



Regional Transportation Plan Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

August 21, 2017, 1:00 pm

MCAG Conference Room, 369 West 18th St., Merced, CA 95340

Item 1: Introductions

Committee members

Lisa Keyser-Grant, Bicycle Coalition

Rod Webster, Sierra Club (arrived at 2:15 pm)

Michael Claiborne, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Luis Enrique Flores for Jean Okuye, Valley Land Alliance

Mary-Michal Rawling, Golden Valley Health Center

Phil Woods, UC Merced

Lee Lor, MCAG Governing Board

Steve Carrigan, MCAG Technical Review Board

Greg Pimentel for Mark Fachin, MCAG Technical Planning Committee

Robert Morse, MCAG Citizens Advisory Committee

MCAG Staff and Consultants

Stacie Dabbs, Deputy Executive Director

Matt Fell, Senior Planner

Jim Damkowitz, Kimley-Horn

Item 2: Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair – Steve Carrigan

Vice-Chair – Mary-Michal Rawling

Item 3: Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Item 4: Purpose and Role of the Committee

Stacie reviewed the purpose of the committee and the Committee Governing Procedures.

Item 5: RTP Overview and Timeline

Jim provided an overview of the RTP purpose, process, and requirements.

Matt discussed the timeline for the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan:

- July 2017 – public workshops round 1 (visioning and education)
- August-September – outreach continues, and technical work
- October – public workshops round 2 – (scenarios)
- November – select preferred scenario for EIR
- February 2018 – release draft documents for public review and comment
- March-April 2018 – outreach round 3, open houses, hearings
- June 2018 – Board may consider adoption

Q: what type of CEQA document is being done? A: program-level.

Q: what is the timeline for state and federal approval? A: federal approves the air quality conformity, by Dec. 2018, state (Air Resources Board) reviews the SCS, could occur by Fall 2018.

Item 6: Outreach Overview

Jim provided an overview of the outreach so far. 4 workshops have been held, in Livingston, Los Banos, and Merced, and were fairly well attended. A virtual workshop and survey are available on the website (www.mercedregionalvision.com). Please help us get the word out so we can get a lot more survey responses.

Q: will the results be made available? A: yes, all results will be made available.

Q: for round 2 workshops, will you present pictures of what the scenarios might look like? A: yes, we will try to make it fit this area, not like more highly-populated and denser areas.

Comment: there should have an aggressive option

Item 7: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target Update

Matt stated that the state Air Resources Board is updating the GHG target and is expected to adopt it in October 2017. ARB staff is proposing a more aggressive target than our previous.

Item 8: Forecast – Population, Housing, Employment

Matt and Jim gave an overview of the forecasts and how they will be used in the scenario modeling.

Q: school enrollment is declining, is that accounted for? A: the forecast generally projects enrollment will increase in the long-run, along with population growth

Item 9: Meetings with local jurisdictions

Jim described the bottoms-up approach to updating project lists for all modes, by working directly with the cities and county.

Matt noted that to be eligible for Measure V Regional Projects funding, a project must be listed in the RTP.

Item 10: Policies, Goals, Objectives

Jim described new federal and state guidelines and requirements for RTP's and that they are recommending MCAG update its policies and goals to account for them. This includes performance measurement.

A discussion followed about how to get goals and objectives turned into plans and projects.

Item 11: Scenario Themes

Jim described four conceptual-level Scenario Themes and that the consultant team will take these themes to each jurisdiction to ask them how each theme would play out in their city or unincorporated area. For example, transit corridors may be very different in Merced compared to the other areas. The Themes will pivot off locally adopted General Plans but may deviate from them.

- Scenario Theme 1 – compact development (update to adopted RTP)
- Scenario Theme 2 – infill emphasis
- Scenario Theme 3 – jobs-housing balance
- Scenario Theme 4 – transit priority corridor

Comment: infill should not be assumed only in cities, it should be in unincorporated communities also. "Existing communities" is a better approach that covers both.

Q: could cities' infill" be at the edges of the city – which isn't really infill? A: no

Q: is the whole area between the City of Merced and UC Merced going to be filled in with growth? A: we'll have to see what the City, County, and UC say, currently the assumption based on their plans is no, it wouldn't be.

Q: is High Speed Rail assumed? A: to be determined, let's bring this back at the next meeting

Q: when will ACE be in Merced? A: to be determined; it has to be by 2026 but could be earlier, e.g. 2023 has been talked about.

ACTION: The committee recommended proceeding with the identified scenario themes.

Item 12: Adjournment

The next meeting will be on September 11, 2017 at 2 pm, at MCAG.