

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Executive Minutes – February 23, 2009

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

STAFF

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

**I. Call to Order & Welcome**

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Ennis at 1:11 p.m. on February 23, 2009

**II. Public Comments**

None

**III. Transportation Consent Calendar**

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

- A. Action: Adoption of Resolution: City of Porterville TDA Claim for State Transit Assistance Funds**
- B. Action: Adoption of Resolutions: City of Porterville TDA Claims for Local Transportation Funds**
- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: City of Visalia TDA Claim for State Transit Assistance Funds**
- D. Action: Adoption of Resolutions: City of Visalia TDA Claims for Local Transportation Funds**
- E. Action: Adoption of Resolution: County of Tulare TDA Claim for State Transit Assistance Funds**
- F. Action: Adoption of Resolutions: County of Tulare TDA Claims for Local Transportation Funds.**
- G. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approve term renewal for members of Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)**

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

**IV. Transportation Action/Discussion Items**

**A. Public Hearing: Amendment #3 to the 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Wendt presented the Public Hearing by encouraging discussion and comments on Amendment No. 4 and 5 to the 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). Amendment No. 4 programs 55 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) (referred to as the Economic Stimulus Bill) into the FTIP. Amendment No. 5 programs 35.9 million into local rehabilitation funds under Measure R. These documents are available for review on the TCAG website or can be requested from the TCAG office located at 5961 S.

Mooney Blvd., Visalia. California. Comments will be received until March 14, 2009. The Public Hearing was opened by the Chair. No comments were made. The Public Hearing was closed.

**B. Information: Update to the 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment No. 4 and 5.**

Mr. Wendt provided an update on the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Amendments. TCAG has submitted amendment #3 to Caltrans which will add capacity increasing projects into the (FTIP).

In anticipation of the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (AARA) also referred to as "Economic Stimulus Bill", TCAG has submitted draft Amendments No. 4 and No. 5 to the 2009 Interim FTIP which adds the proposed revenue as a funding source. The exact amounts are undetermined at this time. Staff will follow this closely and keep the Board updated.

Mr. Smalley added that the Board will need to determine what formula to use to distribute money. Tentatively the agreement seems to be that 40 percent will go to the cities and counties. In the past, TCAG has used two formulas to distribute funds including Measure R, and STP. These methods of distribution are not the only options, suggestions are encouraged and meetings will take place to discuss the best approach.

Mr. Smalley added that transit fund distributions are another item to consider regarding ARRA. The Caltrans Director went home sick the day of the Board and was not able to meet and discuss this information. Caltrans approached Mr. Smalley regarding the possibility of the Board agreeing to use regional Stimulus money for Highway 198. Three questions must be answered by Caltrans before consideration is made: 1) if we are able to switch regional Stimulus money with Caltrans to be used on the state highway system, would we have the option to use the reimbursement funds on a non-highway project? 2) Would it be mandatory that a Corridor Management Plan be completed? and 3) Would Caltrans be able to set a date for reimbursement?

Mr. Smalley asked for feedback from the Board on "Stimulus" items. Over time, Stimulus information should become clear. TCAG staff will make every effort to provide every available option.

**C. Information: Air Quality Update**

Mrs. Wright provided an Air Quality update and a summary of the newly created Regional Targets Advisory Committee (RTAC). RTAC was created through Senate Bill 375 to make recommendations to the Air Resources Board (ARB) on setting green gas targets by region. The committee is composed of 21 members, two are from the valley. By September of this year the committee must make recommendations to the Air Resources Board. The committee is aware of the smaller MPO's in California and their inability to provide a model and has a modeling expert who understands that it is not feasible to have all regions measured by the same model. There are members on that committee who are likely voting to not focus on the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) which would help our region.

TCAG staff, Jason Waters, is attending the RTAC meetings in Sacramento. Staff are working together to track all aspects to ensure that it is understood that the Valley is different from the rest of the state. RTAC is working on a scope and model and TCAG staff will provide updates.

**D. Information: Legislative Update**

Mrs. Wright provided a legislative update. The State passed a budget for California. Proposition 42 has not been suspended and the increase in sales tax will help local transportation. The State Transit operating funds were cut; however, this won't affect agencies for a year to a year and a half. The gas tax was removed. Overall, transportation looks satisfactory within the new budget.

Regarding the State Budget, Mr. Smalley included that bond funded projects such as State Highway 198 is ready, however there continues to be an issue with the state funding bond project.

**E. Information: Status of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Allocations and 2008 STIP Update.**

Mr. Giuliani provided an STIP update. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) held a special meeting February 10<sup>th</sup>. The primary action item of the meeting was adopting a policy for cash management strategies for ongoing Prop1B construction contracts. The point is mute due to having the bond funding capacity to continue with Mooney and Road 80. There is a regular scheduled CTC meeting scheduled February 19<sup>th</sup> with one action item for Tulare County regarding State Route 198 where they are proposing an amendment to shift funds.

Due to the Director of Caltrans not being in attendance at the February TCAG meeting, Mr. Smalley provided an update on behalf of Caltrans. CTC staff is not in favor of shifting projected cost savings to another phase. Caltrans believes this can be done and stay within the budget. Mr. Smalley and Mr. Dougherty will be attending the March 12<sup>th</sup> CTC meeting and may request that someone from the TCAG Board attend as well. TCAG staff will keep the Board and City Managers informed.

**F. Information: Update on the Proposed SJVR Rail Abandonment**

Mr. Sparks provided an update on rail. The Rail Committee continues to meet with Patriot Rail and is trying to organize and arrange meetings with shippers. They are also planning to meet with KernCOG regarding the rail line from Shafter to the port of Oakland. The Rail Committee is working to gather the support of Legislators and look into the possibility of obtaining a loan from the Federal Rail Road Authority.

Member Ishida added that he met with Supervisor McQuiston from Shafter regarding rail and he was very supportive. Along with legislative support, it's understood that the Rail Committee needs to gather the support of Fresno and Kern County.

Three individuals from the Rail Committee will be going back to Washington D.C. this week as part of the Eight Valley COG's "One Voice Trip". One of the priorities of the trip will be to lobby on behalf of rail.

A meeting is being planned between all eight counties to discuss the need to form a governing body that includes at least three counties to oversee a private partner.

The Rail Committee met with the Fresno State College Business Department and agreed upon their assistance in completing a business plan for \$3,500.00. It is anticipated that this will be the initial phase. More work is needed.

**G. Caltrans Monthly Report**

None

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

Upon motion by Member McKittrick and seconded by Member Link, 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 January 22, 2009 Board Meeting**

**B. Summary of January 20, 2009 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

**C. Reminder: Form 700s are due April 1st**

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

**VII. Association Action/Discussion Items**

**A. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Reaffirm Regional Blueprint Scenario Position**

Mrs. Wright reported on the need to adopt a resolution to reaffirm TCAG's Blueprint Scenario position. In light of additional information, the inclusion of public and Blueprint Regional Advisory Committee recommendations over the past couple of months, staff is asking the Board to reaffirm its position to oppose Scenario "C" and support Scenario "B+". It's important to provide this information to the San Joaquin Policy Advisory Council who will be making its decision in March.

Upon motion by Member Worthley and seconded by Member McKittrick, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee unanimously approved reaffirmation of opposition to Blueprint Scenario "C" and support Scenario "B+".

**B. Closed Session**

**VIII. Correspondence**

None

**IX. Other Business**

**A. Information: Items from Staff**

None

**B. Information: Items from Board Members**

Member Ishida announced that the Tulare County Water Commission will meet at the Tulare County Board Chambers on Today, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

**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.**

Meeting adjourned

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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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 January 22, 2009 Authority Meeting**

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

**XI. Authority Action/Discussion Items**

**A. Action: Request Adoption of Resolution: Funding for Measure R Regional Project.**

Mr. Smalley recommended that this item be “Tabled” due to new developments with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) also referred to as the “Stimulus”.

Upon motion by Member Worthley and seconded by Member Ishida the Tulare County Transportation Authority unanimously voted to “Table” this item.

**B. Action: Request Adoption of Resolution: Mooney Boulevard Cooperative Agreement.**

Mr. Smalley recommended that this item be “Tabled” due to new developments with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and Caltrans’ inability to commit to a reimbursement date.

Upon motion by Member Ortega and seconded by Member Vander Poel the Tulare County Transportation Authority unanimously voted to “Table” this item.

**C. Action: Citizen’s Oversight Committee Appointment.**

Mrs. Wright provided information on the need to appoint a committee member to the “Citizen’s Oversight Committee” for the City of Woodlake. The City of Woodlake nominated Jack Ritchie. The term for this representative will end June 30, 2010.

Upon motion by Member Link and seconded by Member Worthley, the Tulare County Transportation Authority unanimously approved that Jack Ritchie be appointed to the Citizen’s Oversight Committee.

**D. Information: Measure R Update**

Mr. Lara provided a Measure R update. For fiscal year 2009, the January allocation came in at \$14,786,964.48 and overall from July through January at \$1,720,5000.00 a slight increase from the previous fiscal year. Measure R allocations have been received and distributed from July through January 2009. Staff will go back and review funds including “clean-up” and will report back to the Board.

**E. 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 2:52 p.m. The next TCAG/Transportation Authority Board meeting will be held March 16, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. At The Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia Ave. Visalia, CA 93291.