

MINUTES

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Salud Carbajal, Supervisor, First District; Susan Rose, Supervisor, Second District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Joe Centeno (SBCAG Chair), Supervisor, Fifth District; Russ Hicks, Councilmember, City of Buellton; Donna Jordan, Councilmember, City of Carpinteria; Jonny Wallis (SBCAG Vice-Chair), Councilmember, City of Goleta; Lupe Alvarez, Mayor, City of Guadalupe; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc; Marty Blum, Mayor, City of Santa Barbara; Marty Mariscal, Councilmember, City of Santa Maria; Ed Skytt, Councilmember, City of Solvang, Gregg Albright, Caltrans District 5 Representative.

Members Absent: Brooks Firestone, Supervisor, Third District.

Staff Members Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Michael Powers, Deputy Director of Planning; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director of Programming; Kent Epperson, TDM Program Administrator; Bob Perkins, Administrative Services Officer; Martha Gibbs, Finance Officer; Gregg Hart, Public Information/Government Affairs Coordinator; Sarkes Khachek, Transportation Planner II; Jonathan Whitt, TDM Marketing Coordinator; Cathy Muneio, Board Clerk; Kevin E. Ready, Sr., Senior Deputy County Counsel.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Centeno called for the pledge of allegiance.

3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

None.

4. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Blum moved approval of the minutes of January 19, 2006 as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Carbajal and carried with Supervisor Gray abstaining.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Supervisor Gray requested that Item 7H be pulled from the consent calendar.

H. MEASURE D REAUTHORIZATION PUBLIC OUTREACH

Supervisor Gray said she could not support this item because she was of the opinion that Tramutola had presented to the public a different split than what the board had discussed.

Supervisor Carbajal asked staff to provide an explanation.

Mr. Kemp explained the board unanimously approved at its January meeting a motion to direct Tramutola based on their expertise to develop some recommendations for the draft A plus B expenditure plan and to conduct an extensive public outreach process to solicit input from stakeholders, city councils, board of supervisors and the public. Based on this input the consultant team would propose necessary changes to the plan for the board's consideration. He said that this would include a much more intensive public outreach process because essentially two expenditure plans would need to be developed that will include two ordinances that will involve much more of Mr. Tramutola's time. This additional work is beyond the scope of the existing contract and the contract amendment provides an additional budget amount for this extra work.

Supervisor Rose arrived.

Supervisor Carbajal explained that at the January meeting there was a discussion by the board that groundwork had already been completed along with good concepts, but that there was a disconnect with the public. He further explained that the board had requested that Mr. Tramutola work with the stakeholders and provide his best recommendation to the board. He indicated that Mr. Tramutola had certain concepts to start with that were within a certain structure in which he had received some positive and negative reactions, but he had not completed the public outreach process yet. The additional funding would enable him to complete this process.

Councilmember Jordan said that input was a necessity to complete this plan and requested additional time for the board to discuss the plan, possibly through its subcommittees.

Councilmember Hicks said that it was clear from listening to the other board members that the board would like to stay within a certain percentage range close to the 70/30 it was currently using, and that the 60/40 split should not have been put out to the public. He said a hard decision needs to be made on the percentage split.

Mayor Wallis pointed out that Mr. Tramutola was hired to help develop the expenditure plan, but it was not anticipated that Mr. Tramutola would present a plan that the board had not agreed to. She said as the plan moved forward she would hope to receive public input rather than provide the public with input.

Councilmember Mariscal said he watched the DVD of the January board meeting. He said there was a part where Councilmember Jordan asked what information would be provided to the public and Mr. Tramutola responded that they would need to discuss this

and work it out. Mr. Mariscal said he concurred with Councilmember Hicks and requested that the questions provided by Committee Inc. be read into the record.

Supervisor Centeno said when this was previously brought before the board they had provided a starting base for putting together the expenditure plan and that plan was what Mr. Tramutola would take to the public for comments. He did not remember saying anything to staff or Mr. Tramutola relative to changing the percentages to 60/40, and now that it has been discussed with the public there may be an expectation on a percentage change. He explained that the board should decide what the parameters should be and inform Mr. Tramutola of them and where they would like to go with the plan. He did say, however, that he would support conducting additional meetings to gain support.

Supervisor Gray expressed disappointment in the direction the plan was heading and the progress lost at this point in time.

Supervisor Carbajal said valid points had been made and he hoped that Mr. Tramutola would consider the process issues that were raised. He encouraged the board not to dig their heels in quite yet since it would create rigidity that would prevent Mr. Tramutola from completing his work.

Chair Centeno said he would pull this item for a separate vote.

Supervisor Carbajal moved to authorize the Chair to execute an amendment to the agreement with Tramutola LLC to provide expanded public outreach tasks and increase the contract budget by \$22,500. The motion was seconded by Mayor Blum.

Mayor Alvarez said he agreed with Supervisor Gray that Mr. Tramutola had misunderstood the direction the board had provided and therefore did not want to provide additional funding beyond this amendment.

Councilmember Mariscal asked if the motion was to approve the information that Mr. Tramutola would be presenting to the public.

Chair Centeno said that the board could direct staff to do whatever they would like but what was before the board was to approve funding for additional public outreach.

Supervisor Gray asked if there was a definition of public outreach.

Supervisor Carbajal said that Mr. Tramutola would need to continue to meet with staff for input and suggestions and develop a plan after this thorough process has been completed and return to the board and provide a professional opinion in light of all of the input received.

Supervisor Centeno said that what was requested of Mr. Tramutola by the Board was being followed and that extra funding was necessary to do so.

The motion carried with Supervisor Gray and Mayor Skytt opposed and Councilmember Mariscal abstaining.

Councilmember Hicks moved approval of the remaining consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Skytt and carried unanimously.

8. RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION

Mayor Wallis read the resolution of appreciation for Dr. Secord.

Supervisor Gray moved approval of the resolution of appreciation for Dan Secord. The motion was seconded by Mayor Alvarez and carried unanimously.

Dr. Secord thanked everyone for the acknowledgement and expressed his joy with the time he had spent with the board. He noted that this board's work was not easy but that its work was critical, and he acknowledged the outreach efforts that were made through the South Coast Subregional Planning Committee to Ventura County and those made to San Luis Obispo. In regards to the renewal of Measure D he said that the board would need to make compromises and get past their self interest since seventy percent of nothing would be nothing. He said he was looking forward to staying involved with this work.

Supervisor Centeno read the resolution of appreciation for Gregg Albright.

Supervisor Centeno moved approval of the resolution of appreciation for Gregg Albright. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Carbajal and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Carbajal said during the last twelve years that he had worked for the County of Santa Barbara he had seen a number of Caltrans District directors come and go but Gregg Albright had set the bar very high, not only in terms of service, but also in the decision making process.

Gregg Albright said it was not his plan to leave the central coast or his job, but when the deputy position opened the Caltrans director encouraged him to take the position, and said it would provide him with a good opportunity to fill his shoes with someone even better. Mr. Albright thanked the community of Santa Barbara for having such a large impact on how Caltrans runs its department. He said that this community called for Caltrans to be more sensitive to the community and not to just take into consideration automobiles. He said he was encouraged that Santa Barbara would obtain additional funding for mobility issues since there were many congestion relief needs around the south coast, and that Santa Barbara County was a self help county that places this county in a position of power. Mr. Albright also said he was proud of the 101 in Motion project and when Caltrans sees a local agency looking at a project this comprehensively it will help leverage additional funding. Mr. Albright said that he would have a different level of influence as a deputy director. As his last comment Mr. Albright said that he hoped that the board recognizes what a high functioning regional government it has.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Due to technical difficulties George Alvarez was not available to comment previously during the public comment period and requested he be allowed to speak. He said that there was a need to extend the levy to the Guadalupe Bridge and requested funding assistance. As a resident of Guadalupe he said the city would be requesting possible annexations in the future and hoped to work together to solve some of Guadalupe's problems.

Being that Item 9 had a time certain of 10:00 a.m. Chair Centeno decided to move ahead to Item 10.

10. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- A. Supervisor Gray moved to appoint Councilmember Hicks as the delegate and Councilmember Skytt as the alternate delegate for the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wallis and carried unanimously.
- B. Supervisor Gray moved to appoint Supervisor Rose as the delegate and Supervisor Carbajal as the alternate delegate to Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN), and Supervisor Rose as the delegate and Mayor Alvarez as the alternate delegate to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council. The motion was seconded by Mayor DeWees and carried unanimously.
- C. Mayor Alvarez moved to appoint Supervisors Carbajal and Rose, Mayors Wallis and Blum, Councilmember Jordan and Jim Kemp to the Coastal Express Policy Steering Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Skytt and carried unanimously.
- D. Mayor Blum stated that the South Coast Subregional Planning Committee had two north county members that attended the meetings during the 101 in Motion process but now that this was complete she suggested that the south county members start meeting by themselves and noted that the North County Subregional Planning Committee does not have south county board members attend their meetings.

Councilmember Mariscal concurred with Mayor Blum.

Mayor DeWees moved to appoint Supervisors Carbajal, Rose and Firestone; Mayors Blum and Wallis; and Councilmember Jordan to the South Coast Subregional Planning Committee. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Carbajal and unanimously carried.

Supervisor Carbajal moved to appoint Supervisors Firestone, Gray, Centeno; Mayors DeWees, Alvarez, Councilmembers Skytt, Hicks and Mariscal to the North County Subregional Planning Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hicks and carried unanimously.

- E. Chair Centeno asked if there was any interest in board members serving as liasons to SBCAG's advisory committees.

Mayor DeWees said that he did not think any changes were necessary.

Supervisor Centeno said this could always return to the board at a future date.

9. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Michael Powers said that Jonathan Whitt of SBCAG staff was available to translate Spanish if necessary.

Mr. Khachek presented the staff report.

Chair Centeno opened the hearing to receive public comment.

Mr. Chytilo on behalf of our Children's Earth Foundation said the reason that SBCAG goes through this process every year is due to the fact that not all of TDA funds are used for transit

and encouraged the jurisdictions not using those funds for public transit purposes to do so since legislation was established for transportation service. He said he had discussed with staff extending the public comment period and the period in which SMAT will receive surveys. Mr. Chytilo stated that the Breeze service was a very successful service but recommended a bi-directional loop instead of a circuit loop. Some other suggestions made were to enhance the SMAT service with shorter headways, provide transportation to the farmworkers, and for the board to reserve one million dollars for the purpose of implementing the North County Transit Plan.

Alex Pujo requested faster headways and service to Hancock College be doubled. In regards to the unmet transit hearings he requested that they be held in the afternoon after the APCD hearings to make it possible for a larger number of the public to attend.

Supervisor Centeno asked Mr. Pujo if he had discussed this with SMAT.

Mr. Pujo said that SBCAG was the agency that makes funding decisions.

Supervisor Centeno stated that the cities determine how they use their TDA funds and that Mr. Pujo should discuss this with the local agencies.

Councilmember Mariscal said that he explained to Mr. Pujo at the January hearing that SMAT has rider meetings every other month to receive public comments.

Mr. Pujo said that SBCAG was the agency that votes on unmet needs.

Julie Kahn requested a bus at State Street early enough to catch the 9:15 a.m. train to San Diego and requested additional buses for lines 6 and 11 since they were very crowded. She read a letter from SBCTAC addressing their transit concerns.

Petra Lowen on behalf of SBCTAC thanked SBCAG for its huge support of transit services such as the Breeze service. She noted that the North County Transit Plan will provide a projection of what type of transit will be needed by the Santa Barbara county residents and requested that the board continue to look at providing transit in the Santa Ynez Valley, and from the towns of Gary and Sisquoc to Santa Maria. She provided a written letter of comment on other issues as well.

Howard Kraus said he teaches developmentally disabled adults how to use transportation and requested more support from the tri-counties.

There being no further comments the public hearing was closed.

11. CLEAN AIR EXPRESS

Kent Epperson presented the staff report to address the CAE operating and capital budget shortfall in FY 2006-07.

Mr. Epperson noted that the consensus on handling the budget shortfall would be to use Measure D regional funds as to not impact other programs or projects. He said that this item was brought before TTAC and that they concurred with the recommendation. He said they also discussed having another agency operate the Clean Air Express and that this would be examined as part of the North County Transit Plan. He noted that no board action was requested at this time, but that if the board was supportive, staff would return with an

expenditure plan amendment allocating \$500,000 in Measure D funds for board approval at the March meeting.

Supervisor Carbajal said he was in a quandary on how this will fit into the scheme of things. He said that when staff said they were using Measure D funds to help pay for the Coastal Express he wants to make sure that we are treating the Clean Air Express fairly. He requested a matrix in showing how transit services throughout the county are being funded. He said he was encouraged that there was some discussion about transferring this service to another operator.

Kent Epperson said he could bring a table that shows the funding mix for all of the transit agencies. The Coastal Express receives \$250,000 annually through Measure D funds. In the south coast all TDA funds are allocated to MTD; no funding is available for regional transit other than Measure D.

Supervisor Carbajal said a matrix would be helpful.

Chair Centeno asked for public comment.

Mr. Thorndike said that he had ridden the transit in San Diego and never seen such clean buses. He also said that the city of Chula Vista had a really good system with 40 different routes.

Sherrie Fisher, MTD General Manager, said she supported staff's recommendation and that MTD was willing to help with advertising and will make MTD's fueling facility available if MTD's fuel prices are lower than what SBCAG is currently paying the County.

Mayor Wallis said she supported the matrix but when this item returns to the board she hoped to get a better understanding of the unallocated regional Measure D funds and what projects and programs would be competing with the Clean Air Express for the remaining balance.

Councilmember Hicks said that even though the Clean Air Express appears to be a north county project it actually was started to reduce congestion on the south coast which should be taken into consideration. He said that at the subregional committee meeting the question was asked whether APCD could help fund some of the capital requirements needed for complying with ARB emissions regulations, helping reduce the \$290,000 that would come from Measure D.

Mayor DeWees stated that the Clean Air Express was a very successful program and asked about how many vehicle miles it has traveled and how much revenue was needed in order for this service to break even.

Mr. Epperson responded that it would cost about \$270 per month per customer to break even; in comparison to the \$140 a month they will be paying with the increased fare. The difference is the subsidy. He added that the CAE took 140,000 trips off Highway 101 in 2005.

Mayor DeWees thought that the estimated advertising revenue on the buses in the amount of \$12,000 was too low and recommended looking at other advertisers.

Supervisor Centeno said that they need to get on firm footing on how to deal with the \$500,000 funding need for the Clean Air Express for next year. He said that SBCAG was not designed for operating a transit system and that who should operate it should be identified before the end of the next fiscal year.

Mayor DeWees said that with commuter rail being so expensive and the uncertainty of whether Union Pacific will open up its rails that the board might want to consider putting the money set aside for that into transit.

Chair Centeno said that staff was requesting direction relative to funding.

Mr. Kemp said that he had an understanding of the board's direction which was to get the Clean Air Express on stable financial footing and as Kent Epperson indicated the North County Transit Plan will be addressing this issue. By the end of 2006 he said that a funding source and operator should be identified. He noted, however, that the CAE will require continuing subsidies regardless of who provides the service in the future.

12. PROPOSED FY 2006-07 STATE BUDGET

Mr. Kemp presented the staff report on the Governor's proposed FY 2006/07 budget and Strategic Growth Plan. He said that it provides generally good news for transportation. He explained that the governor is proposing to fully fund Proposition 42 that was passed by the voters in 2002 that dedicates all sales tax from gas revenues for transportation purposes.

Mr. Kemp said that the governor is proposing a Strategic Growth Program that will put funding into programs for infrastructure and would coexist from existing revenue sources. He said that there were considerable disagreement between the governor's proposal and the legislature's proposal and CALCOG has taken a position on some of these issues. He said they are not clear on whether the bond proposals are project specific. He noted that staff had provided board members with copies of letters to each of the members of our legislative delegation identifying our region's project priorities. This information could be used by the legislators as work on the bond proposals proceeds.

Councilmember Hicks said that from the CALCOG perspective they would not want to lose the local control they have now that allows the local jurisdictions to choose their projects.

Gregg Albright said he had a chance to sit with Governor Schwarzenegger and he had some of the same concerns that staff has expressed. The governor emphasized that he would like to establish a firewall with Prop. 42 to insure that local jurisdictions are able to continue to make their project decisions. He would like to see performance measures on the proposed additional bonds and that the CTC would be handling this process. On new monies the governor wanted a measurable outcome that is focused. He will test it against congestion relief criteria. He said he will need his staff to stay on top of how the criteria will read when it is adopted.

Supervisor Gray said that it appears to her that Santa Barbara's congestion in comparison with the rest of the state is not that bad when they are talking about weighing programs that are in need of congestion relief.

Gregg Albright responded that Santa Barbara is a significant corridor that has an economic impact and is competing against areas such as Los Angeles and San Francisco areas. He said that Hwy 101 meets the requirements.

Supervisor Gray said that between Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo that they all seem crowded.

Supervisor Centeno said that traffic in the other two counties keeps moving unlike Santa Barbara County.

Mr. Kemp responded that there are agencies that don't have any projects on the governor's proposed bond list because they may not meet the performance measures. He said that local agencies want flexibility yet we have serious congestion relief problems in the south county and the question is do we invest in a regional project or get stuck on funds being allocated due to population and should monies be disbursed on performance measures.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kemp said he would like to schedule an all day workshop on April 5th and noted that the South Coast Subregional Planning Committee meeting normally held that day would need to be cancelled. Supervisor Gray suggested scheduling the meeting later than 8 am. Mr. Kemp said he would get back to the board with a suggested time.

Mr. Kemp said that the replacement of call boxes was underway starting in the north county working its way south. Senator Maldonado will be attending the celebration when the service starts.

Mr. Kemp said that the 101 and Ortega operational improvement would be starting in early March and he would be working with Supervisor Carbajal to schedule a media event for a time when Supervisor Carbajal will be available.

Mr. Kemp indicated that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) would be holding their meeting in Santa Barbara on September 6 and 7 and that it was tradition for the county having the meeting to hold a reception. He said it will give the board an opportunity to discuss the needs of Santa Barbara County. Mayor DeWees said that the League of Cities conference is from September 6-9 so certain board members may be absent.

Mr. Kemp said that the CTC will be holding their Southern California hearing on March 9th and that Councilmember Jordan had agreed to represent SBCAG. He said that the CTC had been discouraging new start projects and that we need a strong case on why we think the widening of Hwy 101 is important. He also said that they would be making a plea for interregional funds for widening the Santa Maria River Bridge.

Supervisor Centeno asked if there was anything new to report on widening Hwy 101 in Santa Maria. Mr. Kemp responded that it was up for the CTC vote at their last meeting and that the CTC had approved a supplemental funding request which will allow the project to be re-advertised for construction bids. Caltrans revised the plans and the CTC approved the allocation of \$30 million that was estimated. It will go out to bid on March 6.

CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Gregg Albright reported that the Construction Report had one modification which was Hwy 1 at El Jarro Creek would still be under flag control for an additional three weeks.

Mr. Albright encouraged the board to craft a message that will strengthen the CTC's confidence in the vision of where SBCAG would like to go when they meet in Santa Barbara in September.

Mr. Albright said that concluded his report.

Mayor DeWees thanked Caltrans for the work on Hwy 1. He said asked about the line item on the Measure D renewal expenditure plan for the renewal measure for \$11 million for widening Hwy 1.

Mr. Kemp responded that the project came from the Lompoc city staff requesting widening of Hwy 1 (along North H Street) in the city of Lompoc.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.