

# **TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**June 4, 2009**

## **MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the **TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE** held Thursday, June 4, 2009, at the Merced County Association of Governments conference room located at 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, California, was called to order by Chairman Richard Schwarz at 10:02 a.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ernie Garza, City of Gustine  
John Gedney, Caltrans District 10  
Mark Hamilton, City of Merced  
Justin Hendrix, City of Atwater  
Larnold Jones, Merced County Transit  
Richard Schwarz, Merced County Public Works

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mark Fachin, City of Los Banos  
Len Guillette, City of Atwater  
City of Dos Palos  
City of Livingston  
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Matt Fell, MCAG  
Rich Green, MCAG  
Marjie Kirn, MCAG  
Terri Lewis, MCAG  
Ty Phimmasone, MCAG

#### **1. Introductions**

So noted.

#### **2. Oral Communication**

Richard Schwarz stated that he has another commitment at 11 a.m., therefore, he will hear action items on the agenda first.

#### **3. Minutes of the May 7, 2009 Technical Planning Committee Meeting**

John Gedney made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2009 Technical Planning Committee meeting minutes.

Seconded by Justin Hendrix.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2009/2010**

Richard Schwarz made a motion to nominate Mark Hamilton as the TPC Chairman for 2009/2010.

Seconded by Justin Hendrix.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Richard Schwarz made a motion to nominate Justin Hendrix as the TPC Vice Chairman for 2009/2010.

Seconded by Mark Hamilton.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Draft Formal Amendment No. 10 (Type 2 – Funding Changes) to the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)**

Terri Lewis briefly stated that two project sponsors (Merced County and Caltrans) had recently requested FTIP programming changes and these changes are detailed in the staff report.

Marjie Kirn added that the Los Banos Bypass project had FTIP programming changes requested after the TPC agenda had been mailed. The City of Los Banos has many financial issues that they are currently evaluating and one of them is the need for the new water treatment plan. In the last few days, the City of Los Banos has been discussing their concern with spending local money on a new water treatment facility for 2030 anticipated capacity when there is existing capacity available for the homes already built due to the high number of foreclosures and additional foreclosures that are anticipated. The City had committed local funds of \$8,000,000 for FTIP programming in FY 08/09 that was to be used to purchase right of way (RW) for their new water treatment plant which is also the same RW for the Los Banos Bypass project (a dual benefit and win). Due to the number of current foreclosures and more foreclosures anticipated, the situation with sewer capacity has changed (there is capacity now, where just a year ago there was no capacity). It is unclear at this time, whether the City of Los Banos will move forward with building the new sewer treatment plant and continue to commit local funds to purchase RW. Regional Transportation Impact Fee (RTIF), Local, and 2008 Earmark monies will be pushed out into FY 09/10.

Mark Hamilton made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board approve Formal Amendment No. 10 with funding program modifications to three existing 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program regionally significant projects (Campus Parkway, Los Banos Bypass, PSR Hwy 99 & SR165) with reliance on the previous air quality conformity analysis adopted with Amendment No. 2 to the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan by adoption of Resolution No. 2009/06-18-01.

Seconded by Larnold Jones.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Re-determination of Air Quality Conformity**

Matt Fell stated that due to the EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM 2.5 (Particulate Matter 2.5 microns or less) all of the San Joaquin Valley Councils of Governments (SJV COGs) must formally adopt a re-determination of Air Quality Conformity if any of the eight SJV COGs adopt a new Type-5 FTIP Amendment (Type-5 formal amendments require a new Air Quality Conformity Analysis).

San Joaquin COG is in the process of a Type-5 FTIP amendment, therefore, all of the SJV COGs must also process a re-determination of AQ conformity.

Mark Hamilton made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board adopt a resolution re-determining conformity for the 2009 Federal Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #3 and 2007 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment #2.

Seconded by Justin Hendrix.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Action Items Nos. 9,10, and 12 were heard out of order**

**9. San Joaquin Valley Express Transit Study**

Marjie Kirn highlighted the San Joaquin Valley Express Transit study stating that the study represents what could happen with transit on a San Joaquin Valley regional scale. The San Joaquin Valley Express Transit Study was on the May agenda for public comments. MCAG did not receive any public comments on the study.

Mark Hamilton made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board approve the San Joaquin Valley Express Transit Study.

Seconded by Justin Hendrix.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**10. SR 99/165 Project Study Report (PSR) Milestone**

Ty Phimmason stated that the SR 99/SR165 PSR is intended to document the improvement to Hwy 99 and SR 165. The SR 99/SR165 project agreement requires that each of the 5 partner agencies involved are required to approve all project milestone reports.

Bill Nicholson inquired if this is the same purpose and need report that was discussed at the first public workshop meeting in Hilmar.

Marjie Kirn stated that this report includes responses to comments (as appropriate) from the Hilmar public workshop.

Mark Hamilton made a motion to recommend the MCAG Governing Board approve the Purpose and Need for the SR99/165 Project Study Report.

Seconded by Bill Nicholson.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**12. MDSS/GIS Data Agreement**

Bill Nicholson expressed concern in approving the MDSS/GIS Data Agreement at this time as Merced County Planning is working through internal procedural changes.

Bill Nicholson made a motion to continue consideration of the MDSS/GIS Data Agreement to the July TPC agenda.

Seconded by Mark Hamilton

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. Traffic Counts Reports**

Matt Fell highlighted the Traffic Counts Report and how / when the data was collected. If local jurisdictions have traffic count questions, contact Matt Fell.

**8. Oral Report – Traffic Modeling**

Matt Fell presented a “citizens level” Traffic Modeling presentation.

**11. Status of Regional Road Projects for Merced County**

Ty Phimmason stated that the online Regional Roads Projects chart has been updated to reflect the most current Caltrans quarterly report information. Ty pointed out the start of construction on the Bradley Overhead project will be delayed until FY 09/10 due to the legal proceedings on six land parcels and the fact that the state does not have the cash available for the 2008 STIP Augmentation due to the current fiscal crisis, bond ratings, and the need for the state to sell more bonds (anticipated in October 09).

**13. ArcGIS Explorer Demonstration**

Rich Green conducted an ArcGIS Explorer Demonstration and highlighted specific workings of the software.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY CHAIRMAN RICHARD SCHWARZ AT 10:48 A.M.**