



MINUTES

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Rancho Santa Barbara Marriot
Del Mar Conference Room
555 McMurray Road
Buellton

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:**

Members Present: Naomi Schwartz, Supervisor, First District; Susan Rose, Supervisor, Second District (SBCAG Vice-Chair); Gail Marshall, Supervisor, Third District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Bill Traylor, Mayor, City of Buellton; Richard Weinberg, Mayor, City of Carpinteria; Jack Hawxhurst, Councilmember, City of Goleta; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc; Dan Secord, Councilmember, City of Santa Barbara; Larry Lavagnino, Mayor (SBCAG Chair), City of Santa Maria; Greg Albright, Caltrans District 5 Representative.

Members Absent: Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Sam Arca, Mayor, City of Guadalupe; David Smyser, Mayor, City of Solvang.

Staff Members Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Michael Powers, Deputy Director of Planning; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director of Programs, Cathy Muneio, Executive Secretary; Kevin E. Ready, Sr., Senior Deputy County Counsel.

2. **Public Comment**

No public comment.

3. **Measure D Program**

Receive Presentation on status of Measure D transportation improvement program.

Jim Kemp using a slide show presented the staff report on the history and future of Measure D. He stated that the region was faced with a number of funding challenges, including that SBCAG may lose CMAQ funding. The RTP adopted in 2001 understates the transportation needs; without the extension of Measure D there would be a shortfall of \$900 million in funding to deliver the projects in the RTP.

Mr. Kemp stated the advantages of local sales tax revenues are they tend to grow with inflation at approximately 4 percent per year. If Measure D were extended 30 years it would generate an average of \$35 million per year.

Mr. Kemp said that the existing measure included a set of flagship projects recognized as high priority projects. There are 15 regional highway projects committed to in the existing Measure D program. The program is unusual in that it allocated 70 percent back to the cities and counties for local street repair purposes.

Supervisor Gray asked what was needed to change the allocation.

Mr. Kemp reported that there would need to be 2/3 of the vote by the Board to change the ordinance.

Mr. Ready said not if it is a bonded indebtedness, but otherwise yes.

Mr. Kemp said that efforts need to be stepped up to show what has been accomplished with Measure D funds.

Mayor Traylor asked if it was legal for SBCAG to finance its own outreach for this effort.

Mr. Kemp stated it was legal to inform the public on what has been accomplished with Measure D funding. He said the funds could be used for the purpose of developing an expenditure plan but not be used for advocating a ballot measure once it is on the ballot.

Councilmember Hawxhurst asked why March 2006 was chosen as the date to place the renewal of Measure D on the ballot. Mr. Kemp said that since it takes a 2/3 majority vote it may take more than one attempt for something like this to pass. Placing the measure on the ballot in 2006 allows time for a second attempt before Measure D sunsets in 2009. He also said that if SBCAG does not receive the state money it is expecting next year then there won't be the funding to show the progress in many of the road projects.

Mayor DeWees asked if a consultant should be hired to do some outreach efforts.

Mr. Ready stated that under the new election SBCAG could not do anything that would advocate the passage of the measure.

Mayor DeWees asked if a media campaign could be implemented to show what Measure D has accomplished.

Mr. Kemp said yes and that he would be discussing with the Board a budget for this. He stated that there needs to be progress on the 101 improvement projects to show the public where their Measure D dollars are being spent.

Supervisor Marshall stated that the 101 in Motion is in process and projects will be generated from that. She asked how the timeline would fit with the renewal effort.

Mr. Kemp responded it would be a tight schedule to feed 101 in Motion projects into the renewal effort; he expected work on 101 in Motion to be wrapped up by next summer.

Supervisor Schwartz stated she was troubled by the timing of the election. She said the county split issue will be on the ballot in 2006 and that until this is resolved, it will be more difficult to extend Measure D.

Mr. Kemp said the decision of when to place this item on the ballot can be made at a later date but the idea would be to be ready to do it as soon as the timing is favorable. A significant amount of time and effort will be required to develop the required expenditure plan for the new measure.

Mayor Weinberg said he agreed but that there were a lot of variables and questions. He said one thing that could be done to send a message to the public would be the work on Hwy 101. He said that the Milpas to Hot Springs project is funded and it should be made sure that there is no slippage in the program.

Phil Demery said he agreed with Supervisor Schwartz, Councilmember Hawxhurst and Supervisor Marshall. He said from a public works official perspective although it would be great to say sooner rather than later, with the state of California budget crisis the chance of getting a project on 101 was very doubtful and he said as time goes on he fears it will get worse. He said the public is outraged by the fact that so much funding for transportation has been taken away and funding for these projects, and doesn't foresee this on the ballot until November 2007.

Supervisor Rose said she was concerned about certain points. She said that the county split discussion would dominate an election. She also asked how we would advocate or educate the community in order to receive their support. She asked if someone could be hired to advocate.

A discussion ensued on when would be the best time to place the renewal of Measure D on the ballot.

Mr. Krumholz stated that Monterey and Santa Cruz would be placing their measures on the ballot in 2004 and said that the Board may want to keep their eyes on the results of this election.

Mayor DeWees said he appreciated staff's strategy. If you lose in 2006 you have two years to regroup. He said he did think it was too premature because of the unknowns. He said that he thinks that the Hwy 101 project should be looked at first. He said there should be progress before we should expect that the ballot measure would pass. Mayor Traylor concurred.

Councilmember Secord said the economy should be better in two or three years and that he was in agreement with the rest of the comments. He said in regards to the operational improvements the City of Santa Barbara was working diligently with Caltrans but that they are not ready.

Supervisor Schwartz said the discussion needed to wrap up and asked what the Board would like to do with the expenditure for a consultant. She asked how SBCAG assures funds don't cross the lines on what they will be spent for.

Mr. Kemp said he originally envisioned starting next fiscal year hiring a consultant to assist with a program to inform the public about what Measure D is and what our transportation needs are.

Mr. Demery stated that he thinks that proper signage should be placed at projects informing the public where the funds come from.

Mr. Kemp proposed that funds be budgeted next fiscal year for consulting assistance with a Measure D public information program and in developing an expenditure plan identifying high priority transportation projects that would be funded through a proposed extension.

Supervisor Schwartz suggested that staff think of what can be done in-house. She suggested the person that does the Clean Air Express could perform some of the tasks.

Councilmember Hicks stated that this would not be a short campaign that would be done in a twelve month period, and he questioned where they would go to obtain the information on how to set up the groundwork.

Supervisor Schwartz said she was concerned with giving this to a consultant. She said it might be better that the SBCAG public information officer could be given very specific projects related to this process.

Mr. Kemp suggested bringing in representatives from other COGs that have extended their measures to talk to the board.

Mr. Ready cautioned the board to be careful on the reason for hiring a consultant. He said it gets very close to paying public funds to make sure the measure passes. He suggested getting a public action group going now and having them shoulder some of the responsibility without a government body involved. He also suggested that a sign be placed at the projects that have been paid for by Measure D stating that this project was brought to you by our one-half cent sales tax.

Councilmember Hawxhurst asked if there wasn't Measure D funds going into the 101 in Motion study. He suggested signage for that.

Mr. Ready said that what can be done without crossing the line is implement a public information program taking input from the public about how they want their funds spent.

Mayor Lavagnino suggested letting the public know that if Measure D is extended these are the projects that will be completed.

Mr. Demery asked if SBCAG might want to work with the public directors to produce a video.

Supervisor Schwartz stated that more groundwork needs to be laid. She asked that this come back to the Board again at a future meeting and to brainstorm with TTAC prior to that time.

Councilmember Secord stated he saw a presentation from VCTC that could be used as background for a presentation.

4. OPEN DISCUSSION

RTIP PROJECT PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES

Mr. Kemp stated that this item was presented at the last board meeting. He said that SBCAG needs to adopt an RTIP every two years that identifies projects to be funded through the STIP program. He stated that several options were presented the prior

month and that the board reviewed them and provided direction to meet with the public works directors.

Mr. VanDenburgh said that the public works directors recommended the Hybrid B option. That option moved the Santa Maria six-lane to 2005/06 and moved the Milpas/Hot Springs project from 2005/06 to 2006/07. He stated that would leave seven or eight projects in the 2004/05 fiscal year that are local.

Mr. Demery said that the highest priority was the Milpas/Hot Springs project but the issue was on delivery. He stated the best case scenario for starting this project would be spring of 2006 due to a couple of outstanding issues that will be very difficult to complete and stay on schedule.

Supervisor Schwartz expressed considerable disappointment about any delays to this project. She asked about a red team approach.

Mr. Krumholz said he had met with city staff and discussed that concept. He said everything was in place to overcome the hurdles and expedite the process.

Mr. Demery explained that most of the problems are with external agencies that need to approve this.

Supervisor Schwartz said that there were legislators asking what the status is of this project and what needed to be done to deliver the operational improvement project in 2005/06.

Mayor Lavagnino stated that if in 2005/06 the project is ready to go then it can move forward.

Supervisor Schwartz stated the Board could be looking at deferring local projects. She said she would be unable to attend the Board meeting when this item would be discussed but she was very concerned about any delays in this project.

Mayor Weinberg asked that the board proceed on the premise that Milpas/Hot Springs will be ready to go and if it isn't at the last minute then they can switch to the Santa Maria six-lane widening project.

Supervisor Marshall left at 3:35 p.m.

Councilmember Secord stated that city staff has told him they are pushing the project along. He said they need to acquire some right-of-ways and obtain a coastal development permit.

Mr. Bruce Nybo stated that Supervisor Schwartz was correct. If there wasn't a red team it would not happen due to the complication of the project. But he said it did not mean it could happen anyhow due to so many variables. Mr. Nybo said if you don't keep pressure applied it would not happen. He noted two issues. One was the ability to deliver the project. If the schedule is met it would have to come before the CTC for construction funds in 2006. If the project is programmed in 2005/06 \$42 million in funding would be tied up. He explained that the CTC staff said that real projects need to be programmed.

Mr. Krumholz said Caltrans has delivered projects on schedule. Unfortunately the money isn't there. He said there needs to be close contact with the city of Santa Barbara on obtaining a Coastal Permit.

Supervisor Schwartz asked what needed to happen to get a coastal permit approved. Fred Luna indicated that meetings of a joint Design Review Team have been held to help with the permitting process.

Supervisor Gray left at 3:45 p.m.

Mr. VanDenburgh stated that the project could be split between a consultant hired by SBCAG and Caltrans and that it might be possible to have it ready to go on schedule with this approach.

Mr. Krumholz said it was a complicated project and it was not easy to address all the stakeholders.

Mayor Weinberg stated that he did not understand the problems associated with moving this project forward. He stated that the Milpas/Hot Springs project was on the books since 1996. It was going to move forward with the Implementation Plan. Measure D funds were going to pay for the improvements. He asked why Santa Maria didn't have any of the same problems.

Mayor Hicks stated that there is no funding available at this time for those projects.

The Board asked that Mr. Kemp place this item on the March 18th agenda for additional discussion.

BOARD MEETING AGENDAS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Kemp explained that in the past there has been difficulty managing the board meetings to get through all of the items on the agenda. He said staff has tailored the staff reports and added summaries. He also explained that the consent agenda is used to expedite approval of administrative items. He said that sometimes there are questions by a particular board member relative to an item on the agenda. He encouraged that the board members contact staff prior to the meeting to see if their questions can be answered. He explained that there is a committee structure and that this might be considered for expansion to review items before they come before the full board. He also said that special board workshops are held at least once per year to spend extra time on certain issues that can't be covered fully at the regular meetings. He requested ideas from board members on other ways to help manage board meeting time.

Mayor Lavagnino asked how staff determined what the informational items would be. Mr. Kemp said that they are usually topics for future board action.

Mayor Weinberg stated that informational items could be sent out separately.

Mr. Kemp said he tries to send out the mailings eight days prior to the board meeting.

EXPANSION OF SBCAG BOARD

Mr. Kemp reported that at a previous meeting the board had discussed expansion to include addition members. Specific agencies that were mentioned included the Chumash Tribe, Vandenberg Air Force Base, UCSB and SBMTD. He indicated that a survey of regional agency board composition had been recently completed by CALCOG and that few boards include voting members who are not local or state elected officials.

Councilmember Secord said that they could be invited to become ex-officio members.

Supervisor Schwartz said SBCAG could encourage representatives of these agencies to attend the SBCAG board meetings and a letter should be sent asking them to identify the individual who would be attending so that we can contact them.

Mr. Kemp said that there is some participation from certain entities. He stated that both the Vandenberg Air Force Base and UCSB have an ex-officio seat on an Transportation Planning Advisory Committee. He said they are part of the process and may engage at a higher level.

Mayor DeWees asked who brought this item to the Board. Mr. Ready responded that there was a request by the Chumash Tribe received back in 1998 that the board had not acted on.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Mr. Kemp said that in the past there has been legislation brought before the Board to support or oppose and that the Board has taken positions on legislation only occasionally. He noted that many regional agencies contract with legislative advocates in Sacramento and Washington D.C. to assist them in implementing legislative programs. Mr. Kemp said he would like to budget for legislative advocacy in next year's budget and that would cost in the range of \$30,000.

Supervisor Schwartz asked if it was something that could be done on an ad-hoc basis. She said she saw where direct advocacy with the CTC could be helpful. Mr. Kemp indicated that the intent would be to keep the consultant on retainer and assign specific tasks as needs arise.

Mayor Weinberg asked if SBCAG made good use of its local representatives.

Mr. Kemp responded that legislators often have their own agendas for sponsoring legislation and that this is their primary focus. A legislative advocate would work for SBCAG on any legislation that SBCAG requires assistance with.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.