

## MINUTES

### SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Thursday, May 20, 2004

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

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

**Members Present:** Naomi Schwartz, Supervisor, First District (SBCAG Chair); Susan Rose, Supervisor, Second District; Gail Marshall, Supervisor, Third District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Bill Traylor, Mayor, City of Buellton; Richard Weinberg, Mayor, City of Carpinteria; Jack Hawxhurst, Councilmember, City of Goleta; Lupe Alvarez, Councilmember, City of Guadalupe; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc (SBCAG Vice-Chair); Dan Secord, Councilmember, City of Santa Barbara; Marty Mariscal, Councilmember, City of Santa Maria; David Smyser, Mayor, City of Solvang; Gregg Albright, Caltrans District 5 Representative.

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Members Present:** Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Michael Powers, Deputy Director of Planning; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director of Programs; Kent Epperson, TDM Program Coordinator; John Asuncion, Transportation Planner; Cathy Muneio, Executive Secretary/Board Clerk; Kevin E. Ready, Sr., Senior Deputy County Counsel.

Chair Schwartz welcomed new board members Marty Mariscal, Councilmember with the City of Santa Maria and, Lupe Alvarez, Councilmember with the City of Guadalupe.

Mr. Kemp announced the appointment of Gregg Hart, former Councilmember to the City of Santa Barbara and previous TDM Program Administrator to SBCAG as the new Public Information Officer.

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Schwartz called for the pledge of allegiance.

#### 3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

No closed session was held.

Chair Schwartz announced to the Board and public that there would be a special meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 at 7:50 a.m. to discuss a closed session item at the Board of Supervisors Conference Room prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting. County Counsel, Kevin Ready, added that the meeting and closed session on May 25<sup>th</sup> would have remote testimony available

at the Board of Supervisors Conference Room in Santa Maria for the North County board members that did not wish to drive to Santa Barbara.

4. **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 15, 2004**

A motion was made by Councilmember Secord, seconded by Supervisor Rose and carried to approve the minutes of April 15, 2004, with Supervisor Marshall and Councilmembers Alvarez and Mariscal abstaining.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Supervisor Schwartz requested that a meeting with representatives from the Union Pacific and Amtrak be scheduled to explore the feasibility of expanding rail uses in the Santa Barbara County and requested that State and Congressional representatives be invited to attend.

Councilmember Secord made a motion to place this item on the next agenda. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Gray and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Centeno reported that Councilmember Mariscal, Alex Pujo and himself had met the prior day to discuss the transportation needs of the farmworkers. He noted it was a good discussion and that they would continue to meet.

7. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Several items were discussed on the consent agenda.

B. **YEAR-END BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

Councilmember Hawxhurst asked for clarification on the \$42,000 appropriation for the SAFE fund.

Mr. Kemp stated that a significant amount of the \$42,000 was for callbox knockdowns, which are difficult to estimate. Ms. Gillian, SBCAG Accounting Officer, said that \$20,000 was for expenditures for callbox knockdowns that had gone above and beyond the budgeted amount and that \$22,000 was for consultant costs over the budgeted amount.

Councilmember Hawxhurst said he hoped this wasn't systemic and asked if this called for a review of the SAFE fund. Mr. Kemp said that the SAFE program is a separate budget item in SBCAG's Comprehensive Budget which had its own revenue source obtained from vehicle registration fees. He said these funds could only be used for highway call boxes. Mr. Kemp said that the use of call boxes has declined as a result of cell phones but they are still being used by a large number of people.

Supervisor Rose said that with the large dollar amounts the Board was being requested to approve with a minimal amount of description, this was not an item that she felt should be placed on the consent calendar. Ms. Gillian explained that this was the first time that such large numbers needed to be addressed but that this was largely due to the bond refinancing costs.

Supervisor Schwartz asked that the Board in the future discuss as a matter policy establishing a threshold amount for staff for placing items on the consent calendar.

Mr. Kemp mentioned that a large amount of these budget adjustments were a result of actions previously approved by the Board.

**D. US 101/MILPAS-HOT SPRINGS OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Scott Wenz, Cars are Basic, said that he had read a report that the consultant for the 101 in Motion had stated 84 percent of the public was not in favor of widening Hwy 101. He asked that this report not be accepted.

Mr. Kemp said that what Mr. Wenz might be referring to were the four public workshops that were held on the 101 in Motion project. He said that one of the things asked was to identify issues that were most important to the public. One of the values ranked the highest was the desire to see more choices presented.

**G. HIGHWAY 101 IN MOTION PROJECT**

Joe Armendariz, Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association, made a public records request to obtain an itemized fiscal accounting on the 101 in Motion project. He said that in the staff report it stated that the public outreach component was over budget, and his organization was less than enthusiastic about spending funds for this process.

Mayor DeWees requested a list of the stakeholders involved in the 101 in Motion project and a list of any other groups that asked to be included in the process but were not.

Kevin Ready advised that a public records request needed to be made in writing.

Chair Schwartz requested that our report on the 101 in Motion project be placed on the July agenda.

A motion was made by Mayor DeWees, seconded by Mayor Smyser and carried unanimously to approve the entire consent calendar.

**8. CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Gregg Albright, District Director of Caltrans 5, referenced his letter of May 12<sup>th</sup>. He said that the Hwy 150 bridge, and the Hwy 135 rehab projects were delayed due to funding shortfalls. He said that he was pleased that the CTC approved the funding allocation for Hwy 135 project at its May meeting, and would start construction six to eight weeks after the bid opening on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Albright said that he would like to offer a comprehensive discussion on the SHOPP program at a future meeting.

Mayor Smyser asked about the road work that was completed on Hwy 154/246 through Solvang. He said that there were a number of shop owners that had in the past been told by Caltrans would be making drainage improvements. He said that what occurs now is that runoff water ends up sitting in the road creating a problem for pedestrians and causing health concerns.

Mr. Albright said that he would check and see what the status was of this work.

Councilmember Mariscal thanked Caltrans on behalf of the citizens of Santa Maria for moving forward on the project on Hwy 135 from McCoy to Waller. He said it would be very beneficial if they would continue this work from Waller to Skyway. He requested that they consider doing

work on Valley Road from Hwy 135 to Clark and on the Main Street. He said that the Main Street off ramp was closed today due to the end of the Hwy 166 project.

Councilmember Alvarez thanked Caltrans for coming to Guadalupe to meet regarding the Safe Routes to School issue.

9. **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

Chair Schwartz presented a resolution of appreciation adopted by acclamation to Doug Allard for his service as the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District Officer.

Mr. Allard thanked the members of the SBCAG Board and said he did not think anywhere else in the state do the local COG and Air Pollution Control District work so closely together. He thanked Jim Kemp and the rest of the SBCAG staff for working so closely with them in establishing such a collaborative relationship. He said he hoped the SBCAG board would continue to nurture the relationship.

10. **INTERCOMMUNITY TRANSIT SERVICE PLAN**

Michael Powers presented the staff report. He said that the City of Santa Maria would be the administrator of the service would be providing for access to medical facilities and community colleges. He explained that the plan had been revised by the consultant based on the comments received from the board and advisory committees. He stated that the modifications included driver split shifts, modification to bus stops and assessing the performance of service. He stated that SBCAG would be working with the City of Santa Maria in two steps. One would be to prepare applications that would enable them to access funds then proceed to leasing of the buses. The second would be to conduct ongoing review of performance of fare box recovery. He stated that an MOU was drafted in concert with local agencies involved in this program. He indicated that COAST was concerned about performance standards for a 20 percent fare box ratio to ensure this service is viable. COAST was suggesting that a 15 percent fare box ration standard be used.

Mayor DeWees asked if the lease/purchase option would slow down the purchase of buses and would they be able to discontinue the service if it was unproductive. Mr. Powers responded that the lease/purchase option would not delay the bus acquisition. Mr. Powers said that the MOU provided for an annual report on performance.

Alex Pujo with COAST made a request for SBCAG to lower the recommended fare box ratio standard to 15%. He said that currently all transit services were experiencing a drop in their fare box ratio due to the cost of fuel and insurance and that the proposed standard of 20% was asking a lot for a new service.

Mr. Powers explained that the board did have the discretion to decide on the fare box ratio but that with the benefits this service would provide to the VAFB, and the fact that federal government would be reimbursing government workers who rode the bus for using alternative transportation, he was optimistic that the service could reach a 20 percent fare box ratio.

Renee Hoskinson, Executive Director for Community Partners in Caring, said she would be leaving the area and thanked Michael Powers and Ruth Garcia for all of their hard work on the NCTAC committee. She said that this brings together the community with the military. She requested that they keep up the good work and recognized the work of COAST. She requested that the Board consider all options and asked that the Board take into consideration who this

would affect. Ms. Hoskinson also thanked the Board for recognizing volunteers at Community Partners in Caring. Chair Schwartz thanked Ms. Hoskinson and wished her well.

Barry Stotts said he echoed Ms. Hoskinson and thanked Michael Powers and Ruth Garcia. He also said that the low-floor buses would be a plus in getting on and off the buses. He said as a retired vet he would now be able to go to Lompoc for special medical needs and thanked the staff and board for supporting this project and making it a reality.

Bob Dockerty with AmericanStar said his firm is a woman-owned business enterprise operating school buses, charter coaches, transportation for all school districts in the communities of Santa Maria, Orcutt, and the COLT service with exclusive authority. He indicated that American Star has been granted an exclusive Public Utilities Commission permit to operate intercity bus services within Santa Barbara County. He offered his services to operate the bus service including the buses. He made a request to have AmericanStar be included in the planning process.

Councilmember Hawxhurst said that the overall program originally was \$3 million dollars for a three-year pilot program. He said that the lease/purchase option represented a 30 percent increase which was disconcerting.

Mr. Powers responded that at the end of the three years if there was a successful service then there would be a need to continue this service. With a lease/purchase they would already have the buses, but if they solely leased the buses and had a successful service, they would need to find another revenue source to purchase the buses to continue this service.

Mayor DeWees asked what would happen if it was determined it was not a viable service. Mr. Powers responded that it would be known in two years if the service would be successful, and if they had decided to purchase the buses then he did not think it would be difficult to sell them.

Supervisor Schwartz said she thought the service had great potential and that she thought a 20 percent fare box ratio was reasonable, especially with a large advertising effort. Supervisor Schwartz asked how many people the buses would hold. Mr. Powers responded that they would hold between 40-45 people which would be sufficient to meet the demand. He said if the service took off there would be flexibility to add additional buses.

Mayor DeWees asked if there had been any discussion with VAFB. Mr. Powers stated that VAFB representatives had participated on the technical committee.

Mayor DeWees asked if the commander had been contacted to discuss transporting people from the barracks to the bus stop. Mr. Powers responded that representatives of the base had attended the Intercommunity Transit Meetings and expressed their excitement and commitment to this service, but no direct contacts with the Commander had occurred.

Renee Hoskinson said that she had discussed the new service with Colonel Villegas and that he was supportive and looking forward to receiving additional information on this service.

Councilmember Mariscal said he was in support of the 20 percent fare box ratio and that publicity would be beneficial for obtaining ridership. He stated the service, commuter timetables, and the turn around times looked good, but that it seemed there was a lot of downtime during midday with two hour layovers. He recommended looking at increasing the

midday service. Otherwise they would be paying for a bus and staff to sit idle during certain periods of the day.

Councilmember Secord moved to approve the Intercommunity Transit Service Implementation Plan to include a 20 percent fare box ratio with an annual review of the pilot service and to direct staff to work with the City of Santa Maria to develop a CMAQ application for a bus lease/purchase. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Marshall and carried unanimously.

11. **CLEAN AIR EXPRESS OPERATOR CONTRACT**

Kent Epperson presented the staff report and presented the background on this item.

Councilmember Secord asked if they had reviewed the past safety history of the current operator. Kent Epperson said that representatives of CalTIP reviewed the Santa Barbara Airbus track record and found that their history was very good and had no major claims.

Mayor DeWees asked if they had reviewed the new RFP guidelines with the Santa Barbara Airbus. Mr. Epperson said he had followed up with Santa Barbara Airbus to address some of the risks raised.

Mayor DeWees asked if they had sat down with the other bidders. Mr. Epperson said he had conversations with both AmericanStar and MV Transportation. He said they were also concerned about their scores and how they could improve their proposals.

Mayor DeWees said that after the January meeting when Santa Barbara Airbus expressed concern about not being recommended and it was decided to redo the RFP, he said it seemed that there was the impression with certain people that Santa Barbara Airbus dictated the guidelines for the new RFP. He asked whether this had created a level playing field.

Supervisor Schwartz stated that what was discussed at the January meeting was the issue of insurance and the Board requested staff reevaluate the insurance provisions of the RFP.

Mr. Kemp said that following discussion and direction from the Board at the January meeting staff felt it would be advantageous to explore changing some of the terms of the contract by rejecting all of the bids, making the appropriate changes to the RFP and reissuing the RFP. He said that the thought was that it would be favorable to SBCAG to provide different scenarios to bid on and that all of the companies were asked to bid based on the same information. He said it was found that by making changes and obtaining insurance through CalTIP that money could be saved and reduce the amount of required subsidies for operation of the service. Mr. Kemp explained that the revised RFP was a result of information from all three proposers.

Mayor DeWees inquired whether MV Transportation and AmericanStar came back with the same bids. Mr. Epperson responded that they had all returned with lower bids.

Barry Stotts said that he rides the CAE from Santa Maria to Santa Barbara and requested better scheduling from Santa Maria to Santa Barbara. He also recommended passes or coupons to buy tokens to ride the bus to Santa Barbara. He requested that when the Santa Maria Transit Center is complete that the CAE pick up riders there instead of the current place due to convenience. Mr. Stotts also requested that SBCAG try to obtain extra funding to complete the transit center.

Mr. Dockerty with AmericanStar said he was disappointed that AmericanStar was not recommended on the second RFP, and said he was baffled by the Santa Barbara Airbus recommendation. He asked if anything different had occurred during the last several months to change the recommendation to approve Santa Barbara Airbus. He said that he was upset with the contract negotiations and there were many conflicts that did not seem satisfactory to the Federal Transit Administration. He said he was filing a formal protest to SBCAG.

Supervisor Rose said that she understood the reason for rejecting the original RFP and sending out a new one was a cost issue due to the request that the proposer provide the insurance, and now that SBCAG would be providing the insurance this had changed the conditions.

Mr. Epperson said the first set of RFPs had the proposers spending different amounts on insurance and when this issue was pulled the numbers changed. He said that risk and uncertainty also played a role.

Mr. Dockerty said that at the previous meeting Santa Barbara Airbus was allowed to speak for 15 minutes and that due to time constraints he would defer his comments to speak at the next meeting.

Chair Schwartz recommended that the Board not proceed with the contract at this meeting until the protest is resolved. She called for a ten minute break at 10:10 am to allow legal counsel time to review the protest.

When the Board reconvened at 10:20 a.m. Kevin Ready said that as a matter of administrative procedure until the Board acts there is no protest. He said he recommended that the Board go ahead and take action and if the party wished to make a protest they could do so at that time. He said that the bullet points in the protest letter were very general in nature and that most of them refer to the procedures in the last RFP contract award. He said that if the RFP is not satisfactory then it is proper procedure to cancel the old RFP and reissue a new one. He said the purpose for this is to put out the best RFP possible to save public funds.

Supervisor Schwartz said it was not a matter of not doing the RFP correctly but that information was provided that changed the RFP.

Mr. Ready said that both Santa Barbara Airbus and American Star commented that if the RFP were changed they would be able to improve their bid. He said the second round of bids in fact, came in lower. He recommended the Board move forward and award the contract and that there would need to be an ex-agenda item if the current contract would need to be extended. He said a contract extension would need to be executed prior to the next Board meeting, and an extension would be necessary if there was a formal protest the recommended contract award.

Councilmember Mariscal asked about the scope of services on page 20, stating that the vendor would need to provide insurance.

Mr. Ready said that CalTIP would provide the main insurance for SBCAG but that there would need to be liability insurance provided by the contractor.

Supervisor Gray congratulated staff and the various bus companies for formulating a better RFP that would benefit the taxpayers and SBCAG customers. Supervisor Gray moved to authorize the Chair to execute a contract with Santa Barbara Airbus to operate the Clean Air Express

transit service as amended by County Counsel and to authorize the Executive Director to execute a Joint Powers Agreement between SBCAG and CalTIP for vehicle liability and collision insurance for the Clean Air Express. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Rose.

Mayor DeWees said as a matter of fairness said he would like to continue this item and extend the contract to provide all agencies equal time to express themselves. He said there was some perception with other people that the other vendors were not given an equal amount of time and consideration for input into the RFP and said that he would not be supporting the motion.

Mr. Ready said that Mr. Kemp had provided him with the SBCAG guidelines for proposal protest procedures and it said "When a protest has been filed prior to the contract award, SBCAG shall not award the contract prior to deciding the protest." He recommended that the board not approve the contract at this time so that the protest procedures can be followed.

The motion and second were withdrawn by Supervisor Gray and Supervisor Rose.

Mayor Smyser moved to continue this item, and based upon the protest procedures bring this item back to the Board following the protest process. Councilmember Secord seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Kevin Ready said that the Board might want to add an ex-agenda item to extend the current contract with Santa Barbara Airbus. This would allow the service to continue under the existing contract while the protest is reviewed.

Supervisor Schwartz requested that legal counsel provide the wording for the ex-agenda item prior to the end of the meeting.

12. **MEASURE D EXPENDITURE PLAN**

Mr. VanDenburgh presented the staff report.

Councilmember Secord inquired if using \$310,000 in Measure D funds from the Highway 101 reserve for the Summerland project would diminish funds that could be used for the 101 Operational Improvements.

Mr. Kemp stated the Milpas\Hot Springs project was fully funded now and that staff did not anticipate at this time that the Milpas\Hot Springs operational project would need additional funding.

Mayor Weinberg asked about the other operational improvements that were going to be completed in the future including the Linden\Casitas interchange project, and how using the funds for Summerland would impact those projects.

Mr. VanDenburgh said that they would indeed be using the Measure D Highway 101 reserve funds to pay for Summerland and any cost overruns on the Milpas\Hot Springs project. He said that there would be fewer Measure D dollars available for other projects and that the Linden\Casitas project currently had a shortfall of \$20 million dollars, so there was a significant shortfall to make up for that, and it wasn't clear if the \$310,000 for Summerland would make or break that project.

Mayor Weinberg said he was concerned that monies being saved for the operational improvements seemed to be shifting from Measure D projects to STIP projects because a



project was ready and he was concerned that the money for Hwy 101 projects would not be there when needed.

Supervisor Schwartz said that they were using Measure D funds along the Caltrans corridor for a number of local improvements. She said they were substituting Measure D funds on the other projects because there was no state funding available at this time, but that the STIP funds would be paid back and be available for other projects.

Mayor Smyser said he would not approve using Measure D funding for landscaping, sidewalks and bike lanes.

Councilmember Secord asked if merging the Summerland and Ortega Hill auxiliary lane projects would save money.

Mr. VanDenburgh said some costs savings would come from a coordinated public outreach effort.

Supervisor Schwartz said she was an advocate of this project since it was approved in 1996. She said a small area would need to be torn up twice if this project was not approved now and that this would cause needless disruption for the community.

Supervisor Schwartz asked for public comment.

Joe Armendariz, with the Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association said that what they were discussing was a 1996 SBCAG decision to fund eleven operational improvement projects. He asked what the status of the other eleven projects were that were funded by the STIP and what potential is there to make these projects more cost effective to maximize available funds. He asked what provision was being made to repay Measure D and asked why this couldn't wait until August. Mr. Armendariz reminded the Board that through the approval of Measure D by voters in 1989, funds were committed to widening the freeway and this was another diversion of those funds. He said he agreed with Mayor Weinberg and that he saw no need to take Measure D funds for the Summerland project at the expense of the community.

Scott Wenz, CAB, spoke in opposition of bike lanes.

Mr. Kemp said that the STIP funding was a very fluid situation and he said that it looked like STIP funding will be available for allocation in the near future. But he indicated that staff's recommendation allowed the Measure D funds to be used for Summerland only if the project would be delayed by lack of STIP funding.

Mayor Smyser said it was his understanding that the Board approved the operational improvements to move forward at the same time as the 101 in Motion and that the operational improvements would promote the answer to the Hwy 101 problems and would help further the 101 widening project.

Mr. VanDenburgh said that the Milpas/Hot Springs Operational improvement was consistent with the ultimate widening project.

Supervisor Schwartz said that her comment referred to all of the various components of the Cabrillo/Hot Springs projects, and that it not only provides concrete lanes but also bike lanes to

enable smoother transportation for cars and people. She said the other components need to be considered.

Mr. Albright stated that there were interim improvements that were compatible and were part of the larger strategy of adding capacity. Some are interim projects and some are permanent projects.

Councilmember Hawxhurst asked if this was a loan. Mr. VanDenburgh said that the STIP funds were not lost and remained in the STIP account.

Supervisor Centeno asked if the last time Measure D funds were used on a STIP project if a letter was sent to the State requesting repayment and asked if the same thing could be done for the \$310,000. Mr. Kemp responded that the difference was this really wasn't a loan. He explained that they were using Measure D funds for Summerland and putting STIP dollars currently programmed for Summerland in reserve for another project.

Mayor Weinberg said he was not in favor of taking any more money from Measure D.

Supervisor Gray moved to continue this item for one month and come back to the Board with a more descriptive presentation. Mayor Smyser seconded the motion and made an additional request to provide engineering drawings of the 101 operational improvement projects at that time.

The motion to continue this item until July carried with Supervisors Rose, Marshall, Schwartz and Councilmember Secord opposed.

Supervisor Schwartz asked what this would mean in terms of coordinating the Ortega Hill project.

Gregg Nielsen with the County of Santa Barbara said that the Ortega Hill project was on hold while Caltrans was preparing a Cooperative Agreement between Caltrans, SBCAG and the County. He added that the Summerland project included lane channelization and turn pockets that were operational in nature.

Supervisor Schwartz asked at what point the opportunity to coordinate the Summerland project and the Ortega Hill project would be lost.

Mr. Albright said that construction was originally scheduled for July 1 and that they would coordinate through the life of the project, and added the earlier the decision the better.

Supervisor Schwartz said this created a scheduling hurdle and in the event that STIP funds became available Measure D funds would not be used.

Supervisor Centeno said he would like to see this come back to the board and requested a list of the original projects that were approved when Measure D was approved and a list of how many of those projects have been completed.

Mayor Smyser said that the Ortega Hill project was important and it should move forward if it could be coordinated with another project. He said this speaks to the commitment that the board has toward honoring its commitment to the voters that passed Measure D. He requested

engineering drawings of the projects that were not included in staff's recommendation. Mayor Smyser said he would like to see what potential there may be for shifting STIP dollars.

Supervisor Schwartz expressed concern that, with the number of follow-up items being requested, there may be a later adjournment at the June meeting.

Mayor DeWees said that there were a number of projects on the books that needed to be constructed for Hwy 101. He said the board might want to have a special meeting on Hwy 101 to find out how many projects there are, the funding available right now, what could be done now, and what will be changed if the widening does go through.

Councilmember Secord requested that all information sent to one board member be copied to the entire board.

16. **ROUTE 246 TRANSPORTATION CONCEPT REPORT**

Supervisor Gray moved to continue Item 16 due to time constraints. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Secord and carried unanimously.

13. **SBCAG FY 2004-05 BUDGET**

Mr. Kemp presented the proposed budget to the Board. He said this item would be coming back to the Board at the June meeting for approval.

Supervisor Schwartz said she did not see in the performance measures the area of public information and government affairs. She said there was discussion of increasing direct communication at the state level.

Mr. Kemp responded that this was one of the elements of the public outreach effort and said most of the public outreach efforts are relative to a particular project. He also explained that there is now an electronic newsletter and a new expanded website which have taken the place of some of the public meetings. He said that there are many opportunities to speak before groups and that a performance standard of speaking to at least 25 organizations was set up in the budget.

Supervisor Schwartz asked where the \$600,000 was located in the budget that congress had approved for the 101 in Motion project. Ms. Gillian, Accounting Officer responded that this was shown as revenue on page 16 of the budget under Federal Appropriations – 101 in Motion.

Councilmember Secord asked SBCAG's experience in staff recruitment and retention. Mr. Kemp said that over the course of the last three to four years a significant number of employees had left and that it was difficult to recruit new employees due to the high cost of living in Santa Barbara.

Councilmember Hawxhurst said that the total compensation costs were going up three times the cost of living adjustments.

Mr. Kemp responded that this was a result of benefit rate increases such as health insurance, the addition of a new position and the implementation of cash benefit allowance approved by the board.

Supervisor Gray asked who SBCAG contracted with for health insurance. Mr. Kemp responded that it was CalPERS.

Chair Schwartz asked for information in writing on what RSTP funds could be used for and how much money was available through this source.

Andy Caldwell, COLAB, referred to the Interregional Partnership Report under requiring Transportation Demand Management Strategies. He said the voters passed Measure D to widen the 101 and that the Board decided to change this. He referred to page 14 in the budget summary expenditures and said he did not understand why SAFE and Traffic Solutions showed a zero for salary benefits. He also referred to pages 8, 9 and 10 on the budget under performance measures where it discusses eliminating 170,000 vehicle trips, etc. and said he had a problem with this budget. He asked how much was being spent on the Clean Air Express, what the cost per mile saved was. He suggested going to companies and tell them that SBCAG will lease ten commuter vans instead of running the Clean Air Express and asked if that had been analyzed for a cost benefit and would it get more people off of the road.

X-1 **EXTENSION OF EXISTING CLEAN AIR EXPRESS OPERATING CONTRACT**

Councilmember Secord moved to add the extension of the existing Clean Air Express operating contract to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Rose and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Secord moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute an extension to the existing Clean Air Express Operating Contract with Santa Barbara Airbus for a period of ninety days to extend to October 1, 2004 at the same terms as the present. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Rose and carried unanimously.

14. **COASTAL EXPRESS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Mr. Kemp reported that the Coastal Express was a service started by SBCAG and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) that was initially funded for three years as a pilot project with VCTC being the lead agency. He reported that this has been a successful service in performance and ridership. The Policy Committee met last year under the original MOU and made a recommendation to continue this service beyond the pilot phase. The service would continue to be funded 50/50 by SBCAG and VCTC. He said that under the existing MOU, the policy committee includes six members from Santa Barbara County and three from Ventura County. Under the new MOU, there would be three members from each county. The Board will need to identify two representatives to be on the Coastal Express Policy Committee. He recommended appointment of one board member from a city and one from the Board of Supervisors.

Mayor DeWees asked if VCTC had acted on this item. Mr. Kemp indicated that VCTC had approved the MOU.

Mr. Kemp said that currently Mayor Weinberg and Supervisor Schwartz attended the most recent policy committee meetings.

Councilmember Secord moved to nominate Mayor Weinberg to be a representative on the Policy Committee. The motion was seconded by Mayor Smyser and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Gray moved to nominate Supervisor Schwartz to be a representative on the Policy Committee. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Rose and carried unanimously.

15. **JOBS/HOUSING INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

Mr. Kemp reported that they were working against a deadline to submit the report to the HCD and that staff has requested an extension but have not received a formal response as to whether they will extend the deadline.

Chair Schwartz asked if staff objected to bringing this item back to the Board due to time constraints.

Mr. Ready suggested that this item be brought to the South Coast Subregional Committee meeting and to place those comments on a revised report so that the public will be able to provide discussion on this item if they wish to.

Mr. Youngson said that he had been a sub-consultant on the project for the last year and one-half. He said it represents a lot of hard work from the policy steering committee. He said they have gone out to the community talking to key cities, leaders and organizations that have been involved in this issue. Mr. Youngson said he had received very positive comments and that people are engaging with ideas to solve the problem. He said he had approached key leaders in Lompoc. Mr. Powers and Mr. Jostes have been to Ventura County. Mr. Youngson said that the ECP Board had heard about this program and were very excited about it. The project report is due by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Youngson said he would appreciate the Board's comments prior to this item being submitted to the state.

The Board discussed meeting for a work session every few months to discuss the items on the agenda that get postponed due to time constraints.

Councilmember Secord asked that this be placed on the next agenda.

Chair Schwartz said it was necessary to decide whether there needs to be a prolonged meeting to discuss Hwy 101.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Kemp said the packet included a report on the LOSSAN meeting held in May.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Kemp reported that the governor had revised the 2004/05 budget proposal in May and that there were significant changes from the original proposal.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Schwartz adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m. to a special meeting on May 25, 2004 at 7:50 a.m.