

# **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**December 5, 2008**

## **MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, held Friday, December 5, 2008 at the Merced County Association of Governments conference room, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, California, was called to order by Chairman Dean Wilson at 8:35 a.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dennis Coté, Engineering  
Tom Crawley, Finance  
Kyle Ford, Citizen-at-Large  
Mary Ford, Small Business  
Tom Grave, Education  
Matt Hoffman, Citizen-at-Large  
Dan Hultgren, Real Estate  
Richard Jantz, Economic Development  
Melissa Kelly-Ortega, Citizen at Large  
Brandon Williams for Scott Neal, Goods Movement  
John Price, Citizen-at-Large  
Ron Price, Water/Irrigation  
Diana Westmoreland-Pedrozo, Agriculture  
Dean Wilson, Citizen-at-Large

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Adam Cox, Student  
Vacant, Construction

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Matt Fell, MCAG  
Lori Flanders, MCAG  
Rich Green, MCAG  
Ty Phimmasone, MCAG

#### **1. Introductions**

So noted.

#### **2. Oral Communications**

None.

### **3. Minutes of the October 3, 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting**

Kyle Ford made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting as amended.

Seconded by Matt Hoffman.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **4. Information / Discussion Only**

- a. CAC Highlights – October 3, 2008
- b. Sign up sheet for CAC representative to the MCAG Governing Board meeting – 2008

Kyle Ford-alternate for the December 18, 2008 meeting.

Richard Jantz-January 15, 2009 meeting.

Dennis Cote will be the alternate for the January 15, 2009 meeting.

- c. MCAG Governing Board Minutes of October 16, 2008
- d. MCAG Governing Board Minutes of November 20, 2008
- e. CAC meeting schedule for 2009
- f. Status of Regional Road Projects for Merced County

Melissa Kelly-Ortega inquired to why BNSF needs a clearance for the Bradley Overhead Project. Matt Fell explained that the railroad needs to ensure there is sufficient clearance both vertically and horizontally (for potential railroad expansions).

- g. Neighborhood Stabilization Program Assistance
- h. Public Notice- Atwater Merced Expressway Flyer
- i. Save the Date: San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Summit – January 26, 2009

Chair Wilson highly recommends CAC members attend. Matt Fell stated that MCAG is offering to pay the registration fee for CAC members and elected officials to attend the San Joaquin Valley Finale Blueprint Summit on January 26, 2009 at the Fresno Convention Center. If anyone is interested, notify Matt Fell of your interest in attending. MCAG will process registration for anyone interested in attending.

- j. Status of the Transit System Update

Larry Shankland provided the CAC an overview of Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding. He provided a review of the State Transit Assistance Fund and stated that the Governor is going to eliminate the remaining State Transit Assistance Funds for the remainder of the 2008-2009 fiscal year. This cut would represent an additional \$750,000 in lost revenue for the Merced County Transit budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Larry explained that the Governing Board approved suspension of Saturday service effective January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009 with consideration of re-implementation of the service as revenues stabilize. He further explained that fare box ratios have increased during this past year for fixed

route services but is dismal for Dial-a-Ride (DAR). Increasing fares to help meet the shortfall are scheduled for public hearing consideration in January.

Dennis Cote recommended pursuing funding from Social Service agencies (outside of their typical pass purchases). Dennis also recommended improving bike lanes in the Livingston/Delhi area, which would provide other transportation alternatives. He asked that this item be discussed at the next CAC meeting.

Due to several members needing to leave by 10:00 a.m., action items were taken prior to informational items.

#### **10. Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (AVA) Program**

Ty Phimmason highlighted the proposed AVA program and MCAG chosen for designations as the service authority. The funding for this program is generated for an additional \$1 dollar added to the vehicle fee that is collected by the state and then distributed quarterly by the state controllers office.

Dennis Cote expressed his concerns with the definitions used in the staff report. He believes this program may create an encroachment on property rights.

Chair Wilson commented that this program currently exist in other jurisdictions throughout the state without encroachment concerns.

Ron Price informed the committee that he previously enforced this program through previous employment. He explained that it includes a 120-day process with investigation.

Dennis requested a discussion occur regarding an Abandoned Tires Program at a future meeting.

Ron Price made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board approve the Final Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Plan and instruct staff to submit the Plan to the State Controller's Office.

Seconded by Tom Grave.

Dennis Cote provided his recommendation, but has reservations with the language provided.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **5. CAC Goal Setting Session**

Chair Wilson asked the CAC to prioritize and if necessary, edit the existing CAC Goal's document.

Richard Jantz stated that prioritizing the document during the meeting would be to time consuming, and asked the group to considered treating all items with equal importance.

Chair Wilson informed the committee that the CAC Goals list would be used to ensure agenda items are meeting the CAC's visions.

Tom Crawley expressed that topics should appear monthly on the agenda from the CAC's Goals list.

Richard Jantz stated that the Governing Board should be updated consistently on what the goals are of the CAC, not just once a year.

Melissa recommended assigning each member of the CAC a "workgroup" based on each topic listed on the goals list.

John Price requested the addition of "protecting legitimate jobs" to the list.

Dennis requested the addition of "getting Highway 99 interstate status.

Kyle recommended associating monthly agenda items to the topics they impact on the CAC Goals list.

Rich Green offered to create a large printout of the CAC's Goal list that could be posted monthly during the meeting for reference.

Dennis Cote made a motion to approve the CAC Goals list with the above stated additions.

Seconded by Melissa Kelly-Ortega

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Oral Report – Air District – CAC Report**

No report.

**7. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint – Valleywide Scenario Recommendation (BRAC)**

Rich Green reviewed the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Scenario Presentation given to the BRAC on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The BRAC recommended the adoption of SJV wide scenario C with two dissenting votes.

**8. Regional Transportation Plan Amendment**

So noted.

**9. Draft Amendment No. 3 to the 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program**

So noted.

**11. Oral Report – Local Fee Discussion**

Due to time constraints, this item has been postponed until the next CAC meeting.

**12. Oral Report – San Joaquin Valley Express Transit Study**

No report.

Chair Wilson asked the Committee to bring their December agenda with them to the January meeting so that they may discuss items that were skipped this month.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
WAS ADJOURNED BY DEAN WILSON AT 10:25 A.M.**