

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Executive Minutes – January 22, 2009

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>	<u>Present M/A</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>M</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></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>M</u>	City of Lindsay
Felipe Martinez	Pete Martinez	<u>M</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>M</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></u>	Member-at-Large
Malcolm Dougherty	Sharri Bender-Ehlert	<u>M/A</u>	Caltrans

STAFF

Ted Smalley	Executive Director	<u></u>	TCAG
Elizabeth Wright	Senior Regional Planner	<u>P</u>	TCAG
Eddie Wendt	Associate Regional Planner	<u></u>	TCAG
Marvin Demmers	Associate Regional Planner	<u></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>P</u>	TCAG
Rachel Berry	Planning Technician	<u>P</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 1:39 p.m. on January 22, 2009

Chair Ennis introduced new board members: Jack Allwardt moved from alternate to member for the City of Exeter, Rudy Mendoza is a new member for the City of Woodlake and Pete Vander Poel is a new member for the Board of Supervisors, District 2.

II. Public Comments

Carole Clum, of Three Rivers, commented before the TCAG Board on supporting transportation and land use policies that reduce automobile use and emissions. She provided copies of information from the Tulare County Asthma Coalition and information on electric cars in the state of Hawaii to the Board.

III. Transportation Consent Calendar

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

- A. Action: Request Adoption of Resolution: Reaffirm Delegated Actions by Executive Director**
- B. Action: Request Adoption of Resolution: City of Tulare TDA Claim for State Transit Assistance Funds.**
- C. Action: Request Adoption of Resolution: City of Tulare TDA Claim for Local Transportation Funds.**
- D. Information: Unmet Needs Hearing Dates.**
- E. Information: 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program update.**
- F. Information: Legislative Update.**

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

IV. Transportation Action/Discussion Items

- A. Action: Request Adoption of Resolution: Amendment #3 to the 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), Draft Amendment #1 to the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and corresponding Draft Conformity Analysis.**

Mr. Giuliani reported that this item is for the addition of capacity increasing projects into the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). Two examples of

projects in Tulare County include the widening of State Routes 198 and 99. The FTIP Amendment, RTP, and Conformity Analysis will go to Caltrans and then to FHWA following TCAG approval. It is anticipated that TCAG will receive final federal approval by March. Based on feedback from the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), staff is requesting one addition to the amendment for the attached resolution to read, "Effective February 6, 2009; the effective date of the adequacy finding of motor vehicle emissions budgets submitted in the San Joaquin Valley 2007 Ozone Plan."

Upon motion by Member Worthley and seconded by Member Link, the Board unanimously approved that TCAG adopt the resolution to Amendment # 3 to the 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program, Draft Amendment #1 to the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan and corresponding Draft Conformity Analysis

B. Information: Status of Proposed SJVR Rail Abandonment.

Member Ishida, Tom Sparks and Mr. Smalley traveled to Washington D.C. to lobby on behalf of Tulare County's rail issues. Mr. Sparks described several meetings that they attended in D.C., including meetings with the Service Transportation Board (STB), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Congressman Nunes, Congressman Costa, and Congressman McCarthy's staff. Several different funding sources are being considered in order to preserve the corridor for commerce, including loans and new infrastructure funds. Mr. Sparks, Member Ishida and Mr. Smalley will discuss their findings with the Rail Committee to determine the next steps.

Member Ishida added that the Rail Committee and TCAG have attended several additional meetings and learned a lot about the rail abandonment process. The Rail Committee relayed that they are unhappy with the \$22,000 that was invested with the Service Transportation Board to set the value of the San Joaquin railroad (the 30 mile stretch). Since then, it came out that the Service Transportation Board does not have the manpower to devote time to find out what our rail situation is or if our proposal is accurate compared to the estimate made by San Joaquin Valley Railroad. Also, since that time, the value of scrap metal has significantly dropped. The Rail Committee believes that Tulare County and TCAG does not need to put 100 percent of available funds down to purchase this line. One of the reasons they went to D.C. was to lobby for public funds for this project. They also lobbied for short haul rail provisions to be written into the next transportation bill. Congressman Nunes can assist. During their trip to D.C., the rail committee members found that rail is an issue throughout the United States.

Several comments were made regarding the seriousness of this issue. In the past, three percent of businesses asked for rail, now it is over 40 percent. Once rail is gone it is a very costly process to get it back. A comprehensive business plan is needed that would cover the line from Kern County to Fresno County. It was suggested that the presentation prepared by KernCOG should go to the press.

C. Information: Caltrans Monthly Report

Mr. Dougherty provided a Caltrans update. The state of California does not have an adopted budget yet. This impacts transportation and Caltrans' ability to work with its partners. Caltrans is looking into worker furloughs and state agencies being closed every other Friday to achieve cost savings. The major impacts to projects right now, due to the lack of a state budget, are the bond funded projects. The immediate issue is the bond funded projects that are already under construction.

The Pooled Money Investment Board (PMIB) met last week and made a decision to give the Department of Finance \$650 million for ongoing construction projects. This is expected to help pay invoices in January and February. Once the budget is passed, the problem won't immediately be solved; there will be many agencies waiting for bond proceeds.

Caltrans' top priority is to make sure that projects currently under construction, such as Mooney Boulevard, are not stopped. Caltrans and TCAG are working together on funding options so that projects don't have to stop if bond money does not become available right away. It is extremely expensive to stop and restart construction projects.

Another bond funded project is State Route 198 between Hanford and Visalia. It is not yet under construction; however, they are in the final stages of right of way acquisition and will be ready for construction in 2009. This project is on hold until bond funds become available.

Member Worthley asked what assurances does TCAG have regarding repayment from Caltrans should TCAG partner in funding projects? Also, what would the time-frame for repayment be? Mr. Dougherty replied that he can't say when reimbursement would occur; however, the first priority for payments will go to agencies that lent money to Caltrans to keep projects going.

Discussion occurred as to what the relationship between Caltrans and the City of Visalia is in completing intersections on Mooney Boulevard. The lane widenings on southbound Mooney end at every signal. Member Link who said the city of Visalia is funding some of the intersections and Caltrans is responsible for others. The city has the funding for their intersections. They have been designed and are going out for bid.

Member Ishida asked Mr. Dougherty to respond regarding concerns over the time-frames for FTIP amendments. Mr. Dougherty stated that there is concern with economic stimulus projects going into the FTIP and the long list of requirement to get a project into the FTIP. Ms. Wright commented that TCAG is working with the other Valley COGs agencies to start the FTIP amendment process early in the hopes of improving the timelines for projects to be added into the FTIP.

Public comments were made regarding whether or not Caltrans has a list of priority projects for funding once state bond funds are released, and if so, where does the Mooney Boulevard project fall on its list of priorities?

Mr. Dougherty responded that the Pooled Money Investment Board met last week. They have a list of all bond funded projects. The top priorities are all projects currently under construction. There are 59 bond funded projects under construction. Caltrans and TCAG are looking for ways to keep Mooney going.

Mr. Brit Fussel questioned reimbursement of federally funded projects and whether that money is being held up due to the bond funded issues.

Mr. Dougherty responded that they are eligible for reimbursement from a resource standpoint, but if they are delayed it's because of a concentration of other issues.

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

Upon motion by Member Cox and seconded by Member Ortega, 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 - C)**

- A. Minutes of December 8, 2008 Board Meeting**
- B. Summary of December 4, 2008 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**
- C. Action: Abandoned Vehicle Abatement 2008/09 First Quarter Report**

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

VII. Association Action/Discussion Items

A. Information: Regional Blueprint Summit and California Partnership Update

Ms. Wright reported that Governor Schwarzenegger has signed a third executive order for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley to extend the partnership for a three year period. However, there is no funding at this time and funding options are being considered.

A Regional Blueprint Summit is scheduled for January 26th at the Fresno Convention Center. Four different valleywide scenarios will be unveiled and the participants will be asked for their input and will be taking a vote on a preferred valleywide scenario. Ms. Wright briefly described the four scenarios. Attached to the agenda is a description of each scenario. This board along with the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council urged staff at UC Davis to develop a fourth scenario called scenario "B+" which will depict the densities that each COG approved and will expand upon regional transportation infrastructure. They are working on performance measures and will be presenting information on Monday at the summit. TCAG Staff will be in

attendance and encourages at least one representative from each of TCAG's agencies attend.

B. Closed Session

VIII. Correspondence

None

IX. Other Business

A. Information: Items from Staff

Mr. Giuliani discussed the D.C trip contents and handouts. Mr. Giuliani asked members take a look at the contents of the folder and respond if there are any discrepancies or suggestions.

Mr. Giuliani read through an email containing the list of requested meetings in D.C. Charlotte Hrcir with Alcald and Faye continues to schedule meetings and a finalized agenda will be provided in Washington D.C.

Mr. Giuliani reported on the status of Economic Stimulus, stating that the drafted bill is out on email. There was a conference call today between Caltrans and MPOs and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) stated that the House of Representatives is already requesting an amendment to extend the 90 day deadline to 150 days for project authorization.

Member Ishida and Member Sparks gave praises to Charlotte in D.C. for doing a great job on their trip regarding rail issues.

B. Information: Items from Board Members

Member Ishida announced that the Tulare County Water Commission will meet at the Tulare County Board Chambers on Monday at 4:00 p.m. Sunne Wright McPeak will be in attendance to discuss and help the commission to understand the Delta Vision. He invited the TCAG Board to attend.

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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Richard Ortega	Phil Vandegrift	<u>M</u>	City of Tulare
Bob Link	Jesus Gamboa	<u></u>	City of Visalia
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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 December 8, 2008 Authority Meeting

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

XI. Authority Action/Discussion Items

A. Action: Request Adoption of Resolution: Project Nomination for FY 08/09 State-Local Partnership Program (SLPP).

Mr. Giuliani requested the adoption of a resolution for Fiscal Year (FY) 08/09 partnership funding. The Partnership Program contains \$200 million dollars (Prop 1B bond funds) from last year's state budget. This bond money is in the same position as other state bond money and is undetermined when we will see this money. However, the CTC has guidelines and a February 17th deadline to apply for money. Action needs to be taken to nominate a project. Road 80 phase 1A has been nominated. This project is the widening to four lanes from Avenue 328 to Avenue 342. Phase 1A continues north from exiting phase 1.

Upon motion by Member Worthley and seconded by Member Ishida, the Tulare County Transportation Authority unanimously approved the nomination for FY 08/09 State-Local Partnership Program (SLPP) to fund project Road 80 phase 1A.

B. Information: Santa Fe Update

Ms. Chavez provided an update for Santa Fe Trail. TCAG staff is working with RRM design who is coordinating the environmental work. RRM completed the land survey, traffic analysis, and pedestrian crossing while title research on adjacent continues. On November 20th TCAG met with the city of Tulare, city of Visalia and the County of Tulare to go over the consultants findings. The project continues to be on time and on budget. Two workshops should be held this summer to get the community and land owners involved. Quarterly updates will be provided to TCAG.

C. Information: Measure R Update

Mr. Waters provided a Measure R update. They recently received a clean-up check in the amount of \$2,294, 000.00. Overall we have received about \$13 million for this current fiscal year compared to last year where we received

\$12,542,000.00 total. Since we are only into the current fiscal year by six months, we are doing well.

Due to the lack of a state budget, TCAG will be working with Caltrans to hopefully fund projects that currently aren't receiving state funding, through Measure R. They will also be working with local Elected Officials and City Managers.

Mr. Waters presented a schedule of meetings for the Citizen's Oversight Committee. The next meeting is scheduled February 9th. Other scheduled meeting dates are: May 11th, August 10th and November 9th.

D. 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 3:47 p.m. The next TCAG/Transportation Authority Board meeting will be held February 23, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. The Board will meet at the Porterville Library, 41 W. Thurman Ave., Porterville, CA 93257