

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the January 17, 2008
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
Board of Directors**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Firestone called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m.

Members Present: Salud Carbajal, Supervisor, First District; Janet Wolf, Supervisor, Second District; Brooks Firestone (SBCAG Chair), Supervisor, Third District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Lupe Alvarez (SBCAG Vice-Chair) Mayor, City of Guadalupe; Roger Horton, Councilmember, City of Santa Barbara; Larry Lavagnino, Mayor, City of Santa Maria;; Ed Skytt, Councilmember, City of Solvang; Michael Bennett, Mayor, City of Goleta, Joe Armendariz, Councilmember, City of Carpinteria; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc; Russ Hicks, Mayor, City of Buellton

Staff Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director Programs; Michael Powers, Deputy Director Planning; Brittany Odermann, Transportation Planner, Sarkes Khachek, Transportation Planner, Kent Epperson, Director of Traffic Solutions, Terry Contreras, Board Clerk; Kevin E. Ready, Sr., Senior Deputy County Counsel; Pat Mickelson, Caltrans District 5 Representative, Dave Murray, Caltrans District 5 Representative

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board recessed to a closed session at 8:36 a.m. to hold a discussion regarding a confidential personnel matter—executive director employment agreement.

4. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Senior Deputy County Counsel Kevin Ready stated that no reportable action had been taken.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approve minutes from December 20, 2007 Board of Directors meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes

Motion: Lavagnino Second: Carbajal

Motion carried 7-0-6 (DeWees, Hicks, Bennett, Horton, Armendariz, and Skytt abstained)

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

A TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS ONLINE CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Authorize the Chair to execute an amendment for the Traffic Solutions Online Rideshare Management Software Service with Ecology and Environment, Inc., amending the scope of work to include modifications for Curb Your Commute at an additional cost not to exceed \$24,630.

B COASTAL EXPRESS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Authorize the Executive Director to sign amended MOU with Ventura County Transportation Commission for Coastal Express Transit Service to include an additional representative from each county to serve on the Policy Steering Committee and other minor changes.

Motion to approve the consent calendar

Motion: Carbajal Second: Lavagnino

Motion carried unanimously (13-0)

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Lebard addressed the board on the need for additional lighting and parking spaces at the Park & Ride lot located on Clark Avenue and State Highway135.

Executive Director, Jim Kemp responded that staff has contacted Caltrans to have these Park & Ride lot improvements completed using SBCAG's Measure D funds as part of the state's planned pavement resurfacing project. Staff intends to bring this to the board for action at the February meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS 9-12 WERE HEARD OUT OF ORDER DUE TO ITEM 8 BEING 10:00 A.M. TIME CERTAIN.

9. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

A. *Appoint one delegate and one alternate to the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG).*

Motion to appoint Mayor Hicks as delegate to CALCOG

Motion: Carbajal Second: Lavagnino

Motion carried unanimously (13-0)

Motion to appoint Supervisor Wolf as alternate to CALCOG

Motion: Hicks Second: DeWees

Motion carried unanimously (13-0)

- B. *Appoint one delegate and one alternate each to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council and the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN).*

Motion to appoint Supervisor Carbajal as delegate and Mayor Blum as alternate to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council

Motion: DeWees Second: Wolf

Motion carried unanimously (13-0)

Motion to appoint Mayor Alvarez as delegate and Supervisor Gray as alternate to LOSSAN

Motion: DeWees Second: Wolf

Motion carried unanimously (13-0)

- C. *Appoint three members and an alternate to serve as SBCAG representatives on the Coastal Express Policy Steering Committee.*

Motion to appoint Supervisor Carbajal, Supervisor Wolf and Councilmember Armendariz as members and Mayor Blum as alternate to the Coastal Express Policy Steering Committee

Motion: Carbajal Second: Lavagnino

Motion carried unanimously (13-0)

- D. *That the Chair appoint members to the SBCAG executive committee*

Chair Firestone appointed Councilmember Armendariz and Mayors Bennett and Alvarez to the SBCAG executive committee.

10. AMTRAK PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE

Receive presentation by City of Santa Barbara on On-TRAC: A Plan of Transit/Rail Action for Commuters and consider adopting a position of support for the plan.

Motion to continue item to the board meeting of February 21, 2008 with direction to staff to come back with revised language of support for the ON-TRAC proposal

Motion: Carbajal Second: Skytt

Motion carried unanimously (13-0)

11. PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION

Authorize submittal of joint grant application with the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) for State Blueprint Grant Funds for pilot study of Santa Maria Valley in conjunction with SLOCOG Community 2050 Program.

Motion to approve staff recommendation

Motion: DeWees Second: Alvarez

Motion carried unanimously (13-0)

12. 2008 STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Adopt a Regional Transportation Improvement Program for funding made available through the 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding cycle.

Motion to approve staff recommendation

Motion: DeWees Second: Alvarez

Motion carried unanimously (13-0)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Hold hearing and receive public input on unmet transit needs in Santa Barbara County

Public Comment

Kenneth Wolf, resident of Orcutt addressed the board on the need for bus service from Orcutt to Santa Maria and also the communication of the bus schedules to the public.

Martha Albarca, with Pueblo, (Spanish speaking/translated by Eustaquino Valdez) addressed the board on the need for buses to run from Santa Maria to Santa Barbara. She stated that there are mothers with children that have no transportation to get to medical appointments at the clinic, etc.

Noreen Nims, 15th District PTA, addressed the board on the busing needs of college students, seniors and evening service between Santa Maria, Tanglewood, Guadalupe and other outlying cities. She asked why there were no bus stops in Foxenwoods.

Dorothy Littlejohn, PUEBLO volunteer, addressed the board on more bus service running between Santa Barbara and Santa Maria.

Zoila Aguilar, with PUEBLO (Spanish speaking/translated by Eustaquino Valdez) addressed the board on the needs for more bus service between Santa Maria and Santa Barbara for students and workers.

Magdalena, La Preciosa Radio Station, (Spanish speaking/translated by Eustaquino Valdez) emphasized the need for safe transportation within the community.

Natalia Bautista with PUBLO (Spanish speaking/translated by Eustaquino Valdez) asked board to consider having afternoon or evening meetings so the Latino and agricultural communities would be able to attend. Consider students who are not able to attend events after school due to lack of transportation. She advocated for a more flexible schedule for service between Santa Maria and Santa Barbara.

Belen Seara, PUEBLO, also addressed the board on meeting times and the desire to hold them at a time when more workers would be able to attend. She expressed the need for more transportation and daily trips between Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, also between Lompoc and Santa Maria.

Alex Pujo, Coalition for Sustainable Transportation, emphasized the need for public transportation. Would also like to see the Vehicle Availability by Household Census information included in report. He expressed the need for less formal evening meetings that are not so intimidating.

Ashley Payne (Director of Community Partners in Caring) spoke about the needs of the elderly and would like the support of the board for the volunteer programs currently in place.

Deborah Brasket, Santa Barbara County Action Network, spoke about the public outreach process and the need to notice at schools, churches, community centers. She requested that meetings be held during convenient hours for those who work during the day. She advocated for more regional services, by directional reverse commuter services on all current routes. She wants better connections between Amtrak and Guadalupe. She expressed the desire to see a formalized commitment for the plan to use TDA funds entirely for transit. She requested bus service on weekends between Lompoc and Santa Maria, particularly on Sunday. She expressed the need for more door-to-door service for seniors and more buses on the major routes where ridership is heaviest in order to decrease wait time and more bus service on the northwest side of Santa Maria, also express service from Orcutt to Santa Maria in the morning and evening, and night service from Guadalupe to Santa Maria transit center at least three times a week. Keep buses in good condition in order to promote ridership.

INFORMATION ITEMS

13. **CURB YOUR COMMUTE**

Receive report regarding the upcoming Curb Your Commute Highway 101 Milpas to Hot Springs traffic mitigation program.

Informational only, therefore no action was taken

14. LOMPOC - SANTA YNEZ VALLEY TRANSIT SERVICE

Receive a status report on the implementation of transit service between the cities of Lompoc, Buellton and Solvang.

Informational only, therefore no action was taken

15. SANTA BARBARA MTD SOUTH COAST TRANSIT PRIORITIES PROJECT

Receive report from SBMTD on the implementation status of the South Coast Transit Priorities project.

Informational only, therefore no action was taken

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summary of December 2007 LOSSAN Board meeting was distributed to Board

17. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jim Kemp reported that the Governor released the draft budget for FY 08/09. There will be a significant funding gap in the state budget of approximately 14 ½ billion dollars. Three billion is in the current year with eleven billion being projected for FY 08/09. The budget is proposing to address most of the shortfall through spending cuts, debt financing and deferral of cash payments. The cuts primarily affect general fund programs, such as health, social services and education.

Transportation is not impacted significantly in the proposed budget. Governor is proposing that Proposition 42 (sales tax on fuels) be fully funded and not be redirected for non-transportation purposes. The budget proposes to delay Prop 1B payments to local agencies by up to five months. Transit funded at approximately 1.1 billion in Public Transportation Account Funds. Some Transit funding will be diverted to non-transportation purposes.

Governor has declared a fiscal emergency requiring State legislature to convene in session immediately to deal with the budget shortfall that is open in the current year. Under the provisions of fiscal emergency legislature has to deal with the budget short fall within 45 days, pass legislation, and the governor must sign it or the legislature will be barred from passing legislation not related to the budget.

The Governor has removed his opposition to placing a measure on the November ballot for high-speed rail bond measure. \$9.9 billion dollar bond that would partially fund an approximately \$40 billion-dollar new high-speed rail from San Diego to San Francisco Remains to be seen if the measure will remain on the ballot

The budget still has a way to go and needs to make it through legislature. SBCAG will be watching it closely particularly concerning transportation and keeping the board informed.

In November, the board approved the draft Investment Measure D Renewal Plan. It was a month's long process involving both north and south county subcommittees to develop bifurcated consensus plan. Board authorized SBCAG staff to begin a public education effort and receive input to see if this is a plan that the voters would support. SBCAG has been out making presentations to a number of organizations including five city councils thus far. Reception has been positive. Board also authorized the hiring of a polling firm to conduct a poll of likely 2008 voters. Pollster has drafted a survey and it is out in the field. Results of the polling should be complete by early February. There will be a meeting of both north and south subcommittees on February 13. They will be reviewing polling results and determine if any changes need to be made to the plan before bringing it back to the SBCAG board. SBCAG board would then authorize SBCAG to get formal approval of the plan from the city counsels and the Board of Supervisors. Then it would go to the County to be placed on the ballot.

18. CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dave Murray, Caltrans District 5 Representative, reported that the Board received in their packet a copy of the Caltrans monthly report with information about ongoing and upcoming construction projects.

Supervisor Centeno requested that Caltrans provide a list/map showing improvements planned for construction on 166 project.

19. COMMUNICATIONS

Jim Kemp reported that a letter had been sent to Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District Director, regarding the Board's concern about Caltrans not funding the CHP enhanced enforcement component of the Route 154 Operational Improvement Project. Mr. Kemp expects to have received a response by the February 21, 2008 board meeting.

20. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on February 21, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Santa Barbara.