

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Executive Minutes – April 20, 2009

Present

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>	<u>Member/Alternate</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Allen Ishida	Walter Stammer, Jr.	M/A	Tulare County-Dist. 1
Pete Vander Poel	William Cushing		Tulare County-Dist. 2
Phil Cox	Bill Whitlatch		Tulare County-Dist. 3
Steve Worthley	Ray Millard	M	Tulare County-Dist. 4
Mike Ennis	Judi Gibbons	M	Tulare County-Dist. 5
Terry McKittrick	Mike Smith	M	City of Dinuba
Jack Allwardt	Ted Macaulay	M	City of Exeter
Paul Boyer	Mike Santana	M	City of Farmersville
Pamela Kimball	Steve Velasquez	M	City of Lindsay
Felipe Martinez	Pete Martinez	M	City of Porterville
Richard Ortega	Phil Vandegrift	M	City of Tulare
Bob Link	Jesus Gamboa	M	City of Visalia
Rudy Mendoza	Raul Gonzalez, Jr.	M	City of Woodlake
Bill McKinley	J. Michael Lane	M	Member-at-Large
Bob Zimmerman	Thomas Sparks	M/A	Member-at-Large
Cliff Dunbar	Gil Jaramillo	A	Member-at-Large
Malcolm Dougherty	Sharri Bender-Ehlert		Caltrans

STAFF

Ted Smalley	Executive Director	P	TCAG
Elizabeth Wright	Senior Regional Planner	P	TCAG
Eddie Wendt	Associate Regional Planner	P	TCAG
Marvin Demmers	Associate Regional Planner	P	TCAG
Ben Giuliani	Senior Regional Planner	P	TCAG
Mark Hays	Associate Regional Planner		TCAG
Ramon Lara	Associate Regional Planner	P	TCAG
Christine Chavez	Regional Planner	P	TCAG
Jason Waters	Regional Planner	P	TCAG
Vicenta Jaimez	Office Assistant		TCAG
Colleen Potts	Secretary III	P	TCAG

I. Call to Order & Welcome

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Ennis at 1:27 p.m. on April 20, 2009

II. Public Comments

None

III. Transportation Consent Calendar

Request Approval of the Transportation Consent Calendar (Items III-A through III-C)

- A. Action: Adoption of Resolution: 2008/2009 Overall Work Program Amendment No. 5**
- B. Action: Adoption of Resolution: STP Exchange Authorization FY 2008/2009**
- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: STP Exchange Distribution FY 2008/2009**
- D. Information: Status on State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Allocations and 2008 STIP Update**
- E. Information: Mandatory Race Conscious Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program**

Upon motion by Member Link and seconded by Member Ortega, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee unanimously approved the Transportation Consent Calendar Items III-A through III-C.

IV. Transportation Action/Discussion Items

- A. Action: Adoption of Resolution: 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Amendment No. 6**

Mr. Wendt provided information on the resolution to Amendment No. 6 of the FTIP. Due to a recent backlog of 31 projects, member agencies have requested amendments to the FTIP. Amendment No. 6 was developed to program new Federal Lands and Highway projects, Safe Routes 2 School (SR2S), Federal Transit Administration (FTA 5307), and FTA (5311) to ARRA funding designated for Transit. Tulare County agencies have also requested several changes to the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ), FLH, FTA 5307, FTA 5311, FTA 5316 (JARC) and FTA 5317 (New Freedom), Safe Routes To School (Federal), and Safety. Amendment No. 6 is a Type 3 amendment adding exempt non-capacity increasing projects into the FTIP and amending several previously programmed projects. The Public Comment period was open thirty days from March 18th through April 17th. A public hearing was held on March 30, 2009.

Upon motion by Member McKittrick and seconded by Member Allwardt, the Board unanimously approved that TCAG adopt the resolution to Amendment No. 6 to the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

B. Action: Adoption of Resolution: 2009 Public Participation Plan

Mr. Giuliani provided information on the 2009 Public Participation Plan. This is an update to the approved 2007 Public Participation Plan. The purpose of the update is to revise the public comment periods for RTP and FTIP amendments and delegating authority for approval. The requested changes to the public comments period will include the following: RTP, Type 2 amendments, Type 3 FTIP amendments (where project cost changes is not greater than five million dollars or 25% of the total cost, whichever is lower).

At this time, the Executive Director or TCAG Chair is the delegated authority for approval of FTIP amendments Type 1, 2 and 3. The change occurs when a loss of over \$25 million dollars may occur if an amendment is not approved.

Upon motion by Member Mendoza and seconded by Member Worthley, the Board unanimously approved that TCAG adopt the resolution to the 2009 Public Participation Plan.

C. Action: Approve letter regarding High Speed Rail Alignment and Station Options in Tulare County Area.

Mr. Waters provided information on the action item requesting authorization to sign a letter indicating local preference for high speed rail alignment and station options in the Tulare County area. The California High-Speed Rail Authority issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Project-Level EIR/EIS for the Merced to Bakersfield section. The three preferred stations are downtown Merced, downtown Fresno, and downtown Bakersfield. An alternate station to potentially serve Visalia, Hanford and Tulare will also be evaluated. As part of the NOP process, there is an opportunity to submit written comments. The proposed comment letter outlines the region's interest to have an alignment and station in Tulare County. This letter was developed through close cooperation with staff from the cities of Visalia and Tulare and expresses a unified interest

Upon motion by Member Mendoza and seconded by Member Ishida, the Board unanimously authorized a comment letter to be sent regarding the local preference for high speed rail alignment and station options in the Tulare County area.

D. Information: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Mr. Giuliani provided information on the ARRA. Based on recommendations from the cities and County, TCAG Board approved the distribution of 40% to local agencies and 60% to regional projects. Local agencies were given the option to exchange their ARRA

funding with other local agencies for Local Transportation Fund (LTF) money. A brief explanation was provided regarding the timeline and processes for obligating RSTP funding for local and regional projects. Staff recommended that as many dollars as possible be obligated by Tulare County agencies as a whole to be in a position to receive additional redistributed ARRA funding should it occur.

E. Action: Adoption of Resolution: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Local Agency Funds Exchange

Upon motion by Member Link and seconded by Member Ortega, the Board unanimously approved that TCAG adopt the resolution for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Local Agency Funds Exchange.

F. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Submission of High Priority Project Request for the next Federal Transportation Bill

Mr. Giuliani discussed the resolution for a High Priority Project Request for the next Federal Transportation Bill. As previously discussed, the TCAG Board has set the SR-99 corridor as the region's highest priority for federal funding. Once approved, this resolution will go to Congressman Nunes.

Upon motion by Member Ortega and seconded by Member McKittrick, the Board unanimously approved that TCAG adopt the resolution for the Submission of High Priority Project Request for the next Federal Transportation Bill.

G. Information: California Transportation Commission (CTC) Local Town Meeting

Mr. Smalley provided information regarding the CTC Local Town Meeting. Topics for discussion at the meeting include: Goods Movement, Freight Rail Activity and Regional Growth Impacts. Presentations will include: one from an elected official from Tulare County, and each COG. Agencies are encouraged to send representatives.

H. Information: 2009/2010 Overall Work Program (OWP)

Mrs. Wright provided information on the OWP. The OWP contains work elements with detailed tasks as well as revenues and expenditures anticipated by task for the year. The total estimate expenditure for the 2009/10 is \$2,641,231. Mrs. Wright provided an explanation for the expenditures.

I. Information: Valleywide Rideshare Entity.

Ms. Chavez provided information regarding Valleywide Rideshare Entity. Ms. Chavez introduced Ron Hughes, Director, Kings County Area Public Transit Agency's (KCAPTA). KCAPTA provides rideshare assistance programs in the central valley as well as other regions. Present vanpool operations continue to grow and are seen as a key part of the Valley's effort in reducing emissions. Presently the operation is managed by representatives from Kings County and its cities. The goal of a Valley-wide rideshare

entity is to have one representative from each county on a proposed valley-wide rideshare entity Board to be formed through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). KCAPTA plans to make presentations before the five south valley COGs. KCAPTA Staff will bring the proposal back this fall and work on a JPA with agencies wishing to move forward.

J. Information: Update on the Proposed SJVR Rail Abandonment

Mr. Sparks provided an update on rail. Notice was received from Tulare Valley Rail Road that they have filed for an abandonment of their segment from Ducor to Ultra. The matter is now in the hands of the Surface Transportation Board. It was suggested to The Rail Committee that an Offer for Financial Assistance (OFA) be filed.

The Rail Advisory Committee will be meeting with the MBA team in May regarding lining up potential shippers and moving forward with the business plan.

Mr. Ishida added, last week Pam Kimball provided a presentation before the FresnoCOG Rail Committee. The purpose of the presentation is to provide education about the need to preserve rail in the Tulare County Area and in California as a whole. It is also hoped that this presentation will bring forth ideas for the future of goods movement.

Mr. Sparks discussed Rail. Meetings continue with Patriot Rail. Trying to arrange a meeting with the shippers. Plans to meet with Bakersfield and KernCOG to gather support. We need to apply for RIF loan.

K Caltrans Monthly Report

Mr. McCuen provided a Caltrans update. Bond money is needed to keep projects on schedule. SR-198 is one project on hold due to the lack of bond funds. Caltrans did not acquire any ARRA funds, therefore, the project is not fully funded and a schedule can not be set. Good news, the Mooney Boulevard contractor starting working today. Also, Road 408 is complete and the rest stop on SR-99 is open. The Tulare County area projects are being reviewed at district level and the results should be announced this summer.

V. REQUEST TO REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Upon motion by Member Link and seconded by Member Mendoza, the Board unanimously reaffirmed all actions taken while sitting as the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee.

VI. Association Consent Calendar

Request approval of the Association Consent Calendar (Items VI - A and VI - B)

A. Minutes of March 16, 2009 Board Meeting

B. Summary of March 12, 2009 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Upon motion by Member Worthley and seconded by Member Martinez, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee unanimously approved the Association Consent Calendar.

VII. Association Action/Discussion Items

A. Information: Draft Tulare County Regional Blueprint Document

Mr. Waters provided information regarding the Tulare County Regional Blueprint Draft document. Staff consolidated previously accepted and adopted Blueprint pieces into a single document. This document is necessary for member agencies to apply for grant funding. Please submit any comments or questions to Elizabeth Wright or Jason Waters at TCAG. A final draft will be brought to the TCAG Board in June.

B. Information: Regional Blueprint and Regional Targets Advisory Committee (RTAC) update

Mrs. Wright provided a Regional Blueprint and Regional Targets Advisory Committee (RTAC) update. Four Valleywide Blueprint scenarios were present to the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council on April 1st. By a vote of 12-3, the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council selected Scenario B+. This is consistent with TCAG Board. Additionally, the Policy Council approved a list of 12 principles.

An update to the Regional Targets Advisory Committee (RTAC) was also provided. The committee is attempting to look at different ways to evaluate objectives. Some of the questions they are addressing are as follows: should emissions reductions be based solely on the reduction of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)? How will targets be set? Who is responsible for emission generated by interregional trips? How will it be measured? TCAG is monitoring this closely as the answers to these questions will impact Tulare County's ability to meet greenhouse gas targets. More information will be provided.

C. Closed Session

VIII. Correspondence

Letter appointing William Cushing as alternate for Tulare County District 2

IX. Other Business

A. Information: Items from Staff

None

B. Information: Items from Board Members

Mr. Ishida stated that there is a Water Commission meeting scheduled next Monday at 4:00 p.m. at the Board of Supervisor Chambers

C. Request from Board Members for future agenda items

None

**ADJOURN AS THE TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS AND
CONVENE AS THE TULARE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY.**

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

TULARE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

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Terry McKittrick	Mike Smith	<u>M</u>	City of Dinuba
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Jason Waters	Regional Planner	<u>P</u>	TCAG
Vicenta Jaimez	Office Assistant	<u></u>	TCAG
Colleen Potts	Secretary	<u>P</u>	TCAG

**X. Transportation Authority Consent Calendar
Request approval of the Authority Consent Calendar (Item X-A)**

A. Minutes of March 16, 2009 Authority Meeting

Upon motion by Member Ortega and seconded by Member Link, the Tulare County Transportation Authority unanimously approved the Authority Consent Calendar.

XI. Authority Action/Discussion Items

A. Information: Measure R Update

Mr. Lara provided a Measure R update. For the first time, Measure R has been impacted by the economy. Allocations received for the month of March were \$1,946,323.13. Overall, \$18,620,087.41 has been received in the current fiscal year. TCAG staff is looking at options to supplement the decrease and keep projects on track; however, estimated projections are still being met.

B. Closed Session

XII. Other Business

A. Information: Items from Staff

None

B. Information: Items from the Board

None

C. Information: Requests from Board Members for future agenda items

None

XIII. Adjourn

Adjourn as the Tulare County Transportation Authority at 2:15 p.m. The next TCAG/Transportation Authority Board meeting will be held May 18, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors Conference Rooms A & B, County Civic Center, Administration Building Visalia, CA 93291