



260 North San Antonio Road., Suite B ■ Santa Barbara, CA ■ 93110  
Phone: 805/961-8900 ■ Fax: 805/961-8901 ■ www.sbcag.org

## MEETING SUMMARY

### SOUTH COAST SUBREGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

April 6, 2005

1:00 PM

**SBMTD Conference Room  
550 Olive Street  
Santa Barbara, CA**

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

**Members Present:** Salud Carbajal, Supervisor, First District; Brooks Firestone, Supervisor, Third District; Dan Secord, Councilmember, City of Santa Barbara; Donna Jordan, Councilmember, City of Carpinteria; Marty Mariscal, Councilmember, City of Santa Maria; Jack Hawxhurst, Councilmember, City of Goleta; Russ Hicks, Mayor, City of Buellton.

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Rich Krumholz for Gregg Albright, Director, Caltrans District 5

**Members Absent:** Susan Rose, Supervisor, Second District.

**Staff Members Present:** Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Michael Powers, Deputy Director of Planning

**Consulting Team Present:** Bob Bramen, PBQD, Mary Rose

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chair Secord asked for public comment and there was none.

#### 3. MEETING SUMMARY

There were no board comments on the Meeting Summary of March 2, 2005.

#### 4. 101 IN MOTION

**A. Review Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) recommendations on the 4 Alternative Solution Packages to advance for further evaluation and those elements not recommended for further evaluation.**

Jim Kemp provided an overview of the process. Vice-Chair Secord asked if the committees voted on the packages. Mr. Kemp replied that there were no votes, action was taken by consensus.

Bob Bramen using Power Point Slides presented an overview of the consensus TAG and SAC recommendations. He initially focused on those alternatives that were proposed to be deleted.

Councilman Mariscal indicated that there was significant truck use on Highway 101 and he believed voluntary limits were OK. Supervisor Carbajal expressed interest in having a more aggressive flex work/TDM program. He reflected back on the experience of the 1984 LA summer Olympics that had a very successful TDM program.

Vice-Chair Secord expressed the challenge of gathering diverse elements into the fold. He asked the City Community Development Director about the success of their program which limits delivery hours. Mr. Paul Casey replied that the city's ordinance requires deliveries before 10 AM; however, this might conflict with congestion relief efforts. Mr. Kemp also summarized the overall benefits of flex work and telecommuting.

Mr. Bramen responded that in general a temporary adjustment like the response during the Olympics is much easier than a permanent change.

**B. Approve 4 Alternative Solution Packages to advance for further evaluation and public review.**

Mr. Bramen went on to describe the components of the four remaining packages.

Mayor Hicks asked why a price subsidy was recommended for van pool riders but not bus riders. Mr. Bramen replied that research suggests that bus riders are less price sensitive, whereas van pool riders are more price sensitive.

Councilman Mariscal asked about the hours of operation for the HOV and HOT lanes. Mr. Bramen replied that price will vary by peak hour and if HOV lanes start to be slower, vehicle occupancy limits can be raised.

Mayor Hicks asked about the operation of the toll road. Mr. Bramen replied that it would be similar to other facilities like in Orange County where regular users obtain a transponder for a fee and when they pass sensors there recorded and then billed or deducted for their use of the lane.

Supervisor Firestone and Councilman Hawxhurst arrive.

Councilwoman Jordan asked why commuter rail was separated out. Mr. Bramen replied that there was a significant constituency in support of the commuter rail option.

Vice- Chair Secord asked why commuter rail was not considered for north County. Mr. Powers replied that the major population centers of Lompoc and Santa Maria are some distance from the coastal rail stations at Surf and Guadalupe and the additional travel time penalty would be significant.

Councilman Mariscal advocated for the widening options to satisfy travel preferences and address County and state travel needs, but he saw the value in including Commuter Rail as a potential early action item if the operations cost can be resolved.

Councilman Hawxhurst emphasized the need to address the following: operations cost, forecast 2010-20 impacts and parking and bus support costs for commuter rail. He also asked about where the trains will be parked and how much land will be required. He observed that the rail option provides peak hour benefits but the freeway provides additional all day benefits in the off peak.

Mayor Hicks expressed concerns about the overall costs of the alternatives. He asked why commuter rail was not in Package D. He asked for more information on early action items such as auxiliary lanes. Mayor Hicks and Councilman Hawxhurst observed that commuter rail may be OK as an early action item but will not be sufficient if it is the only stand alone project.

Mr. Powers cautioned about dismissing projects due to cost since the long term revenue forecast, assuming renewal of Measure D can accommodate large projects. However, if Measure D is not renewed most projects may not be implemented.

Councilman Mariscal moved approval of the four alternatives as proposed by the TAG and the SAC. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hawxhurst.

Vice Chair Secord asked for public comment.

Barry Siegel asked if the capital cost estimates included interchange improvements, if the scenarios accounted for land use changes, and how alternative A addressed current congestion. Paul Casey also asked if the cost included redesigned interchanges since the operational improvements alone are reaching \$50 million.

Mr. Bramen replied that the cost of overcrossings and bridge improvements were estimated and included, but interchange redesign was not accounted for as this was not within the scope of work for this level of analysis.

Supervisor Firestone asked if the implications of alternative fuels had been accounted for. Mr. Bramen replied that there was great uncertainty about the introduction of alternative fuels. Supervisor Firestone indicated that with the potential of hydrogen fuels, prices may not escalate as forecast. Mr. Powers replied that in response to Supervisor Firestone's comments the study will include a brief section on fuel prices and alternative fuel options.

Vice chair Secord called for the vote and the motion was unanimously approved.

**C. Review subsequent steps in public outreach process**

Mary Rose reviewed the public outreach process and stressed staff's ongoing outreach to various groups. She stated that staff would soon be returning to the city councils with the final four recommended alternatives for their consideration. She stated that staff had not received any significant concerns about the deletion

of prior alternatives. Vice Chair Secord requested that staff make a presentation to the Santa Barbara City Planning Commission.

**D. Review project budget and schedule**

Mr. Bramen indicated the project was on schedule to deliver a final project recommendation by September. He explained that additional meetings required by the TAG and SAC would result in added cost.

Mr. Kemp stated there was approximately 1/3 of the \$1.6 million remaining. Supervisor Firestone expressed that the public wants leadership not more studies and that board members know what the public wants.

Mr. Rich Krumholz stated that much of the information from 101 IM will be useful for any subsequent environmental review for project development.

Councilman Hawxhurst wanted assurance that the traffic impacts on local streets will be available. Mr. Bramen replied that more information will be available but not at the design level of detail.

Councilman Mariscal emphasized the need for SAC members to assist in selling the project to their constituents.

Mayor Hicks and Councilman Hawxhurst asked how and if the Measure D renewal effort will be tied to congestion relief projects on Highway 101. Supervisor Carbajal expressed the need for community buy-in for Measure D renewal projects.

**ADJOURN**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.