

MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2005
Time: 3:00 P.M.
Place: Madera County Government Center,
Board of Supervisor Chambers

Members Present:

Chairman Gordon Skeels - Councilman, City of Madera
Alfred Ginsburg - Councilman, City of Chowchilla
Max Rodriguez – Supervisor, Madera County
Gary Gilbert – Supervisor, Madera County
Robert Poythress - Councilman, City of Madera
Alt. Ronn Dominici – Supervisor, Madera County

Members Absent:

Chairman Frank Bigelow - Supervisor, Madera County

Policy Advisory Committee:

Above Members present and Caltrans Representatives:
Paul Marquez

MCTC Staff Present:

Patricia S. Taylor-Maley, Executive Director
Sheila Kingsley, Administrative Assistant
Derek Winning, Planner II
Lester Koga, Planner I

MCTC sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee.

I.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II.

PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the meeting is reserved for person(s) wishing to address the MCTC on items within their jurisdiction but not on this agenda.

There were no public comments.

III.

TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

A.

State Highway Operation & Protection Program (SHOPP) – Status Report

Per MCTC's agreement with Caltrans, Caltrans on a quarterly basis submits to MCTC a status report on Caltrans' State Highway Operation and Protection Program. Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the January 2005 status report.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

B.

Federally Funded FY 2003-04 Projects

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) legislation requires that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) either publish or make available an annual listing of projects for which federal funds have been obligated in the proceeding year. This listing is required to be consistent with the categories identified within the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). Commission staff recently published a notice in the Madera Tribune advising the public as to the availability of this listing and staff will provide copies to interested parties.

Included in the Commissioner's packet was a listing of federally funded projects that were obligated during FY 2003-04. The project obligations are shown by specific program and project phase (i.e. preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction). This listing meets the requirements of Federal Law.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

C. California Transportation Commission 2004 Annual Report to the California Legislature

The California Transportation Commission's annual report to the California Legislature is prepared pursuant to Government Code 14535 and 14536. The Commission is required each year to submit to the Legislature an annual report summarizing the decisions allocating transportation funds and identifying timely and relevant transportation issues facing the State of California. The annual report is also required to include a summary and discussion of loans and transfers between transportation funds and the General Fund authorized pursuant to Government Code 14556.7 and 14556.8, as well as their impact on cash flow and project delivery.

The following are 2005 Issues discussed in the annual report:

- Trends and Outlook for State Transportation Financing
- Structural reform of Transportation Finance
- Outlook for the 2004 STIP and SHOPP
- Outlook for the Traffic Congestion Relief Program
- Outlook for the State Aeronautics Program
- Goods Movement
- California Performance Review

A copy of the annual report in its entirety can be downloaded at www.catc.ca.gov

Action: Information and Discussion Only

Transportation Consent Calendar Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Gilbert, seconded by Commissioner Dominici to approve the Transportation Consent Calendar (Item III A-C). A vote was called and the motion carried.

IV. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Public Hearing: 2004 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Amendment No. 1 – Resolution 04-13 Amendment No. 1

Chairman Skeels opened the floor for public comment at 3:01 p.m. Seeing that there were not comments, Chairman Skeels closed the public hearing.

MCTC received requests from Caltrans, Madera County, the City of Chowchilla and the City of Madera to formally amend projects in the 2004/05-2009/10 FTIP as follows:

Caltrans

- MAD410001 -- HBRR Program; make consistent with state/local assistance programming
- MAD406001 -- SHOPP Program; advance \$16,692,000 from 2007/08 to 2008/09

Madera County

- MAD102032 -- CMAQ Program; traffic signal @ Ave. 12/Rd. 36; add \$56,000 construction in 2004/05
- MAD102041 -- CMAQ Program; add shoulder paving project @ various locations; fund \$1,158,000 in 2004/05
- MAD113028 -- Section 5311; new project, Operating Assistance add \$300,000 in 2005/06

City of Chowchilla

MAD313027 -- Section 5311; new project, CATX Op Assistance add \$193,000 in 2005/06

City of Madera

MAD213036 -- Section 5307; delete project

MAD213044 -- Section 5307; new project, purchase 1 bus @ \$65,000, 2004/05

MAD213045 -- Section 5307; new project, Op/Maint facility I @ \$500,000, 2004/05

MAD213046 -- Section 5307; new project, Intermodal facility @ \$3,000, 2004/05

MAD213047 -- Section 5307; new project, Intermodal facility @ \$3,000, 2005/06

MAD213049 -- Section 5307; new project, purchase 2 buses @ \$134,000, 2005/06

MAD213050 -- Section 5307; new project, Op/Main facility II @ \$335,000, 2005/06

MAD213051 -- Section 5307, new project, Intermodal facility @ \$4,000, 2006/07

MAD213052 -- Section 5307, new project, purchase 6 shelters @ \$62,000, 2006/07

MAD213053 -- Section 5307, new project, MAX op assistance @ \$429,000, 2007/08

MAD213054 -- Section 5307, new project, DAR op assistance @ \$458,000, 2007/08

MAD213055 -- Section 5307, new project, Intermodal facility @ \$4,000, 2007/08

MAD213056 -- Section 5307, new project, purchase buses @ \$326,000, 2007/08

MAD217002 -- Regional Choice Program; SR 99/Gateway Drive off-ramp Phase I project; fund \$280,000 in PE & RW 2004/05, fund \$5,500,000 construction 2005/06

Action: The Commission unanimously approved the 2004 FTIP Amendment No. 1 - Resolution 04-13 Amendment No. 1.

B. Request by Madera County for MCTC Participation in Bi-County Regional Transportation Study

On December 17, 2004 MCTC staff attended a kick-off meeting hosted by Madera County to determine interest and discuss plans for a bi-county (Madera/Fresno) regional transportation study. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with affected stakeholders the potential for a long-range regional transportation study that would focus on transportation issues affecting both counties along our joint border including an analysis of potential San Joaquin River crossings. Included in the Commissioner's packet is a copy of a letter asking for our participation, as well as draft minutes, copies of handouts, and the initial draft request For Proposal which was also handed out at the meeting.

The group discussed at length issues related to study scope, cost, funding and governance structure. As a result of the meeting Madera County has proposed a small seven-member Technical Committee representing Fresno COG, Madera County Transportation Commission, Caltrans, a representative from one of the development projects proximate to the river, a member-at-large, and co-chaired by Madera County Supervisor Bigelow and a member of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. Madera County would provide staffing to the committee, to be funded by pending development.

Madera County also proposes a larger nine-member steering committee consisting of the affected land use agencies in both counties (City of Fresno, City of Clovis, City of Madera, Madera County, Fresno County), Caltrans, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, San Joaquin River Parkway Trust and a development community representative. An additional advisory group to the committees was also identified, as is listed in your agenda package.

The development community has indicated its willingness to participate in funding its fair share of the study. Madera County staff has indicated it would like to see the study completed within one year. There appeared to be agreement to utilize other existing study information, such as that provided in the East West Phase I and II and the Growth Response Study currently under development.

Staff recommended that it would be beneficial to participate in the study; however, the costs associated have not been identified.

Action: The Commission unanimously approved authorizing staff to indicate its initial willingness to participate in the process and request Madera County for further information as to the mechanism by which the study will be funded.

Staff will bring back to the Commission additional information relative to the proposal as it becomes available.

C. Measure “A” Marketing /Public Education and Expenditure Plan Consultant Selection

The Madera County Transportation Commission (Commission) has been seeking a qualified consultant to revise the 2002 Measure “A” Extension Expenditure Plan and develop and execute a Marketing/Public Education Plan for the purposes of ensuring a successful ballot initiative in November 2006.

The consultant will be responsible for organizing, developing, facilitating, and executing the following utilizing the best practices of successful transportation initiatives tailored for the Madera County market:

1. Organize and facilitate a dedicated Measure “A” Extension Steering Committee for the purpose of obtaining a broad regional consensus and acceptance of a revised Expenditure Plan.
2. Revise the 2002 Expenditure Plan to incorporate the projects identified in the 2004 Regional Project Prioritization Study as contained in the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).
3. Develop marketing plan materials that provide for public education and exposure of the existing Measure “A” Program, the revised Expenditure Plan, and RTP Prioritization Study Projects incorporating the following resources:
 - a) Media (direct mail, radio, newspaper)
 - b) Materials (brochures, pamphlets, maps, posters)
 - c) Speakers Bureau (organizations, event booths)
 - d) Public Opinion Survey(s)
4. Execute the Measure “A” Extension Marketing Plan maximizing available resources.

MCTC Staff will be available in support of the project and expects to be involved with the Steering Committee, the Expenditure Plan revision, and Speakers Bureau. The consultant, however, is ultimately responsible for directing the actions of the Steering Committee and delivering of the final products.

MCTC Staff has recommended for the firm of Gray Bowen and Company, Inc be retained to deliver the Measure Marketing / Public Education and Expenditure Plan. Gray Bowen and Company, Inc has extensive experience in developing and marketing successful transportation expenditure plans in several counties. The two most recent being: Contra Costa County Measure J in 2004; and Alameda County Measure B in 2000.

The Gray Bowen Team developed the expenditure plan and public education program that led to the passage of Contra Costa County’s highly successful local transportation sales tax program Measure J. Measure J received 70.9 percent of the vote – the first time any countywide tax measure received a two-thirds vote in the history of Contra Costa County. In fact, Gray Bowen and Company, Inc is the only proposer to have waged a successful transportation sales tax initiative campaign.

The Measure “A” Marketing Plan scoring committee ranked the proposals in the following order:

1. Gray Bowen and Company, Inc
2. VRPA Technologies, Inc
3. The Lew Edwards Group
4. Panagraph

There was a detailed discussion among the Commissioners and Bill Gray, of Gray Bowen and Company, Inc regarding Mr. Gray’s working relationship with the County in 1998.

Action: Staff was directed to bring this item back to the Policy Board for discussion at its February meeting

of the Commission. Staff was directed to look further into the history of Bill Gray's working relationship with the County.

D. Reauthorization of TEA-21 Request for Project Resubmission

Staff reported that they received a call from Congressman George Radanovich's office informing the Commission that the reauthorization of the transportation federal bill (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century – TEA-21) died last year in Congress. Congress is once again currently discussing the reauthorization bill. The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) committee gives the Congressman the opportunity to nominate projects in his district or state that he sees as critical in the next six years. Congressman Radanovich did include a number of projects that were listed in the bill that died last year in Congress and is requesting that Commission staff resubmit the Avenue 12 and SR 99 Interchange Project that was included in the bill by completing a survey questionnaire describing the project.

Background:

Included in the Commissioner's packet were copies of the letters written to Congressman George Radanovich, dated January and March 4, 2003. In February 2003, Congressman Radanovich's staff requested that the Commission identify three projects from the seven projects previously submitted to his office (attached, letter dated January 29, 2003). Through a cooperative process, staff worked with the local agencies to identify three high priority projects. The Commission Policy Board at that time had not prioritized the projects.

The Commission staff submitted the transportation projects of regional significance in Madera County for consideration for the reauthorization of TEA-21. The following was submitted to Congressman George Radanovich by letter:

- Questionnaires for the following projects:
 1. State Route 99 and Avenue 12 Interchange;
 2. Ellis and State Route 99 Overcrossing; and
 3. State Route 99 and State Route 233 Interchange
- Letters from local agencies
- Letter, dated January 29, 2003, requesting Congressman Radanovich to consider seven projects in the Madera County area for TEA-21 Reauthorization

In addition to the projects listed above, staff identified another significant project that has become of more critical of state, local, and federal attention. The project is "Rocky Cut" on State Route 41 (located between Highway 145 and Road 200) - widen to eliminate "no recovery zone" through the rocky cut. Staff was unable to fill-out the questionnaire because project details and costs were not known at this time; however, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans – District 06) is currently working on a Project Study Report for this project. Staff requested consideration for this project when developing a list of projects for potential funding.

Of the three projects submitted in March 2003, Congressman Radanovich's staff was given direction to only proceed with identifying one project from Madera County. Therefore, the State Route 99 and Avenue 12 Interchange project was included in the list of projects to be proposed and included in the reauthorization bill. The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) committee identified \$1.5 million for the project.

Since the submittal to Congressman Radanovich's office, the Commission has gone through a prioritization process for regional transportation project in Madera County. This effort was completed in May 2004 and Commission Policy Board at its May 29, 2004 meeting identified SR 99 and SR 145 Interchange as Madera County's No. 1 Priority Project.

Direction requested:

Staff requested direction from the Commission Policy Board. Should staff resubmit the SR 99 and Avenue 12 project questionnaire Board direction in March 2003 or should staff request a change in its project submission and identify SR 99 and SR 145. The risk of changing the project, according to Radanovich's staff is that the House Transportation and Infrastructure committee previously identified \$1.5 million to the SR 99 and Avenue 12 project. If the Commission decides to resubmit the questionnaire for SR 99 and Avenue 12 project, Radanovich's office says they may be able to get the \$1.5 million again; however, if the Commission chooses to change the project Radanovich's office advises that they are not sure of what the outcome may be and there may be a risk of not receiving funding.

Action: Commission unanimously approved authorizing the Commission staff to submit SR 99 and SR 145 projects as Madera County's top priority project. A vote was called and the motion carried. Paul Marquez from Caltrans abstained from the vote.

E. *City of Chowchilla – Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan – Resolution 05-01*

The Policy Board previously in January 2004 accepted the final version of the Madera County 2004 Regional Bicycle Transportation Plan. In order to become eligible for the State of California Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) Grant Program cities and counties must have an approved Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP). The City of Chowchilla approved the Madera County 2004 Regional Bicycle Transportation Plan in April of 2004.

To be eligible for BTA funds, local agencies must prepare and adopt a BTP that discusses the topics described in Streets and Highways Code, Section 891.2, items a. - k. The appropriate regional transportation planning agency and Caltrans Bicycle Facilities Unit must approve the plan. Local agencies applying for 2005/06 BTA funds must have a BTP adopted January 2001 or later. The 2005/06 cycle will provide \$7.2 million to city and county agencies for projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters.

Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the City of Chowchilla Resolution #32-04. The City of Chowchilla intends to apply for the BTA FY2005/06 Cycle. Applications are due to Caltrans Bicycle Facilities Unit no later than February 1, 2005.

Action: Commission unanimously approved the City of Chowchilla Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan - Resolution 05-01. A vote was called and the motion carried.

F. *Draft ITS Maintenance Plan*

Released in 2001, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Final Rule and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Policy requires regions, which use Highway Trust Funds, to establish a regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture/ Strategic Deployment Plan that complies with the National ITS Architecture. In response, the eight counties within the San Joaquin Valley developed and adopted the San Joaquin Valley ITS Strategic Deployment Plan in September 2001. The plan fosters the integration of regional ITS systems and defines the system components, key functions, stakeholders and information sharing. It guides the development and deployment of ITS projects and safeguards against the loss of future funding for projects.

The Final Rule/ Policy further required the development and implementation of an Architecture Maintenance Plan by April 2005. Over the past seven months, the eight Valley MPOs have been working with Caltrans and FHWA to develop a Maintenance Plan that would fulfill federal requirements. As ITS projects are implemented, the regional ITS Architecture will need to be updated to reflect new ITS priorities and strategies. The goal of the Maintenance Plan is to guide controlled updates to the regional ITS architecture baseline, so that it continues to accurately reflect the region's existing ITS capabilities and future plans.

Included in Commissioner's packet was a Draft copy of the ITS Maintenance Plan.

Action: Information and Discussion Only

V. REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Action: The Commission unanimously approved to reaffirm all actions taken while sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

A. Executive Minutes of December 8, 2004

Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the December 8, 2004 Executive Minutes for review.

Action: Approve the December 8, 2004 Executive Minutes.

B. FY 2004/05 Local Transportation Fund Resolution No. 04-10 Amendment No. 1

The City of Madera requested to carryover unexpended funds from Fiscal Year 2003/04 to Fiscal Year 2004/05 in the total amount of \$1,346,057. The amendment is as follows:

- FY 2004/05 reduce Dial-A-Ride-Operations by \$500
- FY 2004/05 increase Dial-A-Ride-Capital by \$20,500
- FY 2004/05 increase Fixed Route Bus System-Operations by \$53,417
- FY 2004/05 increase Fixed Route Bus System-Capital by \$39,560
- FY 2004/05 increase Bike & Pedestrian Facility Program by \$39,531
- FY 2004/05 adding the Fresno River Trail to \$103,792
- FY 2004/05 increase Street Maintenance by \$242,350
- FY 2004/05 adding CMAQ Match Projects to \$62,000
- FY 2004/05 adding Various Street Projects to \$684,397
- FY 2004/05 adding Bike & Pedestrian Projects to \$101,009

The City Chowchilla requested to carryover unexpended funds from Fiscal Year 2003/04 to Fiscal Year 2004/05 in the total amount of \$23,602. The City of Chowchilla is also requesting to deposit \$14,689 into Fiscal Year 2004/05 LTF funds. This is a reimbursement check for Transportation Services accrued during Fiscal Year 2003/04 which was due to the result of greater than anticipated Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 funds and increased fare revenues. The amendment is as follows:

- FY 2004/05 increase Roads and Street Maintenance by \$30,467
- FY 2004/05 increase Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities by \$7,824

Action: Approve FY 2004/05 Local Transportation Fund Resolution No. 04-10 Amendment No. 1.

Administrative Consent Calendar Action: The Commission unanimously approved the Administrative Consent Calendar (Item VI. A-B). A vote was called and the motion carried.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

VIII. Miscellaneous

A. Election of Officers

Upon motion by Commissioner Dominici, seconded by Commissioner Poythress to elect Commissioner Skeels as Chairman and to elect Commissioner Gilbert as Co-Chair. A vote was called and the motion

carried.

B. Items from Caltrans

No Items from Caltrans.

C. Items from Staff

Patricia Taylor-Maley offered to sit down with the new Board members individually or together to discuss and review transportation planning and issues in Madera County.

D. Items from Commissioners

No Items from the Commissioners.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Next meeting set for Wednesday, February 23, 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia S. Taylor-Maley, Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission