

MINUTES

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Thursday, February 19, 2004

**Board of Supervisor Hearing Room
105 East Anapamu Street, 4th Floor
Santa Barbara, CA**

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:**

Members Present: Gail Marshall, Supervisor, Third District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Bill Traylor, Mayor, City of Buellton; Richard Weinberg, Mayor, City of Carpinteria; Jack Hawxhurst, Councilmember, City of Goleta; Sam Arca, Mayor, City of Guadalupe; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc (SBCAG Vice Chair); Dan Secord, Councilmember, City of Santa Barbara (arrived at 8:52 am); Larry Lavagnino, Mayor, City of Santa Maria; David Smyser, Councilmember, City of Solvang, Greg Albright, Caltrans District 5 Representative.

Members Absent: Naomi Schwartz, Supervisor, First District (SBCAG Chair); Susan Rose, Supervisor, Second District.

Staff Members Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Michael Powers, Deputy Director of Planning; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director of Programs; Ruth Garcia, Transportation Planner II; Cathy Muneio, Executive Secretary/Board Clerk; Mary McMaster, Deputy County Counsel.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice-Chair DeWees called for the pledge of allegiance.

3. **RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

No closed session was held.

4. **CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JANUARY 15, 2004**

A motion was made by Mayor Lavagnino to approve the minutes of January 15, 2004. The motion was seconded by Mayor Weinberg and carried with Supervisor Marshall abstaining.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Scott Wenz with Cars are Basic requested that he be notified of Board committee meetings as well as the stakeholders meetings.

7. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mr. Kemp requested that Item 7A – Call Box Cellular Service Contract be pulled from the agenda and continued until the March meeting since the contract had not been received back from the vendor.

A motion was made by Mayor Arca, seconded by Mayor Lavagnino and unanimously carried to approve the consent calendar with the omission of Item 7A.

8. **CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Gregg Albright presented the construction report and stated that the 101 Rehab Project (Ventura County Line to Milpas St.) was nearly complete except for the lighting work.

Supervisor Centeno requested for an update on the Highway 101 six-lane widening project in Santa Maria.

Mr. Albright said this would be discussed later on the agenda.

Vice-Chair DeWees said since Item 9 was a time certain for 10:00 a.m., he would skip to the next item.

10. **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR CONGRESSMEMBER CAPPS**

Mr. Kemp introduced the item. He said that Congressman Capps had played a large role in securing \$600,000 in federal grant funding for the 101 in Motion project.

The resolution was read by Vice-Chair DeWees. Christine Elliot a representative for Congressman Capps thanked the board for the recognition. Mayor DeWees said that this resolution would be presented to Congressman Capps at the 101 in Motion press conference the following day.

A motion was made by Mayor Weinberg, seconded by Mayor Arca and unanimously carried to approve the resolution of appreciation to Congressman Capps.

11. **2004 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Kemp introduced this item. He said that the California Transportation Commission had stopped funding and allocating dollars for projects programmed in the STIP since no funding was available and noted that in addition 2½ billion dollars in Propostion 42 transportation funding had been diverted or borrowed by the state to address the state budget shortfalls. Mr. Kemp stated that priorities for transportation projects will have to

be determined and that many transportation needs would go unmet due to very limited funding.

Councilmember Secord arrived at 8:52 a.m.

Mr. VanDenburgh stated that 47 projects, amounting to \$118 million in State funding, would need to be reprioritized based on state funding projections to date. He said these projections would be continuously evaluated.

Mr. VanDenburgh presented two options for reprogramming projects to the Board. Staff was recommending the hybrid option, though the options were draft options for discussion.

Mayor Lavagnino stated that the Santa Maria six-lane widening project was ready to go but that the hybrid option would place the Milpas to Hot Springs project which is not ready to go in front of the Santa Maria project. He noted that potential delays for the Milpas to Hot Spring projects consisted of Union Pacific rights-of-way, a pedestrian tunnel, sound wall, landscaping, and a coastal permit.

Councilmember Secord responded that the 101 Operational Improvements have been in the works since 1996 and that in October 2003 the board voted to move forward with widening the 101 and using Measure D funds to pay for the operational improvements. He said that this would be a project that would ease congestion where congestion currently exists and that it should be given a higher priority.

Mayor Lavagnino said that the information he has received is that the 101 Milpas to Carrillo/Hot Springs project would not be ready to move forward in 2005/06.

Mr. VanDenburgh said that these were the issues staff was dealing with and that he needed feedback from the board to prepare an option that would work for everyone.

Scott Wenz stated that bike projects were a failure and that any project that reduces the capacity of the road should be suspended until the shortfall is over.

Supervisor Gray asked for an explanation of what would happen if all bicycle projects were suspended.

Steve Wagner, Community Services Director for the City of Goleta, said that the public works directors had met on the RTIP. He said that it was very difficult to come up with an answer but the good news there was time to look at them all. He requested that the Board direct staff to continue discussion with the public works directors to come up with an alternative all agencies could support.

Chair DeWees closed the public comment period.

Mr. Albright said he thought that the state highway account projections were reasonable and that the account was expected to grow steady. He said the question was how realistic was the delivery of the Milpas/Hot Springs project delivery date of March, 2006. He stated based upon the current situation Caltrans was expected to have staffing resources for high priority projects and that the Milpas to Cabrillo/Hot Springs project was one of the critical ones. He said that when coordinating a project that deals with the

railroads, portions of the project can be split off. He also explained that the coastal permit usually takes a little time but that if the City of Santa Barbara is committed to this time frame then the project can be delivered in the 05/06 fiscal year. Mr. Albright said that the environmental document was making serious progress and that the projected date of March 2006 for being ready to bid the project was a reasonable one.

Mr. VanDenburgh responded to the comment by Mr. Wenz on suspending bike projects. He said that the Carpinteria Coast Route Bike Path improvement project and the Goleta San Jose Creek bikeway project if suspended would amount to about \$1,000,000. He said the Jameson Lane bikeway project was ready to go to construction and that it is being funded from non-STIP funds. The 101/Ortega Hill Project is funded by Measure D so these were not STIP projects and not subject to reprogramming. He commented that the Ortega Hill project was not just a bike lane project but an auxiliary lane and bike path combination. He said that the Jameson Lane bike project contract had been awarded by the county.

Legal Counsel, Mary McMaster, said that this would be a legal breach if the Board were to stop the project after the contract was awarded for the Jameson Lane bike path project.

Mayor Arca stated that the Board voted to reallocate Measure D monies for the Milpas/Hot Springs project and asked if there would be a penalty if this project were delayed, and what the impact would be.

Mr. VanDenburgh stated there would be no penalties. Caltrans would have an additional year to complete the design work on that project prior to going to construction.

Mayor DeWees said he had comments relative to the hybrid option. He said that the Cabrillo/Milpas improvements were expected to begin March 2006 if all goes well which makes it close to the end of the fiscal year. He said the Santa Maria 6-lane widening project costing \$17.3 million is also very close to the end of the fiscal year 2006. He asked what would happen if the Cabrillo/Hot Springs project was moved to 2006/07 and the Santa Maria six-lane widening project was moved to 2005/06. He said this would free up \$8 million dollars to complete more projects that would be less expensive.

Mayor DeWees asked if they could proceed ahead with the EIR for the Hwy 246 widening project and have passing lanes as one of the alternatives to widening the highway. He stated the highway had a higher than average accident rate and was originally intended to be a four-lane highway from Buellton to Lompoc.

Councilmember Secord asked what the Levels of Service are for the Milpas/Hot Springs and the Santa Maria six-lane widening projects.

Mr. VanDenburgh stated that the Santa Maria 101 six-lane project was rated an LOS "C" and the Milpas/Hot Springs project was rated an "E" or "F" during peak hours.

Mr. Kemp said that it was important that the Board consider how likely it is that there will be the 80 million plus dollars needed to widen Route 246 as currently programmed. He said if it looks like funding will be available to complete the project then the EIR should proceed and if it doesn't look like funding will be available for several years, it might be

more beneficial to try to complete some interim operational improvements and downscope the EIR so that some of the \$2.7 million programmed for environmental work could be used for construction.

Mayor DeWees said that there was no guarantee that there would be the funding to widen the 101 in the South County.

Supervisor Centeno asked when establishing priorities if the safety aspect was looked at.

Mr. VanDenburgh said that safety wasn't focused on but instead project readiness and funding constraints that are faced in programming targets were considered.

Supervisor Centeno said it seemed safety should be an important aspect.

Supervisor Centeno asked if the six lane Santa Maria widening and Milpas/Hot Springs were evaluated relative to safety. Mr. VanDenburgh responded they were not.

Mr. Albright said that both of those projects were excellent projects but that there was a higher concentration of congestion in the South Coast and said that the operational improvements were targeted at improving flow and safety improvements. He said the weaving conflicts would be addressed in the 101 Milpas/Hot Springs project.

Mayor Smyser said that there were other alternatives out there and they should take time to look at those alternatives. He said his concern was whether Santa Barbara could perform and what was required by Mr. Albright to make this happen.

Mr. VanDenburgh said there was time to look at other options, including moving the Milpas/Hot Springs project out one year. Another option would be to look to other funding sources.

Councilmember Secord stated that Supervisor Centeno had asked about safety. He said he contacted Cottage Hospital in urging the SBCAG Board to move ahead with these projects and found that there was a high accident rate. He said that Mayor Lavagnino was correct in that the process in Santa Barbara moves very slow but said he would be attending those meetings to move this project along.

Mayor Lavagnino moved to continue this item and to let staff meet with the public works directors meet to discuss this. Mayor Arca seconded the motion.

Supervisor Marshall asked if the Board wanted an encompassing motion and if so she would like to add direction to that motion. She said with regards to Hwy 246 it was important to know the cost of the EIR for the full widening and potential interim project costs and what the timeline would be. She said she would like to see safety statistics. She asked if Councilmember Secord could provide additional information on the review process of the city of Santa Barbara.

Councilmember Hawxhurst noted that the \$200 million dollars worth of projects already on the plate represent about ten years worth of expected funding. He said we were

looking at a decade of not adding any new projects even if all of those dollars come forward from the State.

Supervisor Centeno said in terms of the review by our public work directors he hoped that when safety issues were looked at he hoped they would look at the severity of those accidents.

Mayor Arca called for the question.

The motion carried unanimously.

12. **ROUTE 217/EKWILL/FOWLER PROJECT STATUS**

Mr. Kemp said that Supervisor Schwartz had requested this item be placed on the agenda and since she was not able to make the meeting it was suggested that this item be continued. The status report on this project could be presented at the March meeting.

Supervisor Marshall moved to continue this item to the SBCAG March meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Centeno and carried unanimously.

13. **UNMET NEEDS**

Ruth Garcia presented the staff report. She said that this was the second of two hearings.

Due to a lack of a quorum a five minute recess was taken.

When the meeting reconvened Ruth Garcia said that the hearing was noticed in the news media and the farm workers in Santa Maria were also notified.

She said that two letters had been received and were included in the packet.

Supervisor Centeno asked if there was anything that could be done to help put together transportation for farm workers and no cost to them.

Ms. Garcia said that it could not be done at no cost but that the advisory committees were looking into partnerships.

Chair DeWees opened the hearing to the public.

Luis Claudio, United Mixtec Farm Workers Organization, requested transportation assistance for farm workers to reach their jobs. Mr. Claudia said that at times he had had to walk for two hours to get to work. Mr. Claudia suggested a partnership between the government, employers and workers in providing transportation services for farm worker.

It should be noted that about 40 members of the United Mixtec Farm Workers Organization were present, via remote testimony in Santa Maria, at the public hearing in support of those members speaking on behalf of farm worker transportation issues.

Leonardo Elena, United Mixtec Farm Workers Organization, requested transportation assistance for farm workers to reach their jobs. Mr. Elena stated that by everyone working together the transportation issue would be addressed and this would help with the environment and provide safe transportation.

Pedro Lopez, United Mixtec Farm Workers Organization, stated that he wanted to remind the Board of the need for transportation services for field workers. Mr. Lopez stated that providing transportation to work is an important necessity since it would help the environment, provide safety and security, and was an issue of human dignity.

Jesus Estrada , United Mixtec Farm Workers Organization, stated that there was a great need for transportation from the farm workers to communities to their field jobs. Mr. Estrada stated that the field workers are an asset to the community and help with the economy. He stated that in return, the field workers need assistance with transportation. Mr. Estrada said that many of the field workers have to walk. He said he understood it would take time, but requested assistance so they could help themselves. Mr. Estrada stated that the farm workers want to work with SBCAG and local agencies to develop a plan that would assist them with their transportation needs.

Petra Lowen, speaking on behalf of SBCTAC, thanked the SBCAG board and public transit agencies for the improvements to transit service, but noted that there were still service issues to be considered including: 1) supporting an increase in service and route frequency for all transit agencies; 2) expanding intercommunity transit to include service between Buellton and Lompoc; 3) expanding and enhancing transit service between Fairview at Cathedral Oaks and Old Tow Goleta; 4) providing additional South Coast fixed route services to meet the needs of senior citizens; and 4) providing bike racks on all MTD buses so as to promote multi-modal transportation options.

Steve Maas, with the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD), discussed MTD's on-going work with SCTAC and SBCTAC and commented on some of the recent service improvements, including the purchase of several thirty foot buses that would be outfitted with bike racks and able to accommodate two wheel chairs. Mr. Maas stated that although the Transit Needs Assessment did not directly relate to MTD because all TDA funding in the South Coast is applied to transit, MTD would continue to work to meet the needs of transit users in the South Coast.

Alex Pujo, Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (Coast), called for the development of a great transit system as a component of a great city in regard to requests for service expansion in Santa Maria. Mr. Pujo noted that transit service needs in the North County still exist and he encouraged improvements in transit services for all residents in the North County – particularly service for farm workers in the Santa Maria Valley, better marketing of transit services, and intercommunity service between all cities.

Barry Stotts, Community Access Network and a resident of North County, said he was active in advocating accessibility for seniors and the disabled and expressed

appreciation for the upcoming transit service connecting Los Alamos to Santa Maria, and proposed a transit stop in downtown Santa Maria for the Clean Air Express service.

Victor Suhr, Resident Council with the Santa Barbara Housing Authority, advocated for Sunday service for the existing MTD Line 14, explaining that it was a lifeline service for senior citizens. Mr. Suhr stated that the request for Sunday service on MTD Line 14 was an on-going request for several years and asked that action be taken on this issue. He also requested more room for wheelchairs on the buses.

Cee Cee Todd, with Cares, Inc. stated that affordable transportation for field workers in Santa Maria is both an issue of safety and economics. The current situation could lead to field workers using unsafe means of transportation or paying extremely high fares for transportation. Ms. Todd stated it was also very difficult for the women field workers, in that the men have the first choice in transportation. Ms. Todd recommended that SBCAG apply for a grant to meet this transportation service need.

There being no other public comments Chair DeWees closed the public hearing.

Supervisor Marshall commented that she hoped that staff could respond to COAST's request for action at its March meeting.

Mr. Powers responded that staff would be working with paratransit providers and other providers to address the issues expressed.

Mr. Kemp said that ordinarily staff takes a month or two and works with the advisory committees to develop recommendations. He indicated that the unmet transit needs assessment is scheduled for presentation and board action in April.

Supervisor Centeno requested that he be invited to all the advisory committee meetings that will impact Santa Maria.

Mayor Arca commented that no action was required at this time. He stated the issue of translation was very important and said that at some point additional steps need to be taken to insure that meetings can be translated to Spanish. Mayor Arca thanked staff for its outreach efforts.

Mayor DeWees asked to be notified of any meetings that take place with the Mixtecs.

Alex Pujo said that they would be meeting on Tuesday, March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. in Santa Maria.

Legal Counsel, Mary McMaster, warned that there could not be a quorum of the SBCAG board at these meetings.

Supervisor Gray asked if Mayor Arca could represent the 4th District as well as Guadalupe.

13. 101 IN MOTION PROJECT

Mr. Kemp provided a brief update on the status of the 101 Operational Improvement Projects and 101 in Motion. He said that there would be a press conference held the following day to officially launch the 101 in Motion project, including a 101 in Motion website and hotline. Assemblymember Jackson, Congressmember Capps, Supervisor Rose, Mayor Lavagnino and Gregg Albright would be speaking at the event. Mr. Kemp said that the media played a key role in the process and that there would follow-ups with the media through editorials. Public workshops would be announced in the near future. Mr. Kemp said they also would be formally announcing the renaming of the 101 Implementation Plan to the 101 in Motion project and would be defining the goals of this project.

Mr. Kemp said that the Steering Committee had met on February 4th. The items that were discussed were the public participation plan and ways to involve the public. They also discussed defining the roles and responsibilities of the various committees.

Mr. Kemp said that they hoped to bring a consultant contract to the Board in April that would help to assist Caltrans in project delivery. Mr. Kemp reported the status of the Cabrillo/Hot Springs Operational Improvement projects. He noted the permit process with the City of Santa Barbara was initiated in January. The final EIR had been completed and was awaiting signature from FHWA and that Caltrans has been continuing to work on the project. Relative to the 101 Ortega Hill project, cooperative agreements with Caltrans are expected to come before the Board next month for adoption. He said they were expecting to award the contract in July and they hoped to be under construction later this summer. All of the planning grants that were applied for to assist in funding the 101 in Motion are now secure and they will begin drawing them down. Federal funds were approved but SBCAG still needs to go through the application process.

Barry Siegel expressed his concern about the Stakeholder's Committee relative to roles and responsibilities. He said that the members of the committee would not know what was expected. He asked that this be deferred to next month.

Supervisor Marshall asked staff to respond to Mr. Siegel's comments at the next meeting.

14. INTERREGIONAL JOBS – HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Tom Frutche presented a status report on the Interregional Jobs/Housing Partnership project. He explained that prior to this project there wasn't an ability to look at the entire job/housing picture and there was no sustained forum for addressing these issues.

Supervisor Gray asked how the equilibrium range was determined.

Mr. Frutche responded that it is done by taking the entire region and take the number of full time equivalent jobs and divide it by jobs per dwelling units.

Supervisor Centeno asked how it was residential units with three or families fit into the equation.

Mr. Frutchet said they were indirectly accounted for. He said the number of jobs was based on EDD numbers.

Mr. Powers further explained that the actual ratio is just one factor. Labor force issues in terms of unemployment, affordable housing issues, commuting distances were also a factor. He explained that the questions being asked would be explored in other elements.

Mayor Traylor said he was curious about how it was determined jobs credited to Buellton and not somewhere else.

Mr. Frutchet said he would provide the methodology.

Mayor Hawxhurst mentioned that that it seemed there were some inconsistencies since the figures were taken from the RHNA that had 2000 data.

Councilmember Secord asked if Mr. Frutchet could provide a copy of the presentation electronically.

Scott Wenz, representing himself, said he believed in a free enterprise system. He stated that the government was overgrown. He said low pay and low job growth are pushing people out of the south county.

15. **SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT REPORT**

Sherrie Fisher, Interim General Manager for MTD, reported the following:

- Improved service in Goleta
- An increase in peak hour service on the Mesa – although unable to do Line 1
- Over half a million passenger trips taken off of the road
- Service hours up by 15,000 hours
- New fare boxes had been purchased.

Ms. Fisher said they are planning to present to the SBCAG a proposal to be reevaluated by SBCAG staff. She said the proposal was to go ahead with the Circulator, City of Goleta/County Shuttle. She said they will be asking for vehicles and operating costs for those vehicles. She stated that MTD cannot purchase 30 foot electric buses but can purchase 22 foot electric and 30 foot diesel buses.

Mayor Smyser asked how many seats were there on the 22 ft electric bus and the 30 ft clean diesel and what dollar amount for operating costs were they requesting? He also asked if they changed from 30 ft clean diesel rather than 22 ft electric would there be any savings in headways.

Ms. Fisher said the headways would remain the same. She said with diesel buses there would be two less buses necessary. She said relative to the Circulator she thought that a 22 ft bus would be sufficient.

Mayor Smyser asked what the savings was for the two buses they would not be purchasing.

Ms. Fisher said she would speak to staff and come back to the Board.

Supervisor Centeno asked about Sunday bus service.

Ms. Fisher responded that there is now Sunday service on most MTD lines. She said there was no Sunday service on Line #14. MTD is considering a basic level of Sunday service from Presidio Springs to the Transit center.

Tom Becker said that this project was a fraud and a failure and that he was relocating to a new state and MTD has no credibility.

Scott Wenz, Cars are Basic, said the electric shuttle program was less than desirable and that the electric buses would be less headways. He said the only time the buses are filled are noon. He said that MTD is claiming it doesn't have enough money for operation costs yet they are sitting on a \$5 million piece of property.

Mr. Kemp said that if there are any changes to the scope of work this would need to come back to the Board for approval. He noted staff would be evaluating the project again since it is using CMAQ funds and rescore and rerank with the other projects. He said the original project was a capital only project and that you can only use CMAQ funds for operating costs for up to three years. Mr. Kemp said he would bring this item back to the board in the near future.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Powers said there was a written report from LOSSAN and called attention to the legislative support they have given.

Supervisor Gray said the next meeting was May 12th at the LAMTA building near Union Station.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kemp reminded the board of the workshop scheduled for March 11th at Rancho Santa Barbara Marriot. He said the primary focus would be to discuss Measure D, the state of the Measure D Highway Program as well as local agency program.

Mr. Kemp said that the previous meeting the Clean Air Express contract was discussed. He said that staff has decided to put that contract out to bid again and make some changes to the service to take some of the risk off of the operators and additional changes that would result in lower bids. Mr. Kemp said this item would return to the Board in April due to the rebidding process.

Mr. Kemp notified the board that there was a Public Information/Government Affairs Coordinator position was vacant.

Mr. Kemp informed the board that there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony held in Santa Maria to celebrate the completion of the tower projects and the 101/Stowell interchanges and that they would be celebrating this with the city of Santa Maria and Hancock College at the In and Out parking lot.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.