

**POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ANNOTATED AGENDA**

Date: Friday, April 14, 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. 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 -- The California Integrated Logistics Center – Presentation by R. Brent Green, Business Development Director, City of Shafter

Summary: John Guinn, Business Development Director of the City of Shafter will be giving a presentation on *California Integrated Logistics Center*. The City of Shafter believes that this project would benefit the entire state and nation by using existing infrastructure and extracting efficiencies out of the current inefficient system. Of particular interest is its effect on the truck traffic on Highway 99 through the San Joaquin Valley. [BITNER]

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

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. Joint TTC/PAC Executive Minutes of March 17, 2006

B. Consultant Selection for City of Fresno Transit Master Plan

Summary: Under the terms of an agreement between the City of Fresno, Medical Advocates for Healthy Air (MAHA) and Fancher Creek Properties, LLC (Fancher Creek) the City has agreed to prepare, and Fancher Creek agreed to fund preparation of a "Transit Master Plan" for the Fresno metropolitan area. At the December 2005 meeting the COG Policy Board authorized the Executive Director to develop and issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to develop a Transit Master Plan as defined under the terms of the agreement between the City of Fresno, MAHA and Fancher Creek.

The RFQ for the development of the Transit Master Plan was issued in January 2006. The COG received responses from Nelson\Nygaard Planning Associates of San Francisco and Kimley-Horn and Associates of Oakland. Both firms have excellent qualifications and have extensive experience in developing transit plans.

The Transit Master Plan Selection Committee met on March 27, 2006, to evaluate the qualifications and experience of the two firms to determine which firm would best meet the objectives of this project. Although both firms were found to be excellent in all aspects of experience and qualifications, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc was selected by the Committee.

The RFQ process agreed on by MAHA, the City of Fresno and Fancher Creek provided for selecting the best firm without consideration of cost. The actual cost of the plan development will be negotiated as the final scope of work is prepared. Though the amount is not currently known, the project will be funded by Fancher Creek Properties, LLC as stated under the terms of the agreement. [Downs]

Action: Staff and TTC recommends the COG Policy Board authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a scope of work and to enter into a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to develop the Transit Master Plan for the Fresno Metropolitan Area.

C. "Welcome to Fresno County" Monument Dedication

Summary: For the last two years the Association for the Beautification of Highway 99 has been working to design and construct a "Welcome to Fresno County" gateway monument sign that will be placed at two locations on the northern and southern boundaries of Fresno County. The first of the monument signs has been completed, including landscaping, lighting and fencing. It is located on the west side of State Route 99 just north of the Herndon Avenue off-ramp. Everything that went into constructing the monument was donated to the development committee by a variety of generous donors. This includes the land the monument sign sits on, the materials used to construct the monument, the landscaping, and the access to electricity and water.

A monument sign dedication ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 10, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the northern monument site off of State Route 99. The agencies responsible for organizing this effort include Fresno COG's Association for the Beautification of Highway 99, the Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce, Caltrans and Fresno County. [LAUCHNER]

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

D. Fresno COG Board Community Workshop – May 5th and 6th

Summary: Fresno COG plays an essential role in our community's growth and transportation planning. In addition to our leadership role in transportation funding, planning and analysis, there is also a belief held by some, that the role that COG plays may be unknown, unclear or perhaps too narrowly focused.

Throughout the state, some COG organizations have evolved into groups concerned with issues beyond transportation planning...into regional collaborative organizations...into simply more focused, County-based groups. It is clear that no significant change will occur in the Fresno COG without attention to a plan, a vision and clear action steps to get us there.

It has been many years since the COG staff and Policy Board spent any considerable time considering the mission of the organization...or the vision for the organization moving into the next 5 – 10 years. Over the past several years, the Policy Board has indicated some interest in at least exploring the future vision of the organization...and the best way to do that is to first

engage the Policy Board with the larger community to generate some external input into the process. This community workshop is intended to engage stakeholders in the discussion of "what's possible" for the Policy Board to further refine and consider. To this end, we have scheduled the COG Board Community Workshop, followed by a Policy Board visioning session, for May 5th and 6th.

Objectives:

- To engage community stakeholders in the process of creating a vision for the COG.
- To identify possibilities for further consideration by the Policy Board...what other value might COG add to the region, the County and/or the cities it serves?
- To generate input for staff to use in crafting the organization's one- and five-year business plans. [STECK]

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

E. American Planning Association – Planning Awards Program

Summary: The Central Section of the California Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) is calling for nominations for the 2006 Planning Awards, open to planners, designers, planning firms, and agencies within the Section. The Central Section annually recognizes and rewards individuals and organizations for work which typifies excellence in planning and which generally advances the planning profession.

Winners of Section APA awards will be recognized at the Central Section APA Awards Banquet. Selected Section award winners may also be considered for State awards. Awards judged to be outstanding at the State level may also be nominated for National recognition. Award Categories include: Outstanding Planning, Leadership and Service and Journalism/Media. The call for projects is included in your package. [STECK]

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

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

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 March 28, 2006 meeting, Mr. Bill Sheen of Clovis requested appointment to SSTAC. Mr. Sheen is a blind transit user and who will be listed as a *Potential Transit User Who is Disabled*. Mr. Sheen is 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.

During the April TTC meeting, John Donaldson, League of Women Voters, nominated Terri Staples who is a disabled senior citizen for membership, and Trichelle Suntrapak, County of Fresno, said that the County would be submitting the name of a candidate from the Southeast Asian Community. These nominees will be invited to the next SSTAC meeting to meet the

Committee members and to be informed of SSTAC's role with the COG. SSTAC will forward recommendations on these individuals following the SSTAC meeting on April 25, 2006. [DOWNS]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend the appointment of Bill Sheen to SSTAC and forward the additional nominations to the SSTAC. Also, consider other appointments if nominations are put forward.

G. 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 Committee.

H. Regional Clearinghouse Consent Calendar

	Project	Applicant
1.	US Department of Commerce – University Center Export Program, Economic Development Grant	State Center Community College District
2.	US Department of Agriculture – Rural Utilities Grant. Phase II Development and Construction of expanded wastewater treatment plant	City of Mendota, Dept. of Public Works

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

State Center Community College District is applying for a US Department of Commerce – University Center Export Program, Economic Development Grant in the amount of \$540,721 (Federal) and \$425,275 in matching funds for a grant total in the amount of \$965,996.

City of Mendota, Department of Public Works is applying for a US Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities program grant in the amount of \$2,250,000 (Federal loan), a \$2,000,000 State Grant and \$953,050 in matching funds for a grant total in the amount of \$5,203,050. [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. Results of 2006 SAFETEA-LU Cycle II Call for Projects

1. Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)
2. Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality CMAQ)
3. Transportation Enhancement (TE)

Summary: With the passage of SAFETEA-LU, the new Federal Surface Transportation Act, Fresno COG, acting in its role as a Metropolitan Planning Organization, has begun the process of programming future federal transportation revenues that will come to the Fresno County Region under three federal-aid programs. These three programs are the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP), the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, and the Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program. The COG Policy Board initiated a "Call for Projects" on January 26, 2006, with project submittals due March 1, 2006. Scoring Committees comprised of member agency staff, Caltrans, Air District staff and various transportation stakeholders were formed for each program and met during the second half of March to help staff evaluate, score and prioritize the project applications for funding. The results of the Scoring Committee for each of the three programs are described below and in the enclosures for this item.

Regional Surface Transportation Program

The amount available in this cycle of RSTP funding was \$16,428,869. Twelve of the sixteen jurisdictions in Fresno County submitted a total of 49 separate applications for project funding under the program. The total request for these 49 projects was \$47,805,946.

On March 22, 2006, the RSTP Scoring Committee met to review, discuss, and score these projects. The Scoring Committee included representatives from six agencies, including Fresno COG, Caltrans, Fresno-Clovis Metro, Eastside Cities, Westside Cities, and Fresno County.

Following the results of the Scoring Committee process, nineteen projects from eleven jurisdictions are recommended to receive funding. The split of the money between the urban and rural areas is approximately equal with the urban area receiving 48% (\$7,851,200) of the funding and the rural area receiving 52% (\$8,577,669) of the funding. Included as an enclosure are the Scoring Committee recommendations. [DEVERE]

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program

Approximately \$28,524,240 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds were available for the 2006 Call for Projects. Approximately 36 projects, totaling over \$40 million, were submitted in response to this request. On March 27, 2006, the CMAQ Scoring Committee met to review, discuss, and score these projects. The Scoring Committee included representatives from eight agencies, including Fresno-Clovis Metro, Eastside Cities, Westside Cities, Fresno County, Fresno COG, Caltrans, the Air District, and Transit Agencies.

Included in the package are the Scoring Committee recommendations. The Committee recommends funding for 22 projects in five different categories. Twelve of the thirteen agencies that submitted applications received funding. Below is a summary of the funding by category: [PAUKOVITS]

<u>Category</u>	<u>Total Projects</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Transit	3	\$12,490,842
Alternative Fuels	6	\$9,412,999
Traffic Flow Improvements	2	\$4,086,700
Pedestrian/Bicycle	7	\$1,682,806
<u>PM-10</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>\$850,893</u>
Total	22	\$28,524,240

Transportation Enhancements

Ten of the sixteen jurisdictions in Fresno County submitted a total of 21 separate applications for project funding under the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program. The total request for these 21 projects is \$9,658,000. The amount available in this cycle of funding was \$6,159,000.

The TE Scoring Committee met on March 15, 2006 to review, discuss, and score these projects. The Scoring Committee was comprised of eight individuals representing Fresno, Clovis, Fresno County, Eastside Cities, Westside Cities, Caltrans, Fresno COG, and the Fresno Cycling Club.

Seven jurisdictions and thirteen projects are recommended to receive funding. Fresno and Clovis, with 62.34 percent of the total county population received 62.59 percent of total TE funding. Selma, Kingsburg, Fowler, Mendota, and the County, with 24.92 percent of the total population received 37.41 percent of total TE funding. Of particular note is the fact that the three highest ranked applications (and four of the top five) come from mid-sized and smaller communities. This should encourage smaller communities to compete for future TE Program funding, knowing that well-designed projects can compete successfully with projects submitted by the larger jurisdictions. [THOMPSON]

The SAFETEA-LU Subcommittee, which met on March 29, 2006, concurred with the recommendations of the Scoring Committees.

Action: The RSTP, CMAQ, and TE Scoring Committees and the SAFETEA-LU Subcommittee and TTC recommend approval of the respective priority list of projects as presented.

B. Formal Amendment No. 20 to the 2004-05 through 2009-10 Federal Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution 2006-06, PUBLIC HEARING: 4-27-06

Summary: Amendment No. 20 to the 2004-05 through 2009-10 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) consists of two parts. Part A: modifications to existing program funding and Part B: the addition of agency specific High Priority Project funds.

PART A:

Amendment No. 20 allows staff and member agencies to prepare for the 2005/2006 Obligation Plan. The Obligation Plan provides staff the ability to estimate project delivery against available obligational authority as the federal fiscal year comes to a close. Projects programmed with Regional Surface Transportation Program funds and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program funds are being modified in this amendment to reflect the anticipated FFY 05/06 delivery schedule. To accomplish this, projects currently programmed within the FTIP are being expedited or delayed depending on individual agency recommendation and available financial constraint. All projects included in the attachment, unless marked as part B, are a part of this preparatory exercise.

PART B:

High Priority Project funds are being added into the County of Fresno Friant Road Project (FRE020647) and the Caltrans 180 West Project (FRE041109). High Priority Project funds are earmarks called out in SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) legislation for use on specific projects. Programming of these funds requires the addition of a lump sum account for payback of advance construction (FRE040201).

For questions regarding individual projects in this amendment please contact Renee DeVere.
[DEVERE]

Action: Staff and TTC recommend the approval of Formal Amendment No. 20 to the 2004-05 through 2009-10 Federal Transportation Improvement Program by the adoption of Resolution No. 2006-06.

C. Caltrans Monthly Report – SHOPP Report

Summary: Caltrans staff will provide an update on Caltrans activities. The State Highway Operations & Protection Program (SHOPP) report is included in your agenda packet.
[CALTRANS]

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

D. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint – Roundtable Discussion

Summary: During the month of March we held meetings with many of our Policy Board members in order to discuss the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint planning process with them. During those meetings we engaged in a discussion centered on the interview questions we distributed to all our committees last month. We would now like to expand the conversation in a roundtable discussion format at our TTC and PAC meetings. A copy of the questions and the cumulative responses we have received thus far is included in your packet. We look forward to discussing these issues with you and hearing your input at the meeting.

In addition to the involvement of COG committees and Policy Board in the Blueprint project, it seems self-evident that a successful project will also require the early and ongoing participation of local agency professional land use planning staff. Consequently, the Fresno COG will schedule a meeting of local planning directors/consultant planners at 3:00 p.m. on May 3rd to explain the Blueprint project, the nature and extent of their involvement in the project, and to answer any questions they will surely have. Because it is vitally important that all local agencies be represented, we would ask you to insure participation of appropriate staff at this meeting. An invitation will be sent within the week. [STECK]

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.**