

MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2006
Time: 3:00 P.M.
Place: Madera County Government Center,
Board of Supervisor Chambers

Members Present:

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

Members Absent: None

Policy Advisory Committee: Above Members present and Caltrans Representatives:
Henry Oputa

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

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. *Safe Routes to School – Call for Projects*

Authorized in Section 1404 in SAFETEA-LU, this new federal funding program provides \$612 million nationwide to : (1) enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; (2) make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and (3) facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

California can expect to receive a total of \$68 million in federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funds over the course of five years. The first call for projects is scheduled for October 2006. It is anticipated that \$45 million in funding including funds from FY 2004/05 through 2007/08, will be available. 70 Percent of the funds will go toward infrastructure projects; 10% will go towards funding a single statewide consultant to

develop standardized training, promotional materials, and other resources to the schools statewide, and the remaining 20% will go toward non-infrastructure projects. Any state, local or regional agency; any school/school district; and any non-profit organization that can meet federal requirements are eligible to apply. Projects must fall under the category of infrastructure (capital) or non-infrastructure (education and encouragement). No local match required – all projects are 100% reimbursable.

Timelines:

- September 2006 – Caltrans conducts statewide outreach; updates website;
- October 2006 – Caltrans issues a Call for Projects
- January 2007 – Applications for infrastructure projects due to Caltrans District Local Assistance Engineer; applications for non-infrastructure projects due to Caltrans Headquarters
- March 2007 – Advisory Committee and subcommittees will convene to evaluate applications
- June 2007 – Caltrans will notify applicants of the results, and the Cycle 7 program of projects will be posted on the website.

For questions on the program, please contact Joyce Parks, SRTS Coordinator at (916) 653-6920 or joyce_parks@dot.ca.gov or go to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/saferoute2.htm>.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

B. Letter of Support: County of Madera; United Park Inc.; and California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

Included in the Commissioner's packet were copies of letters written by Commission staff on behalf of the Commission to support the following grant applications:

1. County of Madera – Regional Transit Planning Study, “Proposed Blueprint to Establish a Regional Circulation Element – Route 65 Corridor Study”. Grant funds requested - \$300,000.
2. United Park Inc. – Rest Area / Truck Parking Facility. Support in concept.
3. California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley – letter of support thanking the Administration for creating the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and support implementing the Strategic Action Proposal.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

IV. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint – Phase II – Resolution 06-13

The California Regional Blueprint Planning Program is a new planning grant opportunity. This program will provide grants to help California's regions plan for future growth and quality of life through the integration of transportation, housing, land use, economic development and environmental protection. This integration will result in a more efficient and effective transportation system and land use pattern, one aimed at achieving three elements that help to define quality of life:

1. a prosperous economy;
2. quality environment; and
3. social equity for all Californians.

Governor Schwarzenegger has made \$5 million available annually in both FY 2005-06 and FY 2006-07 for the voluntary preparation of Regional Blueprints. The program is administered by the Department of Transportation's Division of Transportation Planning, in cooperation with the Department of Housing and Community Development.

In February of this year, the eight San Joaquin Valley Councils of Governments (COGs) embarked on a

pioneering effort to plan the development a San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint. This San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint process is in its infancy stages with key milestones either completed or in progress:

- San Joaquin Valley Regional dialogue;
- The Blueprint structural/institutional framework;
- Public Outreach - Citizen Participation Plan;
- San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint Summit – June 28, 2006
- Collaboration with the San Joaquin Valley Partnership - Strategic Action Plan;
- Participation in the Blueprint Learning Network

When the San Joaquin Valley COGs took on the SJV Regional Blueprint project they were fully aware of the daunting task before them and that the process was **not** going to occur in the short-term. In fact, the SJV COG's recognized that the suggested California Regional Blueprint Planning horizon of 2020 was not far enough in the future to adequately represent the land use and transportation paradigm shift that is occurring in larger metropolitan areas of California. Regional Blueprint Planning is very different in densely population metropolitan areas that it is in less dense rural areas. It is fair to say that rural area residents do not have the same level of consciousness in long term planning because people don't necessarily make voluntary change unless they are trying to fix a problem that directly and significantly affects their quality of life.

Instead, the SJV COG's choose a 2050 horizon year for the SJV Regional Blueprint. Far into the future, 2050, will allow the COG's to develop future alternative planning scenarios that look beyond current local general plans.

The SJV COG's have made a longer-term commitment to development of the Regional Blueprint process and they in turn would appreciate that the State of California make the same funding commitment in the second year of the Blueprint such that the project will have an opportunity to continue. SJV COG's are excited about the prospect of creating a future Preferred Scenario that allows local communities to maintain and prosper their local resources and identities and at the same time establishing a Regional Identity for the Central San Joaquin Valley Region.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Poythress, seconded by Commissioner Bigelow to approve Resolution 06-13 in support of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint – Phase II grant application. A vote was called and the motion carried.

B. *Ground Breaking Ceremony: State Route 99/Madera Gateway Interchange*

Included in the Commissioner's was an invitation to the State Route 99/Madera Gateway Interchange Ground Breaking Ceremony. The Ceremony is schedule for Friday, November 17, 2006 at the Madera Community Hospital Parking Lot at 10:00 a.m.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

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 September 20, 2006*

Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the September 20, 2006 Executive Minutes for review.

Action: Approve Executive Minutes of September 20, 2006.

Administrative Consent Calendar Action

Upon motion by Commissioner Ginsburg, seconded by Commissioner Gilbert to approve the Administrative Consent Calendar. A vote was called and the motion carried.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Commission Relocation – Schnoor Building

Staff gave a verbal report.

Action: The Commissioners directed staff to report back with a written report detailing options to purchase and a list of current office space/rates available in the Madera area for review.

MCTC Sitting as the Madera County 2006 Transportation Authority

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Measure “T” Passes – Election Results

Measure “T” PASSED with unofficial result of **72.7%** (18,135 “yes” votes and 6,793 “no” votes). Staff gave a verbal report on the status of Measure “T”.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

IX. Miscellaneous

A. Items from Caltrans

Caltrans introduced its new Chief of Transportation Planning, John Beck.

B. Items from Staff

Patricia Taylor introduced MCTC newest staff members: Tory McNeil and Richard Poythress who are both, Transportation Planner I.

Patricia Taylor presented Gordon Skeels and Gary Gilbert with a plaque thanking them for their service.

C. Items from Commissioners

No Items from Commissioners

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Next meeting set for Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia S. Taylor, Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission