

TULARE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY  
 METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Executive Minutes – July 25, 2011

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>	<u>Present</u> <u>Member/Alternate</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Allen Ishida	Walter Stammer, Jr.	<u>A</u>	Tulare County-Dist. 1
Pete Vander Poel	William Cushing	<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/A</u>	Tulare County-Dist. 5
Janet Hinesly	Mike Smith	<u>M/A</u>	City of Dinuba
Jack Allwardt	Dale Sally	<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
Ronald Irish	Cameron Hamilton	<u>M</u>	City of Porterville
Craig Vejvoda	Skip Barwick	<u>M</u>	City of Tulare
Bob Link		<u>M</u>	City of Visalia
Rudy Mendoza	Raul Gonzales, Jr.	<u>M</u>	City of Woodlake
Bill McKinley	Greg Woodard	<u>M</u>	Member-at-Large
Terry McKittrick	Bob Stocker	<u>M</u>	Member-at-Large
Tom Sparks	Ernie Hernandez	<u>M</u>	Member-at-Large
Sharri Bender-Ehlert	Neil Bretz	<u>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	Regional Planner	<u>      </u>	TCAG
Ben Giuliani	Senior Regional Planner	<u>P</u>	TCAG
Mark Hays	Associate Regional Planner	<u>      </u>	TCAG
Ramon Lara	Administrative Service Officer	<u>P</u>	TCAG
Roberto Brady	Associate Regional Planner	<u>      </u>	TCAG
Christine Chavez	Regional Planner	<u>      </u>	TCAG
Jason Waters	Regional Planner	<u>      </u>	TCAG
Marcos Segura	Regional Planner	<u>      </u>	TCAG
Michal Mierzwinski	Accountant II	<u>      </u>	TCAG
Colleen Potts	Secretary III	<u>      </u>	TCAG
Carrie Perez	Office Assistant	<u>P</u>	TCAG

## **I. Call to Order & Welcome**

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Vander Poel at 1:00 p.m. on July 25, 2011.

## **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

At the request of Chair Vander Poel, Member Irish led the pledge of allegiance.

## **III. Public Comments**

None

## **IV. Transportation Consent Calendar –Action Item**

### **Request Approval of the Transportation Consent Calendar Action Items (Item IV-A through IV-D)**

- A. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Reaffirm 2011 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Amendment No. 10
- B. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approve Fiscal Year 2011/12 Overall Work Program (OWP) Amendment No. 2
- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Authorize Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RSTP) funding for the California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment
- D. Action: Authorize TCAG to enter into a renewal agreement for the Fall 2011 semester with Transit Agencies for student transit services at the College of Sequoias (COS)

Upon a motion by Member Ennis and seconded by Member Kimball the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee unanimously approved the Transportation Consent Calendar Items IV-A through IV-D.

## **V. Transportation Consent Calendar Information Items**

- A. Information: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Project Update
- B. Information: Year Ending June 30, 2010, Independent Audit and Financial Statements

## **VI. Transportation Action/Discussion Items**

- A. Presentation: Loop Bus: Tulare County Resource Management Agency (RMA) and the City of Visalia

Mr. Cox, Transit Manager, City of Visalia, gave a presentation on the City of Visalia Loop Bus. The Loop Bus was first developed by the “gang prevention taskforce” back in 2007. They found that transportation was a big obstacle for helping to keep kids off the street. The Loop Bus is operated under transit services for the city of Visalia and funded through the General Fund. The Loop Bus operates in eight (8) different locations within the city. The routes are thirty (30) minutes long and the service currently runs during fall and summer. The Loop Bus program has received an award for Recreation and Community Service.

Mr. Fox, Transit Coordinator, County of Tulare Resource Management Agency, gave a presentation on the Tulare County Loop Bus. The Loop Bus is also run by the Tulare County Area Transit (TCaT) and this program is completely funded through Measure R. The bus picks up riders from different areas around the county and takes them to their destination at no cost.

- B. Action: Authority to Submit Air Quality Grant for Rail Improvements

Ms. Wright provided information for TCAG to have the authority to submit Air Quality Grant for rail improvements. TCAG continues to examine potential ways to preserve rail in Tulare County. Staff has been working in consultation with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District on various funding sources available for preservation of short haul rail in Tulare County.

Upon a motion by Member Worthley and seconded by Member McKittrick, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee unanimously approved the authority to submit Air Quality Grant for rail improvements.

- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Authorize work on the submittal of a TIGER III grant application for Cartmill Interchange and/or Short Haul Rail

Mr. Giuliani provided information to authorize work on the submittal of a TIGER III grant application for the City of Tulare for the Cartmill Interchange and/or short haul rail. The Federal Highway Administration is in the process of releasing funds. The city of Tulare is seeking 10 million dollars for the Cartmill Interchange project and possible rehabilitation of the railroad, in coordination with San Joaquin Valley Rail, between Exeter and Dinuba.

Upon a motion by Member Link and seconded by Member Vejvoda, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee unanimously approved to authorize the submittal of a TIGER III grant application for Cartmill Interchange and/or Short Haul Rail.

- D. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Authorize Letter of Support for the City of Tulare's Request for Competitive State-Local Partnership Program (SLPP) Funding for Cartmill Interchange

Mr. Giuliani provided information to authorize a letter of support for the City of Tulare's request, from the competitive portion, of the State-Local Partnership Program (SLPP) Funding in the amount of one (1) million dollars for the Cartmill Interchange.

Upon a motion by Member Vejvoda and seconded by Member Link, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee unanimously approved to authorize a letter of support for the City of Tulare's request for Competitive State-Local Partnership Program (SLPP) Funding for Cartmill Interchange.

- E. Information: New Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Amendment Procedures

Mr. Giuliani provided information on the new Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) amended procedures. In coordination with Caltrans, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is modifying the FTIP amendment procedures. The new procedures will allow for a more streamlined and time-efficient approval process. This will be on the agenda in September for action of approval by the Board.

- F. Information: Status of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Allocations and California Transportation Commission (CTC) Update

Mr. Giuliani provided information on the status of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Allocations and California Transportation Commission (CTC) update. Agenda Item XV-A for Road 80, phase 3 is being recommended for approval and the bond savings from state route 99 for our next bond project from Goshen to just north of Cartmill will also be on the agenda at the next CTC meeting. The new draft for STIP guidelines and distribution have been released. We are looking at 13 million dollars of new capacity for the new STIP. Work with Caltrans is in progress on how the money can be distributed to new projects. The next CTC meeting is scheduled for August 10 – 11, 2011 in Sacramento.

- G. Information: Rail Update

Mr. Smalley provided a Rail update. TCAG continues to examine potential ways to preserve rail in Tulare County.

- H. Information: Air Quality Update

Ms. Wright provided an update on Air Quality. Tulare County is out of compliance in air quality standards. Staff will continue to seek ways to strive to meet the standards for air quality. Member Boyer requested that the exact due dates that Tulare County must be in compliance be given at the next meeting. Member Worthley would like to have someone from the Air District come and give a presentation to the TCAG Board.

- I. Information: Legislative and Valley Voice: D.C. Trip Updates

Ms. Wright provided information on legislative and state issues. The State passed a new budget. There were no major impacts to transportation. TCAG and representatives from our eight (8) cities will be traveling to Washington D.C. in September for a Valley Voice trip

J. Information: Caltrans Monthly Report / FHWA Report (TAC only)

Mr. Bretz provided a Caltrans monthly report.

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

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

**VIII. Association Consent Calendar – Action Items**

**Request Approval of the Association Consent Calendar (Items VIII-A through VIII-C)**

- A. Minutes of June 20, 2011, Board Meeting
- B. Summary of June 16, 2011, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
- C. Action: Approve the Cancellation of the August 2011 TCAG Board Meeting

Upon a motion by Member Ennis and seconded by Member McKittrick the Association unanimously approved the Association Consent Calendar Items VIII-A through VIII-C.

**IX. Association Consent Calendar –Information Items**

None

**X. Association Action/Discussion Items**

- A. Action: Provide Direction Regarding TCAG Relocation

Ms. Wright provided information on the status of TCAG’s relocation. The relocation is still pending

- B. Action: Authority to Submit Response to Grand Jury Report

Mr. Smalley provided a copy of the draft response letter to submit to the Grand Jury report titled “I’ve been working on the railroad.” Mr Smalley asked for approval from the Board to submit letter as it currently reads.

Upon a motion by Member Worthley and seconded by Member Ennis, the Association unanimously approved the response letter to the Grand Jury report titled, “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad”.

**XI. Correspondence**

None

**XII. Other Business**

**A. Information: Items from Staff**

Mr. Smalley provided information on the Tulare County Community College Transit Study. There will be a full presentation at the next Board meeting.

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

Member Boyer provided an update on the Tulare County Water Commission.

**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.**