

MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Time: 3:30 P.M.

Place: Madera County Government Center,
Board of Supervisor Chambers

Members Present: Chairman Vern D. Moss - Supervisor, Madera County
Gordon E. Skeels - Councilman, City of Madera
Al Ginsburg - Councilman, City of Chowchilla
M.J. Nabors – Councilman, City of Madera
Alt. Ronn Dominici – Supervisor, Madera County
Alt. Jon Silva – Supervisor, Madera County

Members Absent: Gary Gilbert - Supervisor, Madera County
Frank Bigelow – Supervisor, Madera County

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

MCTC Staff Present: Patricia S. Taylor-Maley, Executive Director
Elizabeth Levine, Project Coordinator
Sheila Kingsley, Administrative Assistant
Derek Winning, Planner I
Tricia Stone, Receptionist

I. 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.

II. Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2002

Upon motion by Commissioner Dominici, seconded by Commissioner Ginsburg, to approve the February 20, 2002 Executive Minutes as written. A vote was called and the motion carried.

III. Transportation Items

A. 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program Status

2002 RTIP: Staff provided a verbal report on the status of the proposed 2002 Madera County Regional Transportation Program. The MCTC Policy Board at its January 23, 2002 meeting authorized the Director to send a letter (included in the package) to the California Transportation Commission staff informing the CTC of Madera's request to respread 2002 RTIP projects.

2002 ITIP: In response to the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) request to reschedule 2002 STIP proposals, Caltrans Headquarters recommended to the CTC to respread the Madera Amtrak Rail Station relocation project from FY 2002/03-03/04 to FY 2005/06-06/07. Included in the package was a copy of a letter written on behalf of MCTC with Chairman Moss's signature. The MCTC is requesting that the CTC consider funding the Madera Amtrak Rail Station in the year's it was originally proposed – FY 2002/03 – 03/04. The delay of the project would result in significant

impacts to rail service in Madera County and negatively impact the progress of a planned Transportation Control Measure, which is critical to air quality conformity of transportation plans and programs.

Also included in the package was a copy of a letter written from the San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee (Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Stanislaus, Tulare Counties) concerning the Madera Amtrak Rail Station Relocation and encouraging the CTC to program the project in FY 2002/03 – 03/04 and not to delay the project to FY 2005/06-06/07.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

B. Air Quality – Status Report

Last month, staff reported that federal approval for Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) in the San Joaquin Valley was being held up due to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) interpretation of the “latest planning assumption” requirements of the Clean Air Act. This matter was temporarily resolved on February 22, 2002 when strong cases presented by the Fresno COG Board of Directors and the Caltrans Director, Jeff Morales, were accepted by FHWA. Compelling arguments were made that transportation planning agencies did, in fact, use the latest planning assumptions available for use in their conformity analyses. As explained previously, TPAs used EMFAC 7F/7G for conformity which is the only model approved for use for every California TPA except for the Bay Area. All RTPs pending approval were approved on February 22, 2002. The same issue with “latest planning assumptions” was threatening to result in conformity lapses for several SJV counties - the first of which would have occurred on February 25, 2002 for Fresno. Approval of the RTPs avoided this particular threat of conformity lapse.

At this time, it is uncertain whether or not the FHWA will approve the next round of conformity determinations that will be needed for federal approval of the 2002 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). As TPAs develop the 2002 FTIP, close contact with local, regional, state, and federal agencies is being maintained to monitor status and respond appropriately. It may still be necessary to develop interim plans and programs that exclude all capacity increasing projects in order to proceed with exempt projects. However, every effort is being made to enable transportation projects to proceed as planned. The Madera County 2002 FTIP is currently being developed and is on track to be presented to the MCTC for approval in May of 2002.

The other approaching threat to conformity approvals reported last month involved the Particulate Matter 10 (PM-10) plan disapproval that was expected to be made by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A plan disapproval would have resulted in a conformity freeze in August or September of 2002. Rather than allow the plan to be disapproved, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District) pulled the plan from consideration by the EPA. This action resulted in the start of an 18 month sanctions clock that can only be turned off by a complete plan submittal. The Air District is already working on development of a new plan. If a PM-10 plan is not approved within 2 years, a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) will be issued by the EPA.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

C. Madera County Connection – Status Report

The MCTC Policy Board at its February 20, 2002 meeting requested staff to provide a status report on the Madera County Connection (MCC) transit system at its March 20, 2002 meeting. Included in

the package was an overview of the MCC's ridership and performance data since its initiation in July 2001 and MCC's future plans.

Madera County staff was available to answer questions.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

D. FY 2002/03 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Grant Application - Resolution 02-02

Summary: The Pacific Family Health, Inc. submitted a FY 2002/03 FTA Section 5310 grant application for capital equipment. The applications was follows:

Pacific Family Health, Inc.: Purchase two "Modified Vans" (Eleven ambulatory passengers or two wheelchair and five ambulatory passengers or one wheelchair and seven ambulatory passengers) with mobile radios for service expansion. Funding request is for \$97,000.

The Madera Dialysis Clinic began its operations in April 1989 and remains the only dialysis clinic in the City and County of Madera. The unit is composed of ten hemodialysis stations and serves an average of 32 patients per day. Many of the dialysis clinics in Fresno County are operating at maximum capacity and can no longer accept new patients. As a result some of those patients are coming to Madera Dialysis Clinic for treatment. The Madera Clinic has grown from 40 patients to 60. Many patients live as far as 40 miles from the clinic and their patients require reliable safe transportation to the clinic for treatment (treatments are 4-5 hours).

The Pacific Family Health requires additional vans to keep up with the growth in the patient load who require transportation service and to insure that their patients arrive on time and in a safe manner.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Nabors, seconded by Commissioner Skeels to approve Resolution 02-02 recommending submittal of the Pacific Family Health FY 2002-03 Section 5310 application for service expansion vehicles. A vote was called and the motion passed.

E. Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning for Communities – Demonstration Grant for FY 2002/03

Summary: The California Department of Transportation will be soliciting applications for a series of one-time grants to promote context sensitive planning and quality of life for diverse communities – Environmental Justice.

Approximately \$3 million will be available for grants in FY 2002/03 and up to \$300,000 per grant will be awarded, with required local match of 10% (5% of the 10% may be in kind). Deadline for Grant is May 2002.

Eligible organizations include: Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs), cities, counties, transit agencies, private and non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, Native American Tribal Governments, and private sector organizations.

Types of eligible projects include:

- Identifying and address transportation needs for low-income, minority, and Native American communities including the elderly and disabled;
- Identify and involve underrepresented groups in planning and project development;

- Demographic analysis to identify emerging communities;
- Safety improvements for pedestrian and bicycles;
- Feasibility studies for transportation improvements;
- Community revitalization and economic development with a transportation component;
- Improving cooperation between public agencies and communities;
- Assessing impacts of transportation plans and projects;
- Bilingual services for public hearings;
- Private Sector partnerships to enhance mobility and economic vitality;
- Promoting advance transportation technology and energy efficiency in communities;
- Community based design and public art associated with transportation facilities and ROW;
- Transportation and public health issues;
- Transportation issues in underdeveloped rural and agricultural areas.

For additional information contact Norman Dong, Office of Policy Analysis and Research, Division of Transportation Planning at (916) 651-6889 or by email at: norman_dong@dot.ca.gov.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

IV. Administrative/Fiscal Items

A. FY 2001/02 Regional Surface Transportation Program Funds

Included in the package was a copy of Caltrans' apportionments of the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2001-02. These apportionments are made in accordance with Sections 182.6(b) and 182.7(b) of the California Streets and Highways Code. The FFY 01-02 apportionment for Madera County is \$1,242,403 (an increase of \$273,019 from FFY 00/01)

Also attached was a letter to Caltrans to notify them of the Commissions intent to exchange the RSTP apportionments for state funds. The letter recognizes the following:

- The "RTPA Optional Exchange Amount" of \$1,242,403;
- The "Base County Operational Exchange Amount" of \$363,374 is exchanged directly by Madera County; and
- The remaining balance of the "RTPA Optional Exchange Amount", \$879,029, will be exchanged by MCTC.

The FY 2001/02 RSTP allocation for each agency is as follows:

- City of Chowchilla - \$72,003
- City of Madera - \$367,361
- County of Madera - \$439,665

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Nabors, seconded by Commissioner Skeels to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Caltrans regarding the exchange of Regional Surface Transportation Program funds. A vote was called and the motion passed.

B. FY 2001/02 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality apportionment

Included in the package was a copy of a spreadsheet recognizing the CMAQ apportionment for each agency. The FY 01/02 CMAQ apportionment for Madera County is \$1,050,598. The apportionment to each agency is as follows:

- County of Madera - \$645,698
- City of Madera - \$439,242
- City of Chowchilla - \$67,400

The MCTC staff has requested and encouraged each agency to program the remaining years of its CMAQ allocation. The CMAQ funds are subject to “timely use of funds” provisions of AB 1012. The legislation states that regional agency CMAQ funds that are not obligated within the first three years of federal eligibility are subject to reprogramming by the California Transportation Commission in the fourth year (the time period for calculating the three-year apportionment period begins with the start of the federal fiscal year in which the apportionment occurred).

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

C. FY 2001/02 Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) Program – Resolution 02-03

Included in the package was a copy of a spreadsheet projecting the Regional Share of the Transportation Enhancement Activities Program funds for the life of TEA-21 (FY 97/98 through FY03/04). The total TEA allocation for Madera County for the seven-year period is approximately \$1,283,633.

The TEA funds are federal dollars. The California Transportation Commission set policy providing that regions with a population under 200,000 may exchange all or part of the TEA funds for state transportation funds. The Madera County FY 01/02 apportionment is \$203,574 (increase of \$8,422 from FY 00/01). MCTC staff has requested each agency to deliver letters by March 7, 2002 to MCTC regarding use of their share of the FY 01/02 TEA funds. MCTC has received a letter from each agency to request to exchange its TEA funds for state transportation funds:

City of Chowchilla	\$ 11,706
City of Madera	\$ 65,347
County of Madera	\$126,521

The MCTC understands that the opportunity to exchange these funds for regions with a population under 200,000 will occur on a yearly basis. MCTC is required to notify the California Transportation Commission as to how Madera chooses to use its FY 01/02 TEA funds: whether to program a TEA project(s) with the Regional Share or exchange the funds.

Upon approval of Resolution 02-03 by the Policy Board and receipt of an agreement from Caltrans, staff will forward claim forms to the jurisdictions.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Nabors, seconded by Commissioner Skeels to approve Resolution 02-03 and authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Caltrans regarding the exchange of the TEA funds. A vote was called and the motion passed.

V. Miscellaneous

A. Items From Caltrans

No items from Caltrans.

B. Items From Staff

No items from Staff.

C. Items From Commissioner

No Items from the Commissioners.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Next meeting set for Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Respectfully Submitted,

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