

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Date: Friday, January 21, 2005
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: COG Conference Room

I. 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.**

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 November 12, 2004

B. Transportation Funding Claims

- 1. City of Fowler, 2004-05, Resolution 2005-02**
- 2. City of Fresno, 2004-05, Resolution 2005-03**

Summary: The City of Fowler and the City of Fresno have submitted their 2004/05 Transportation Development Act Claims. The amounts claimed for Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds are:

Jurisdiction:	LTF Fund:	STA Fund:	Total Funds:
City of Fowler	\$ 134,063	\$ 6,384	\$ 140,447
City of Fresno	\$16,552,028	\$1,303,132	\$17,855,160

Staff has reviewed the claims and find the amounts consistent with apportionments previously approved by the Board. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff recommends approval of the funding claims by adopting Resolution 2005-02 and 2005-03.

C. FY 2003-04 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 it's jurisdiction." If operators fail to reasonably respond to recommended productivity improvements, local transportation funds cannot exceed appropriationment for the prior year.

The FY 2003-04 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 2003-04 Report (included in the agenda package) 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 approved by the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) on December 8, 2004. [VILLENEUVE]

Action: Staff recommends acceptance the FY 2003-04 Transit Productivity Evaluation Report.

D. Acceptance of 2003-04 COG Fiscal Year Audit Report

Summary: The auditing firm Brown Armstrong CPA, has completed our financial audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004. The report contains an unqualified opinion and includes no findings of non compliance. The report satisfies state and federal requirements and will be forwarded to our funding agencies. The report shows the agency operated within the parameters of the adopted budget with total operating expenses of \$3,019,534. Revenue in excess of expenditures was \$28,571 and the unreserved fund balance is \$341,794. The fund balance also includes reserves for encumbrances of \$801,251 and \$91,757 designated for self-insurance. [BESHEARS]

Action: Staff recommends accepting the 2003/04 Fiscal Audit.

E. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - Competitive Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM-C) Grant Program - Call for Projects

Summary: The Federal Emergency Management Association is now accepting applications for the fiscal year 2004/2005 PDM-C Grant program. State agencies, local governments, special districts, colleges, universities, and organized Indian tribes are eligible to apply.

To receive funding for hazard mitigation projects, subgrantees must have adopted a FEMA approved local multi-hazard mitigation plan prior to the date of selection and the project must be consistent with the goals and objectives of that plan. FEMA anticipates the date of selection by the Approving Federal Official will be May 1, 2005.

Sub-grant applications must be submitted to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) via the FEMA electronic grants (e-Grants) system by February 11, 2005. The State must submit the complete grant application containing all local sub-grant applications to FEMA by February 28, 2005. The fiscal year 2004/2005 Grant program has approximately \$255 million available, nation-wide, to fund cost-effective mitigation projects and local multi-hazard plans.

All questions regarding the FY 2004/2005 PDM-G and e-Grant account set up should be directed to the OES Hazard Mitigation Section at (916) 845-8150. Grant guidance is available at <http://www.fema.gov/fima/pdm>, with additional information available at the OES website at <http://www.oes.ca.gov>. [DEVERE]

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

F. Region-Based Statewide Indicators Report—Request for Financial Support

Summary: In June of 2004 the Policy Board approved involvement of the Fresno COG in development of a Region-Based Statewide Indicators Report for California. To recap, COG staff will collaborate with the California Center for Regional Leadership in developing California's first statewide indicators report and the nation's first Region-based Statewide Indicators Report that would track data on quality of life indicators for the state and the region. All Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Councils of Governments, and Regional Collaboratives in the State have been invited to participate. The goal is to produce a report that includes 5-10 state goals and 25-30 common measures, as well as unique goals and measures for the regions. The information in the indicators report will help us measure how well we are performing in areas such as Public Health, the Environment, Recreation and the Arts, Transportation, the Economy, Land Use and Housing, and social issues such as crime and education. The information in the report will also enable us to compare how well we are doing in these areas compared to other regions in the state.

COG staff is working with local partners such as United Way, the Fresno County Interagency Council on Families and Children, the Fresno Business Council, the Regional Jobs Initiative, and the Fresno Area Collaborative Regional Initiative on choosing local performance measures to analyze.

At this time, the President of the California Center for Regional Leadership, Nick Bollman, who is leading this statewide effort, is seeking financial support from all of the participating organizations for this endeavor. A consultant will need to be hired for this effort. Attached, is a listing of current financial commitments from other agencies in the state for this effort. Mr. Bollman has indicated that we are \$4,000 short in funding the first Phase of this project (Phase I Draft Work Plan attached). There will be two Phases altogether. Mr. Bollman is asking that each of the eight Valley COG's contribute \$500 to make up the remaining need.

As COG staff and the Policy Board overwhelmingly agreed that this is a worthwhile effort, staff recommends that the Policy Board approve the \$500 contribution to this effort. [DANSBY]

Action: Staff recommends the Policy Board provide financial support in the amount of \$500 to the California Center for Regional Leadership to help develop the Region-Based Statewide Indicators Report.

G. Addendum to Current Land Use and Model Update

Summary: Fresno COG is currently in the middle of a major land use and traffic model update project. This update will greatly improve the model's ability to predict future traffic volumes and air quality impacts.

During this process it has become apparent that in order to fully comply with the conformity regulation requirement for use of free flow input speeds in the model that we need to provide additional analysis in this area.

This updating of the model's input free flow speeds can only be done during the model validation process and was not originally requested in the current modeling contract. Staff now feels it is important to update the input speeds to fully comply with the transportation conformity regulation requirements to use the latest planning assumptions.

Fresno COG has \$10,000 in our 2004-05 OWP currently budgeted for Model Program Customization. This money is set aside specifically to be used in situations just like this.

Dowling Associates is currently under contract with Fresno COG developing our land use update and revalidating the model, and has indicated that they could complete the additional work for the amount available. Dowling has indicated that they could start this project immediately and include the results in our current validation. This work will benefit the model analysis and insure that it meets all of the conformity regulation requirements. [BITNER]

Action: Staff recommends that the Committee approve and authorize the Executive Director to sign an amendment to our current modeling contract with Dowling Associates for reviewing and updating model input free flow speeds in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.

H. Letter of Support to Office of Traffic Safety for City of Fresno Grant Request

Summary: The City of Fresno is seeking a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety to install pavement flashing warning lights at the crosswalk located at Fresno and "L" Streets. They have requested COG to give them a letter of support. A draft letter has been included in your agenda packet. [PETERSON]

Action: Staff recommends approval to send the letter of support for the City of Fresno grant application.

I. Caltrans Grant Submittals—Fresno County

Summary: At our Transportation Technical Committee meeting on September 8th, members voiced their concern that there have been instances where a grant application has been submitted to Caltrans for consideration without the knowledge of Fresno COG and then after the grant has been awarded funds, COG is required to include it in our Overall Work Program (OWP). At the request of the committee, Policy Board Chairman Trinidad Rodriguez wrote a letter to Caltrans District 6 Planning Grant Coordinator, Paul Marquez, requesting that Fresno COG obtain a list of all Caltrans Planning Grant applications that are submitted for consideration in Fresno County. In addition, Mr. Rodriguez also requested clarification on the Caltrans requirement that the COG include information on the awarded grants in our OWP.

In response, please see the enclosed letter from Paul Marquez dated November 30, 2004 that provides clarification on the above concerns. A brief summary of the seven projects submitted in Fresno County to Caltrans District 6 for consideration in their most recent grants cycle is included in the letter. [DANSBY]

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

J. Santa Fe Depot Dedication

Summary: A dedication ceremony at the Santa Fe Depot for the restoration project has been scheduled for Saturday, February 12, 2005 at the noon hour. There is widespread interest in this project and its dedication should be a joyful occasion. Congressman Jim Costa, Mayor Autry and many other dignitaries will be in attendance as will folks from the historical society in period costume, and others. [THOMPSON]

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

K. COG Appointment for a Westside Cities Representative to the Regional Jobs Initiatives Council

Summary: The Regional Jobs Initiative (RJI) Council is the policy making and oversight body for this effort to raise employment in Fresno County. The Council meets quarterly. An eastside and westside cities representative is appointed by the COG Policy Board. Mayor Victor Lopez is the eastside cities representative. Mayor Sierras (Mendota) was appointed last January as the westside cities representative but since he is no longer on the COG Board, a new representative for the Westside cities will be needed to fulfill the two year term. The Policy Board will be asked to nominate a new representative at the January meeting. [GOODWIN]

Action: Information/discussion item. The Board will be requested to make an appointment to the RJI Council from the westside cities.

L. Status Report--Office Space Update

Summary: As has been discussed previously, COG's current office lease with the Rowell Building is set to expire in December 2005. With that in mind, in November 2004, COG staff gave a presentation on the search process that COG staff had been utilizing in order to identify the most feasible alternatives available given COG's budget constraints. Following the direction of the Policy Board, staff has been examining the various alternative office facilities that are available in downtown Fresno. The office search has generally been confined to downtown Fresno because of previous Policy Board consensus that maintaining an office in the downtown area would be most desirable due to the proximity of other governmental agencies in the area and the overall importance of COG playing a role in facilitating downtown revitalization efforts. As a general observation, downtown real estate prices continue to increase and it would behoove COG from an operational perspective to lock into an advantageous long-term lease arrangement before prices rise beyond our affordability.

In order to expedite the continued search for new office space, earlier this spring COG began working with Victoria Gonzales (former director of the Downtown Association) who is now a real estate agent with Fortune & Associates specializing in downtown properties. After extensive research the results of our office search have led us to the conclusion that our best option is to stay in the Rowell building. This decision is based on Burgess/Smith's (Rowell Building owners) commitment to provide a "major" renovation to the sixth floor with the hope that COG would consider staying in the building as its anchor tenant. The concept as presented to COG staff by Mr. Burgess was his desire to create a "showcase" floor that would be comparable with other Class I office space available

downtown while staying true to the architectural heritage of the Rowell Building. Ideally, Mr. Burgess would like to show prospective tenants the renovated sixth floor as an example of the quality of improvements they could expect should they choose to locate in the Rowell Building. Building on these initial discussions, COG staff sat down and penciled out some design concepts that we would like to see incorporated in the remodel and Mr. Burgess had some interior design consultants meet with COG staff to share ideas. In addition, COG staff was shown other Burgess owned office space to provide an example of the quality of work and craftsmanship we can expect should we choose to stay on the sixth floor of the Rowell Building.

As has been discussed in the past, COG has often been frustrated in our inability to have the Rowell building owners provide timely maintenance and repairs (elevator, restrooms, etc.) to both the building in general and our office suites in particular. With this in mind, during the November Policy Board discussion of the issue, the Board requested that Don Burgess come before the Policy Board to provide a response to some of the concerns that have been raised. Assuming the Board is supportive of the concept after hearing from Mr. Burgess at our January meeting, COG staff feels confident that by utilizing "*performance clauses*" in the new lease, our concerns regarding these issues could be adequately addressed to the point that we would now feel confident in entering into a long-term lease arrangement with Burgess/Smith. [BOREN/GOODWIN]

Action: Information/Action. Authorize Executive Director to enter into lease negotiations with Burgess/Smith.

M. 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 indicates the final status of the bills during the 2004 legislative session. Enacted bills took affect January 1, 2005.

The 2005-06 State Legislature convened on December 6, 2004 to begin the new session. At the time of this writing no new bills have been introduced in the House or Senate but staff will continue to report and update our committees as these bills are introduced in the legislature. The State Legislature has until February 18th to introduce new bills during the current session. The U.S. Congress will convene on January 4th for the 1st Session of the 109th Congress.

Fresno COG's current policy is that staff not directly recommend support or opposition to legislative policy issues (bills, propositions, etc.), but that any such recommendation or consideration for action by the COG Policy Board can be initiated at the individual request of any of our members.

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

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

N. Center for International Trade Development, Public Presentation at COG Board on 1-27-05

Summary: Candy Hansen from the Center for International Trade Development will make a presentation at the COG Policy Board meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2005 to introduce herself and explain the services her program can provide to their constituents.

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

O. FCRTA Item: Acceptance of 2003-04 FCRTA Fiscal Year Audit Report

Summary: Included in the Agenda Package is a January 3rd Staff Memorandum and a copy of the FCRTA's *"Annual Financial Reports for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2004"* as prepared by Brown, Armstrong, Paulden, McCown, Starbuck and Keeter, Certified Public Accounts. This comprehensive financial report, including all compliance statements required for Federal and State regulations, is submitted for review and acceptance. During the accounting review the Auditors found FCRTA in compliance with funding agency rules and regulations. They found no significant instances of non-compliance. The Findings and Recommendations section of the Report reflects no reportable conditions. The Report documents that revenues and expenditures were within the budgetary authorization granted by the FCRTA Board. Following Board acceptance, the Report will be forwarded to the appropriate Federal and State agencies to satisfy requirements of our funding agreements. [WEBSTER]

Action: The FCRTA General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors accept the Report.

III. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Measure C Presentation—Fresno County Transportation Authority Advocates Office

Summary: Rose Willems, Fresno County Transportation Authority, Advocates Office has requested an opportunity to give an update on the role of the Advocate's Office and the Measure "C" Educational Program. [WILLEMS]

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

B. Future Measure C Status Report/Background Information

Summary: Staff will provide a verbal report on the current mediation effort. Included in your package for background information is a draft comprehensive summary of all existing self-help measures enacted in California. [GOODWIN]

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

C. Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program – Request by City of Selma

Summary: Section 22710(c)(2) of the Vehicle Code states that money received by an Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority shall be used only for the abatement, removal, and disposal as public nuisances of any abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicles or parts thereof from private or public property. The guidelines for program implementation, contained in the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program Handbook developed by the California Highway Patrol, state that major purchases exceeding \$2,500 require the participating jurisdiction to request approval from the Service Authority, and these requests shall include a detailed justification. When evaluating a request, a Service Authority shall ensure the funds are being expended in accordance with Section 22710(c)(2) and for the benefit of the AVA Program.

The City of Selma has submitted a request (letter enclosed) to the Fresno County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority for the partial reimbursement of the cost to purchase Code Enforcement Database Software. Selma is requesting reimbursement of \$4,500 of the \$6,750 total cost. Three city departments-Code Enforcement, Police and Public Works-have agreed to purchase the Code Enforcement database software, with each department responsible for one-third of the purchase cost. Selma indicates that both the Code Enforcement and Policy Departments, representing two-thirds of the purchase cost, will use the database software to conduct and ensure accurate reporting and tracking of abandoned vehicles. Selma would be reimbursed from its formula share of funding, so the funding amounts of other agency AVA programs are not affected by this request. [THOMPSON]

Action: Staff recommends approval of Selma's funding request.

D. Request by Madera County for Fresno COG Participation in Bi-County Regional Transportation Study

Summary: On December 17, 2004 Fresno COG staff attended a kick-off meeting hosted by Madera County to determine interest and discuss plans for a bi-county (Madera/Fresno) regional transportation study. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with affected stakeholders the potential for a long-range regional transportation study that would focus on transportation issues affecting both counties along our joint border including an analysis of potential San Joaquin River crossings. Included in your package is the letter asking for our participation, as well as draft minutes, copies of handouts, and the initial draft Request For Proposal which was also handed out at the meeting.

The group discussed at length issues related to study scope, cost, funding and governance structure. As a result of the meeting Madera County has proposed a small seven-member Technical Committee representing Fresno COG, Madera County Transportation Commission, Caltrans, a representative from one of the development projects proximate to the river, a member-at-large, and co-chaired by Madera County Supervisor Bigelow and a member of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.. Madera County would provide staffing to the committee, to be funded by pending development.

Madera County also proposes a larger nine-member steering committee consisting of the affected land use agencies in both counties (City of Fresno, City of Clovis, City of Madera, Madera County, Fresno County), Caltrans, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, San Joaquin River Parkway Trust and a development community representative. An additional advisory group to the committees was also identified, and is listed in your agenda package item.

The development community has indicated its willingness to participate in funding its fair share of the study. Madera County staff has indicated it would like to see the study completed within one year. There appeared to be agreement to utilize other existing study information, such as that provided in our East-West Phase I and II Study.

The draft minutes indicate that Executive Director Goodwin encouraged a "Smart Growth Plan" approach. However Ms. Goodwin actually questioned whether or not smart growth scenarios (alternative land uses) would be a part of the study. The question was asked since Caltrans had just presented its Smart Growth Response Study and its current status. If the interest was for smart growth analysis in addition to existing land use plans, the additional work involved would need to be considered in the study budget. Lynn Gorman, Transportation Policy Specialist for Fresno County, suggested that the study consider the existing adopted land use plans of all agencies.

In 1994/95 Fresno COG initiated Phase I of an East West Corridor study, specifically to address a 20-year regional need for better connection between the two counties, based on pending land use. Because of our member agencies' long-term interest in mobility between the two counties, staff anticipates that COG and its members would have great interest in participating in the collaborative study. What is not known at present is the cost of the proposed study, or what financial aid Fresno COG or its members may be asked to provide.

Madera County Planning Director Ray Beach was present at the January TTC meeting to provide some insights into the anticipated planning process that would be utilized for the study. After hearing his explanation of the process and his answers to questions raised by TTC members related to scope, funding, timing, etc., the TTC voted to support COG's participation in the study, with the caveat that should Madera County seek funding for the study from Fresno COG, the issue would come back through our committee process. [GOODWIN/BOREN]

Action: Information/Action. Based on our past interest, staff recommends Fresno COG indicate its initial willingness to participate in the process, but also ask Madera County for further information as to the mechanism by which the study will be funded. Staff will bring back to the Fresno COG additional information relative to the proposal as it becomes available. Further guidance may be provided at the direction of the Committee.

E. Strategic Alliance Agreement

Summary: A Strategic Alliance Agreement by and among the Economic Development Corporation Serving Fresno County (EDC) and numerous agencies, organizations and units of governments has been developed which focuses on an assurance "that economic development programs, services, and associated activities throughout Fresno County are effectively coordinated and executed." A draft copy of the Strategic Alliance Agreement is in your package, and many of you are already signatories to the agreement. One of the main goals is to maximize the limited resources by utilizing the capabilities of existing agencies.

The EDC also identified the Council of Fresno County Governments as a logical partner not yet shown in the Alliance Agreement. The request and details of becoming a party to the agreement did not surface until after our November meetings, but Executive Director Barbara Goodwin spoke briefly with Fresno COG Chair Trinidad Rodriguez about providing the necessary information to move ahead and formally become a part of the Alliance.

Staff is bringing forward this information requesting concurrence for the Fresno COG's participation in the Strategic Alliance Agreement. [GOODWIN]

Action: Staff recommends concurrence with the inclusion of the Council of Fresno County Governments as a signatory on the Strategic Alliance Agreement.

F. 2004-05 thru 2009-10 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment, Formal Amendment #1, Resolution 2005-01, PUBLIC HEARING: 1-27-05

Summary: FTIP Amendment #1 as identified in your package consists of two parts. The first part is a request by the County of Fresno and City of Kerman to amend the FTIP to include projects granted under cycle four of the Safe Routes to School Program. Because both agencies have indicated their intention to utilize federal funds, rather than exchanging those funds for state funds, their projects must be included in the FTIP pursuant to new federal funding requirements. The necessary FTIP Amendment must be approved by Caltrans and FHWA prior to requesting authorization for any phase of work.

The Fresno County Safe Routes to School project will construct curb, gutter, sidewalks, curb ramps and widen existing sidewalks in the vicinity of Gibson Elementary, Tenaya Middle, and Bullard High Schools. The City of Kerman project will install school signs, pavement markings and striping, and construct curb, gutter, sidewalks, and curb ramps in the vicinity of Kerman-Floyd Elementary, Sun Empire Elementary, Kerman Middle, Liberty, Kerman High and Nova Continuation High Schools.

The second part is a request by Caltrans to amend the FTIP to align the local Highway Bridge Replacement & Rehabilitation (HBRR) Program with updated information provided by Caltrans. The updated program must be adopted without modification to ensure statewide local assistance HBRR Program financial constraint pursuant to federal approval of the 2004 FSTIP. [THOMPSON]

Action: Staff recommends approval of FTIP Amendment #1 (Formal Amendment) by adopting Resolution 2005-01.

G. Adoption of Expedited Project Selection Process

Summary: The programming of projects in our Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) is subject to Federal Financial Constraint guidelines which require that COG limit programming to the apportionment level of each year for each funding Program in the three year triennial element. Apportionments not spent in three years are subject to lapse per AB 1012. Projects can only be obligated from the current year of the triennial element; however projects can be advanced from the second and third triennial year to the first by administrative amendment provided that financial constraint is maintained. The constraint requirement implies that a corresponding dollar value in projects would move back in the FTIP to make room under the programming limit for the advanced project(s).

Implementation of these regulations is more difficult than it sounds in that not many agencies are willing to move their project back in a timely manner. When a project schedule is delayed it is difficult for COG staff to determine in advance that the delay has occurred and by the time it becomes apparent it may be too late to process amendments to advance an alternative project prior to funding lapse. In an effort to provide an alternate method of dealing with this type of situation, FHWA and Caltrans allow MPO's to adopt an Expedited Project Selection Procedure which establishes criteria for advancing projects within the financially constrained triennial element. The need for a more flexible

and timely procedure is a product of the much more rigorous financial constraint scrutiny implemented by FHWA as a result of the state budget crises. In short, once this procedure is adopted, projects in the second and third year of the triennial element can be advanced and obligated without amendments. Staff must continue to monitor the program to insure that the triennial element remains financially constrained, however much needed flexibility is created by this expedited process.

There are two ways COG could use the flexibility provided by the new procedure. The first is to continue to restrict project obligations to current year programming and require that projects in the second or third year wait until statewide surplus obligational authority is available during the June through August Federal Redistribution period. We would use this new flexibility to advance second and third year projects only during or near the redistribution period. The benefit of this approach is that it maintains the priority of projects as scheduled in the FTIP. The downside is that if several project schedules in the current year slip, our region may not be in a position to take advantage of any excess statewide obligational authority because all regional money must be obligated before redistribution funds can be requested.

An alternative way to use this flexibility is to allow any project in the triennial element that is ready to obligate to move ahead on a first come first serve basis at any time during the year until all regional obligational authority is expended. The projects remaining in the triennial element would then get in line and wait until statewide surplus obligational authority is available during the June through August Redistribution period. The upside to this approach is that the region would be in position to quickly take advantage of any statewide excess money made available to deliver the part of our program that is presently unfunded due to financial constraint guidelines. The down side to this approach is that it does not strictly adhere to the priority order of projects established in our FTIP in that projects in years two and three could move ahead and require slower developing projects scheduled in year one to wait until additional money is available. It would also require some complicated monitoring on the part of COG staff to keep track of financial constraint and in making judgments on which projects move back on paper to adjust for the projects that are advanced.

Overall staff feels adoption of an Expedited Project Selection Procedure would provide all agencies within our region needed flexibility in dealing with very restrictive federal financial constraint and programming regulations. The manner in which the new procedures are used would be subject to policies adopted by our organizations and therefore under local control. In considering whether to adopt this new flexibility it is important for all affected agencies (including transit providers) to understand that the new procedures could modify priority ranking of all projects within the triennial element of the FTIP subject to policies adopted by the COG Policy Board. The decision to approve an Expedited Process is independent of the policies regarding how it would be used. Implementation policies could be adopted as needed.

TTC considered this item for action at their 1-12-05 meeting and while the consensus of the Committee recognized the need for added flexibility provided by the new procedure, the Committee felt it would be beneficial for COG's Project Delivery Subcommittee to review and comment on the proposed procedure prior to action by the standing COG Committees. The Project Delivery Subcommittee will be meeting in late January and staff will present this proposed procedure change at that meeting for comment and recommendations and bring the item back to TTC, PAC and the Policy Board in February for action. [BESHEARS]

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

H. One Voice Status Report

Summary: Staff is currently planning the 2005 "One Voice" lobbying trip to Washington D.C., which will take place February 12th through February 17th. At this time, a delegation of 22 members have committed to take part in this trip. Attached, you will find the Draft List of Attendees for your review. Staff is finalizing our plane and hotel reservations on January 12th so if we hear from any new person interested in going on the trip after that date, we will need to negotiate new flight and hotel prices for that person.

Fresno COG has again hired lobbyist Len Simon of Simon and Company to assist with our endeavors, both in securing appropriate appointments and for necessary follow-up and monitoring of the projects to keep them in the forefront for funding. Staff has also sought the professional opinion of the County's federal Lobbyist as we plan the trip and schedule meetings with congressional members and representatives from Federal agencies.

Also attached, you will find a **tentative** schedule for the trip provided by Len Simon as well as a Draft listing of the projects. [DANSBY]

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

I. Development of COG Email Address Database

Action: In an effort to access the most current and efficient technology available, COG is seeking to set up an email database of all our contacts. Please list your current email address on the sign-in sheet. Staff will further seek the email addresses of committees not meeting this month as well as members not present at this month's meetings. [GOODWIN]

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

J. 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.**