

MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Time: 3:10 p.m.

Place: MCTC Board Chambers

Members Present: Chairman Sam Armentrout – Councilman, City of Madera
Vice Chairman Max Rodriguez – Supervisor, Madera County
Jim Kopshever– Councilman, City of Chowchilla
Vern Moss – Supervisor, Madera County
Robert Poythress – Councilman, City of Madera

Members Absent: Frank Bigelow – Supervisor, Madera County

Policy Advisory Committee: Above Members present and Caltrans Representatives:
Sharri Bender Ehlert

MCTC Staff Present: Patricia S. Taylor, Executive Director
Derek Winning, Deputy Director
Troy McNeil, Planner I
Richard Poythress, Planner I
Sheila Kingsley, Administrative Assistant

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. *SB 375 (Steinberg) Transportation Planning -Oppose*

Summary: Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the letter sent to Senator Darrell Steinberg from the San Joaquin Regional Policy Council. The Policy Council recognizes the work that has been done on SB 375 to develop legislation that can be supported in general to address transportation planning and reducing greenhouse gases.

The Policy Board has taken a neutral position to SB 375. The neutral position defines the Policy Council's understanding of the compromises that have been reached by the League of Cities, California Associations of Counties and the California Councils of Government from an opposed to support position.

SB 375 proposes to link regional planning for housing and transportation with California's new greenhouse gas reduction goal (AB 32) enacted in 2006. The goal is to reduce greenhouse emissions to the 1990 level by 2050. This will require a 30% cut from projected emissions. SB 375 intends to help California reach this goal by requiring smart-growth planning in Regional Transportation Plans, aligning transportation and housing planning, and creating incentives for the implementation of smart-growth strategies that will reduce vehicle miles traveled by cars and light trucks, which are considered a significant contributor of greenhouse

gas emissions. A summary of the bill was enclosed as well as the full text.

Since the Commission last took a position on this bill in the summer of 2007, many amendments and compromises have been negotiated with Senator Steinberg for the positive, which has gained the support of most of the organizations that were originally opposed. There is some remaining amendments desired and clean-up language for SB 375 will likely be sought by Senator Steinberg in a bill next session.

This Item was pulled from the Transportation Consent Item for discussion.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Kopshever to oppose SB 375. A vote was called and the motion carried. Commissioner Rodriguez opposed the vote.

B. *Fall Policy Conference – One Voice, One Future*

Summary: Included in the Commissioner's packet was the One Voice, One Future Fall Policy Conference brochure. This year's conference will be held in Visalia at the Visalia Convention Center on Thursday, October 2nd and Friday, October 3rd. Key topics to be discussed are as follows:

- The future of transportation funding
- Goods movement and rail
- Success stories in project partnering
- Next steps for the Blueprint
- Federal transportation legislation reauthorization

This is a valuable opportunity for policy-makers and decision-makers throughout the Valley to meet and discuss critical issues. Congressman Devin Nunes and Tulare County Supervisor Connie Conway will speak at the conference.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

C. *Triennial Performance Audit – Request for a Proposal*

Summary: MCTC is statutorily required by Section 99246 of the California Public Utilities Code to designate entities other than itself, a county transportation commission, a transit development board, or an operator to make a performance audit of its activities and the activities of each operator to whom it allocates funds (All allocations by Madera County come under Article 8, therefore, no operators exist and operator performance audits are not required). MCTC staff would like to issue a RFP to procure a performance audit of the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for fiscal years 2005-06 through 2007-08. During the initial review, the audit should discuss the RTPA's characteristics and functions with the RTPA's management and governing board. RTPA functions may include:

- RTPA Administration and Management;
- Transportation Planning and Regional Coordination;
- Claimant Relationships and Oversight;
- Follow up of prior Performance Audit Recommendations;
- Marketing and Transportation Alternatives; and
- Grant Applications and Management

The audit will be completed by January 2009 and expects that the performance audit will be conducted consistent with the "Performance Audit Guidebook for Transit Operators and Regional Transportation Planning Entities" issued by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The Commission's Operation Budget allowance for the Audit is \$10,000.

Action: Authorize the release of the Triennial Performance Audit RFP.

D. *San Joaquin Valley Express Transit Study Update*

Summary: The goal of the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) Express Transit Study is to identify markets that can support inter-county commuter express transit service within the San Joaquin Valley region, and between

the San Joaquin Valley and its neighbors. Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG), retaining Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates, is spearheading this eight-county effort.

Included in the Commissioner's were two documents summarizing the work completed thus far. The SJV Express Transit Study was designed with five distinct phases in mind:

1. An evaluation of existing transit service in the region.
2. Case studies of existing inter-county commuter transit services from across the United States, with lessons learned for the San Joaquin Valley.
3. Analyze demand for services based on stakeholder interviews, travel demand models, current demographics and growth projections.
4. Design services to meet short and long term needs, including operating and capital plans.
5. Develop an organizational structure to best fulfill these needs and a funding plan for providing services.

The Existing Conditions and Case Studies document includes the first two parts of the five-part study, which were completed in August 2008. The third part of the study is currently underway, and a summary of initial results from a commute travel demand model run is included in the August 14, 2008 memorandum. Based on these initial model runs, commute trips to and from Madera County do not currently meet the threshold (1,000 commute trips per day) for inclusion in the analysis.

Based on the analysis to date, the study team recommended focusing the remaining analysis on two areas of promise. In the central part of this study area, this includes the market between Tulare and Fresno Counties. In the northern part of the study area, they recommended detailed investigation of the Merced/Modesto/Stockton corridor, and the demand for travel from these markets to the San Francisco Bay Area.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

Transportation Consent Calendar Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Poythress to approve the Transportation Consent Calendar (Item III B-D). A vote was called and the motion carried.

IV. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2009 INTERIM Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP Amendment No. 1)- Public Hearing

Summary:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
DRAFT AMENDMENT #1 TO THE 2009 INTERIM FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND FEDERALLY APPROVED 2007 AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY
ANALYSIS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) will hold a public hearing on September 17, 2008 at the MCTC Board Room at 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera, CA 93637 regarding the Draft Amendment #1 to the 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program (Interim FTIP) and Federally Approved 2007 Air Quality Conformity Analysis. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comments.

- The 2009 Interim FTIP is a listing of capital improvement and operational expenditures utilizing federal and state monies for transportation projects in Madera County during the next four years that are eligible to proceed without a conformity determination.
- The Draft Amendment #1 to the 2009 Interim FTIP contains regionally significant projects that are included in the Federally Approved 2007 RTP, where the design concept and scope and year open to traffic is unchanged.
- The Federally Approved 2007 Air Quality Conformity Analysis contains the documentation to support a finding that the Draft Amendment #1 meets the air quality conformity requirements for

ozone and particulate matter.

A concurrent 30-day public review and comment period will commence on September 8, 2008 and conclude October 8, 2008. The draft documents are available for review at the MCTC office, located at 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera, CA 93637 and on our website at <http://www.maderactc.org/>.

Public comments are welcomed at the hearing, or may be submitted in writing by October 8, 2008 to Derek Winning at the address below.

After considering the comments, the documents will be considered for adoption, by resolution, by the Madera County Transportation Commission at a regularly scheduled meeting to be held on October 22, 2008. The documents will then be submitted to state and federal agencies for approval.

Contact Person: Derek Winning, Deputy Director
Madera County Transportation Commission
2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, CA 93637
(559) 675-0721

3:30 p.m. Chairman Armentrout opened the floor for public comment.

Being no public comment, Chairman Armentrout closed the floor at 3:31 p.m.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

B. *San Joaquin Valley Blueprint – Madera County Blueprint Report – Select Madera County Preferred Scenario*

Summary: The MCTC Policy Board selected the Low Change Scenario for submission to the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint process on July 23, 2008 with the following conditions:

Madera Blueprint Roundtable Committee Recommendation

The Blueprint Roundtable Committee met on July 14, 2008 in response to comments received during the recent Blueprint presentation given to the City Councils and Board of Supervisors. The Roundtable recommends that the MCTC Policy Board choose Option 5 – Conditional Selection of a Preferred Scenario. The recommendation is that the Low Change Scenario be selected for submission to the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint process under the following conditions:

- 1. The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint explicitly recognize that local cities and counties will maintain authority and control over local planning and zoning.**
- 2. That the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint will only be “Goal Oriented” in nature, but must not be a “one size fits all” approach valley wide. Any policies, standards, or performance measures will only be considered targets for implementation.**
- 3. Each local agency may customize the implementation of the Blueprint considering the values, socioeconomic conditions, and desires of the local area and will be considered San Joaquin Valley Blueprint compliant should it include locally accepted Blueprint principles in its planning and zoning activities.**
- 4. The Madera County Blueprint Report is revised in consultation with the Roundtable prior to acceptance by the MCTC Policy Board to better reflect the Madera Region’s vision considering the Low Change Scenario recommendation for the year 2050.**
- 5. That the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint recognize and incorporate the Madera County Low Change Scenario regardless of which valley wide scenario is selected.**

The Madera County Blueprint Report was revised to reflect the Low Change Scenario selected by the MCTC Policy Board consistent with condition No. 4 above. In addition, the following explanation regarding the gross density assumptions used in the UPLAN modeling to produce the alternative scenarios was added to the report:

General Plans

The General plans were standardized to fifteen (15) land use categories utilized by the UPLAN software (reference Figure 1). The UPLAN software allocates jobs and housing based on the standardized General Plan map derived from the collected general plans. The gross densities utilized in the software included the specific use (type of residential or type of employment) and the access required for those uses e.g.: neighborhood or streets and roads or "local" streets and roads within a subdivision, utilities, trails, and pedestrian connections. For example, gross low density does not include neighborhood commercial or any other type of employment, parks, schools, or major streets and roads (collectors, arterials, expressways, or freeways) since these uses are already mapped or designated in each of the General Plans GIS files. If such uses were not in the General Plans, then they were considered as the gross densities were established.

The Madera Blueprint Roundtable Committee recommends the Madera County Blueprint Report August 2008 Version 3 be accepted as the final version of the report.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Poythress, seconded by Commissioner Moss to accept the Madera County Blueprint Report – August 2008 Version 3. A vote was called and the motion carried.

C. Madera County Traffic Monitoring Program – 2008 Annual Report

Summary: Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the 2008 Annual Madera County Traffic Monitoring Report. This report has been developed as part of the MCTC FY 2007/08 Overall Work Program.

The report provides current traffic count information for planning and engineering projects. Traffic count information contained in this report is from selected sites from 2003 through July 2008. Section 1 contains counts for outlying County locations; Section 2 contains counts for the City of Madera; Section 3 contains counts for the City of Chowchilla; and Section 4 contains Caltrans' State Highway traffic volumes.

The traffic monitoring information collected assists in the following activities and programs:

1. Air Quality Monitoring
2. Traffic Modeling
3. Identify Signal Priorities and Capital Improvement Programs
4. Private Use
5. Other benefits include: identifies traffic volume growth rates, traffic accident rates, signal and stop sign warrants, signal timing, and traffic noise levels

The report is available on MCTC's website for viewing and downloading.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Poythress, to accept the Madera County Traffic Monitoring Program – 2008 Annual Report. A vote was called and the motion carried.

D. San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council's "Valley Voice" Advocacy Trips in 2009

Summary: The San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council is in the initial stages of planning advocacy trips to Sacramento in mid-January and to Washington D.C. in late February of 2009. Tentative travel dates are as follows:

1. Sacramento: Wednesday, January 28th.
2. Washington D.C.: Wednesday, February 25th and Thursday, February 26th with travel days on the 24th and 27th.

The Regional Policy Council is a 16-member council consisting of elected officials (Steve Mindt, Max

Rodriguez, and Jim Kospshaver as alternate) representing the eight Regional Transportation Planning Agencies in the San Joaquin Valley, and along with the Valley COG Directors, are planning their second trip to Sacramento to advocate for legislative issues of importance to the San Joaquin Valley. The legislative issues chosen will be based on the Regional Policy Council's Legislative Platform to be updated in the Fall. Last year's chosen issues included advocating for Proposition 1B bond monies and for port container fees collected at the California ports to benefit the Valley and advocating for protection of Proposition 42 transportation funds from being diverted to the general fund and used for other purposes.

In an effort to build upon the Sacramento advocacy effort, the regional Policy Council is planning on traveling to Washington D.C. to lobby for federal funding from the new federal transportation authorization act to support goods movement projects in the Valley. The current federal transportation authorization act, also known as the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), will expire after September 30, 2009. The Washington DC trip is not included in the Commission budget. This trip is not eligible to be funded by federal funds; therefore, local funds must fund the trip if the Commission intends to attend. Staff will review the budget and provide an analysis at its October meeting.

Action: The Policy Board directed staff to review the budget for funding the Washington DC. trip.

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 July 23, 2008

Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the July 23, 2008 Executive Minutes for review.

Action: Approve Executive Minutes of July 23, 2008.

B. Proposal for Fiscal Audits and Claimant Audits for FY 2007-08

Summary: The firm of Dedekian, George & Small Accountancy Corporation has submitted a proposal, included in your package, to perform Fiscal Audits and Claimant Audits for FY 2007/08. The proposal is for a not to exceed amount of \$23,000 with work to be completed by December 31, 2008.

Action: Accept Audit Services Proposal – Dedekian, George, Small & Markarian.

C. 2007-08 Local Transportation Fund Resolution 07-10 – Amendment No. 05

Summary: The City of Chowchilla is requesting to reallocate their 2007/08 LTF Funds as follows:

- Reducing "Street Maintenance" from \$176,075 to \$26,077
- Increase "Roads & Streets Projects" from \$0 to \$144,570
- Increase "Local Agency Planning Services" from \$42,000 to \$51,178
- Decrease "CATX" from \$41,841 to \$38,091

Action: Approve Resolution 07-10 Amendment No. 5.

Administrative Consent Calendar Action

Action: The Commission unanimously approved the Administrative Consent Calendar. A vote was called and the motion carried.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. MCTC Policy Board - Stipend

Summary: The Policy Board, at its July 23, 2008 meeting, requested staff to report back to the Commission with a recommendation of a MCTC Policy Board - Stipend. Attached to the report was a copy of the Agency Stipend Survey that included valley regional transportation agencies as well as local agency commission/board participation.

The purpose for a Policy Board stipend is to:

1. Encourage attendance and active participation.
2. Provide for a more consistent direction to staff.
3. Minimize the inherent transportation planning learning curve for new members and alternates.
4. Reimburse members for the costs in time and mileage for service.
5. Foster a commitment to the regional nature of the Madera County Transportation Commission.

However, it should be noted that the current 2008-09 Overall Work Program Budget does not include a stipend for Policy Board members; therefore, an amendment to the budget will be required should the Policy Board approve a stipend. At this time, funding is tight due to the limited local funds available and the delay in the approval a state budget. The delay in the approval of State Budget has staff concerned as there is discussion about raiding Prop 42 funds. Prop 42 funds are a significant source of Commission funding used as match to federal funds. A stipend can only be funded with local funds. The local funds used to fund the Commission are Transportation Development Act funds (Local Transportation Funds).

Should the Policy Board support a stipend, staff will amend the budget accordingly for this current fiscal year budget. The Commission will need to increase the administrative costs off the top of the Transportation Development Act funds (Local Transportation Funds) in future budgets. Currently, the Commission takes \$70,000 off the top for administration. The Commission has not increased this amount since the early 1990's.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez to approve a Stipend in the amount \$100, plus mileage for each MCTC Policy Board meeting attended. A vote was called and the motion carried.

MCTC Sitting as the Madera County 2006 Transportation Authority

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Focus on the Future Conference – Draft Agenda

Summary: Included in Commissioner's packet was the draft agenda for this year's Focus on the Future Conference. The conference will be held in Monterey on Sunday, November 16 (evening) through Tuesday, November 18th, 2008. The following are topics to be discussed:

- State Transportation Funding
- Federal Transportation Funding
- Winning Transportation Ballot Measures
- Innovative Programs
- Cooperative Agreements
- Action Plans for Routes of Significance
- AB 32 Scoping Plan and Regional Targets Committee Report
- Global Warming – AB 32 and SB 375

If you are interested in attending, please contact Sheila Kingsley, MCTC Administrative Assistant, and she

will make the reservation accordingly.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

B. 2008-09 Annual Work Program

Summary: The Measure “T” 2008-09 Annual Work Program is included in your package. Per Authority policy the AWP is prepared annually and serves as the annual funding authority for the Measure “T” program. The Annual Work Program recognizes funds available for projects according to the Measure “T” Investment Plan and outlines each local jurisdiction’s Annual Expenditure Plan with respect to the available funds.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Poythress, seconded by Commissioner Moss to approve the 2008-09 Measure “T” Annual Work Program. A vote was called and the motion carried.

C. Measure “T” Audit Services Proposal for 2007-08

Summary: The firm of Dedekian, George, Small, & Markarian Accountancy Corporation has submitted a proposal, which was included in the Commissioner’s packet, to perform the Authority Audit for FY 2007/08. The proposal is for a not to exceed amount of \$8,400 with work to be completed by December 31, 2008.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Poythress to accept Measure “T” Audit Services Proposal for 2007-08. A vote was called and the motion carried.

D. SR 41 Passing Lanes – Cooperative Agreement

Summary: Caltrans District 06 has recently completed the Project Study Report (PSR) for the Measure T Regional Project SR 41 Passing Lanes – Between SR 145 and Road 200. The optimal project location has been identified as between the 22 Mile House and Rocky Cut. The project would provide approximately 1.5 miles of 4-lane capacity with retained shoulder and pull-out areas. The identified SR 41 Passing Lanes project delivery schedule and cost structure is as follows:

PA & ED = \$2,033,000 – 3/01/2011
PS & E = \$997,000 – 3/01/2001
RW = \$1,041,000 – 1/02/2013
RTL – 3/01/2013
CON = \$23,835,000- 7/01/2015

Total Cost = \$27,906,000

MCTA Staff recommends that SR 41 Passing Lanes project be prioritized for delivery and a Cooperative Agreement be finalized between MCTA and Caltrans for the Environmental and Design phases of the project beginning in FY 2008/09.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez to approve SR 41 Passing Lanes Cooperative Agreement and Authorize the Policy Board Chair to execute the agreement. A vote was called and the motion carried.

IX. Closed Session

Public employee performance evaluation, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 – Executive Director.

Report of Closed Session Actions. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1 and 54957.7, any required reports of closed session actions will be made at this time.

The Commission went into closed session at 4:15 p.m.

The Commission reopened the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Moss to approve a three year Employee Contract between the MCTC Board and Patricia Taylor, MCTC Executive Director. A vote was called and the motion carried.

X. Miscellaneous

A. Items From Caltrans

Sharri Bender Ehlert gave a status report to the Commissioners regarding State Route 41 projects and State Route 99 projects.

B. Items from Staff

No Items from Staff.

C. Items from Commissioners

No Items from Commissioners.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Next meeting set for Wednesday October 22, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia S. Taylor, Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission