

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Executive Minutes – March 16, 2009

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>	<u>Present</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>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>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>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>A</u>	Member-at-Large
Malcolm Dougherty	Sharri Bender-Ehlert	<u>M/A</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></u>	TCAG
Marvin Demmers	Associate Regional Planner	<u>P</u>	TCAG
Ben Giuliani	Senior Regional Planner	<u></u>	TCAG
Mark Hays	Associate Regional Planner	<u></u>	TCAG
Ramon Lara	Associate Regional Planner	<u>P</u>	TCAG
Christine Chavez	Regional Planner	<u>P</u>	TCAG
Jason Waters	Regional Planner	<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 1:05 p.m. on March 16, 2009

II. Public Comments

None

III. Transportation Consent Calendar

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

- A. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Amend 2008-09 Local Transportation Fund Apportionments**
- B. Action: Adoption of Resolutions: City of Farmersville TDA Claims for Local Transportation Funds**
- C. Action: Adoption of Amended Resolutions: TDA Claims for Local Transportation Funds for the cities of Dinuba, Exeter, Lindsay, Porterville, Tulare, Visalia, Woodlake and County of Tulare**
- D. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Letters of Support for the Woodlake Short Range Transit Plan and Tulare County Regional Mobility Access 2009 Caltrans Transportation Planning grants and authorizing the TCAG Executive Director to enter into a contract with Caltrans for execution of grants, if awarded**
- E. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Overall Work Program (OWP) Amendment #4**

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

IV. Transportation Action/Discussion Items

A. Information: 2009 Unmet Needs Process

Mr. Demmers provided a synopsis of the Transit Unmet Needs process. The Transportation Development Act (TDA) passed in 1971 provides funding for transit agencies throughout the state. The TDA requires at least one public hearing be held annually and that unmet transit needs be identified and reasonably met.

Mr. Demmers described several outreach methods that were implemented to solicit comments. The deadline for the unmet needs comment is March 31st, 2009. Comments will be submitted to transit agencies for response. In May, comments and responses from transit agencies will be brought to the Social Service Transportation Agency (SSTAC) for recommendation. The SSTAC recommendations will go before the Board for action in

June. Needs found to be reasonable are required to be funded before allocation is made for streets and roads using TDA funds.

B. Public Hearing: Unmet Transit Needs in Tulare County.

Chair Ennis opened the public hearing. See Court Reporters report.

C. Information: Draft 2009 Public Participation Plan

Mr. Smalley provided information for the Draft 2009 Public Participation Plan stating that this is an update to the approved 2007 Public Participation Plan. The primary changes include reducing the number of days for public comment and in a listed number of circumstances provide the Executive Director or TCAG Chair authority for the approval of FTIP amendments. The primary goal of this update is to make the process of amending the FTIP and RTP more timely and efficient. Request was made to add a cap limit on the dollar amount. The Plan will be brought back to the Board with an amendment to include this information.

D. Public Hearing: 2009 Public Participation Plan

Chair Ennis opened the public hearing. Seeing and hearing no one, the Public Hearing was closed.

E. Action: Adoption of Resolution: 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment No. 4 and 5

Mr. Smalley provided information on Amendment No. 4 and 5 stating that TCAG created this in anticipation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 also referred to as "Economic Stimulus". These amendments add estimated ARRA revenue as a funding source to the FTIP. Adjustments to the amounts will be made once appropriation is established by ARRA. At this time, no projects have been linked to the funds.

Upon motion by Member Zimmerman and seconded by Member Ortega, the Board unanimously approved that TCAG adopt the resolution to Amendment No. 4 and 5 to the 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

F. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between TCAG, The Council of Fresno County Governments (Fresno COG) and Kern County Council of Governments (Kern COG) regarding Goods Movement

Mr. Smalley provided information on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) stating that circumstances relating to goods movement planning requires formalized cooperation between TCAG, Kern COG and Fresno COG.

Upon motion by Member Worthley and seconded by Member Martinez, the Board unanimously approved that TCAG adopt the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between TCAG, The Council of Fresno County Governments (Fresno COG) and Kern County Council of Governments (Kern COG) regarding Goods Movement

G. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approve the distribution method for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) (Stimulus) funding and selection of regional projects

The eight City Managers and County COA met on March 6th to discuss and make recommendations for distribution of the ARRA funds. Mr. Smalley provided the results of the meeting stating the consensus of the Agencies recommends 40% (\$3.35m) of the \$8.4 million be applied to local projects while 60% (\$5.25m) be applied to regional projects. Secondly, the consensus of agencies recommends that funds are distributed using the same formula used for Measure R. Lastly, the recommend was made that the Ben Maddox bridge widening project take first priority and the Road 108 widening is second priority for the regional Stimulus funding.

The exact amount of Stimulus funds to be allocated to Tulare County region has not been determined. Mr. Smalley described three possibilities for the amount that may be distributed. Also, the proposed Legislation has not been finalized and is subject to change. Project applications are due April 1st. Request may be made to extent this time period.

Upon motion by Member Mendoza and seconded by Member McKittrick, the Board unanimously approved that TCAG adopt the resolution to approve distribution method of ARRA funding and selection of regional projects.

H. Information: Air Quality Update

Mrs. Wright provided an Air Quality and Regional Targets Advisory Committee (RTAC) update. RTAC was created through Senate Bill 375 to make recommendations to the Air Resources Board (ARB) on setting green gas targets by region.

RTAC held a workgroup in February and a committee meeting in March to discuss the varying modeling levels and capabilities of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) statewide. They have set some guiding principles and created a list of ten questions on how to set targets for regions. To help alleviate contention, RTAC is encouraging regional cooperation. In September of this year a draft of targets will be released.

Staff is working together to track all aspects to ensure that it is understood that the Valley is different from the rest of the state. TCAG staff will provide updates to the Board as needed.

I. Information: Legislative Update

Mrs. Wright provided information on the Valley Voice trip to Washing D.C. Representatives from each of the eight San Joaquin Valley Councils of Governments (COGs) attended the trip. The purpose of the trip was to discuss several policy related items with federal lawmakers, specially the up-coming transportation authorization bill. Feedback from the trip was positive.

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

Mr. Smalley provided a STIP update. A California Transportation Commission (CTC) meeting was held on March 11th and 12th. Amendment to the SR-198 widening project which would move funding between several project phases and the recommended

adoption of the FY08/09 program of projects to be funded by the State and Local Partnership Program (SLPP) which includes Road 80, phase 1A was included in the March CTC agenda. The CTC voted to not move funding between projects but is working on a solution for State Route 198. We will have a 100% allocation for all of our STIP projects this year.

Two Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects from the City of Visalia have not yet been approved by the CTC. The City has indicated that these two projects will be submitted to the CTC for their June meeting.

K. Information: Update on the Proposed SJVR Rail Abandonment

Mr. Sparks provided an update on rail. The Rail Committee continues to work to organize a list of contacts of shippers and receivers.

A contract has been made with the Craig MBA program at Fresno State to develop a business plan for the short-haul rail corridor through Tulare County. The next Rail Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled March 19th.

The Rail Committee discussed ways to gain positive publicity regarding rail. Member Kimball developed a power point presentation and would like to share it.

L. Caltrans Monthly Report

Mr. Dougherty provided a Caltrans update. Route 63, the signalization project at Road 63 and 408 and the rest area on State Highway 99 should all be completed by the end of this month. Regarding local assistance, Caltrans is preparing for the applications from local agencies for ARRA funds in order to process them quickly.

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 February 23, 2009 Board Meeting

B. Summary of February 19, 2009 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

C. Information: Metro Rural Loop Feasibility Study

D. Information: Abandoned Vehicle Abatement 2008/09 2nd Quarter Report

E. Reminder: Form 700s are due April 1st

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

VII. Association Action/Discussion Items

A. Information: Regional Blueprint and California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley Update

Mrs. Wright stated that the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council will be meeting on March 27th to put together a partnership plan. TCAG staff will inform the Council of the Board's position on the Valleywide Blueprint scenarios.

The San Joaquin Valley COGs have been awarded a Blueprint grant in the amount of \$1.35 million. TCAG will receive approximately 11% after administrative dollars are taken off the top. Tasks for the fourth year include; a Final Report and Toolkit for implementation, conduct meetings to discuss funding challenges, address new greenhouse gas directives (SB375) and develop modeling tools for compliance, address increasing residential densities, provide improved information on water resources into the Blueprint, and address jobs and housing issues.

B. Closed Session

None

C. Action: Appoint Alternate to San Joaquin Valley Policy Council

Mrs. Wright stated that through an MOU, the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council was created. The Council is composed of two elected officials from each county. At this time, one elected official is needed from Tulare County.

Member Martinez nominated Rudy Mendoza to the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council and the Board unanimously approved the nomination.

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, March ... 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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Jason Waters	Regional Planner	<u>P</u>	TCAG
Vicenta Jaimez	Office Assistant		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 February 23, 2009 Authority Meeting

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

XI. Authority Action/Discussion Items

A. Information: Measure R Update

Mr. Waters provided a Measure R update. Allocations received for February were \$1.8 million. So far this fiscal year \$16.6 million have been received in Measure R revenues. There continues to be a slight increase compared to last fiscal year.

B. Closed Session

None

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 3:04 p.m. The next TCAG/Transportation Authority Board meeting will be held April 20, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. (following a 12:00 p.m. Workshop) at the Tulare Ag Commissioner's Auditorium, 4437 S. Laspina St., Tulare, CA 93274