

MINUTES

TECHNICAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 7, 2006

9:00 AM

Council Chambers
140 West Highway 246
Buellton

TTAC Voting Members Present

Bruce Nybo (Vice-Chair)	City of Santa Maria
Pat Mickelson	Caltrans
Vijaya Jammalamadaka	SBCAPCD
Bret Stewart	County of Santa Barbara
Michael Powers	SBCAG
Kevin McCune (Chair)	City of Lompoc
Steve Wagner	City of Goleta
Dale Lipp	City of Carpinteria
Rob Dayton	City of Santa Barbara
Steve Maas	SBMTD

Others Present

Sarkes Khachek	SBCAG
Steve VanDenburgh	SBCAG
Fred Luna	SBCAG
Susan Warnstrom	Fourth District Office
Dave Whitehead	City of Santa Maria
Jerry Davis	Easy Lift Transportation
Richard Fernbaugh	City of Lompoc

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Kevin McCune called the meeting to order and initiated a round of introductions. Bruce Nybo introduced Dave Whitehead, new City of Santa Maria Public Works Director.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Kevin McCune asked for public comments and there was none.

3. MINUTES

Following a motion by Bruce Nybo, seconded by Bret Stewart, the minutes of October 5, 2006 were approved with Vijaya Jammalamadaka abstaining.

4. PROPOSITIONS 1A, 1B, AND MEASURE D 2006

Steve VanDenburgh discussed with TTAC the impact on transportation funding of passage of Prop 1A and 1B and failure of Measure D 2006. He indicated that staff asked the Board at its November meeting to fund a survey to determine the reasons the measure lost but that the Board had decided against conducting a survey. He said that staff had therefore started conducting listening sessions with, at that point, mainly opponents of the measure. He indicated that opponents interviewed so far were concerned about the failure to deliver the highway 101 widening. He also indicated that in counties where measures passed, the business community had played a large role. He told TTAC that in San Luis Obispo County, at least four cities had passed general taxes requiring a 50% majority. This was something that cities like Santa Maria could try to do, and that could impact whether Measure D returns to the ballot in 2008. Steve Maas asked if the Sonoma-Marine measure had passed and Mr. VanDenburgh stated that the vote was still close and he had not heard the result. Mr. VanDenburgh indicated that the Proposition 1B program presented an immediate opportunity for funding, as the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account program had a January 16 application submittal deadline for projects that increase highway capacity. He told the committee that projects competing for these funds had to be under construction by 2012. SBCAG wanted to work with SLOCOG and Caltrans to submit an application for the Hwy 101 Santa Maria River Bridge Widening Project and with Caltrans and the Ventura County Transportation Commission to submit an application for a Ventura/Santa Barbara Hwy 101 6-Lane Widening Project. He explained that TTAC would have to support the applications for these projects in concept because the applications were due on January 16, two days before the SBCAG Board meeting, so December was the only month that TTAC could advise the board before the applications were submitted. Steve Wagner asked what could be done to help convince the CTC to support the projects. Steve VanDenburgh responded that Caltrans' support, which SBCAG had on both projects was helpful, and having 101 in Motion approved put the region ahead of the rest of the state because the CMIA program requires the adoption of corridor mobility plans. Kevin McCune asked why Highway 246 widening wasn't a candidate. Steve VanDenburgh responded that Caltrans examined all opportunities in the county and determined that 246 wasn't a strong candidate based on the CMIA program criteria. A motion was made by Bruce Nybo to approve the two applications in concept. It was seconded by Dale Lipp, and passed unanimously.

5. REGIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Steve VanDenburgh presented the item. He told the committee that TTAC had decided to table action in August and October (no meeting in September and November) on programming of approximately \$3 million in RSTP funds received from a swap of CMAQ for federal RSTP funds with SACOG. Tabling the matter allowed SBCAG staff time to work with SACOG and the city of Santa Maria on an arrangement that would have SACOG providing all of the federal RSTP funding in FY 08/09 rather than over FY 07/08 and FY 08/09, that it would be programmed to the Union Valley Parkway project, and state RSTP funds programmed to the UVP project would be backed out and programmed to agencies

according to one of the three options included in the staff report. Mr. VanDenburgh reported that the time that had passed had in fact allowed the details to be worked on such an arrangement. He said the city of Santa Maria staff had agreed to support programming of federal RSTP to the UVP project in place of a like amount of state RSTP, which could be reprogrammed to other agencies and projects. Mr. VanDenburgh said that SBCAG staff did not have a preference for which option attached to the staff report that TTAC recommended to the Board. TTAC members thanked SBCAG staff and the city of Santa Maria staff for working out the details. Steve Maas of MTD said that the funds had started out as CMAQ and that MTD preferred option B, which would program \$2 million by population and leave approximately \$1 million for programming through a competitive process. Under that option, MTD could compete for funds. He made a motion for TTAC to recommend option B to the board. The motion did not receive a second. Steve Wagner made a motion that the funds from SACOG be programmed to UVP in FY 08/09 and that state RSTP funds be backed out for immediate programming to projects. Brett Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Bruce Nybo made a motion to recommend that the funds be distributed according to option A3, by population using the Measure D formula, with a \$50,000 base allocation. The motion was seconded by Brett Stewart. The motion carried 9-1 with Steve Mass of MTD opposed.

6. TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT

Michael Powers presented the staff report. Following a motion by Steve Wagner, seconded by Rob Dayton, TTAC unanimously recommended release of Request for Proposal for Triennial TDA Performance Audits.

7. HIGHWAY 101 WIDENING PROJECTS

Fred Luna presented the item. He discussed the status of funded projects under construction or development to widen highway 101 including Ortega Hill Northbound Auxiliary Lane, Milpas to Cabrillo/Hot Springs Widening, Linden/Casitas Pass Interchange Project, Santa Maria Six lane widening, Santa Maria River Bridge. Steve VanDenburgh told TTAC the post-election interviews conducted by staff regarding the failure of Measure D showed critics of Measure D 2006 doubted that SBCAG could deliver the highway 101 widening. Those persons were concerned that SBCAG was focused on delivering commuter rail. Steve said that the staff report was intended to show that SBCAG is working on highway improvements throughout the county. Steve said that members of the public believed that the Ortega Hill Northbound Auxiliary Lane was actually a bike lane project, which was incorrect and that a board presentation in December would hopefully clarify that fact. Fred Luna indicated that the Ortega Hill project would be complete at the end of January 2007. He also stated that the Santa Maria six lane would be completed by May 2008 (weather permitting) and that staff and Caltrans were looking at beginning construction of the Milpas-Hot Springs in early Spring 2008.

Steve VanDenburgh asked the committee to return to Item 5 to cover a part of the staff report he had forgotten to ask for a recommendation on. He told the committee that TTAC should also recommend to the board that \$97,170 in state RSTP be programmed as a non-federal match to the Los Carneros Road interchange landscaping project. Caltrans TE funds had been programmed to the project years earlier and approximately \$750,000 was available for landscaping improvements. The SBCAG board had twice previously approved a match for the project, but each time the match had erroneously been from a federal funding source. Steve indicated that the option A3 approved by TTAC assumed TTAC

support of the \$97,170 for the project, and that amount had been taken off the top of the amount programmed in option A3. A motion was made by Brett Stewart to recommend funding for the Los Carneros Interchange landscaping project off the top of the state RTSP funds available; Rob Dayton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

8. UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

Michael Powers presented the staff report. Brett asked for a clarification of the fare box ratio of Los Alamos. Michael replied that since the service originates in a rural area it would be 10%. Kevin McCune asked what the subsidy was for that service. Michael replied that he believed the fare box recovery was slightly less than 10% so the subsidy was about 90% of the service costs. Following a motion by Steve Maas, seconded by Bret Stewart, TTAC unanimously moved to recommend approval of the SBCAG staff recommended changes to the definitions proposed by SBCTAC.

9. ELECTIONS

Following a nomination by Bruce Nybo, seconded by Kevin McCune, Pat Mickelson was unanimously elected as TTAC Vice-Chair. Following a nomination by Bruce Nybo, seconded by Dale Lipp, Kevin McCune was unanimously re-elected as Chair of TTAC for 2007.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kevin McCune announced two job positions open in Lompoc, Engineering Tech. III and Principal Civil Engineer.

Steve VanDenburgh reminded members of the January deadline for the Safe Routes to Schools application.

Kevin McCune announced a meeting of the SR 246 PDT that was to occur later that day. Susan Warnstrum asked if bond funds were available to fund a SR 246 widening project. Steve VanDenburgh replied that the discretionary bond funds allocated by the CTC had specific performance criteria and the Santa Maria River Bridge and 101 widening project near Carpinteria were the best candidate projects for this funding source.

11. ADJOURN

There being no other business TTAC adjourned.