

TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

December 1, 2011

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the **TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE** held Thursday, December 1, 2011 at the Merced County Association of Governments conference room located at 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, California, was called to order by Chairman, Rod Ghearing, at 10:02 a.m.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott McBride, City of Atwater

Ken Elwin, City of Merced

Ernie Garza, City of Gustine

Rod Ghearing, Transit Joint Powers Authority - Merced County Transit

Gary Hutsell for Mark Fachin, City of Los Banos

Donna Kenney, City of Livingston

Sinarath Pheng, Caltrans District 10

Dana Hertfelder for Richard Schwarz, Merced County Public Works

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

City of Dos Palos

City of Livingston

San Joaquin Valley Air District

OTHERS PRESENT

Matt Fell, MCAG

Terri Lewis, MCAG

Scott Malta, Castle Airport

Ty Phimmasone, MCAG

Steve Rough, Merced County Public Works

1. Introductions

So noted.

2. Oral Communication

Steve Rough attended to report on recent Merced County Public Works experience with the use of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to purchase cleaner fleet vehicles. As of October 1, 2010, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has applied a more stringent level of oversight with CMAQ projects and meeting federal requirements, specifically the Buy America requirement.

Steve Rough explained that the Federal Buy America requirement has a two piece requirement when it comes to vehicles: 1) the steel or metal used to manufacture the vehicle must come from the United States; and 2) the vehicles must be assembled in the United States. Steve stated that it is almost impossible to find a single vehicle sold in the United States that meets both of these Federal Buy America requirements.

If both requirements cannot be met, FHWA offers two options to project sponsors:

1) Request a *Partial* Buy America Waiver; or 2) Request a *Full* Buy America Waiver.

The Partial Buy America Waiver is the least complicated of these two options and is more likely to be approved by FHWA. Project Sponsors can request a partial waiver if the vehicle they want to purchase is assembled in the United States (US), yet the steel is not from the US.

A Full Buy America Waiver would be required if the vehicle is assembled outside of the US and the steel is from outside the United States. A Full Waiver is more difficult to get approved and there is a highly visible public notification process. Full Waiver requests are posted (published) on a federal website for public notification and a public comment period. Full Waivers to the Buy America provision are not looked on kindly due to the struggling US economy and the national effort to encourage the purchase of American (US) products as an employment generator.

Steve provided a few examples of vehicles by manufacturer:

Chevrolet Hybrid Trucks - Assembled in Mexico;

Ford Fusion Vehicle - Assembled outside the US; and

Toyota Camry Hybrid - Assembled in US.

Also, Steve Rough touched on the fact that FHWA is in the process of determining if Federal CMAQ funds will be allowed to cover the total cost of a hybrid replacement vehicle (as they do now), or if the Federal CMAQ funds can only be used for the higher incremental cost of a hybrid vehicle over the traditional internal combustion engine counterpart. We will have to wait and see if the FHWA changes the current 100% replacement cost eligibility.

Rod Ghearing reported that the YARTS project manager (Dick Whittington) is now located at the Merced County Transit facility on Thornton Road.

Matt Fell reported that hopefully the California Transportation Commission (CTC) will approve a funding allocation on the Highway 99- Arboleda Widening Project in January 2012. If that allocation is approved then the project could go out to bid in the Spring 2012.

Ty Phimmason reported that the MCAG Regional Road Project listing has been updated and posted on MCAG's website. Also, there is a user friendly PowerPoint on the Regional Road Projects that has been posted for all to use as needed.

3. Minutes of the November 4, 2011 Technical Planning Committee Meeting

Donna Kenney made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2011 Technical Planning Committee meeting minutes.

Seconded by Ken Elwin.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Project Evaluation

Matt Fell reported on the staff's programming recommendation that has resulted from an evaluation of the CMAQ projects submitted by member jurisdictions in the recent Call for Projects (CFP) process. The summary table below identifies the staff evaluation rating for both evaluation categories (Highly Cost Effective and Quality of life):

Summary of CMAQ Applications Received			Nov. 22, 2011					
#	Agency	Project	Cost effective- ness (\$/lb.)	Pollution reduced (kg/day)	Quick'?	CMAQ cost	Local match	Total project cost
			lower is better	higher is better		max. 88.53%	min. 11.47%	
CE projects: highly cost effective, costing \$30/lb. or less								
1	Los Banos	Replace dump truck	\$8.46	2.29	YES	\$132,795	\$17,205	\$150,000
2	County	Replace hot-mix pothole patcher	\$11.74	2.19	YES	\$172,633	\$22,367	\$195,000
3	County	Replace spray pothole patcher	\$13.21	2.15	YES	\$190,339	\$24,661	\$215,000
4	Los Banos	Replace 2 backhoes	\$14.79	2.00	YES	\$198,307	\$25,693	\$224,000
5	Livingston	Replace backhoe	\$15.56	1.06	YES	\$110,662	\$14,338	\$125,000
6	Dos Palos	Replace front loader	\$18.93	0.49	YES	\$61,971	\$8,029	\$70,000
		CE subtotal				\$866,707		
QoL projects: quality of life projects usable by the public								
7	Atwater	Install sidewalks	\$380.79	0.09	NO	\$410,169	\$53,142	\$463,311
8	County	Install sidewalks	\$281.61	0.19	NO	\$626,792	\$81,208	\$708,000
9	Gustine	Install bike lanes	\$634.65	0.05	NO	\$297,017	\$38,483	\$335,500
10	Livingston	Install sidewalks	\$93.85	0.53	NO	\$597,785	\$77,450	\$675,235
11	Los Banos	Install sidewalks	\$313.65	0.07	NO	\$277,098	\$35,902	\$313,000
12	Merced	Install bike lanes (10 miles)	\$306.22	0.09	NO	\$290,400	\$39,600	\$330,000
13	Merced	Install 50 bike racks	\$58.50	0.05	YES	\$32,525	\$4,435	\$37,100
14	Merced	Install 3 bike shelters	\$435.27	0.03	YES	\$145,200	\$19,800	\$165,000
		QoL subtotal				\$2,676,986		
Other projects: neither highly cost-effective nor usable by public								
15	Los Banos	Replace tractor	\$5,806.11	0.0025	YES	\$84,988	\$11,012	\$96,000
16	Los Banos	Purchase 2 hybrid pickup trucks	\$645.97	0.02	YES	\$75,250	\$9,750	\$85,000
17	Merced	Purchase 43 hybrid vehicles	\$2,495.44	0.08	YES	\$1,361,280	\$176,369	\$1,537,649
		"Other" subtotal				\$1,521,518		
		Total of all applications received				\$5,065,211		\$5,724,795
		CMAQ balance				\$4,269,892		
		CE Target				\$1,229,409		
		CE subtotal				\$866,707		
		CE balance				\$362,702		
		QoL subtotal				\$2,676,986		
		Other/Neither subtotal				\$1,521,518		

Staff recommends the programming of the CMAQ projects No. 1 through 14 in the Highly Cost Effective and Quality of Life (QoL) evaluation categories. This recommendation is consistent with the current MCAG Governing Board CMAQ policy.

Staff does not recommend the programming of projects No. 15, 16, and 17 that cannot be included in either of the evaluation categories.

Ernie Garza made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board approve the programming of CMAQ projects No. 1 through 14 in the 2011 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP).

Seconded by Donna Kenney.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Status of California High-Speed Rail Project

Ty Phimmason reported that the California High Speed Rail Authority on November 1, 2011 released a Draft Business Plan and the Funding Plan for the California High Speed Rail project (<http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/>). The public has 60-days to comment on these documents and they will ultimately go to the State Legislature for review and action. There is no mention of a maintenance facility in these plan documents.

6. Draft Formal Amendment No. 13 to the 2011 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)

Ty Phimmason reported that Caltrans (state) has requested an update to the 2011 FTIP programming for the state management Highway Bridge Program (HBP) for Merced County Projects. MCAG must process an FTIP amendment to make the changes requested by Caltrans Headquarters.

Dana Hertfelder made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board adopt Formal Amendment No. 13 to the 2011 FTIP programming updates to the Grouped Projects for Bridge Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Program by Resolution No. 2011/12-15-02.

Seconded by Ken Elwin.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Status on the San Joaquin Valley Interregional Goods Movement Plan

Ty Phimmason reported that the San Joaquin Valley Interregional Goods Movement Plan consultants, as part of Phase I work product, have prepared a Draft Existing Conditions Assessment Technical Memorandum (<http://sjvcogs.com/goods/html>). The document does include a brief discussion on State Route 152 (including Los Banos) and its significance as a major east-west goods movement corridor.

8. Revised State Transit Assistance FY 2011/12 Apportionment Estimate and Revised Claim Form

Terri Lewis reported that the State Controllers' Office (SCO) has sent notification increasing FY 11/12 State Transit Assistance (STA) Estimated Apportionment from \$1,161,825 to \$1,517,025. The Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County (TJPA) will take action to approve a Revised FY 11/12 claim for the \$1,517,025 apportionment estimate. The MCAG Governing Board must approve the Revised FY11/12 STA Claim form and distribution (100%) of the STA funds to the TJPA for operation of Merced County Transit – *The Bus*.

Rod Ghearing made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board approve:

- a. The Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County Board's revised STA FY 2011/12 claim form in the amount of \$1,517,025; and
- b. Resolution No. 2011/12-15-01 distributing 100% of the FY 2011/12 STA funds of \$1,517,025 to the Transit Joint Powers Authority for Merced County for the operation of public transit services as Merced County Transit - *The Bus*.

Seconded by Donna Kenney.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Atwater-Merced Expressway Status Report

Matt Fell reported on the status of the Atwater-Merced Expressway and the negotiation of a fund exchange with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA). MCAG would commit future State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) RIP (Regional Improvement Program) regional apportionment funds for current OCTA local measure funds as the only viable opportunity to move forward with the Right-Of-Way (ROW) phase on the AME project.

Dana Hertfelder expressed concern with the length of time it is taking to move forward with the ROW phase of the AME. The County of Merced – Public Works is considering to pull moving forward with one of their Prop 1B funded projects (Buhach & Ashby intersection improvements). This project area is part of the AME ROW to be purchased as these funds must be spent by June 2012. Merced County has already requested and been granted a one-year extension on this Prop 1B funded project. The County will need to identify a drop dead deadline and identify a replacement project to use these funds.

10. Regional Transportation Impact Fee Report Fiscal Year 2011/12 – 1st Quarter

Matt Fell reported on the amount of Regional Transportation Impact Fees (RTIF) collected in the 1st quarter by member jurisdictions that results when development occurs and fees are collected. Livingston is the only MCAG member jurisdiction that has not adopted a local RTIF ordinance, therefore, Livingston does not show any funds collected. The much lower RTIF FY 11/12 fees reflect the struggling economy and little (if any) development taking place.

11. One-Voice Revised Schedule

Lori Flanders reported that a single One Voice project (Los Banos Bypass) was received by the November 30th Call for Projects (CFP) deadline. TPC members are encouraged to talk with their Management if there are any priority projects that have been identified and can be submitted. Washington D.C. travel dates have been moved from March 2012 to April 24-25, 2012. Contact Lori if you would like any information on the One Voice FY 11/12 Legislative Plan or delegation trip.

12. Technical Planning Committee Meeting Schedule for 2012

So noted.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:45 A.M.