

# MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## EXECUTIVE MINUTES

**Date:** Wednesday, July 20, 2005  
**Time:** 3:00 P.M.  
**Place:** Madera County Government Center,  
Board of Supervisor Chambers

**Members Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

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  
Derek Winning, Planner II

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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.

There were no public comments.

**III. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

**A. State Highway Operation & Protection Program (SHOPP) - Status**

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 July 2005 status report.

**Action:** Information and Discussion only.

**B. Madera County Traffic Monitoring Program – 2005 Annual Report**

Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the Madera County Traffic Monitoring Program - 2005 Annual Report. The report has been developed as part of the MCTC FY 2005/06 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 1999 through July 2005. 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

A copy of this report is also available online at <http://www.maderactc.org/public.html>

**Action:** Accept the Madera County Traffic Monitoring Program – 2005 Annual Report

**C. *2006/07 Transportation Planning Grants***

Now that the 2005/06 Transportation Planning Grants have been awarded, Caltrans is concentrating on the 2006/07 round of grants. The Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning will be releasing the application package for the 2006/07 grants within the next few weeks. The grant applications deadline is October 14, 2005.

The Division of Transportation Planning will be releasing the FY 2006/07 Planning Grant Application Package for the following transportation planning grants:

Environmental Justice: Context Sensitive Planning  
Community Based Transportation Planning  
FHWA Partnership Planning  
FTA 5313(b) Transit Planning

Caltrans will provide additional information on the grant application process when it becomes available. For further questions, please contact:

Paul Marquez  
Community Planning Coordinator  
Caltrans District 6 - Office of Transportation Planning  
1352 W. Olive Avenue, P.O. Box 12616  
Fresno, CA 93778-2616  
Phone: (559) 445-5867  
Fax: (559) 488-4088  
(Taylor)

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

**D. *Governor's Executive Order – California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley***

On June 24, 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger announced the signing of Executive Order S-05-05, included in Commissioner's packet, which establishes the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

1. The Partnership is composed of eight state government members, eight local government members and eight private sector members, in addition to two deputy chairs as provided in section 2. The Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency; Secretary for Education; Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency; Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency; Secretary of labor and Workforce Development Agency; Secretary of the Resources Agency; Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency; and Secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture shall serve ex officio as the state members. The local government members shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of three elected officials submitted by each of the eight Councils of Governments from the following counties: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern. Eight private sector members shall also be appointed by the Governor. All members shall serve at the

pleasure of the Governor, and without compensation.

2. The Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency is the chair of the Partnership; the Governor will appoint two additional members, one local government representative and one private sector representative, to be deputy chairs.
3. The Partnership shall meet at least once quarterly for the conduct of its business. It may also host town hall meetings in the Valley in addition to or in conjunction with its quarterly meetings.
4. The Partnership shall perform the following duties:
  - a. Identify projects and programs that will best utilize public dollars and most quickly improve the economic vitality of the Valley, especially those that leverage federal, state, local and private sector resources in a coordinated effort to address critical needs in the Valley.
  - b. Work with members of the state's Congressional delegation and federal officials, including the federal Task Force for the Economic Recovery of the San Joaquin Valley, to gain federal support for projects identified by the Partnership as critical to the region.
  - c. Partner with the University of California, California State University, community colleges, and the state's other research and educational institutions, as well as private foundations, to provide guidance, advice and encouragement in support of studies of particular interest and importance to the Valley.
  - d. Review state policies and regulations to ensure they are fair and appropriate for the state's diverse geographic regions, including the San Joaquin Valley, and determine whether alternative approaches can accomplish goals in less costly ways.
  - e. Recommend to the Governor changes that would improve the economic well-being of the Valley and the quality of life of its residents.
  - f. Develop by October 31, 2006, a San Joaquin Valley Strategic Action Proposal that provides recommendations to improve the economic conditions of the San Joaquin Valley. The proposal shall be in the form of a report to the Governor, to the Board of Supervisors of the counties identified in section 1, and the City Council of each city within those counties. The Partnership shall also send progress reports after each meeting. The reports shall focus on recommended strategies at each level of state government for sustainable economic growth that will create jobs and improve environmental quality in the region, while empowering local communities and encouraging entrepreneurialism.
5. The Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency shall provide administrative support to the Partnership out of existing resources. The Director of Finance may accept monetary gifts for the support of the activities of the Partnership.
6. Unless extended by another executive order, the Partnership shall terminate its business and cease to exist on November 1, 2006
7. This order does not alter the existing authorities or roles of the executive branch departments, agencies, or offices. Nothing in this order shall supersede any requirement made by or under law.

Due to the timing of the Governor's announcement and the need to have the MCTC provide its three nominations to the Governor in a timely manner, this issue was discussed with the MCTC Policy Chair, Gordon Skeels. It was determined that the following three elected officials be notified to fill out an application for appointment by the Governor: Gary Gilbert, Chair, Madera County Board of Supervisors; Rob Poythress, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Madera; and Al Lucchesi, Mayor, City of Chowchilla.

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only.

**E. Congress Approves Eighth TEA-21 Extension**

On July 1, President Bush signed legislation (H.R. 3104) extending the nation's surface transportation law for 19 more days; it is the eighth time the TEA-21 law has been extended.

Congressional leaders hope the July 19 expiration date will keep pressure on House and Senate conferees to reach a prompt agreement on a multi-year authorization bill.

Under the new extension, eighty percent of the guaranteed funding previously approved by Congress is now available to states, local agencies and transit providers, largely following current law provisions. This means that state DOTs have access to eighty percent of their apportioned program funds and obligation limitation, with transit providers allowed to spend eighty percent of their formula funds.

While transportation leaders want this to be the last program extension, it is still unlikely Congress will complete action on a final bill by July 19, making some additional extension bill necessary, if only to provide continued funding for staff positions and other functions at the U.S. Department of Transportation.

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only

**F. FY 2005-06 Proposition 42 Funds**

Proposition 42 for FY 2005/06 provides \$127 M to cities and \$127 M to counties for local road maintenance. This is in addition to other direct subventions. The funds are distributed from the State Controllers Office (SCO). Included in the Commissioner's packet was the FY 2005/06 totals; SCO distributes funds on a quarterly basis.

Additional information, including prior year distributions, can be found on SCO website at:  
<http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard/payments/traffic/index.shtml>

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only.

**Transportation Consent Calendar Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Poythress, seconded by Commissioner Gilbert to approved the Transportation Consent Calendar (Item III A-F). A vote was called and the motion carried.

**IV. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. PUBLIC HEARING: Final FY 2005/06 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Overall Goal for the Madera County Transportation Commission – Resolution 05-11**

Chairman Skeels opened for the floor for Public comments. Being no Public comments, Chairman Skeels closed the floor.

The MCTC is required to establish a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. MCTC is eligible to receive federal financial assistance from the DOT and as a condition of receiving this assistance, MCTC is required to sign an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

The proposed policy of MCTC to ensure that DBEs, as defined in part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts is as follows:

- To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
- To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
- To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;

- To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts; and
- To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program.

MCTC Staff has developed a DBE Overall Goal methodology consistent with Caltrans and U.S. DOT guidance. The Overall Goal for FY2005/06 for DOT assisted contracts is proposed to be set at **6.59%**, which is based upon the percentage of DBE firms available to perform work in Madera County.

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Gilbert, seconded by Commissioner Ginsburg to approved the MCTC FY2005/06 DBE Overall Goal by Resolution 05-11. A vote was called and the motion carried.

**B. *Agricultural Industries Transportation Services (AITS)***

VIDEO PRESENTATION

**Note: MCTC Staff is not making a formal proposal for this program. This presentation was intended to inform the MCTC Policy Board of an alternative public transportation program that could potentially serve commuters in Madera County. An MOU is required between the County of Madera and Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KCAPTA) in order for the AITS Program to operate in Madera County.**

Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KCAPTA) received a \$5.8 million JARC/PTA Grant to procure 4 buses and 123 vans to operate buspools and vanpools in Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties. Actual services began in Kings County, March 2002. KCAPTA has MOUs with Fresno and Tulare Counties, establishing a cooperative, coordinated effort in support of the AITS pilot project. KCAPTA expanded AITS into Fresno County in January 2003. Implementation of the Agriculture Industry Transportation Services (AITS) pilot project ended July 31, 2004.

The purpose of the program is to provide efficient and safe transportation services for seasonal, residential farmworkers that will serve to mitigate the number of injuries and fatalities incurred by farmworkers while commuting to/from agricultural work sites (fields, packing facilities) within Fresno, Kings, and Tulare Counties in the Central Valley.

The Kings AITS project endeavors to deliver transportation services to agricultural workers in all three counties given a unique hybrid system of public transportation that is a combination of public sector managed services and a private sector business model to aid sustainability. They have collaborated with Proteus the leading service provider in the region and have designed their program with the potential of inherent sustainability given a business model of affordable fares and controlling program overhead costs.

The Kings County AITS Program involves 123 15-passenger vans that are operated by residents in each of the targeted communities. These residents are trained and certified to safely operate the AITS vanpool vehicles. The operators of these vehicles both drive the vans and work at agricultural fields and packing facilities in the designated services area. Vanpool fares for the Kings AITS Pilot Project is \$60 per person per month. The Kings AITS Pilot Project has researched the average cost of transportation for agricultural workers given alternate means of transit and has estimated that per day costs to the workers at \$5.00 on average. These and other business dynamics make the Kings AITS program beneficial to the community, the employer and achieve the sustainability objectives of the AITS Grant Project.

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only

**C. *Measure "A" Public Opinion Survey – Executive Summary***

Per Board direction, MCTC retained VRPA Technologies to conduct a Public Opinion Survey and Stakeholder interviews related to the perception of transportation needs in Madera County. Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the Executive Summary documenting the results of the survey.

Survey recommendation: Proceed with drafting of an expenditure plan, as better than the required two-thirds of Madera County voters are inclined to support the renewal of Measure A.

It is essential to create an expenditure plan with widespread support from voters as well as community leaders and elected officials, reaching consensus on the final plan. Active, organized opposition has the potential to derail the measure (as shown by this survey, in which arguments against the measure drop support from a high of 76% back down near its original level of 68%), leaving no margin for error.

Projects considered important by the majority of voters in Madera County have been identified, and correspond with transportation priorities MCTC identified within the County. These projects follow later in this summary. Broadly speaking, the expenditure plan should detail specific projects that can be characterized accurately as a plan that would:

- Make safety improvements to roads and highways;
- Maintain and improve local streets and roads;
- Improve transit for seniors and disabled persons;
- Enhance access to community schools and hospitals;
- Improve State Routes 41, 99, 145 and 233;
- Help Madera County and its cities qualify for state and federal matching funds;
- Require the money be spent as designated in the Madera County Transportation Expenditure Plan.

Even though voter support for renewal of Measure A is substantial, significant effort will be required for public outreach and to educate the public about the components and benefits of a Measure A renewal. Typically, support for a measure declines over the course of a campaign. While it is encouraging that the Measure A renewal tests at slightly greater than the two-thirds required to pass, it is not sufficiently high to ensure victory on Election Day without a cohesive and thorough campaign. MCTC's best chance of success will be through a concerted outreach and education effort to the public as well as consensus and support from public leaders and stakeholders.

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only.

**D. Measure "A" Marketing/Public Education and Expenditure Plan – Contract Phase II**

The Policy Board at its March 2005 meeting authorized the Director to execute a contract with VRPA Technologies for Phase I of the project. Given the result of Phase I – Public Opinion Survey and Stakeholder Interviews, MCTC staff is recommending to retain VRPA Technologies to continue with Phase II.

*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) Additional 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.

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Poythress, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez to approved to authorize MCTC Executive Director to execute a contract not to exceed \$150,000 with VRPA Technologies, Inc to implement Phase II of the Measure "A" Marketing / Public Education and Expenditure Plan. A vote was called and the motion carried. Commissioner Gilbert opposed the vote.

**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 June 8, 2005**

Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the June 8, 2005 Executive Minutes for review.

**Action:** Approve Executive Minutes of June 8, 2005.

**Administrative Consent Calendar Action:** The Commission unanimously approved the Administrative Consent Calendar (Item VI. A).

**VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

No Action.

**VIII. Miscellaneous**

**A. Items from Caltrans**

No Items from Caltrans.

**B. Items from Staff**

No Items from Staff.

**C. Items from Commissioners**

No Items from the Commissioners.

**IX. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next meeting set for Wednesday, October 12, 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,

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