



Meeting Minutes

2022 Measure T Renewal Investment Plan

Steering Committee Meeting #3

Date: November 18, 2021

Time: 1:30 – 3:30 P.M.

Place: Zoom Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE:

Steering Committee Members: Supervisor Robert Poythress (Co-Chair), Madera County Board of Supervisors; Supervisor Brett Frazier (Co-Chair), Madera County Board of Supervisors; Geoffrey Wheeler, Active Transportation Advocate; Michael Prandini, Building Industry Association of Fresno and Madera Counties; Matt Watson, Cal Fire; Michael Navarro, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans); Nichole Mosqueda, Camarena Health Center; Mike Lopez, Central California Labor Council; Mayor Diana Palmer, City of Chowchilla; Rod Pruett, City of Chowchilla; Jason Rogers, City of Chowchilla; Ellen Bitter, City of Madera; Keith Helmuth, City of Madera; Arnoldo Rodriguez, City of Madera; Council Member Jose Rodriguez, City of Madera; Sara Bosse, County of Madera; Jared Carter, County of Madera; Matt Treber, County of Madera; Jay Varney, County of Madera; Madeline Harris, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability; Bobby Kahn, Madera County Economic Development Commission (EDC), Christina Beckstead, Madera County Farm Bureau; Patricia Taylor, Madera County Transportation Commission/Madera County Transportation Authority (MCTC/MCTA); John Reed, MVP Realty; Frank Simonis, Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC); Tim Curley, Valley Children’s Hospital; Rhonda Salisbury, Visit Yosemite | Madera County

Members of the Public: David Huff, Leticia Casillas Luquin

Madera County Transportation Commission/Madera County Transportation Authority Staff and Consultants: Troy McNeil, MCTC/MCTA; Dylan Stone, MCTC/MCTA; Sandy Ebersole, MCTC/MCTA; Georgiena Vivian, VRPA Technologies, Inc. (VRPA); Rose Willems, VRPA; Richard Lee, VRPA; Dena Graham, VRPA; Hector Guerra, VRPA; Charles Heath, TBWBH Props & Measures; Alex Wara-Macapinlac, TBWBH Props & Measures; Ellen Moy, Moy & Associates

I. Introductions and October 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Supervisor Brett Frazier started the meeting and introduced Dena Graham, VRPA, to take roll call and review meeting protocols.

Supervisor Frazier then asked the group if there were any needed corrections to the meeting minutes. There were none. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Supervisor Robert Poythress, and seconded by Tim Curley, Valley Children’s Hospital. Supervisor Frazier asked if there



were any objections. There were none. Michael Prandini, Building Industry Association of Fresno and Madera Counties, and John Reed, MVP Realty abstained. Motion approved by consensus.

II. Local Agency Modal Needs Presentations

a. City of Chowchilla

Jason Rogers, City of Chowchilla, explained how Measure A and Measure T funds have been used to make safety improvements to roadways throughout the City of Chowchilla. Mr. Rogers also reviewed projects that have been completed through Measure A and Measure T, current and planned projects, and future transportation needs.

b. City of Madera

Ellen Bitter, City of Madera, reviewed Measure A and Measure T completed projects, including roadways maintenance and improvements, and pedestrian and transit enhancements. Ms. Bitter then discussed modal needs, which included roadway network improvements, existing roadways maintenance, and active transportation and transit projects/programs.

c. County of Madera

Jared Carter, County of Madera, discussed projects that have been completed with Measure A and Measure T funding, including rehabilitation and reconstruction, preventative maintenance, bicycle and pedestrian, transit, traffic circulation/safety, and bridge replacement. Mr. Carter then discussed future needs and identified regionally significant projects, and other regionally beneficial projects.

Madeline Harris, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, expressed concern that roadway expansion projects were being framed as safety projects. Ms. Vivian said that safety is one of the major concerns of Caltrans and each of the local agencies when looking at how to specifically address the improvements that are needed on these facilities. Michael Navarro, Caltrans, said that Caltrans is not trying to implement projects that induce demand, but is trying to balance the needs of goods movement and safety benefits. Mr. Navarro indicated that models show that there are some safety benefits to adding lanes to sections where bottlenecks exist.

Ms. Harris asked what the prioritization criteria for transit and active transportation projects are. Ms. Harris said that it would be beneficial to see specific details on active transportation and transit improvement projects that are in the works. Ms. Vivian said that as part of the MCTC Project Prioritization Study, prioritization criteria has been identified for each mode of transportation. Dylan Stone, MCTC/MCTA, added that various sets of criteria are looked at for each mode, and that projects that can demonstrate a reduction of harmful impacts are heavily weighted.

Ms. Harris was interested in seeing analysis on the damage to roadways being caused by goods movement or agricultural equipment. Ms. Harris said that through sales tax measures, taxpayers are subsidizing these industries by paying for the impacts that they are causing on roadways. Supervisor Frazier said that a disinvestment in goods movement corridors can have a negative impact on residents receiving goods and the costs of these goods.

Tim Curley, Valley Children's Hospital, felt that moving forward it would be important to further the work around active transportation or alternative transportation. Mr. Curley added that this will be an important part of the conversation with respect to the future Measure T allocations.

Leticia Casillas Luquin, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, wanted to know more about transportation investments in unincorporated communities such as La Vina or Fairmead. Ms. Luquin mentioned that investments in goods movement is not as impactful for communities like La Vina or Fairmead because these areas have one or no stores at all. Supervisor Robert Poythress suggested that MCTC/MCTA staff have a meeting with Ms. Luquin so there can be a more thorough discussion on the Measure T Program and how funding is allocated/collected to/by the Cities, County, Special Districts, etc.

Council Member Jose Rodriguez, City of Madera, appreciated the conversation on the importance on corridors, and widening these corridors to reduce bottlenecks and assist in transporting products from farm to market. He added that residents have expressed wanting to see improvements such as filling potholes or taking care of sidewalks. Council Member Rodriguez was hopeful that more Measure T dollars could be used to address needs within the community, and that obtaining a different source of funding for corridors improvements could be explored.

Mr. Reed asked if there had been any efforts to form public-private partnerships to provide Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in the County, perhaps involving PG&E. Mr. Stone said that MCTC is in the process of working on a regionwide Zero Emission Vehicle Readiness and Implementation Plan, which will examine challenges and opportunities on a community by community basis and identify what will be needed for an effective transition to zero emission fleets in the future. Patricia Taylor, MCTC/MCTA, added that they are always looking for public-private partnership opportunities, and that such a partnership is being looked at in the mountain areas related to the transit services. Supervisor Frazier said that the County's solar project included charging stations at the County's parking garage. Arnoldo Rodriguez, City of Madera, said that the City of Madera has a couple of EV charging stations in front of City Hall that are available to the public.

Mayor Diana Palmer, City of Chowchilla, said that MCTC has worked on air quality, safety, and multimodal projects and studies, and wanted to know what involvement Measure T had on these efforts. Mr. Stone said that Measure T is a funding component for an array of different projects that are involved in MCTC plans, and that the member agencies apply Measure T

funds to a wide variety of projects. Ms. Vivian added that the current Measure T has dedicated funding allocated to various modes of transportation, and that this will be looked at through the Measure T Renewal process to see how they might be adjusted for the future.

III. Review Other Self Help County Measure Programs

Georgiana Vivian, VRPA, reviewed a matrix of other California Self-Help County Measure Programs and how these Counties allocate funding to the various transportation modes. Ms. Vivian also discussed how Madera County's funding allocations compared to the funding allocations of the other Self-Help Counties.

Mr. Curley commented that Madera County does not show a funding allocation towards an Active Transportation Program. Ms. Vivian said that the active transportation allocation is currently part of a subprogram of the Environmental Enhancement Program. Mr. Curley also wanted to know what would be included as part of an Active Transportation Program. Ms. Vivian said that active transportation improvements may include trails, bikeways, and pedestrian improvements. Mr. McNeil said that the Environmental Enhancement Program includes projects that would improve air quality, reduce emissions, and have environmental benefits. Mr. McNeil added that member agencies have used Environmental Enhancements funds as a match for their Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement projects. Mr. Curley agreed that the Environmental Enhancement Program is important, but it would also be important for walking paths, bike trails, etc., to be separated out as a stand-alone program. Mr. Stone wanted to reiterate that some of the streets and roads projects have a component that include wider shoulders and sidewalk facilities.

Nichole Mosqueda, Camarena Health Center, said that a huge number of their patients will walk to access the Center's services, which makes safety issues a high priority. Ms. Mosqueda said it would be important to allocate an additional percentage of Measure T funds towards Active Transportation and Environmental Enhancement Programs.

Ms. Bitter wanted to point out that the Measure T Local Transportation Program is not exclusive to roadways. When the City of Madera was running short of funds for the recently built trails project, they tapped into this Program's funding source. Mr. Rogers added that the City of Chowchilla uses the Measure T Local Transportation Program funds for CMAQ, Active Transportation, and Safe Routes to Schools projects.

Mr. Reed was interested in the marketing/selling the Measure T Renewal to the public and wanted to hear a little bit more about this process. Ms. Vivian added that TBWBH Props & Measures is a subconsultant on the Project Team, and they will be responsible for the public engagement as it relates to the Measure T Renewal process. TBWBH Props & Measures has prepared a public engagement outline with identified strategies to reach out to the community and inform the public about the Measure and how it is being developed.

Sara Bosse, County of Madera, wanted to express support for all of the comments made concerning active transportation, and said that public transportation needs to be in the mix as well. Ms. Bosse

added that the next iteration of Measure T should be more explicit around what specific active transportation and public transportation projects will be undertaken.

IV. Review Future Year (2046) Transportation Project/Program Costs or Funding Need by Mode

Troy McNeil, MCTC/MCTA reviewed the transportation costs and funding needs by mode. Transportation modes that were discussed included aviation, active transportation, transit, maintenance, mobility enhancements, and operations.

Mr. Curley asked what mobility enhancement were. Ms. Vivian said that mobility enhancement projects are often capacity increasing projects, where lanes are being added along a corridor.

Ms. Harris wanted to know more on what aviation entailed. Ms. Vivian said that aviation projects typically include costs for a variety of airport improvements at public use, public owned airports in Madera County.

Mr. Stone provided an overview of the regionally significant transportation systems within Madera County as identified in the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. Mr. Stone's presentation touched on mobility enhancements, public transit services, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

V. Discuss Steering Committee Member Priorities for Measure T Renewal

Rose Willems, VRPA, explained that a matrix of Steering Committee member priorities for the Measure T Renewal is being prepared and will be shared with the Steering Committee. The matrix is being developed based on what members shared at last month's Steering Committee meeting. Ms. Willems has emailed members who have not yet shared their priorities and will be sending out a follow up email to those who have not provided their input.

Based on comments made earlier in the meeting, Ms. Willems confirmed with Nichole Mosqueda, Camarena Health Center, that walking, mobility, and safety were key priorities for Camarena Health Center and their constituents. Ms. Mosqueda added that lighting is also a concern because Camarena Health Center does have after hours care. Ms. Mosqueda also mentioned alternative transportation opportunities and said that pedestrian crossings are one the biggest complaints they hear about, especially as individuals are crossing back and forth over Yosemite Avenue.

VI. Next Steps

a. Staff Items

There were none.

b. Renewal Schedule/Steering Committee Vacancy

Ms. Vivian reviewed the calendar of meetings for the Steering Committee, which lists meeting dates and agenda items so that everyone is aware of what will be discussed at future meetings. Ms. Vivian also previewed what would be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Ms. Vivian stressed the importance of Steering Committee members attending upcoming meetings, especially as discussions start to focus on the Measure T Renewal program development and how much of the Measure T funds should be allocated to these programs. Supervisor Poythress added that it would be important to get the message out to Steering Committee members not in attendance that their participation is critical. Ms. Vivian said that reminder emails will be sent to these members, and that reminder phone calls may also need to be placed.

Ms. Taylor said that there is still a Steering Committee vacancy for Goods Movement, and that a response had not yet been received from potential representatives to fill this vacancy. Ms. Taylor will work with the Co-Chairs to find a solution for this vacancy.

c. Next Meeting Date

Mr. Taylor said that the next meeting date is Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 2:00 PM.

VII. Public Comments

There were none.