

# MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## EXECUTIVE MINUTES

**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2004  
**Time:** 10:00 A.M.  
**Place:** Madera County Government Center,  
Board of Supervisor Chambers

**Members Present:** Chairman Frank Bigelow - Supervisor, Madera County  
Vice-Chair Gordon Skeels - Councilman, City of Madera  
Alfred Ginsburg - Councilman, City of Chowchilla  
Ronn Dominici – Supervisor, Madera County  
Gary Svanda - Councilman, City of Madera  
Gary Gilbert – Supervisor, Madera County

**Members Absent:** None

**Policy Advisory Committee:** Above Members present and Caltrans Representatives:  
Alan McCuen

**MCTC Staff Present:** Patricia S. Taylor-Maley, Executive Director  
Sheila Kingsley, Administrative Assistant

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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.

### III. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

#### A. *TEA-21 Reauthorization Update*

The five-month extension of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21) which Congress enacted last year expired February 29, 2004. The President signed a two-month TEA-21 extension effective March 1, 2004. The Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004 (H.R. 3850) will continue the current funding levels and programs in TEA-21 through April 30, 2004. Passage of this second extension prevented severe consequences for federal agencies and for state departments of transportation.

The Senate passed their reauthorization proposal, S. 1072, called SAFETEA after the Administration's bill. On the House side, committees are due to begin marking up their reauthorization proposal, H.R. 3550, "The Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users" in March. Funding levels for the House bill totals \$375 billion for highway and transit spending, a significant increase over the Administration's proposal of \$256 billion. President Bush has been reported as saying that he will veto any bill that comes to his desk with a price tag over \$256 billion so the House is working to reduce its reauthorization bill to a level closer to the \$318 billion passed by the Senate. House leaders also maintained that, if put to a vote, the House would pass a 5-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax increase to support the reauthorization bill, and that the public would support it.

Currently, there are discussions in the House to propose a two-year bill in lieu of a six-year highway and transit reauthorization. Supporters of the two-year reauthorization bill concept seem to assume that there will be a change in position in the presidency, after the elections, regarding increasing the gasoline tax to increase transportation investment. However, other observers believe that it Congress does not pass a well-

funded bill now, it will be too difficult to propose an increase with the federal deficit problems.

Staff will continue to provide updates on the TEA-21 reauthorization process.

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only.

**Transportation Consent Calendar Action:** *Upon motion by Commissioner Dominici, seconded by Commissioner Skeels to approve the Transportation Consent Calendar (Items IV. A). A vote was called and the motion carried.*

#### **IV. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **A. 2004 Madera County Regional Transportation Improvement Program for the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program**

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) is scheduled to adopt the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program on August 5, 2004. To meet the schedule, regions throughout the State have been given a deadline of April 12, 2004 for submittal of their Regional Transportation Improvement Program (Regional TIP). The Regional TIP represents the region's plan for expenditure of their County Share as identified in the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Fund Estimate approved by the CTC on December 11, 2003.

The 2004 Fund Estimate shows that Madera County will enter the 2004 STIP period with \$7,219,000 (programmed as reserves in the 2002 STIP). Because current projections for both State and Federal revenue are lower than what was assumed in the 2002 STIP (which covered the period through 2006/07), Madera's available funds has decreased by \$3,937,000 leaving \$3,383,000 over the first three years of the 2004 STIP period.

The 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) for Madera County is prepared by the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) and proposes how \$9.17 million in regional discretionary transportation dollars should be reallocated from Fiscal Year (FY) 2004-2009. Due to the current fiscal crisis in the State of California, the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) does not add any new funds for programming capacity. Also, the 2004 STIP Fund Estimate identifies for MCTC the amount of funds from the prior 2002 STIP that are subject to rescheduling as well as year-by-year targets for rescheduling in the 2004 STIP. The deadline for the 2004 STIP has been delayed until April 12, 2004 due to the fiscal uncertainty of the Fund Estimate (FE). At this time, it is assumed that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) will adopt the 2004 STIP in August of 2004 without modification. For purposes of this 2004 RTIP, the 2004 STIP Fund Estimate of December 11, 2003 is the basis of current funding assumptions.

The RTIP is updated every two years and submitted to the California Transportation Commission (CTC). This RTIP covers a five-year period from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2009 (State fiscal years 2004/05 – 2008/09).

The 2004 RTIP document includes the following sections:

- Executive Summary
- Background information on the STIP and RTIP development process
- New 2004 STIP Guidelines
- Proposal for 2004 RTIP project programming
- 2004 STIP Fund Estimate – Annual Programming Targets (Appendix A)
- 2004 STIP Fund Estimate – County and Interregional Shares (Appendix B)
- 2004 STIP Fund Estimate – Annual Transportation Enhancement (TE) Programming Targets (Appendix C)
- 2004 STIP Fund Estimate – Calculation of PPM Limitations (Appendix D)

In response to these funding projections and in an effort to avoid removing currently programmed projects from the STIP, the Fund Estimate establishes 2004 STIP Programming Targets that set funding limitations for each year. These Targets allow for nominal progress on existing STIP projects through 2007/08 with the bulk of currently planned expenditures funded in 2008/09 or later. The 2004 STIP will impact the assumed schedule for the South Madera and Gateway project. The MCTC, as noted above, is required to respread \$9,169,000 of its current programmed Regional STIP projects (see Appendix A & E of the 2004 Madera RTIP). Revenue projections used in the 2004 Fund Estimate are very conservative and rely on assumptions as to what impacts federal TEA-21 reauthorization and ethanol gas tax revenue assumptions will have on future cash flow.

Due to statewide changes in programming regional federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects, all anticipated TE revenues will now be programmed through the STIP. This change was made to enhance flexibility statewide in spending TE funding in order to minimize potential losses of funds due to slow delivery. The 2004 Fund Estimate contains an annual projection of available TE revenues for each year covered by the 2004 STIP. The 5-year total for Madera County is approximately \$1.3 million. This total represents the Commission's estimate of TE revenues that will be approved in the TEA-21 reauthorization. Included in the 2004 Madera County RTIP, staff propose to program four projects (see Appendix G of the 2004 Madera County RTIP).

The fund estimate schedule is as follows:

- Caltrans proposed fund estimate – November 24, 2003
- CTC adoption of fund estimate – December 11, 2003
- **Regional Transportation Improvement Program and Interregional Transportation Improvement Program due – April 12, 2004**
- North STIP hearing – May 12, 2004
- South STIP hearing – June 16, 2004
- CTC Staff Recommendations published – July 15, 2004
- CTC adoption of 2004 STIP – August 5, 2004

Staff requested for approval of the 2004 Madera County Regional Transportation Improvement Program and direct staff to forward the document to Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission no later than April 12, 2004.

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Svanda, seconded by Commissioner Dominici to accept the 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program – Madera County by Resolution 04-04 and direct staff to forward the document to Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission no later than April 12, 2004. A vote was called and the motion carried.

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

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Skeels, seconded by Commissioner Gilbert to reaffirm all actions taken while sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee. A vote was called and the motion carried.

**VI. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS**

**A. Executive Minutes of February 18, 2004**

Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the February 18, 2004 Executive Minutes.

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Svanda, seconded by Commissioner Dominici to approve Executive Minutes of February 18, 2004. A vote was called and the motion carried.

**VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

No Items.

**VIII. Miscellaneous**

***A. Items from Caltrans***

None.

***B. Items from Staff***

Staff reported that CALCOG is requesting for the Commission to delegate a board member to receive information and possibly attend their meetings. Commissioner Skeels was selected as the Commission's delegate.

***C. Items from Commissioners***

Commissioners discussed canceling the April 21, 2004 meeting due to a conference conflict with several Board members. A motion was made by Commissioner Svanda, seconded by Commissioner Dominici to cancel the Commission's April 21, 2004 meeting. A vote was called and the motion carried.

**IX. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next meeting set for Wednesday, May 19, 2004.

Respectfully Submitted,

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