

MINUTES

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Board of Supervisor Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, CA

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:**

Members Present: Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Victoria Pointer, Mayor, City of Buellton; Richard Weinberg, Mayor, City of Carpinteria; Jack Hawxhurst, Mayor, City of Goleta; Sam Arca, Mayor, City of Guadalupe; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc; Gregg Hart, Councilmember, City of Santa Barbara (arrived at 8:45 a.m.); Larry Lavagnino, Mayor (SBCAG Chair), City of Santa Maria; David Smyser, Councilmember, City of Solvang.

Members Absent: Naomi Schwartz, Supervisor, First District; Susan Rose, Supervisor, Second District (SBCAG Vice-Chair); Gail Marshall, Supervisor, Third District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District.

Staff Members Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Michael Powers, Deputy Director of Planning; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director of Programs; Cathy Muneio, Executive Secretary; Kevin E. Ready, Sr., Senior Deputy County Counsel; Rich Krumholz, District 5 Representative.

Chair Lavagnino said that there would not be a quorum after 9:45 a.m. so they would go through the action items first.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Lavagnino called for the pledge of allegiance.

3. **RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

The Board went into closed session at 8:33 a.m. to discuss personnel matters.

4. **CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

When the Board reconvened at 8:47 a.m. Counsel Ready stated that the Board took no reportable action.

Councilmember Hart arrived at 8:48 a.m.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OCTOBER 16, 2003**

Supervisor Centeno moved approval of the October 16 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Smyser and unanimously carried.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

George Alvarez, a resident and voter, stated that he had concerns with the procedures that were being followed in the recalls taking place at the City of Guadalupe. He requested that SBCAG help to make sure that the proper procedures are being followed by the County.

Chair Lavagnino stated that the County was the proper forum for this discussion and not SBCAG.

Lee Moldaver, MTD Director, said that Gary Gleason was retiring as General Manager after 26 years of service and introduced the new Interim General Manager, Sherrie Fisher.

Sherrie Fisher thanked the Board for their welcome.

Barry Siegel said that the Board should be looking at how the Implementation Plan will be monitored and evaluated. He asked that the Board identify who will be on the Steering Committee for the 101 IP and who will be providing direction on policy issues. He recommended that members of the public be asked to take part in this committee. He asked that the Board review the Public Participation Plan prior to its adoption.

Gerald Parent, a retired attorney, expressed his concerns about the congestion on Hwy 101 and vehicle occupancy. He recommended that there be a commuter zone established during the rush hour so only cars with 2 or more persons would use the highway.

Chair Lavagnino stated that this would be a problem for long distance travelers.

Dave Davis, an MTD Director, stated that he and Mr. Moldaver were on the Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the MTD board and requested they have five minutes on the SBCAG agenda every meeting in order to brief the board on important MTD issues.

Scott Wenz, Cars are Basic, requested that contractors properly address their expenditures and that a 10 percent bump should not be necessary if they bid properly on projects. He also requested that the SBCAG Board suspend funding of buses and any other projects not related to street projects except for commuter buses

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mr. Kemp asked if the Board would consider adding Items 13 and 14 to the consent calendar due to the time constraints.

Supervisor Centeno moved the addition of Items 13 and 14 to the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Smyser and carried unanimously.

Scott Wenz spoke to Item 7A – adopting a resolution approving Amendment No. 9A to the 2002 Federal Transportation Improvement Program adding the Jameson Lane Bikeway Project. He said spending funds for this type of project was not advisable because these projects are not working.

Councilmember Smyser moved approval to the consent calendar with the additions of Items 13 and 14. Mayor Arca seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Due to the time constraints the Board delayed the Caltrans Report to move directly to the action items.

9. **CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Jim Damkowitch presented the staff report and provided the Board with a handout of the presentation.

Scott Wenz expressed his concern about the error he found in the Traffic Solutions Annual Report staff report. The performance measures table indicates that the air emissions eliminated are shown in grams, but the numbers in the table are in pounds.

Mayor Weinberg moved approval of the biennial update to the Congestion Management Program and adoption of the Notice of Exemption finding that the project is statutorially exempt pursuant to Section 4.9 of SBCAG's adopted CEQA guidelines and Section 21080 (b) 13 of the Public Resources Code. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Smyser and carried unanimously.

10. **INTERCOMMUNITY TRANSIT SERVICE**

Michael Powers presented the staff report.

Supervisor Centeno moved to authorize the Chair to execute a contract with Urbitran Associates Inc., at a not to exceed cost of \$49,987, to prepare a Lompoc-VAFB-Santa Maria Intercommunity Transit Service Implementation Plan. The motion was seconded by Mayor Arca and carried unanimously.

11. **ROUTE 101 OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS FUNDING**

Mr. Kemp presented the staff report.

Scott Wenz said he was in favor of funding the 101 Operational Improvements but did not favor funding for bicycles projects.

A motion was made by Councilmember Smyser, seconded by Mayor Arca, and unanimously carried to authorize the Chair to sign a letter to the incoming Governor of California requesting reimbursement of Measure D funding allocated by SBCAG for the Highway 101 Operational Improvement projects.

12. **FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (FTIP) AMENDMENT NO. 9B AND MEASURE D PROGRAM OF LOCAL PROJECTS AMENDMENT NO. 1**

John Asuncion presented the staff report.

Scott Wenz said he did not have a problem with the amendment proposed so long as MTD's Stingray project does not proceed ahead.

Councilmember Smyser moved to:

A. Amend the 2002 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) to:

1. Transfer \$263,000 in RSTP funds from ADA Easy Lift Paratransit service to the MTD Hybrid-Electric Bus Enhancement project;
2. Unprogram \$133,000 in CMAQ funds from the City of Solvang's Santa Ynez Valley Transit System Replacement Project;
3. Program \$133,000 in RSTP funds to the City of Solvang's Street Repair and Maintenance Project

- B. Approve an Amendment to the 2003 Measure D Program of Local Projects for the City of Solvang to transfer \$133,000 from the "Various Roads" project to the Santa Ynez Valley Transit System Replacement Van project.

The motion was seconded by Mayor Weinberg and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Smyser noted that a typographical error was made in the contract approved under Item 14. He stated that on Page 2, Paragraph 4, Section 2, the word "COUNSEL" should be changed to "AUTHORITY."

There being no more action items the Board returned to the Caltrans report.

8. **CALTRAN'S DISTRICT DIRECTORS REPORT**

Rich Krumholz, Deputy District Director, stated that the 2004 STIP draft fund estimate had been prepared and that the funding estimate was not favorable. He said there may be a deprogramming of existing projects with no new funding coming in during the next two years. He explained that statewide projects were being reprioritized that had already been programmed, and that projects that do not have construction dollars programmed may be stopped until some time in the future. Mr. Krumholz explained that they will be looking at measures to keep the highest priority projects going.

Chair Lavagnino asked if it was both construction projects and maintenance projects that would be affected. He said that the decorative tiles on the Hwy 101 overpasses in Santa Maria were supposed to be replaced but that wasn't happening.

Bruce Nybo, City of Santa Maria Public Works Engineer, stated that the tiles were the responsibility of the City of Santa Maria and that they were in the process of engaging a tile contractor. He stated that the bids received to date were very high.

Mayor DeWees asked if it would be five years before new funding is anticipated.

Mr. Krumholz replied that a portion of funds would be available each year but not as much as had been originally estimated. He explained that a large number of projects would be pushed out farther into the future.

Mayor DeWees asked about the prospects for funding the 246 widening project.

Mr. Krumholz stated that 246 widening project is programmed in the STIP for environmental work only and that design and construction funding has not yet been identified.

Mayor DeWees expressed concern that the IP would be approved and then the IP might be outdated when the construction could begin on improvements to 101.

Mr. Kemp responded that the IP included more than widening and that some of the low cost projects resulting from the IP could be funded and completed in the relatively near future. Mr. Kemp said that the problem was in the next year of the STIP not that there was no funding available. He said that staff would be looking at all of the funding SBCAG will receive over the next five years and possibly reprioritize the funding. He indicated that funding for future improvements to 101 could come from an extension of Measure D.

Mayor Lavagnino said that during the public comment period earlier, Mr. Siegel had made some interesting comments and asked that the comments be brought back to the Board in December.

Mayor Weinberg said that the Hwy 101 Operational Improvements are funded and will move forward as a top priority project.

Mr. Kemp said that the action taken last month was to use Measure D funds for the Operational Improvements and noted that the Milpas to Hot Springs project was fully funded but might need to be deferred to 2005-2006.

Councilmember Hart said that the decision the Board made to frontload the funds to Caltrans was wise and that the Board would need to be creative to make these projects happen.

15. **TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS ANNUAL REPORT**

Kent Epperson presented the staff report. He corrected the staff report on page 4 changing the word "grams" to read "pounds".

Mayor DeWees stated that the statistics that Mr. Epperson reported were impressive. He inquired whether Bike to Work Day was the highest day that bicycles were used as transportation to work.

Mr. Epperson stated that you really couldn't use the Bike to Work Day participation as an indication of the total number of people riding bikes to work that day, since many people bicycle on bike to work day, but do not register for the event.

Mayor DeWees asked if the 62% was a good fare box ratio for the Clean Air Express and asked how it compares to the MTD's fare box ratio.

Mr. Epperson replied that the Clean Air Express fare box recovery ratio is higher than MTD's fare box recovery ratio. Mr. Powers added that it is difficult to compare the two transit services since the MTD fare box recovery ratio includes weekend and midday service for the transit dependent population and consequently has a much lower fare box ratio than subscription commuter services, such as the Clean Air Express, that serve choice riders.

Mayor Weinberg congratulated the Traffic Solutions staff for doing such a fine job. He also commented on the article in the newspaper regarding commuting and said that those types of articles really pay off.

Mayor Weinberg requested that the shuttle route for Carpinteria be placed on the transit map. He also mentioned that while not everyone can bicycle every day, many people choose to bicycle once or twice a week.

Mr. Epperson agreed and said that according to the 2002 Commuter Profile, many people indicate that bicycling is their secondary mode of commuting and about 12.8% of all commuters bicycle to work once or twice a week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no additional comments.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kemp said it was staff's intention to report monthly on the progress of the 101 Implementation Plan as either an informational or action item when appropriate. He said that a Steering Committee would be providing a list of the stakeholders that may wish to be involved in the Implementation Plan.

Mr. Kemp noted that progress was being made relative to the 101 Operational Improvement projects and that they will be considered by the CTC for STIP amendments to incorporate the Measure D funding in December. He said that staff would be meeting with Caltrans to develop cooperative agreements for the projects and decide who the responsible party will be. He suggested that a consultant may be hired to assist with public information program relative to those projects. He said that SBCAG would be using its own consultants for some of the work on the Milpas/Hot Springs operational improvements since Caltrans may be resource constrained. He said that a Cooperative Agreement would be developed and brought back to the Board possibly as soon as December.

Mayor DeWees asked the status on the Hwy 246 project.

Mr. Kemp stated that work on the Hwy 246 widening study is in the beginning stages and that the project only has environmental funding at this time. He explained that those projects that do not have funding available for future phases of work due to Caltrans funding may need to be deferred.

Mayor DeWees questioned if it would be wasting money to begin the environmental process on a project when delays are likely due to lack of funding.

Councilmember Hart expressed his appreciation for the direction being taken with Caltrans. He said this was the way work would get completed and he hoped that Caltrans would be a partner with SBCAG. He said that SBCAG would need very aggressive representation in Sacramento from the local Caltrans representatives.

Mr. Kemp informed the Board that as a federal grantee and federal Metropolitan Planning Organization SBCAG was required to go through a two day planning certification review and that a public hearing would be held on December 2 at 5:00 p.m. as part of this federal process.

Mr. Kemp said that notices had been sent out to Board packet recipients that they would no longer be receiving hard copies of Board packets but could receive an e-mail when the agenda/staff reports/minutes were posted to the SBCAG website. Mr. Kemp said that for any individuals who do not have access to a computer, if they so request, an agenda can be sent and if they see any items they are interested in they can call the office and hard copies of the staff reports can be provided to them. He noted that the Board members and alternates would still receive hard copies of the Board packet.

Mayor Arca asked that the Board receive their hard copies before the meeting information is posted to the SBCAG website so that if anyone asks the Board any questions relative to an item on the upcoming agenda they will have the same information at hand.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no comments.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.