

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments  
Board of Directors**

**Thursday, November 15, 2007  
Board of Supervisors Hearing Room  
511 East Lakeside Parkway  
Santa Maria, CA**

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1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Wallis called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**Members Present:** Salud Carbajal, Supervisor, First District; Janet Wolf, Supervisor, Second District (via teleconference); Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Lupe Alvarez, Mayor, City of Guadalupe; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc; Larry Lavagnino, Mayor, City of Santa Maria; Joe Armendariz, Councilmember, City of Carpinteria; Russ Hicks, Councilmember, City of Buellton; Jim Richardson, Councilmember, City of Solvang; Jonny Wallis (SBCAG Chair), Councilmember, City of Goleta; Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5 Representative.

**Members Absent:** Brooks Firestone (SBCAG Vice-Chair), Supervisor, Third District, Joni Gray, Fourth District Supervisor, Marty Blum, Mayor, City of Santa Barbara

**Staff Present:** Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director Programs; Michael Powers, Deputy Director Planning; Fred Luna, Transportation Engineer; Brian Bresolin, Regional Analyst; Sarkes Khachek, Transportation Planner, Scott Spaulding, Transit Coordinator, Kent Epperson, Director of Traffic Solutions, Terry Contreras, Board Clerk; Kevin E. Ready, Sr., Senior Deputy County Counsel.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Wallis called for the pledge of allegiance.

3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board recessed to a closed session at 8:33 a.m. to hold a discussion regarding potential litigation.

4. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Senior Deputy County Counsel Kevin Ready stated that no reportable action had been taken in closed session.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

*Approval of minutes for September 20, 2007, Board of Directors meeting.*

Motion to approve the minutes. Motion: DeWees, Second: Richardson

Motion carried 10-0 (Firestone, Gray, Blum absent)

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

A. ROADWAY FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION

*Adopt a resolution approving changes to roadway classifications in the City of Buellton.*

B. MEASURE D PROGRAM OF PROJECTS

*Approve submittal form for use by local agencies in their annual Measure D Program of Projects.*

C. SBCAG MEDICAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION

*Adopt a resolution establishing the SBCAG employer's medical insurance contribution of \$450.00 per month, effective with the January 1, 2008 premium, under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act.*

D. FLEXWORK SANTA BARBARA

*Authorize amendment to existing contract with Telecommuting Advantage Group, Inc., extending the term to August 31, 2008.*

E. REVISIONS TO FY 2007-08 TDA ALLOCATIONS

*Adopt a resolution revising the FY 2007-08 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Local Transportation Fund (LTF) allocations for the City of Lompoc to provide for adjustments as requested during the current year.*

F. PROPOSITION 1B LOCAL STREET AND ROAD FUNDING

*Receive information on the availability of Proposition 1B funding for local streets and roads.*

G. TRIENNIAL PERFORMANCE AUDITS

*Approve Triennial Performance Audits for Easy Lift Transportation, Santa Maria Organization of Transportation Helpers (SMOOTH), City of Lompoc Transit, Santa Maria Area Transit, Santa Ynez Valley Transit, City of Guadalupe Transit, Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District, County Transit (Cuyama), and SBCAG and authorize submittal of audits to the State Controller.*

H. CLEAN AIR EXPRESS FARE INCREASE MEETINGS

*Receive notice of public meetings on proposed fare increase for Clean Air Express bus service.*

Motion to approve Consent Items 7A-7H. Motion: Lavagnino; Second: Alvarez

Motion carried 10-0 (Firestone, Gray, Blum absent)

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark McGinnes, representing Friends of the Bridge, addressed the Board about a Caltrans proposal for the installation of suicide deterrence barriers on the Cold Springs Bridge. Friends of the Bridge believe the proposal is flawed and requested the Board support an alternative proposal they developed.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

8. CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC TRANSIT HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN

A. *Conduct hearing to receive public comments on draft Transportation Connections Plan.*

B. *Consider adoption of Transportation Connections, the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan for Santa Barbara County.*

Motion to adopt *Transportation Connections, the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan for Santa Barbara County.*

Motion: Carbajal, Second: Richardson

Motion carries 10-0 (Firestone, Gray, Blum absent)

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

*Conduct hearing to receive public comments on draft Public Participation Plan.*

Public Comment

Vibiana Saavedra, of SBCAN, expressed appreciation that SBCAG had sought input in developing the Public Participation plan. She suggested that SBCAG utilize the Spanish radio stations, newspapers and television as well as email, churches and group notices. She also encouraged SBCAG to include Guadalupe in the outreach program.

10. HIGHWAY 101 MILPAS TO CABRILLO-HOT SPRINGS PROJECT: RIGHT OF WAY

*Adopt a resolution making a finding of public necessity for the acquisition of properties required for the construction of the Highway 101 Operational Improvements: Milpas to Cabrillo-Hot Springs Project*

A public hearing was opened; no requests to speak were submitted. The hearing was closed.

Motion to adopt resolution 07-22, making a finding of public necessity for the acquisition of properties required for the construction of Highway 101 Operational Improvements: Milpas to Cabrillo-Hot Springs project.

Motion: Carbajal, Second: Lavagnino

Motion carried 9-0 (Firestone, Gray, Blum, DeWees absent)

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### 11. **CLEAN AIR EXPRESS OPERATION CONTRACT**

*Authorize Executive Director to execute a service contract with AmericanStar Transportation, Inc. to operate the Clean Air Express transit service through June 30, 2009.*

Public Comment

Eric Onnen, CEO Santa Barbara Airbus, addressed the Board with concerns he had about the RFP and the selection process. An RFP is created to eliminate risk and variable so the operator may present the best possible plan and pricing. He stated the evaluation process should allow for identification of variables and quality so the decision-making process if it fits within the budget allows for quality choices. He felt both issues were not well addressed in the RFP and process.

John Dotson, Operations Manager of AmericanStar and current Project Manager for the City of Lompoc transit and Santa Ynez Valley Transit stated his firm is looking forward to operating the Clean Air Express. He explained to the Board their pricing process and how it is determined. He added that customer service for the Clean Air Express will be handled through AmericanStar.

Richard Fernbaugh, Aviation and Transportation Administrator for the City of Lompoc spoke in favor of the Clean Air Express service contract with AmericanStar.

Motion to authorize Executive Director to execute service contract with AmericanStar Transportation.

Motion: DeWees, Second: Centeno.

Motion carried 10-0 (Firestone, Gray, Blum absent)

#### 12. **MEASURE D RENEWAL**

A. *Approve draft Measure D Renewal Investment Plan for public and agency review.*

B. *Provide direction to staff on a public input process for the draft plan.*

Public Comment

Andy Caldwell, COLAB, believes his organization can support the Measure D renewal plan, but is not certain that the measure will pass.

Kate Bechtel, representing the Coalition for a fair Measure D, presented the coalition's statement in response to the proposed Measure D 2008 expenditure plan. She indicated that the Coalition supports increased funding for alternative transportation in the plan.

Sherrie Fisher, MTD, expressed that Measure D is a very important issue for everyone and that MTD is supportive of the decisions of the South County Subregional Committee and will be supportive of Measure D.

Gregory Gandrud, Fix 101.org, expressed concerns about future traffic issues. He does not believe that enough money was allocated for current regional highway needs.

Motion to amend language in North County Investment Plan Project Definitions as follows:

**Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Safe Routes To School Program**

This program will fund projects through a competitive grant process that increase pedestrian and bicycle safety to, from and near schools in North County and expand and improve the North County's regional bicycle and pedestrian facilities network. Cities and the County would be eligible to compete for funding. ~~School districts, universities, colleges, transit agencies, and Caltrans would be eligible to compete for funding with a city or county co-sponsor.~~ Projects proposed by Cities and the County may include projects to be conducted in partnership with school districts, universities, colleges, transit agencies and Caltrans. Funds would be used for planning, project development, and construction of capital projects, education programs and maintenance. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, wider shoulders and sidewalks near schools, crosswalk signals and school zone signage, traffic calming near schools, pedestrian and bicycle safety education for students, new bike routes and pedestrian paths to eliminate missing links in the regional network, path lighting, route plans and maps.

Motion: Centento, Second: Lavagnino

Motion carries 8-0-2 (Carbajal, Wallis abstained) (Firestone, Gray, Blum absent)

Motion to approve draft Measure D investment plan for public and agency review with following amendments:

North County and South Coast Measure D Renewal Investment Plan Local Flexible Funding Allocations—add road maintenance as eligible use for Local Flexible funding

South Coast Transit Program strike out second sentence, second bullet:

- South Coast Transit Capital Program: Funding for transit capital projects directly allocated to SBMTD for general public bus services. ~~Projects that may be funded through this program include, but are not limited to, vehicles and capital facilities.~~

Motion: Carbajal, Second Wolf

Motion carries 10-0 (Firestone, Gray, Blum absent)

Motion authorizing the executive director to execute contract for public opinion poll at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.

Motion: Carbajal, Second: Wallis

Motion carries 10-0 (Firestone, Gray, Blum absent)

13. REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ALLOCATION (RHNA)

- A. *Receive report on meeting with Director of State Housing and Community Development Department and status of SBCAG RHNA appeal.*
- B. *Direct staff to proceed with development of RHNA allocation methodology, in a public forum, using TPAC as the Steering Committee.*

Motion for staff to proceed with development of RHNA allocation methodology, in a public forum, using TPAC as the Steering Committee.

Motion: Centeno, Second: Alvarez

Motion carried 9-0 (Firestone, Gray, Blum, Lavagnino absent)

14. PROPOSITION 1B TRANSIT CAPITAL FUNDING

*Approve transit capital projects for funding in FY 07/08 from Proposition 1B.*

Motion to approve transit projects for funding in FY 07/08 from Proposition 1B

Motion: Wolf, Second Richardson

Motion carried 8-0 (Firestone, Gray, Blum, Hicks, Lavagnino absent)

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

15. STATE ROUTE 166 SAFETY TASK FORCE

*Receive a report on the work of the State Route 166 Safety Task Force.*

Councilmember Richardson reported problems with vehicle code violations on 154 and asked if CHP could increase education/enforcement

Report only, no action taken.

16. TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS ANNUAL REPORT

*Receive annual report from SBCAG Traffic Solutions on FY06-07 accomplishments and expenditures, as well as goals for FY07-08.*

Report only, no action taken.

17. SBMTD SOUTH COAST TRANSIT PRIORITIES PROJECT

*Receive report from SBMTD on the implementation status of the South Coast Transit Priorities project.*

Sherrie Fisher, General Manager of the SBMTD presented an abbreviated report due to time and requested an opportunity to schedule a full presentation at a future meeting.

18. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Coast Rail Coordinating Council Meeting, September 21– Mayor Alvarez

Mayor Alvarez reported the following information from the Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting held on September 21, 2007:

Train station platform heights are changing from 15 inches to 8 inches for ADA purposes.

Ridership on the Starlight is up 25.9% for the year.

Amtrak's fare box ratio is 80% for the year; and Union Pacific negotiations continue.

B. LOSSAN Board Meeting, August 2007, Minutes attached

Michael Powers reported that the LOSSAN Board approved the LOSSAN North Corridor Strategic Plan.

19. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jim Kemp reported that the California Transportation Committee (CTC) voted to allocate 53 million dollars in Proposition 1B funds for the Highway 101 Operational Improvements Project between Milpas and Hot Springs-Cabrillo. The allocation clears the way for the project to go out to bid. Construction should start either late next spring or early summer.

Originally, Caltrans staff was recommending because of a state funding shortfall to defer allocation for any STIP project. Recommendation for the Highway 101 project was to defer allocation until the state could get a better sense of what their capacity was for funding projects during the current fiscal year, determine its priorities, and establish an allocation plan. Assemblyman Nava, ex-officio member of CTC, attended the meeting, Senator McClintock, Supervisor Carbajal and Mayor Blum all wrote letters of support. SBCAG staff spoke with Caltrans Director Will Kempton about the project and he changed his recommendation to the commission. Mr. Kemp also informed the Board that the project is partially funded by Measure D funds.

20. CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans, reported the state budget is currently projecting for FY 08/09 about a 10 billion dollar deficit that will have to be closed. What that means for transportation right now is unclear and Caltrans should have more clarity once the Governor comes out with his first draft budget in January 2008. Caltrans is confident that construction for the Highway 101 Operational Improvements Project will begin in late spring with June being the actual target.

Mr. Krumholz, also reported that the Board received in their packet a copy of the Caltrans monthly report with information about ongoing and upcoming construction projects. Also included in the packet were answers to questions raised at the meeting of November 15, 2007.

Bids for the Highway 166 rehabilitation project have been opened. Low bid is about 17% under Caltrans engineers estimate. Construction should be starting next month.

Supervisor Centeno wanted to know if there were any plans to repair Highway 135 from the Highway 1 overpass to VAFB south towards Harris Grade. Mr. Krumholz indicated he would bring the board that information for the next meeting.

21. COMMUNICATIONS

None

22. ADJOURN

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 20, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Santa Barbara.