the Cities of Reedley, Parlier and Selma, and between the Cities of Fresno, Selma, Fowler, and Kingsburg for land-buffer or transition areas to maintain identity between the cities (land buffers can be maintained as agricultural, natural open space, park/trail uses). [BOREN]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend the COG Policy Board agrees to allow COG to host the Land Buffer/Greenbelt Task Force per the Fresno County Board of Supervisor's request.

G. 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.

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.**