

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Thursday, April 20, 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; Brooks Firestone, Supervisor, Third District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Supervisor; Joe Centeno (SBCAG Chair), Fifth District; Russ Hicks, Councilmember, City of Buellton; Donna Jordan, Councilmember, City of Carpinteria; Jonny Wallis (SBCAG Vice-Chair), Mayor, City of Goleta; John Sabedra, Councilmember, 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; Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5 Representative.

Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director of Programs; Michael Powers, Deputy Director of Planning; Kent Epperson, TDM Program Administrator; Fred Luna, Transportation Engineer; Gregg Hart, Public Information/Government Affairs Coordinator; Sarkes Khachek, Transportation Planner; 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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Supervisor Carbajal moved approval of the minutes of March 16 and April 5, 2006 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hicks and carried with Supervisor Rose abstaining for the March 16 meeting and Supervisor Gray abstaining for the March 16 and April 5 meetings.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Mariscal requested clarification on Item 6A – FY 2006-07 Overall Work Program (OWP).

Mr. Kemp explained that the OWP is prepared annually and that the Executive Summary was added to the OWP as requested by the board last month. He said the board had discussed but rejected the addition of a Regional Growth Plan work element to the OWP.

Councilmember Mariscal questioned the completion date for Work Element 3731- North County Regional Transit Plan. Mr. Kemp said that it was likely that the June 2006 date indicated in the OWP for completion of the plan would not be met.

Supervisor Carbajal moved approval of the consent calendar. Supervisor Gray seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Gray said she would need to leave the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

8. FTA SECTION 5310 GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Powers presented the staff report. He said that a single grant application was received that consisted of a bus replacement for Santa Maria Area Transit. He added that the project was scored according to prescriptive state criteria.

Supervisor Centeno asked for public comments and there was none.

Supervisor Carbajal moved to approve the scoring of the application submitted by Santa Maria Area Transit for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 capital grant program for the fiscal year 2006-2007 funding cycle. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Gray and carried unanimously.

9. MEASURE D RENEWAL

Supervisor Centeno said that staff would offer a report on the item and then the item would go to the Board for full discussion. After the board discussion the public would be invited to speak on the issue and then the item would return to the board for further discussion.

Mr. Kemp presented the staff report. He said that if the board approved an expenditure plan and voted to place a measure on the November ballot, staff would take the final expenditure plan to each of the city councils and board of supervisors for approval in May. He said staff was also requesting authorization to conduct a third phase of the public outreach effort and that the board adopt a Notice of Exemption pursuant to state CEQA guidelines.

Supervisor Carbajal asked if the regional funds specified for commuter rail were not used for commuter rail would they be reallocated into South Coast 101 Congestion Relief projects.

Mr. Kemp indicated that the expenditure plan states that if the commuter rail project were abandoned at some future date, funding would be reallocated through an amendment process to congestion relief projects in the south coast 101 corridor.

Mayor Wallis asked if funding for the Regional Bicycle Program was a specific amount or would the amount increase as revenues increase over time.

Mr. Kemp responded that the allocation would increase over time as revenues grow.

Mr. Kemp said there was also a request made at the board workshop by representatives from the Trust for Historic Preservation to include funding for historical preservation projects. Staff

had reviewed a proposal for such a program submitted by the Trust. He said that staff did not include funding for this request because mitigation is completed as part of the CEQA process for individual projects and an historic preservation grant program was not a transportation project. He noted that the board would be able to add the program only if it reduces funding for other projects in the expenditure plan.

Councilmember Hicks asked what the rationale was for the dollar amounts listed in the regional programs.

Mr. Kemp said that the funding allocated to specific regional projects was based on cost estimates for the projects but that in most cases only partial funding was proposed from Measure funds. Additional funding would need to be leveraged from STIP funds or other sources to complete the projects. Some of the regional programs establish a pot of funding for which projects can compete.

Supervisor Centeno reminded the board that at the April 5th workshop Councilmember Mariscal had presented an alternative expenditure plan for consideration. He explained that he and Supervisor Carbajal had worked closely with Councilmember Mariscal to address this issue and that discussions were held with various stakeholder groups to discuss alternatives for resolution of the City's concerns. He asked Councilmember Mariscal to indicate the City of Santa Maria's position today.

Councilmember Mariscal said that the City of Santa Maria understood the blending of measures A and B had brought the diverse interests in the county together and would make it easier for this plan to move forward. He said the funding increase requested by the City of Santa Maria at the April 5th workshop had been substantially reduced and he reviewed with the board the revised expenditure plan proposed by the City and noted the differences from their previous request.

Councilmember Skytt said the City of Solvang could not support the combined measure. He said his colleagues on the Solvang City Council had concerns about the one-quarter cent sales tax increase. He also believed the measure would result in no additional revenues to the city of Solvang because the new plan restricts local flexibility.

Supervisor Carbajal thanked Supervisor Centeno and Councilmember Mariscal for their good faith effort to propose a compromise that would require minimal reductions in allocations for the other agencies in the county.

Councilmember Hicks said it was a novel approach to protect funding for the north and south and instead take it from the middle of the county to give to the city of Santa Maria. He said he understood the need for Santa Maria to receive additional funding but questioned where the funding should be taken from. He said changing the base allocation amount each jurisdiction receives from \$50,000 to \$100,000 will be helpful to the smaller jurisdictions like Buellton.

Mayor Blum thanked Supervisors Centeno and Carbajal for working with Councilmember Mariscal and noted that the plan looked like a good one. She asked if the additional funding for Santa Maria would be taken out of the regional funds.

Councilmember Mariscal said that the competitive regional funds are available to any part of the county and the projects that will eventually be granted funding will be evaluated on a

competitive basis. He said that there also might be matching funds available if they work with Caltrans.

Supervisor Centeno said that a large amount of Measure D funding will be taken out of the Hwy 246 widening project.

Mayor DeWees said the Hwy 246 project was not yet ready to go and there may be other matching funds available from the STIP or the RSTP funds. He said if Measure D is not successfully renewed Lompoc could lose \$83 million in local funding. He said he would be willing to compromise with the hope that there will be other funds available to backfill the projects that funds will be drawn from.

Supervisor Centeno thanked Mayor DeWees for this very difficult decision and said that he would do whatever he could do to support moving forward with the Hwy 246 project. He said that this was a fragile coalition and if it was to be successful everyone would need to work together and make compromises.

Councilmember Jordan said that when Councilmember Mariscal presented Santa Maria's proposal at the board workshop on April 5th she was shocked since she thought they were working towards building a consensus. She said she appreciated the progress that was made to come to a compromise after that meeting and explained that some of her earlier concerns were due to new projects being funded, but now only projects that were already included in the plan would receive additional funds. She said Santa Maria was one of the county's major cities and she was willing to support this revised expenditure plan.

Councilmember Wallis said she agreed that a single ballot measure would be best and suggested it be reviewed every ten years. She said Goleta was the largest sales tax donor and that the city was unable to support the plan as proposed. She said they had a road rehabilitation program that required \$2 million per year and that would leave them unable to respond to future projects. Councilmember Wallis said that there was no regional funding available for bridge over-crossings estimated to cost about \$20 million each. She feared that Measure D would not allow Goleta projects to be competitive in the future unless they were referenced in the expenditure plan. She said they could not support Measure D under the current circumstances.

Councilmember Sabedra said the Santa Barbara News Press was publishing articles against Measure D and he invited the Santa Barbara News Press to visit the city of Guadalupe. He said that the people in Guadalupe live within their means and below. He said Measure D was a necessity and they need their fair share of those funds for road repairs and infrastructure.

Supervisor Firestone said he was sorting out all of the comments from Solvang and Goleta but had not heard from Buellton yet.

Mayor Blum said she was very supportive of the compromise being brought forth and if each jurisdiction gives a little bit that is what is called a consensus.

Supervisor Rose asked Mayor Wallis to clarify Goleta's request.

Mayor Wallis explained that Goleta understood the importance of renewing Measure D and that the issue was not on combining Measure D but for an integrated plan that honors commitments to transportation. She said that Goleta's issue is they over-donate sales taxes and unless they

see earmarking for 101 over-crossings in Goleta then they would not be able to sell this plan to their constituents.

Mr. Kemp said, with respect to the suggestion by Mayor Wallis that funds be provided for overpasses, one of the things that was done in developing the expenditure plan was to look at other revenue sources in addition to Measure D so that all of the projects would be fully funded with matching funds. He said that in developing the expenditure plan, staff had assumed that \$15 million from future STIP funding would be used for an overpass project in Goleta. He explained that one of the concerns staff has is that we don't know a lot about the project at this time and once it is included in the expenditure plan, there is an expectation that the project will be delivered. Mr. Kemp said that a request could be made to Caltrans to prepare a Project Study Report for a Goleta overcrossing project for the next STIP cycle. He said during the polling process over-crossings didn't rank as a high priority and they wanted to make sure that the expenditure plan include projects that are supported by voters.

Supervisor Centeno said that it appeared over-crossings were a high priority to the city of Goleta and they would probably poll extremely high, especially by the citizens of Goleta. He said that they needed to do everything they could for the city of Goleta.

Supervisor Gray asked if the over-crossings funds couldn't come out of the Safe Routes to School program.

Councilmember Hicks said that as a regional player he understood Goleta's request, but asked if their project was one that the public would support and suggested that the funding could come from the local share. He asked if they had considered what it would take to have Goleta's support.

Supervisor Rose said her original question was how this problem could be solved. She asked how much had to be written in stone.

Mayor Wallis responded that it was the unanimous direction of the Goleta Council to have \$10 million set aside for over-crossings and that these over-crossings could be considered as either regional, local or alternative transportation.

Supervisor Gray suggested pulling funding out of the funding for the circulation improvement projects, Safe Routes to School, and expansion of vanpooling programs. She said a PSR would be needed to estimate the cost of this project.

Supervisor Centeno called for a ten minute break at 10:10 a.m. prior to turning this item over to the public for comment.

The meeting reconvened at 10:27 a.m.

Chairman Centeno opened the item for public comment.

Elia Toleda from Santa Maria requested more public transit for everybody including transportation for students to school and to work.

Elena Moreno from Santa Maria said that she could not afford tax increases and a compromise was necessary.

Dan Beal with the Automobile Club said that they have worked with elected officials and agencies on local sales tax measures because these types of funds were critical to the county since they are raised locally, kept locally, and are the best kind of funding. He recommended a strong external oversight committee and said it was critical that this measure have the ability to change over time and addresses regional needs, transit, roads and alternative transportation. He said that the Automobile Club has a large number of members in the county and that the Club would like to assist SBCAG in supporting the measure.

Viviana Saavedra requested that funding for transit be protected in Santa Maria.

Maria Rosario Calderon, a member of PUEBLO, said that Santa Maria was growing rapidly and that transportation was not sufficient. She requested transportation to schools.

Dan Secord said he was not aware of any resistance to Measure D as it stands today and that the local roads were being well maintained under the current measure. He requested delaying the additional one-quarter cent sales tax increase until there was unanimity from the community and said that a percent of nothing is nothing if the measure doesn't pass.

Sally Fohse spoke on behalf of Jerry Jackman. She said that the Measure D renewal was dead in the water unless a historical preservation component was considered.

Andy Caldwell with COLAB said a poll was not taken for a combined Measure A plus B and said that they could mount a campaign in favor of Measure A plus B if A was renewing the measure and B was for alternative transportation. He said this was not a renewal of Measure D but another tax for alternative transportation. He said if people in the south county want more money their city can float a tax.

Scott Wenz said the voters need to have alternatives they can support with street maintenance and repair on one measure and alternative transportation on another. He said the renewal measure would not pass as it currently stands.

Lee Moldaver said the new combined three-quarter cent measure would provide the public works framework for a new generation of greatness and economic vitality. He said it was time to stop fearing the one-quarter cent increase and said that the public was expecting leadership from its elected officials. He said no one knows what will happen thirty years from now and noted the possibility of having light rail throughout the south county and north county and adjoining counties. He commended Chair Centeno and Supervisor Carbajal and Councilmember Mariscal for working so hard to bridge these gaps.

Sherry Fisher, General Manager of MTD, said that she was very supportive of the combined measure and said she would like to see MTD as a dedicated recipient of Regional Measure D transit funding. She requested that five percent of the regional transit dollars be dedicated to paratransit service.

Jean Tomlin, with the PTA, requested that the Safe Routes to School funds be reserved for that purpose and requested that they not be transferred to other projects. She said she was in favor of over-crossings but not at the expense of the Safe Routes to School program which polled very high.

Stella Larson said that the historical corridor was the basis of our transportation system and was very important knowledge for the future. She requested funding for the building of a countywide database system.

Greg Gandrud representing Fix 101.org asked why there needed to be a tax increase when there was \$233 million available for regional projects and everyone uses roads. He requested that the current Measure D be renewed and that regional projects be the focus. He requested that sixteen percent of those funds be given to local jurisdictions and sixteen percent to alternative transportation.

Joe Armendariz, representing Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association, said he supported the current Measure D. He said that Santa Barbara County's sales tax is higher than other taxes elsewhere and that alternative transportation could be funded out of local shares.

Kate Bechtel, Executive Director of COAST, stated the 23 member organizations that belonged to COAST. She said that her coalition supports the renewal Measure before the board because it is balanced.

Mark Bradley, President of COAST and a member of the City of Santa Barbara Circulation Committee, said that renewing the current measure would not solve the current problems. He said that there wasn't much regional funding available compared to other counties and that a combined measure was necessary. He said he did not like to pay extra taxes but the extra one-quarter percent was less than \$.10 per person per day.

Supervisor Centeno said the current Measure D costs between \$24 and \$34 per month.

Ralph Fertig with the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition said that a diverse transportation program was necessary in order to serve the needs of Santa Barbara County. He said that the Measure D renewal being offered provided people with what they were asking for and gives an opportunity for people to demonstrate that they understand the diversity.

Dennis Story, Chair of Coastal Rail Now, said he participated in the 101 in Motion process and said it was started in order to reach a consensus on ways to relieve congestion in the South Coast. He said the approved 101 in Motion package was included in the Measure D renewal proposal and a three-quarter cent sales tax was a necessity to complete all of the projects included in that package.

Alex Pujo explained that Measure D included only a small fraction of the funding needed to widen 101 and that traffic congestion on 101 was not as much of a problem when Measure D passed as it is today. He indicated that Measure D was primarily passed for road maintenance, not for the widening of 101. Very little of the Measure D funding has been used for alternative transportation even though it is eligible. The new expenditure plan is better because it specifies funding amounts for alternative transportation and requested that the board support this plan.

Kalon Kelley, speaking on behalf of the Citizens Planning Association, requested that as part of the implementation procedures the expenditure plan be updated every ten years and requested that some flexibility be allowed as needed.

Walker Dearth, a member of the Coalition for a Fair Measure D, said his responsibility was to share pro-business aspects. He said he was a former vice-president of the second largest

Chamber of Commerce in Los Angeles County and that good roads and transit were good for business and doing nothing would be harmful to the community.

Sheila Kamhi, a member of the Coalition for a Fair Measure D, said she has been a proponent of an improved transit system for many years and supports a transportation system that includes alternative transportation modes and a system that serves all segments of all needs. She said the current proposal goes a long way to meeting those goals.

Harley Augustino with PUEBLO said he would support the compromise and suggested that funding for the Goleta over-crossings be taken from the regional bicycle program (\$2.5 million) with a commitment that SBCAG would backfill these funds from RSTP funds, the rural highway safety program (\$2.5 million), local and regional bus programs (\$1.5 million), and from the Safe Routes to School Program (\$1,000,000). He said if the Goleta over-crossing project did not get underway by 2015, the funds should return to where they were taken from. He said Goleta should complete a PSR and apply to SBCAG for a competitive grant on the merit of these proposals. The last thing he requested was no more last minute changes to the expenditure plan.

Eva Inbar, with the Safe Routes to School program, said parents were very pleased with that program and they were using these funds for small improvements near schools. She said she would like to see the program include senior citizens as well but these funds were not for overpasses. Ms. Inbar said that she would be willing to pay one-quarter cent more and was willing to inform the PTA members that this is a good program for children and families.

Marc Chytilo said he was the last speaker on the Coalition for a Fair Measure D. He acknowledged the hard work that went into developing the expenditure plan and said he appreciated Mayor DeWees' willingness to compromise. He said the additional one-quarter cent sales tax was necessary to get the job done.

Supervisor Carbajal asked Mr. Chytilo if he was supportive and comfortable with the proposals that Mr. Augustino put forth.

Mr. Chytilo reported that he was supportive and that the coalition would be supportive of the proposals put forth today.

Max Anders, a UCSB student and volunteer with PUEBLO, said that it was difficult to come to a compromise and he did appreciate the effort. He said the combined measure does that and that by splitting the measures into two it would say to the voters certain projects weren't important. He said as a volunteer he would be going out and making sure that people understand the measure.

Kelly Burns, Vice President of Local Affairs for UCSB, said she commutes to school and is not happy with current alternative transportation choices. She said they have been successful in educating people and could play a key role in supporting the measure.

Kelsi Boyle, representing IVTALC, said that the future of transportation in America was an issue with gas prices increasing. She said she was thrilled with the support of the measure and the compromises made to come to a consensus.

Marsela Martin, a UCSB student, spoke in support of the combined measure.

Wilson Hubbell said he was in favor of the three-quarter cent proposal that will not only benefit roads but bicycle facilities as well. He said that most cyclists ride on good roads and notice if the roads are well maintained. He recommended performance measures not only for commuter rail but other programs.

Janice Keller thanked the board for their hard work and for reaching a compromise. She said that Mayor Wallis mentioned that Goleta is a sales tax donor, but she pointed out that many people drive on regional roads from other areas to spend sales tax dollars in Goleta. She requested that the board add another line item that would include a project study and preliminary design for over-crossings and that the board consider making smaller contributions from some of the regional highway projects to help pay for the Goleta project...

Jim Richardson, speaking as a private citizen, said that the combined measure reflects that only 56 percent of the population drives autos. He said that the stakeholders don't want rail or bicycle lanes. They are interested in good transportation, maintenance of highways and roadways. He said that commuters and others want to have a car and he was not in favor of a tax increase and should live within our budget. He suggested reconsidering putting the current Measure D on the ballot for renewal.

The public hearing was closed.

Supervisor Carbajal said he was optimistic about the measure and heard some things at this meeting that they were working out. He appreciated the proposal presented by Councilmember Mariscal and said he would like to understand Harley Augustino's suggestions. He said he was optimistic about the Goleta proposal and said infrastructure was important.

Mayor Blum said she was very supportive of the Santa Maria proposal.

Mr. Kemp said that the proposal for the Goleta overpass improvement project was to fund it with \$7.5 million in measure funds. He said that \$1.5 million would come from the local regional bus program, \$1.0 million from the Safe Routes to School program, \$2.5 million from rural highway safety program and \$2.5 million from the regional bicycle program. He said the bike program would be backfilled with RSTP funding and that this would be brought back to the board for programming action next month.

Mayor Blum thanked Eva Inbar for compromising on the safe routes to school program knowing how passionate she was about this program. She said she was supportive of this proposal as amended.

Mayor Wallis asked for clarification on the proposal presented by Mr. Augustino for funding the Goleta overpass project with respect to the deadline for getting the project under way. In addition, she asked who would prepare the PSR.

Mr. Kemp said his understanding of the proposal by Mr. Augustino was that if the project did not proceed in the next 15 years after the measure goes into effect (by 2025), the measure funds for the over-crossing would be returned to their respective programs. Mr. Kemp noted that if the Board gave direction, staff would request that Caltrans prepare the PSR for the Goleta over-crossing project but it was up to Caltrans to decide based upon their resources and priorities.

Mayor DeWees said before the board went any further he thought that they should hear from Mayor Wallis on this proposal and whether the City would be supportive of the plan.

Mayor Wallis said that Mr. Kemp had heard the Goleta city council speak and said their concerns had been adequately addressed. She could not speak for the entire council, but said she could support the plan with the changes proposed. She thanked those who helped her come to this conclusion.

Supervisor Rose said this was a remarkable day and supported the direction of both Santa Maria and Goleta. She also acknowledged the hard work of Eva Inbar and requested that language be added to enhancement of funding for Safe Routes to School not just to include schools, parks and libraries, but also youth centers. Supervisor Rose said that the county was trying to address the concerns expressed regarding historic preservation of roads and bridges and said she was committed to taking the first step to find a way to do an inventory and raising the level of awareness to the board of supervisors. She said this was a good opportunity for the local jurisdictions and would be a cost effective way to do business within the public works departments.

Councilmember Hicks said he was supportive of the safe routes to school wording.

Supervisor Carbajal said he did appreciate Supervisor Rose's advocacy for this change and while this is desired and important, with all the proposals that have come forward this is something they were willing to forego.

Mayor Wallis stated her understanding that SBCAG would request that Caltrans prepare a PSR for the Goleta overpass project and asked for further clarification on the RSTP funding.

Mr. Kemp said that proposal is for staff to return with a recommendation to program \$2.5 million in RSTP to backfill for the Regional Bikeway program Measure D funding which is being reallocated to the Goleta project. In addition, \$2.5 million in RSTP would be recommended for programming for the Goleta overpass project which in combination with the \$7.5 million in Measure D funding would provide a total of \$10 million for the project.

Mayor Wallis stated that she could support this.

Supervisor Gray said that she would be supporting this but that business was a huge missing link. She also expressed disappointment that 1,300 plus members of COLAB would not be supporting this renewal measure and that the vocal opposition from the Santa Barbara News Press was going to make it difficult to pass.

Councilmember Mariscal stated this was a program of compromises that was long time in the making. He thanked his colleagues for their support of the revised program put forth by the city of Santa Maria and expressed empathy for the city of Goleta. He said the people will vote for what they want and it is only a tax increase if the voters support it. Councilmember Mariscal said that the city of Santa Maria will continue to be the fastest growing community in Santa Barbara County even though it is not the wealthiest. He said that at the public hearings the people who attended the public meetings talked about their desire to have Santa Maria plan for its future growth which included transportation. He said that Caltrans through the SHOPP program places a high priority on rural area projects, which took a large hit, and said they might be able to discuss pushing for SHOPP dollars with an assemblyman or senator. He stated that maybe they could incorporate this type of language for the safe routes to school program.

Supervisor Rose asked if there was a required local match for the Safe Routes to School funds.

Councilmember Jordan said that there were numerous requests and letters from MTD to list them as receiving a certain percentage of Measure D funds. She asked why there request was not considered.

Mr. Kemp responded that the proposal from MTD to be named as the recipient for a local regional bus program is different than the other regional programs since none of them identify the specific agency as the funding recipient. He said that the bus program is intended to be a regional competitive program and agencies are expected to bring forth programs to the SBCAG board to be evaluated and approved.

Supervisor Carbajal said that Councilmember Jordan made a good point and that longer term planning periods should be explored with MTD.

Councilmember Skytt said that with the revised proposal that Councilmember Mariscal brought forth and Harley Augustino's amendment he felt very comfortable with the revised proposal. Regarding the MTD comment, he said the current status was the way to go otherwise it limits choices for the future. He said the city of Goleta and UCSB might want to operate a shuttle service some day, so MTD shouldn't be the named recipient in the transit plan. Mr. VanDenburgh said that this should not be a restricted process because over the next thirty years there may be another transit agency that may submit a proposal but said that MTD needs to be assured that funding will be made available to them.

Councilmember Sabedra said as a neighbor to the city of Santa Maria he agreed with their proposal and planned to vote in support of the measure.

Mayor DeWees said that citizens were overtaxed and said he would prefer a Measure A plus B, but based upon discussions heard today they were coming down to a combined three-quarter cent sales tax measure. He said with some reluctance he would be voting on this measure because the cities and county would be in trouble without this measure.

Supervisor Firestone said that certain factors happened after the April 5th board workshop that would affect the third district. He also said that the Santa Barbara News Press editorial opposition was a concern to him.

Supervisor Centeno said that the third district has the longest stretch of roads in the county with the fifth district coming in second. He said that it was historic that they brought together coalitions that have been so far apart in the past. They worked closely to try and construct an expenditure plan that would fill everybody's needs but not to the full extent that each coalition would like. He said putting the measures together was a difficult decision but coming together in unification will send the strongest message possible to the voters. Supervisor Centeno said he was having difficulty with approving funds to inform the public about the expenditure plan and that there needs to be very specific protocol on how these funds should be used. It was requested this be deferred until there is clarification.

Supervisor Gray moved that SBCAG approve the expenditure plan as put forth with the Goleta and Santa Maria amendments, for the SBCAG staff to present the plan to the city councils and board of supervisors for approval, and to request that each jurisdiction have their counsel meet

with County Counsel to discuss the approach for expenditure of funds for education of public on Measure D Renewal Expenditure Plan. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Carbajal.

Supervisor Firestone asked if there was a vehicle to promote this measure outside of SBCAG.

Supervisor Gray said there was and that was why the board was asking for an explanation by the attorneys of what public funds can be used for.

Mayor Blum said that she sees each board member as a cheerleader and thanked the Auto Club for the offer to help.

Supervisor Rose said she was disappointed in the Safe Routes to School re-wording not being included and asked if this could return to the board as a separate policy item.

Supervisor Centeno suggested that each jurisdiction look at the Safe Routes to School Program separately if they would like to pursue it.

Counsel Ready said that the board was approving the wording of the expenditure plan and if the Safe Routes to School requested change is not included now then it will require a super majority vote to change the expenditure plan at a later date.

The motion by Supervisor Gray carried unanimously with Councilmember Skytt abstaining.

Supervisor Gray moved approval of the California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption for the expenditure plan. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Carbajal and carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None

CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rich Krumholz reported that Caltrans was commemorating its maintenance workers that were killed over the last decades. He said it was an opportunity to remind everyone that constructions' workers and Caltrans' own workers have a tough job out there and reminded people to drive safely.

Mr. Krumholz also said there was a letter from Caltrans included in the board packet relative to the question asked by Supervisor Firestone at a previous meeting about hit objects and why they have gone up since operational improvements. It also defines what hit objects are. He said there was also included a status report on State Route 192.

Chair Centeno thanked Larry Tramutola and his staff for all of their hard work.

Mr. Tramutola said he was proud to have been a part of the process. He said that democracy is not easy and ultimately the voters make the decision. He asked that the board not give too much credit to what is said in editorials. He thanked the board for their support of the renewal.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.