

# Measure R Citizens' Oversight Committee Meeting

2800 W. Burrel Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291

June 7, 2010

## ATTENDANCE LIST

City of Dinuba	Joe Rocha	
City of Exeter	Richard Downs	
City of Farmersville	Leon Sisk	X
City of Lindsay	Philip LoBue	
County of Tulare	David Harrald	X
Tulare County Econ. Development Corp.	Colby Wells	X
Tulare/Kings Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Raymond Macareno	X
Bicycle/Ped/Transit	Russ Dahler	X

City of Porterville	Ron Irish	X
City of Tulare	Ty Holscher	X
City of Visalia	Karen Cooper	X
City of Woodlake	Jack Ritchie	X
TC Farm Bureau	Tom Barcellos	X
Home Builders Association of Tulare/King Counties	Greg Woodard	X
Audit/Finance/Budgeting	Russ Desch	X
Environment	Stephen Tootle	X

**Others present:** Ramon Lara, Elizabeth Wright, and Christine Chavez (TCAG Staff), Johnny Wong (TC RMA), Nancy Lockwood (The Lockwood Agency), Leslie Caviglia and Chris Tavarez (City of Visalia), Baldo Rodriguez (City of Porterville), Tom Logan and Dennis Mack (public).

## DRAFT MEETING NOTES

**The Citizens' Oversight Committee Meeting began at 12:02 p.m. on June 7, 2010**

- Chair Woodard called the meeting to order, and invited the committee members and members of the public to introduce themselves.
- Under public comments Tom Logan introduced himself as a farmer from the Exeter/Lindcove area. He stated that he sees a lot of roadwork done on city streets and he pays taxes too. He stated that some rural roads are so bad they cause damage to vehicles, which the county could be liable for. He also stated that the county road crews are not doing a good job. He has spoken to Mr. Wong and given him a list of roads that need repair.

Member Harrald showed a copy of Civil Engineering Magazine, which featured two pictures of potholes/degraded roads in Tulare County.

Member Wells stated that he had a citizen request help on bicycle/pedestrian conflicts on Rocky Hill. There are large number of bicyclists pedestrians that use that road and it is dangerous. Mr. Wong stated that the Resource Management Agency has not heard that as an issue before and have no immediate plans for the road. Ms. Chavez stated that there is not a lot of room on that road, but they could possibly install "Share the Road" signs.

Member Tootle informed the committee that a group is working on getting bus privileges for College of Sequoias students. Member Barcellos asked if it was being looked at for Porterville College, and Member Tootle responded that it was not but once it worked out it could be used as a model for Porterville.

- Upon a motion by Member Harrald and a second by Member Barcellos, the minutes of February 8, 2010 were unanimously approved.
- Mr. Lara presented the agencies' Measure R local program quarterly reports. Member Holscher asked what the status of Tulare's grade separation projects' funding was. Mr. Lara replied that the city has to continue working on the projects in order to request approval from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for funding. After receiving that approval, the state would have to make bond funds available.
- Mr. Lara discussed the status of Measure R revenues. Revenues are coming in slightly below original Measure R projections.
- Mr. Lara updated the committee on the status of short term financing. An agreement is being signed between the Transportation Authority and the County Treasurer's Office. The amount is \$20 million.
- Ms. Wright provided an update on County regional projects. **Road 80 Phase 1A (Ave. 328 to Ave. 342)**- Staff has requested authorization to bid and if approved bid opening will be July 14. **Road 80 Phase 2 (Ave. 416 to Ave. 384)**- Once funding is approved the contract will be awarded within six months. **Road 108 from Caldwell to Cartmill**- Will request action from the CTC, once approved the project will move forward. **Betty Drive Grade Separation**- Once funding is approved the contract will be awarded within six months. **Betty Drive Phase 2A (east of grade separation to east of Road 80)**- Contract should be awarded by September 2010. **Road 108 from Cartmill to Leland**- Should be out to bid by early fall. **Road 80 Phase 3 (gap closure)**- Will request funding allocation by early fall, once funding is approved contract will be awarded within six months.

Mr. Rodriguez updated the committee on the Scranton/Indiana widening project. The cost is about \$3.5 million. The city is having an issue with the last piece of property; the council will be asked to proceed with the eminent domain process on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Rodriguez also stated that the city has microsurfaced about 90,000 square feet of roads this year and has filled 12-15 thousand square feet of potholes.

Mr. Tavaréz updated the committee on Visalia projects. **Plaza Drive and 198** – Received state funding. Groundbreaking will take place in 2011. **Mill Creek Garden Trail** – It is in design and expected to go out to bid this fall. **Packwood Creek Trail** – Was awarded to Agee Construction. Construction will begin this month and will be complete in 80 days. **Santa Fe Trail** – Design is nearly complete and it is expected to go out to bid in the fall. **St. Johns Trail** – Expected to go out to bid in fall of 2011.

Member Cooper asked why the county has not been expending its transit money. Member Harrald asked for a transit report at the next meeting.

- Ms. Lockwood presented the draft Annual Report. The committee suggested that staff contacts be added to the report. All comments on the report should be sent to Ms. Wright.
- Ms. Chavez provided an update on the status of the Santa Fe Trail Connection project.
- Ms. Wright presented the two alternate rail statements as proposed by committee members. Discussion ensued regarding the purpose of taking the position of opposition to additional funds on the rail abandonment process. Member Harrald responded that it was to express the public outcry at the actions taken by the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Wright stated that the initial amendment to Measure R that allowed for the \$3 million for rail was approved by all cities and the county. Member Woodard stated that the Expenditure Plan Amendment calls for repayment of the expenditures from the \$3 million; Ms. Wright corrected that repayment is not required in the Expenditure Plan, but it requested to be studied in the Business Plan. Discussion ensued regarding public opinion that the county wants to run a rail line, and that the focus should be on the preservation aspect of the project.

The following language was put forth by Member Harrald and seconded by Member Barcellos:

“The Measure R Oversight Committee recommends to the TCTA Board that no additional funds from Measure R be appropriated or expended on the East Side Short Line Railroad Project. This is a goods movement project and not a use contemplated or included in the original language of the initiative.

An East Side Short Line goods movement project has merit on its own and should be pursued as an economic development project and not a Measure R project.”

The motion was unanimously approved.

- Upon a motion by Member Harrald and a second by Member Cooper, Tom Barcellos was unanimously selected as committee chair for 2010/11. Upon a motion by Member Barcellos and a second by Member Harrald, Ty Holscher was unanimously selected as vice chair for 2010/11.
- **The Citizens’ Oversight Committee was concluded and adjourned at 1:30 p.m.**