



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

Thursday, July 17, 2008

8:30 AM

**Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, CA**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Firestone called the meeting to order at 8:26 a.m.

Members Present: Salud Carbajal, Supervisor, First District; Janet Wolf, Supervisor, Second District; Brooks Firestone (SBCAG Chair) Supervisor, Third District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Marty Blum, Mayor, City of Santa Barbara; Larry Lavagnino, Mayor, City of Santa Maria;; Ed Skytt, Councilmember, City of Solvang; Michael Bennett, Mayor, City of Goleta, Lupe Alvarez, Mayor, City of Guadalupe; Joe Armendariz, Councilmember, City of Carpinteria; Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc

Members Absent: Russ Hicks, Mayor, City of Buellton

Staff Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director Programs; Michael Powers, Deputy Director Planning; Aubrey Spilde, Transportation Planner, Sarkes Khachek, Transportation Planner, Fred Luna, Transportation Planner, Terry Contreras, Board Clerk; Kevin E. Ready, Sr., Senior Deputy County Counsel, Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5 Representative, Pat Mickelson, Caltrans District 5 Representative, Carlos Montez, Caltrans District 7 Representative

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

Pending litigation: Sustainable Transportation Advocates of Santa Barbara v. SBCAG

Pending litigation: Santa Barbara County Coalition Against Automobile Subsidies v. SBCAG

11. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Receive status report on highway improvement projects under development including Route 246 passing lanes, 101/Union Valley Parkway interchange and 101/Santa Maria River Bridge.

Motion to receive status report on highway improvement projects.

Motion: Gray

Second: Skytt

Motion carried: 12-0

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jim Kemp reported that the Highway 101 Operational Improvements Project began construction on Monday, July 14th. There will be a lot of activity along that section of the highway over the next 4 years.

On July 9th a ground breaking ceremony was held for the Highway 154 Group 2 Operational Improvement Project. This project is the final project in the Measure D program of projects in the expenditure plan that was promised to the voters when Measure D passed in 1989. All projects that were committed to in Measure D are either under construction or completed. Granite Construction is the contractor and they have been at the Vista point for about three weeks installing a left and right hand turn lane.

These safety improvement projects are important and SBCAG has invested nearly 30 million dollars of Measure D funds in safety improvements along highway 154. There has been a 20-30% decrease in injury/fatality accident rates along 154 as a result of these safety improvements.

Steve VanDenburgh stated that due to cost savings on previous improvements more safety improvements have been able to be done on highway 154 than originally expected.

The City of Santa Barbara will be appealing the RHNA plan adopted at the June 19, 2008 board meeting. The City will need to submit formal documentation of their appeal by August 4, 2008. At the August 21, 2008 SBCAG Board meeting there would be a noticed appeal hearing where the City will be able to present their appeal.

The Curb Your Commute program is SBCAG's effort to reduce traffic during the Highway 101 widening project over the next 4 years. One element of this program is the Commute Challenge, commuters will form teams of 5 with either co-workers or others in August and September then they can go on line at trafficsolutions.info and register. For each day they use an alternative mode of transportation other than driving their car alone during peak periods they are given points and prizes are awarded to the highest

point earners. If the public needs more information they can visit trafficsolutions.info or call 963-SAVE. The program hasn't officially started and already we have 136 teams registered for the Commute Challenge. On Traffic Solution on line website we have over 6,000 registered participants.

Clean Air Express began an additional route from Lompoc and still we are noticing that the first morning bus is near capacity or full and riders are being turned away. The early buses from Santa Maria are also running at capacity. The Guadalupe Flyer is experiencing the same issues. Many transit operators have seen a surge in ridership.

Mayor Dewees asked about the ridership capacity on the Breeze and if there has been an increase.

The state has not adopted a budget yet, it is a week late. The legislature and the governor are working to fill a 15 billion dollar shortfall. Rumors are that a potential fix would be to use Prop 42 gas tax revenues to fill the shortfall. The executive director has signed on a letter urging that Prop 42 funds not be diverted from transportation to general fund purposes. Even if the funds are used they have to be paid back within 3 years with interest when Prop 42 funds are used for non transportation purposes.

14. CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5 Director, reported that the Board received in their packet a copy of the Caltrans monthly report with information about ongoing and upcoming construction projects.

In response to a question about the widening of 101, Mr. Krumholz responded that the planned HOV lanes would typically be operating during peaks hours of the travel day and used for mixed flow traffic during off peak periods, however, no final decisions have been made about the operation of the HOV lanes..

The Milpas to Hot Springs project has started. Two lanes in each direction will remain open. Mr. Krumholz encouraged the public to drive safely through the construction zone and allow for additional travel time.

Caltrans has started the first phase of installing of permanent changeable message signs to improve traveler information.

At the end of July Caltrans will begin an asphalt overlay of highway 246 near Solvang, which will be going through September.

The Santa Maria six-lane project is over 80% complete and is expected to be finished by early October 2008.

Union Valley Parkway public hearing for the draft EIR is going to be held on August 12, 2008.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

The City of Santa Barbara sent a letter stating that they will be appealing the RHNA plan adopted at the June 19, 2008 board meeting.

Jim Kemp sent letters to state legislators asking them to attend a SBCAG meeting to discuss the state Housing Element Law and the RHNA process.

16. ADJOURN

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 21, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Santa Barbara.