

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 7, 2009

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, held Friday, August 7, 2009 at the Merced County Association of Governments conference room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, California, was called to order by Chair Tom Grave at 8:31 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dennis Coté, Engineering
Adam Cox, Student
Tom Crawley, Finance
Kyle Ford, Citizen-at-Large
Tom Grave, Education
Aaron Hill, Goods Movement (for Scott Neal)
Dan Hultgren, Real Estate
Richard Jantz, Economic Development
Melissa Kelly-Ortega, Citizen at Large
Ron Price, Merced Irrigation District
Dean Wilson, Citizen-at-Large

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mary Ford-Azevedo, Small Business
John Price, Citizen-at-Large
Diana Westmoreland Pedrozo, Agriculture
Vacant, Construction
Vacant, Citizen-at-Large

OTHERS PRESENT

Rich Green, MCAG
Matt Fell, MCAG
Terri Lewis, MCAG
Ty Phimmasone, MCAG
Candice Steelman, MCAG

1. Introductions

So noted.

2. Oral Communications

Matt Fell distributed flyers for the Fall Conference of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies to be held in Fresno on October 1-2, 2009.

Richard Jantz added that there will be a Photo Gallery Contest in Modesto on September 4, 2009 and there is a call for photos in the eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) that highlight SJV Agriculture. David Schroeder is the contact name for the photo contest. There will be money prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards.

Melissa Kelly-Ortega added that the City of Merced is looking for 2010 Census volunteers (1-2 hours per week). There is a meeting for volunteers on September 15, 2009, yet the start date of the Census count is not until April 2010. Jess Rodriguez (Fresno) is the Census contact.

3 Minutes of the July 10, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Kyle Ford made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting.

Seconded by Dan Hultgren.

Abstained, due to absence from the July meeting – Tom Crawley, Adam Cox, Ron Price, Dean Wilson

MOTION CARRIED.

4. Coordinated Transit Services Plan

Matt Fell reported that under the current federal transportation bill (SAFETEA_LU) a Coordinated Transit Service Plan (CTSP) is required to apply for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) competitive grant programs, including: FTA-5316 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC); FTA-5317 New Freedom; and FTA-5310 Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities.

The CTSP (at minimum) is required to include the following:

1. An **assessment of available** services identifying current providers, public and private.
2. An **assessment of transportation needs** for individuals with disabilities, older adults and persons with low incomes – this assessment can be based on the experiences and perceptions of planning partners or on data collection efforts gaps in service.
3. **Strategies and/or activities and/or projects** to address the identified gaps between current services and needs, as well as opportunities to improve efficiencies in service delivery.
4. **Priorities for implementation** based on resources (from multiple program sources), time and feasibility for implementing specific strategies and/or activities identified.

MCAG facilitated discussion and the development of the CTSP with local transit providers and service providers and established four priorities:

Priority 1. Create a One-Stop shop of Transit information;

Priority 2. Establish Inter-County Transportation Program for Medical Appointments;

Priority 3. Establish Transportation Program for Merced County Human Service Agency Clients for Evening Classes;

Priority 4. Replacement of Old Vehicles

Several questions were asked by CAC members and were addressed by staff.

Kyle Ford stated that he would discuss the concerns of the CAC to the Governing Board as the CAC representative on August 20, 2009.

Richard Jantz made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board adopt the Coordinated Transit Services Plan to allow agencies within Merced County to apply for transit funding opportunities available under SAFETEA-LU.

Seconded by Dean Wilson.

Ayes: Richard Jantz, Dean Wilson, Melissa Kelly-Ortega, Aaron Hill, Tom Grave, Kyle Ford, Tom Crawley, Adam Cox, Dennis Cote.

Noes: Dan Hultgren and Ron Price.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. MDSS GIS Data Agreement

Rich Green reported that this is the same item that came before you two months ago. Since June, MCAG/MDSS has met with Merced County Planning staff twice regarding this item. MCAG/MDSS has learned from these meetings that Merced County Planning has started maintaining their own GIS base layer data.

Rich Green added that MDSS was created and exists to generate private revenue from MDSS services (maps, etc.) to provide the required local match portion to the Federal Planning Funds. MDSS provides regular updates to the GIS base layer of data for all MCAG jurisdictions at no cost. MDSS has developed processes or direct network connections to regularly send GIS base layer data updates to all local jurisdictions. The issue to be determined is choosing one of three GIS base layer data maintenance options:

Option 1 – Does MDSS continue to maintain the GIS base layer of data and provide this information to local jurisdictions at no cost;

Option 2 – Does Merced County Planning maintain the GIS base layer of data to MCAG member jurisdictions? Is there a cost incurred? How will the locals get this information? Is the Merced County Planning data useable with their different data standards?

Option 3 – Does both MDSS and Merced County Planning maintain two separate and distinct GIS base layer data?

Rich Green believes that the issue is a policy decision for the MCAG Governing Board and not a process or technical question amongst local agencies.

Several questions were asked by CAC members and were addressed by staff.

Dean Wilson made a motion to recommend to the MCAG Governing Board the approval of Option 1 for the MDSS GIS Data Agreement for reasons of cost savings, improved quality of service, and a reduction of service/work duplication and to direct MDSS to secure agreements with each member jurisdiction to provide data as stipulated.

Seconded by Ron Price.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Legislative Report

Candice Steelman reported that there was some confusion last month regarding the CAC sending a letter of support on AB 934. It has been clarified that the CAC doesn't have the authority to send a letter direct; the recommendation for a letter must go to the MCAG Governing Board for consideration of action.

Candice Steelman highlighted current legislative issues or legislation, including:

1. State Budget – The recently signed state budget is not viewed as a solid budget, therefore, it will most likely be opened again in January 2010 for adjustments;
2. Term Limits legislation
3. SB 716 – Local Transportation Fund (LTF)
4. SB 575 – Aligns General Plan Housing Element with Sustainable Communities Strategies.
5. AB 957 – Buyers Choice Act (Galgiani). Currently illegal under federal law, yet a state law doesn't exist.
6. SB 783 High Speed Rail – HSR does not have a business plan in place.
7. AB 934 – San Joaquin Water Supply Study (Gilmore). Supposedly any funding for “Studies” is not being approved by the legislature due to state budget, yet this is not what is actually occurring. Legislators are picking an choosing to fund different studies. The bill for the proposed San Joaquin Valley (SJV) water study was stopped by legislative leadership, yet the cost of this study is only \$50,000.

Adam Cox made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board approve the letter of support for AB 934.

Seconded by Dennis Cote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Draft Formal Amendment No. 11 to the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)

Terri Lewis discussed the Caltrans Division of Rail request to add a new air quality exempt rail projects to the 2009 FTIP in FY08/09.

Dennis Cote made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board adopt Formal Amendment No. 11 to the 2009 Interim FTIP adding an air quality exempt rail project (section 130) by Resolution 2009/08-20-01.

Seconded by Melissa Kelly-Ortega.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Annual Pavement Management (PM) Report - Draft

Ty Phimmason conducted a presentation on the Draft Annual Pavement Management (PM) Report, including:

- The number of paved road miles to maintain – a perspective;
- Life of a paved roadway;
- Roadway treatment options;
- Why keep roads in good shape;
- The biggest problem with roadway maintenance – MONEY;
- Preventative Maintenance costs less, therefore, can do more; and
- Source of funding for Streets and Roads Maintenance.

So noted.

9. Information/Discussion Only

- a. CAC Highlights – July 10, 2009
- b. Sign-up sheet for CAC representative to the MCAG Governing Board meeting – 2009
- c. MCAG Governing Board minutes July 16, 2009
- d. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Obligation deadlines
- e. Highway Safety Improvements Program (HSIPI) – Cycle 3 Call for Projects Nomination
- f. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Awards – Call for Projects

So noted.

10. Oral Report – Air District – CAC Report

Dean Wilson reported as a representative of the Air Districts' CAC on the following:

- a. A local jurisdiction is requesting the removal of the Arvin air quality monitoring Station.
- b. Prop 1B funding has been frozen by the state, releasing only 50% this year.
- c. Healthy Air Ads coming soon- requests that each resident make a commitment to do something to improve Air Quality (AQ). Participants have an opportunity to win a Chevy Malibu Hybrid vehicle.
- d. Air District's PASS Program is similar to the Cash for Clunkers federal program, yet more restrictive.
- e. Ag Tractor Replacement Program.
- f. School Flag program – revamping to make more adaptive to smaller areas rather than a blanket policy for the larger sub areas of the SJV region.
- g. Four Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) vacancies on the AD CAC. All should be filled by September.
- h. Off-Road Construction vehicles are being targeted for green house gas reductions. Air District (AD) trying to provide some kind of an incentive. Better AQ in SJV due to less road construction due to economic downturn.
- i. Banking GGHE's – see AD website for information.
- j. Fireplace program – returning soon.
- k. Lawnmower program – still open and funding available.

11. Oral Report – CAC Goals Report

Item not addressed due to time constraints.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS ADJOURNED BY TOM GRAVE AT 10:37 A.M.