

A ppendix G - Public Outreach Documents



*General's Highway
Sequoia National Park*



City of Exeter Downtown

Outreach Meetings

The following is a list of the primary outreach meetings that occurred during the RTP update process. As a general rule, TCAG, through the help of a public relations consultant, will go to any organization that is willing to have a presentation. For Agency presentations, public notice is provided so individual members of the public may attend.

- 6/29/09 Tule Indian Administration Staff
- 8/13/09 San Joaquin Valley RTP/TIP Workshop
- 9/16-9/20 Tulare County Fair
- 10/17/09 Mooney Grove 100th Anniversary
- 10/26/09 Rail Advisory Committee
- 10/27/09 Countywide Planners Group
- 11/12/09 Environmental Advisory Committee
- 12/10/09 Technical Advisory Committee
- 12/14/09 RTP Workshop – TCAG Board
- 1/25/10 GHG reduction strategies – TCAG Board
- 1/26/10 Social Services Technical Advisory Committee
- 1/26/10 Transit Forum
- 2/2/10 San Joaquin Valley RTP/TIP Workshop
- 2/9/10 Orosi Public Utility District
- 2/16/10 Visalia City Council Workshop
- 2/16/10 Cutler Public Utility District
- 3/2/10 Porterville City Council
- 3/24/10 Bicycle Advisory Committee
- 4/30/10 *Begin Public Comment Period*
- 5/13/10 Technical Advisory Committee
- 5/17/10 Public Hearing – TCAG
- 5/18/10 Transit Forum
- 5/25/10 Social Services Technical Advisory Committee
- 5/27/10 Sequoia Shuttle Kick-off
- 6/1/10 Tulare City Council
- 6/15/10 *End Public Comment Period*

Resource and other Public Agencies

The development of the RTP, FTIP and Air Quality Conformity has been done in coordination with the San Joaquin Valley Interagency Consultation Group (IAC). The IAC is comprised of the eight San Joaquin Valley Councils of Government, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Air Resources Board (ARB), San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) and Caltrans.

TCAG's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) has been consulted during the RTP development process. The EAC is composed of representatives from Sequoia National Park, Irrigation Districts, Sequoia Riverlands Trust, Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District, Tulare County Redevelopment Agency, County of Tulare, Caltrans, Tulare County City Managers and TCAG.

The Tule River Indian Tribe is the only federally recognized tribe in Tulare County. TCAG staff met with Tribal staff early in the RTP development process. A formal meeting is planned during the public review period of the draft RTP. The Tribe is also represented on TCAG's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the 2011 RTP's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was distributed to numerous resource agencies, other public agencies and private companies and groups. Copies of the draft RTP or a notice of its availability (and website location where it can be downloaded) were also widely distributed. Listed below are many of the agencies, organizations and companies that have received mailings regarding the EIR and RTP:

Federal

FHWA, FTA, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Railroad Administration, Fish & Wildlife Service, EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, Dept. of Energy, National Park Service, Dept. of Health & Human Services, Dept. of Agriculture, Center for Disease Control

State

Caltrans (Programming, Aeronautics, Scenic Highway Program, District 6), California Transportation Commission (CTC), Dept. of Fish & Game, California Highway Patrol, Dept. of Water Resources, Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Energy Commission, Native American Heritage Commission, ARB, Integrated Waste Management Board, Dept. of Education, Dept. of Health Services, Dept. of General Services, Dept. of Business, Transportation & Housing, Dept. of Parks & Recreation, California Archaeological Inventory

Regional

SJVAPCD, Kern COG, Kings COG, Fresno COG, San Joaquin COG, StanCOG, Merced COG, Madera Transportation Commission, Inyo Transportation Commission

Local

Tule River Indian Tribe, Tulare County (Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC), Resource Management Agency (RMA), Library, Clerk), Fresno County, Kings County, Kern County, Cities of Visalia, Tulare, Porterville, Dinuba, Farmersville, Lindsay, Exeter, Woodlake, Kingsburg, Reedley, Corcoran and Delano, Tulare Irrigation District, College of the Sequoias, Kaweah Delta District Hospital, Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District

Organizations

HBA of Tulare-Kings Counties, Visalia Association of Realtors, Visalia Chamber of Commerce, Farm Bureau, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Citizens for a Healthy Environment, California Trucking Association

Companies

Union Pacific, BNSF, San Joaquin Valley Railroad, AT&T, So. California Edison, So. California Gas, PG&E

In addition to direct correspondence, the RTP and associated documents were highlighted in TCAG's On the Move newsletter and in the Valley Voice newspaper which both have a wide circulation to public agencies and to private companies, organizations and individuals.

Public Notice

The public comment period for the RTP, EIR and Air Quality Conformity began on April 30th, 2010 and ended on June 15th, 2010. Notice was provided to the three daily newspapers in Tulare County: Visalia Times-Delta, Tulare Advance Register and Porterville Recorder. All documents were posted on TCAG's website: <http://www.tularecog.org/rtpcomments.php>. All public noticing and outreach was conducted in compliance with federal and state regulations and TCAG's adopted Public Participation Plan.

Transportation Survey Results

TCAG has a booth every year at the Tulare County Fair. The RTP update was the point of emphasis for the 2009 Fair. A survey regarding transportation issues was distributed at the Fair where over 400 people completed the survey (attached). A summary of the results of the survey are listed below (total survey results are also attached).

1) Satisfaction of the current transportation system:

Various aspects of the transportation system were listed and rated from very unsatisfied to very satisfied with a scale from 1 to 4. Road maintenance was rated the most poorly (2.24) while bridge safety was rated the highest (2.81). The overall opinion of the transportation system was actually rated at 2.81.

Road Maintenance	2.24	Public Transit Facilities	2.75
Road Capacity	2.61	Public Transit Services	2.80
Road Safety	2.68	Handicapped Facilities	2.80
Biking Facilities	2.69	Bridge Safety	2.81
Walking Facilities	2.74	Overall Opinion	2.81

2) What is the most important transportation project to you?

This question was intended to gather interest in individual projects. However, the most common answers were “road maintenance”, “road safety” and “buses”. Of the specific projects that were listed, Mooney Blvd, SR-198, SR-99 and Road 80 received the most mention.

3) How do you commute to work or school?

As expected, the most common response was “personal vehicle” with 312 out of the 415 who responded (there were several people who selected more than one transportation mode). The second most common response was “bus” at 56.

4) To what extent would changes to the bus system affect how much you drive?

The most common responses were “I would take the bus to work if it came more often” and “I would take the bus if there were a stop closer to my house”. Out of the 393 people who responded to this section of the survey, over 25% said that they would never take the bus.

5) How important are each of the following transportation issues to you?

Several transportation issues were listed and rated from “not at all” to “very important” with a scale from 1 to 4. While overall, all of the issues were rated between somewhat to very important, improving pavement quality and fixing potholes was rated as the most important (3.75).

Improving pavement quality & fixing potholes	3.75
Reducing traffic congestion	3.47
Reducing transportation’s impact on the environment	3.47
Improving/expanding public transit services	3.41
Planning development to be more transit/pedestrian oriented	3.38

6-8) Demographics

To get a sense who was responding to the surveys, several optional demographic questions were included in the survey. As compared to the overall population of the County, the age groups 16-25, 26-45 and 46-65 were well represented while the 66+ age group was not. The majority of survey takers were female (62%). For race/ethnicity, of those who responded, 46% were Caucasian and 43% were Hispanic which isn’t too far off of the overall makeup of the County’s population.

