

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

**Thursday, May 15, 2008
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 8:30 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; Lupe Alvarez, (SBCAG Vice Chair) Mayor, City of Guadalupe, Larry Lavagnino, Mayor, City of Santa Maria;; Ed Skytt, Councilmember, City of Solvang; Michael Bennett, Mayor, City of Goleta, Dick DeWees, Mayor, City of Lompoc; Russ Hicks, Mayor, City of Buellton

Members Absent: Joe Armendariz, Councilmember, City of Carpinteria

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approve minutes from April 17, 2008 board of directors meeting.

Motion: Lavagnino Second: Bennett

Motion carried: 10-0-2 (Alvarez, Blum abstained)

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

A. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Find that the County of Santa Barbara is in conformance to the adopted Congestion Management Program pursuant to Section 65089.3 of the California Government Code.

B. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Authorize the chair to sign an amended executive director employment agreement

C. PROPOSITION 1B TRANSIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

1. *Approve projects for Santa Maria, Guadalupe and SMOOTH for the Fiscal Year 2007/08 Proposition 1B Transit Security Grant Program for submittal to California Office of Homeland Security.*
2. *Adopt a resolution authorizing SBCAG to accept and allocate Fiscal Year 2007/08 Proposition 1B Transit Security funding awarded to local agency projects.*

D. HIGHWAY 101: TRAFFIC CONGESTION SENSORS

1. *Find that the project is categorically exempt under CEQA and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk; and*
2. *Approve the Highway 101 Traffic Congestion Sensor Project.*

E. SAFE CALL BOX PROGRAM

Approve renewal of contract with MyTransitPlus, Inc. to provide private call answering center services for Santa Barbara County's call box program through February 26, 2009 at an approximate annual cost of \$8,000.

F. REVERSE COMMUTE VANPOOL PROJECT

Authorize staff to submit a grant application for federal Job Access—Reverse Commute (JARC) funding for vanpool service from South Coast to North County.

Motion to approve Consent Items 4A-4F

Motion: Carbajal Second: Lavagnino

Motion carried: 12-0

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Suzanne Allen de Sanchez addressed the board on the recent Clean Air Express over crowding and the need to add an additional bus for Lompoc-to-Santa Barbara service.

6. CALTRANS DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Receive information from Caltrans on the status of State highway projects in the county including the Route 154 Cold Spring Bridge Project.

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.

On June 11, 2008 there will be a groundbreaking ceremony held for the Milpas to Cabrillo-Hot Springs Project. Will Kempton, Caltrans Director, will be attending and

Caltrans is hoping that Governor Schwarzenegger will also be able to make the ceremony.

CTC will be meeting on May 28th and 29th and will be adopting the 2008 STIP. The CTC will also be adopting an addendum to the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines. The addendum addresses climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

The governor released the May revision of the FY 08/09 State budget. In regards to transportation there does not seem to be much difference between the January budget and the revised May budget and will be funded by the Prop 42 fund for the fifth year in a row.

Mr. Krumholz made a presentation on Caltrans' Cold Spring Bridge Suicide Barrier project as requested by the board last month. He noted that a draft Environmental Impact Report is available for public review. Caltrans will be holding public meetings on the project on June 9 and 10 and welcomes public input. He noted that the project is being funded entirely with Caltrans' SHOPP funding—no local funding is being used.

Public Comment:

Commander Dominick Palera, Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department, addressed the board on behalf of Sheriff Bill Brown who offered his complete support and commitment to the Cold Springs Bridge Project. Commander Palera then addressed the board with his own public comment on the enhancement of public safety with the installation the barriers.

Marc McGinnes, Friends of the Bridge, does not support the project and commented suicide barriers divert people and that they do not save lives. He stated that he believed the EIR would be challenged in court.

Dr. Lisa Firestone, Glendon Association, addressed the board on public education of suicide and its prevention by restriction of means such as physical barriers. Restriction of means makes it harder for people to take their own lives and can be an effective deterrent to suicides.

Garrett Glasgow, Associate Professor UCSB, stated physical barriers have been proven to reduce the number of suicides at a location but there is no evidence that they save lives. There has been no study done showing that suicide phones are more or less effective than suicide barriers when it comes to saving lives. He expressed concern that Cold Springs Bridge may not be the highest concentration of fatalities in Caltrans District 5. Feels if safety money is going to be spent to save lives then it would be better spent by installing crisis hotline phones at the bridge.

Joni Kelly, Glendon Association, has been a member of task force since the beginning of the project. Ms. Kelly assured the board that the task force has been committed to this project and several human barrier alternatives are being studied as part of the project in addition to the barrier.

Sally Stewart addressed the board on suicide survivors, and supported suicide barriers.

Walton Clark addressed the board on the public safety aspect of the bridge and the need for suicide guardrails.

Motion to receive Caltrans status report on the the Route 154 Cold Springs Bridge Project.

Motion: Carbajal Second: Wolf

Motion carried: 12-0

ACTION ITEMS

7. VALLEY EXPRESS AND CLEAN AIR EXPRESS INTERREGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICES

- A. *Authorize executive director to negotiate and sign Memorandum of Understanding with SBMTD to continue operation of Valley Express service through June 30, 2009 and expand Clean Air Express service by one route through June 30, 2009.*
- B. *Approve Measure D Expenditure Plan amendment allocating \$80,000 for operation of Valley Express service and \$60,000 for one additional Clean Air Express route. (requires 2/3 board approval—9 affirmative votes)*
- C. *Direct staff to prepare a report, in consultation with local agency Clean Air Express partners and MTD, evaluating future Clean Air Express service and capital needs and available funding sources, when the results of the Measure A election are known and can be included in the report.*

Suzanne Allen de Sanchez, addressed the board with her concerns about overcrowding on the Clean Air Express Lompoc to Santa Barbara route. She expressed concern that regular riders do not have priority over the day riders. She stated she would also like riders to get information on Measure A so they may help get the information out to the public in order to get the measure passed so bus current service would be able to continue.

Ms. Allen de Sanchez also spoke on behalf of Cheryl Berry, stating that Ms. Berry had the same issues and the suggestion of having a possible flag stop at the north end of Lompoc at North H and Barton.

Sherrie Fisher, MTD, agreed with the staff recommendation of taking four buses from the Valley Express down to three and using that extra bus for an additional Clean Air Express Lompoc to Santa Barbara route to address the overcrowding. She noted that publicly funded transit services must be provided on a first come first serve basis and that regular riders cannot be given preferential seating.

Motion to approve the staff recommendations.

Motion: Carbajal Second Lavagnino

Motion carried: 12-0

8. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Adopt by Resolution the 2008 Transit Needs Assessment and Findings of Unmet Transit Need and Reasonable to Meet.

Public comment:

Mark Chytilo, attorney representing, Our Children's Earth Foundation, PUEBLO and Committees for Land, Air, Water and Species. Mr. Chytilo thanked the City of Santa Maria for directing the use of their TDA funds to transit purposes. He stated that he felt the SBCAG needs assessment process was defective, public outreach process passive.

Sherrie Fisher, MTD, addressed Supervisor Wolf's concern about Unmet Transit Needs on the South Coast. Although there is no technical reason for an Unmet Transit Needs hearing on the South Coast, MTD is aware of the needs and have held several workshops addressing the issues.

Motion to adopt the 2008 Transit Needs Assessment and Findings of Unmet Transit Need and Reasonable to Meet as amended to incorporate recent comments, staff responses and approval of Clean Air Express service expansion.

Motion: Gray Second: Lavagnino

Motion carried: 10-2 (Carbajal, Blum no)

9. FY 2008-09 SBCAG BUDGET

Receive presentation and provide direction on draft FY 2008-09 SBCAG budget which will be considered for adoption at June 19, 2008 board meeting.

Motion to receive presentation on the draft FY 2008-09 SBCAG budget.

Motion: Skytt Second: Bennett

Motion carried: 10-0-2 (Gray, Lavagnino absent)

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Michael Powers reported that at the LOSSAN meeting of May 7, 2008, there was no quorum but the board went through the material. Orange County is considering adding additional stops through their corridor possibly affecting the Pacific Surfliner service. Staff will continue to monitor this and report any further information to the board.

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jim Kemp reported the Draft Measure A Investment Plan presentations have been going before the city councils and will go before the Board of Supervisors for their approval. The majority of the cities and the Board of Supervisors must approve the Investment plan in order to be placed on the November ballot. The cities of Guadalupe, Solvang, Buellton and Lompoc have all received the presentation and approved the investment

plan. There are dates scheduled for the remaining three cities and the Board of Supervisors. Presentations should be concluded by the June SBCAG meeting. At the June SBCAG meeting there will be an action item to approve the final Measure A Investment Plan, the ordinance that will be placed on the ballot and the board would also be approving a request to the County Board of Supervisors to place the measure on the ballot. After SBCAG has taken action, the item to be would be agendized on the Board of Supervisors agenda to request they place the Measure on the ballot for November of this year.

Public Information Program – A website is developed and is now live. The address is www.measurea2008.org. The website contains a verbatim copy of the investment plan as approved by the SBCAG board and maps that help highlight where various projects are located and included in the Measure A Investment Plan. People can get more information about what projects will be proposed and funded by Measure A within their community. There is also a “frequently asked questions” component, addressing the questions asked during presentations and providing answers. The website has been reviewed by County Counsel to make sure we complying with Fair Political Practices Commission’s regulations as well as County Counsel’s guidance on the use of public funds for ballot measures. There will be future community meetings scheduled for the general public to attend to find out more about Measure A.

Construction on the Highway 101 Operational Project is scheduled to begin in early July. The contract was awarded to Security Paving and they have indicated that they expect to begin construction shortly after July 4. This project is probably the largest project on the state highway system in the county’s history. Public outreach continues, letters will be sent to approximately 31,000 residents in the project vicinity, letting them know construction will be starting and making them aware of resources they can use. Such resources consist of a website, project construction telephone hotline and a brochure that describes the project and its components.

Highway 101 Operational Improvement Project is a joint state/local funded project, funded by Measure D and State Proposition 1B funds. Will Kempton, Caltrans Director, and local elected officials will be attending the groundbreaking on June 11. The media will be contacted to make sure the event will be well covered. SBCAG staff is still hopeful that the governor will be able to attend.

California Transportation Commission staff has produced its recommendations for the 2008 STIP. SBCAG board adopted a Regional Transportation Improvement Program identifying the projects that they wanted to see funded in the 2008 STIP with our share of regional STIP funds. On May 28th and 29th, the CTC is expected to adopt the STIP with their recommendations. CTC staff recommendations delayed projects by a year or more, which wasn’t entirely unexpected due to the budget issues. What was unexpected was that for many of the proposed RTIP projects, the CTC staff is recommending increasing the amount of funding that is going towards these projects. The proposed RTIP projects stayed within the limits of our county’s share of regional STIP funds. CTC staff recommendations would push us over the limit by about 6 million dollars. This money goes almost exclusively for Caltrans support costs for the projects. SBCAG staff will be meeting with Rich Krumholz and then conferring with the CTC staff regarding their reasons for the recommendation. One of the biggest concerns with this recommendation affects the proposed Summerland Circulation Improvement Project, which is a phase of some improvements proposed along Ortega Hill Rd., which was

deleted entirely from the STIP in the CTC staff recommendations. SBCAG staff will be attending the CTC meeting on the 28th and 29th of May.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

13. ADJOURN

The next Board meeting will be on June 19, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Santa Barbara.