

# MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## EXECUTIVE MINUTES

**Date:** Wednesday, December 1, 2010

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Place:** MCTC Board Chambers

**Members Present:** Chairman Jim Kopshever– Councilman, City of Chowchilla  
Vice Chairman Robert Poythress – Councilman, City of Madera  
Max Rodriguez – Supervisor, Madera County  
Tom Wheeler – Supervisor, Madera County  
Alt. Ronn Dominici -Supervisor, Madera County

**Members Absent:** Sam Armentrout – Councilman, City of Madera  
Frank Bigelow – Supervisor, Madera County

**Policy Advisory Committee:** Above Members present and Caltrans Representatives:  
Christine Cox, Interim Deputy Director

**MCTC Staff Present:** Patricia Taylor, Executive Director  
Derek Winning, Deputy Director  
Troy McNeil, Fiscal Supervisor  
Richard Poythress, Planner II  
Dylan Stone, Planner I  
Sheila Kingsley, Administrative Asst.

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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. *2011-12 Bicycle Transportation Account - Call for Projects***

The Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) is an annual program that provides state funds for city and county projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters. To be eligible for BTA funds, a city or county must prepare and adopt a Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) that complies with Streets and Highways Code Section 891.2. The BTP must be approved by the local agency's Regional Transportation Planning Agency.

Caltrans anticipates an appropriation of \$7.2 million annually for projects that improve safety and

convenience for bicycle commuters. Streets and Highways Code (S&HC) Section 2106 stipulates the annual BTA funding level, subject to appropriation in the approved State budget. Per S&HC 891.4(b), funds are allocated to cities and counties on a matching basis that requires the applicant to furnish a minimum of 10 percent of the total project cost. No applicant shall receive more than 25 percent of the total amount transferred to the BTA in a single fiscal year.

Highway User's Tax Account (HUTA), Transportation Tax Fund are the funding sources for the Bicycle Transportation Account

The 2011-12 BTA Call for Projects have been announced in November 2010. The application questions will be similar to the 2010-11 application, however, it is being modified to allow for export of data to a central database. Specific dates and instructions will be included in the announcement.

Applications will be due in February 2011. New or updated Bicycle Transportation Plans must be adopted by governing boards and councils by March 31, 2011. Plans must be approved by Regional Transportation Planning Agencies by April 15, 2011.

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only.

**B. *Transit to National Parks - Working Paper No. 4***

The Council of Fresno County Governments has formed a Study Advisory Committee to determine the viability of implementing one or more transit routes between Fresno and Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings National Parks. Serving on the committee are representatives from Fresno COG, Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System, National Parks Conservation Association, Visalia Transit, Convention and Visitors Bureau and MCTC. Fehr & Peers is the consultant conducting the Transit Market Assessment and Feasibility Study.

The study proposes an eight-step approach to completing the Transit Market Assessment and Feasibility Study. The steps are as follows:

1. Identify the study area (SR 41 and SR 180 corridors)
2. Conduct stakeholder interviews
3. Evaluate demand for the service
4. Develop service alternatives
5. Evaluate Federal, state, local and private sector funding opportunities
6. Feasibility evaluation
7. Develop preferred service plan(s)
8. Develop implementation plan(s)

Fehr & Peers Have recently completed a preliminary working paper detailing plans for operation along the SR 41 corridor. The working paper lists potential stop destinations, a concept schedule, fare recommendations, fleet requirements, productivity targets, and administrative and operational roles.

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only.

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

**IV. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. *High Speed Rail - Merced to Fresno Segment Letter of Support***

On November 4, 2010, the California High-Speed Rail Authority announced the availability of approximately \$4.3 billion in high-speed rail infrastructure investments designated for the San Joaquin Valley. According to requirements established by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), federal funding received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and a newly announced \$715 million earmark must be expended on the two Valley HSR segments: Merced-Fresno

and Fresno-Bakersfield.

On November 24, HSR Authority staff issued its recommendation for allocation of the initial \$4.3 billion. Staff identified a segment from just north of the Fresno/Madera County line to Corcoran as the preferred corridor, citing the independent utility stipulation attached to the federal funding as their primary selection criteria. The High-Speed Rail Authority Board will act on the staff recommendation at its December 2, 2010 meeting. Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the HSR Authority staff report.

Responding to a request from Merced County, MCTC staff has drafted a letter of support for prioritization of the Merced-Fresno segment. Staff requests board authorization for chair to sign the letter of support to the HSR Authority board.

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Dominici, seconded by Commissioner Wheeler for staff not to send the letter of support from MCTC to the California High-Speed Rail Authority. In addition, the Commission does not support the prioritization of the Merced-Fresno segment. A vote was called and the motion carried.

**B. *San Joaquin Valley Policy Council - Appointment***

The Policy Council consists of elected officials representing the eight San Joaquin Valley Council of Governments (San Joaquin; Stanislaus; Merced; Madera; Fresno; Kings; Tulare; and Kern Counties). The purpose of the Council is to develop a process and framework for establishing formal San Joaquin Valley positions on issues where valley wide consensus exists.

The Commission appointed the following members to the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council:

1. Tom Wheeler, Supervisor, County of Madera
2. Steve Mindt, Councilman, City of Madera
3. Frank Bigelow, Supervisor, County of Madera – Alternate

Effective December 1, 2010, Councilmember Steve Mindt will no longer be serving the city of Madera; therefore, staff is recommending the Commission appoint a replacement.

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Kopshever, seconded by Commissioner Wheeler to appoint Commissioner Poythress to the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council. A vote was called and the motion carried.

**C. *Sacramento Valley Voice Trip - February 2-3, 2011 and 2011 Draft Legislative Platform***

Recognizing the value of the Valley Voice program, the San Joaquin Valley COGs Policy Council requested the Valley Legislative Affairs Committee to organize legislative visits to Sacramento and Washington D.C. Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the draft 2011 Valley Legislative Platform.

The 2011 Valley Voice trip dates are as follows:

- Sacramento: Wednesday, February 2nd and Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011
- Washington DC: Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> 2011

Kern COG is taking the lead for logistics on the Sacramento trip and Fresno COG is taking the lead on the Washington, DC trip.

The Valley Voice delegates will discuss issues of Valley wide interest. The Commission will be able to fund two delegates and two staff members for hotel and meal expenses for the Sacramento legislative visit and one delegate and one staff for the Washington DC trip.

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Dominici, seconded by Commissioner Kopshever to appoint

Commissioner's Poythress and Wheeler to attend the Sacramento Valley Voice trip. A vote was called and the motion carried.

**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 October 20, 2010**

Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the October 20, 2010 Executive Minutes.

*Action:* Approve Executive Minutes of October 20, 2010.

**B. Transportation Development Act (TDA) Fund Audit Reports for Fiscal Year ended June 30 2009; County of Madera**

Item was pulled from the Agenda.

**Administrative Consent Calendar Action**

*Action:* Upon motion by Commissioner Poythress, seconded by Commissioner Wheeler to approve the Administrative Consent Calendar. A vote was called and the motion carried.

**VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Proposal: MCTC 2010 Traffic Model Update**

MCTC is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to prepare an update to the Madera County Transportation Model. The MCTC Transportation Model will be updated to a 2010 base year and other model improvements to more accurately forecast travel in Madera County. The MCTC 2010/11 Overall Work Program and Budget identifies \$140,000 for the completion of this project.

During the RFP period, MCTC received two proposals from qualified firms to complete the work specified in the project scope. A scoring committee was assembled, consisting of two MCTC staff members and one staff modeler from Fresno COG. At the conclusion of the scoring process, the proposal submitted by Dowling Associates, Inc. emerged with the highest total score:

1. Dowling Associates Inc. – 287/300 (total cost of proposal: \$134,918)
2. TJKM Transportation Consultants – 249/300 (total cost of proposal: \$130,610)

Staff recommends that the Board authorize MCTC to enter into a Traffic Model Update contract with Dowling Associates, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$135,000. Staff makes this recommendation on the basis of two outstanding features that were unique to the Dowling proposal:

1. The Dowling proposal demonstrated a clear understanding of the importance of the Madera County Traffic Model Technical Advisory Committee, a group of county, regional, and state stakeholders who will offer necessary technical input into the development of the model.
2. Through a subcontract with Fehr & Peers, Dowling proposes to build an integrated land use model for the Madera County region using Cube Land software. The land use model will allow MCTC to produce future land use scenarios for Blueprint and SB 375 scenario planning exercises. While this product is not specifically required by the MCTC Model

Update scope of work, it represents a significant upgrade to MCTC modeling capabilities that will be useful in future planning.

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Wheeler, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez authorizing staff to enter into a Traffic Model Update contract with Dowling Associates Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$135,000. A vote was called and the motion carried.

#### **MCTC Sitting as the Madera County 2006 Transportation Authority**

### **VIII. AUTHORITY - ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS**

#### **A. Measure "T" Compliance Audit Report: County of Madera**

MCTA has received the Measure "T" Compliance Audit Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2009 for the County of Madera. This report was done in accordance with Section 99245 of the Public Utilities Code by Dedekian, George, Small & Markarian Accountancy Corporation.

Staff was pleased to report that there are no adverse findings.

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Poythress, seconded by Commissioner Dominici to accept the Measure "T" Compliance Audit for the County of Madera. A vote was called and the motion carried.

#### **Authority Administrative Consent Calendar Action**

Upon motion by Commissioner Poythress, seconded by Commissioner Wheeler to approve the Authority Administrative Consent Calendar. A vote was called and the motion carried.

### **IX. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **A. City of Madera Authorization to Proceed (Construction) - Ellis Street Overcrossing Phase II - Resolution 10-04**

The current schedule to advertise for construction bids for Ellis Street/Avenue 16 Overcrossing at SR 99 - Phase II is January 2011. The cost estimate for construction and construction engineering is **\$13,100,000**. A copy of the latest engineer's estimate is included herein. A copy of the plans and specifications was received from the City of Madera and is on file with the MCTA.

The MCTA previously authorized **\$1,800,000** in Measure T Tier 1/Flex Funds for Ellis Street/Ave 16 Phase I which will be reduced to **\$1,500,000** with MCTA Policy Board approval of Resolution 10-04 due to lower construction bid for Phase I.

Phase II consists of the construction of a new SR99 Overcrossing at Ellis Street/Ave 16. The funding of the Ellis Street project Phase II is as follows:

1. MCTA – Measure T Tier 1/Flex Funds = **\$13,100,000**
2. City of Madera local funds = **\$400,000**

MCTC Staff recommends that the MCTA Board approve an allocation in the amount of **\$13,100,000** and authorize the City of Madera to proceed to advertise for construction bids for Ellis Street Phase II.

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Wheeler, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez authorizing the City of Madera to proceed (**\$13.1 million CON**) with Ellis Street/Ave 16 Overcrossing Phase II by Resolution 10-04. A vote was called and the motion carried.

**X. Miscellaneous**

**A. *Items From Caltrans***

Christine Cox, Caltrans, updated the Board on local projects in Madera City/County.

**B. *Items from Staff***

No Items from Staff.

**C. *Items from Commissioners***

No Items from Commissioners.

**XI. *Adjournment***

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Next MCTC meeting set for Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia S. Taylor, Executive Director  
Madera County Transportation Commission