

# **TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**October 2, 2008**

## **MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the **TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE** held Thursday, October 2, 2008, 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 10:00 A.M.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mark Hamilton, City of Merced  
Dwayne Chisam, City of Los Banos  
John Gedney, Caltrans District 10  
Michael Rhodes, Merced County  
Richard Schwarz, Merced County Public Works  
Larry Shankland, Merced County Transit

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Paul Creighton, City of Livingston  
Justin Hendrix, City of Atwater  
Jake Raper, City of Gustine  
City of Dos Palos  
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Lori Flanders, MCAG  
Rich Green, MCAG  
Terri Lewis, MCAG

#### **1. Introductions**

So noted.

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

Terri Lewis stated that Item 5 – Draft Amendment No. 1 to the 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program is being withdrawn from the agenda. On September 24, 2008, the US EPA approved the San Joaquin Valley 2007 PM-10 Maintenance Plan, including motor vehicle emissions budgets for air quality conformity. This action invalidates the ability of SJV COG's to rely on the federally approved 2007 Air Quality Conformity Analysis. Amendment 1 is withdrawn. The SJV COG's are currently evaluating a schedule for the next FTIP amendment.

Terri Lewis discussed the High Speed Rail Authority meeting that took place yesterday (the last meeting before the November 2008 vote on the HSR bond) and the Economic

Impact Study of HSR on the Sacto/Central Valley Area. The Executive Summary of the study was distributed to attendees.

Larry Shankland added Merced County Transit is anticipating a \$1,000,000 budget shortfall due to: 1) reductions (\$424,000) in state transit assistance (STA) funding in the 08/09 budget; and 2) increased fuel costs (approx. \$500,000). The Transit Subcommittee met recently and is recommending to the MCAG Governing Board shift Local Transportation Funds (LTF) of \$993,000 from local agencies to Merced County Transit to cover the anticipated budget shortfall. If the budget shortfall ends up being less than the \$993,000 anticipated, then MCT will return any LTF funds to local agencies. In addition to the shift in LTF funds, the Transit Subcommittee is recommending an increase in transit fares. City Managers in Merced County will see the Transit Subcommittee's proposal at the Technical Review Board (TRB) meeting next Wednesday.

**3. Minutes of the August 7, 2008 Technical Planning Committee Meeting**

Larry Shankland made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2008 Technical Planning Committee meeting.

Seconded by Michael Rhodes.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Information / Discussion Only**

- a. RHNA Approval Letter
- b. Valley Land Use Conference Notice – October 11, 2008
- c. Regional Transportation Impact Fee Report
- d. Technical Overview of SB375
- e. Atwater/Merced Expressway Update

**5. Draft Amendment No. 1 to the 2009 Interim Federal Transportation Improvement Program**

Item withdrawn.

**6. San Joaquin Valley Blueprint – Valleywide Scenario Update**

Richard Green provided a current status on the development of the Valley wide Blueprint Scenarios. Initially the Blueprint Project Managers were working with two scenarios: 1) Status Quo; and 2) COG locally preferred (stitched together in 8 county region). UC Davis staff generated another three scenarios: 3) Compact Growth; 4) Transit Oriented; and 5) Urban Centered. In the end, scenarios 3, 4, and 5 are similar in outcome; therefore, UC Davis is working on a combined hybrid of scenarios 3,4, and 5. The modeling work on the combined hybrid scenario is not yet complete; therefore, Rich doesn't have any new scenario maps for review today.

Terri Lewis stated that the Blueprint Regional Advisory Committee (BRAC) will meet on November 7, 2008 and the UC Davis scenario work will be presented for review and discussion. A Blueprint Finale Summit is scheduled for January 26, 2009 in Fresno. Ultimately, the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council will take action on choosing the Preferred Blueprint Scenario (anticipated in February 2009).

Dwayne Chisam inquired when the local agencies will be seeing the Blueprint Preferred Scenario and what change will be required of the local agencies.

Terri Lewis responded that the Blueprint document and Blueprint Compliance requirements will be forthcoming in the future.

Rich Green offered to provide the local agencies with numbers of specific land use densities based on the Hybrid Scenario so that they will have some idea of what they will need to do at their local scale. Rich Green offered to have this information on the next agenda.

For information and discussion.

#### **7. 4<sup>th</sup> Year (FY08/09) California Regional Blueprint Grant Application**

Terri Lewis stated that it was not anticipated that Caltrans would be offering a 4<sup>th</sup> year Blueprint Grant funding cycle due to the state budget deficit. On September 4, 2008, Caltrans did release a Request For Proposal (RFP) for a 4<sup>th</sup> year of Blueprint grant funding. The 8 SJV COGs would like to continue the Blueprint program with a 4<sup>th</sup> year grant application. FresnoCOG will be taking over as the lead agency on the SJV Blueprint Project and will be responsible for putting together the 4<sup>th</sup> year grant application which is due to Caltrans on October 10, 2008.

Dwayne Chisam asked why MCAG is handing over the reigns to FresnoCOG on this project.

Terri Lewis responded that MCAG had always committed to 3 years with the Blueprint project and there is a natural break in the work from planning to implementation that will occur in the near future.

Dwayne Chisam recommended the MCAG Governing Board support the submittal of a 4<sup>th</sup> Year SJV Region Blueprint Grant Application to Caltrans by October 10, 2008 by Resolution No. 2008/10-16-02.

Seconded by Mark Hamilton.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **8. San Joaquin Valley Express Transit Study**

Terri Lewis stated that the 8 SJV COGs received a grant to do the San Joaquin Valley Express Transit Study (approx. \$200,000). The Existing Conditions and Case Studies

report (August 2008) for the SJV Express Transit Study addresses the first two phases of five that will be addressed by Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates.

Mark Hamilton inquired as to why study regional transit service when transit services are not offered from Merced to Turlock retail shopping areas on Saturdays.

Larry Shankland responded that Merced County Transit does offer Saturday service from Merced to Turlock for transit riders.

Mark Hamilton stated that the SJV Express Transit Study does not state that Merced County Transit offers Saturday service.

Terri Lewis asked Larry Shankland to review the study and provide comments on any inaccuracies.

Larry Shankland stated that he would review the study and submit any comments direct to Nelson/Nygaard and copy MCAG staff.

For information and discussion only.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY CHAIRMAN RICHARD SCHWARZ AT 10:30 A.M.**