

# MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## EXECUTIVE MINUTES

**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2010

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Place:** MCTC Board Chambers

**Members Present:** Chairman Jim Kopshever– Councilman, City of Chowchilla  
Vice Chairman Robert Poythress – Councilman, City of Madera  
Max Rodriguez – Supervisor, Madera County  
Tom Wheeler – Supervisor, Madera County  
Frank Bigelow – Supervisor, Madera County

**Members Absent:** Sam Armentrout – Councilman, City of Madera

**Policy Advisory Committee:** Above Members present and Caltrans Representatives:  
Christine Cox, Interim Deputy Director

**MCTC Staff Present:** Patricia Taylor, Executive Director  
Troy McNeil, Fiscal Supervisor  
Dylan Stone, Planner I  
Sheila Kingsley, Administrative Asst.

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MCTC sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee.

### **I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

This portion of the meeting is reserved for person(s) wishing to address the MCTC on items within their jurisdiction but not on this agenda.

### **III. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS**

#### **A. *Working Paper 3: Feasibility Assessment - Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park Transit Market Assessment & Feasibility Study***

The Council of Fresno County Governments has formed a Study Advisory Committee to determine the viability of implementing one or more transit routes between Fresno and Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings National Parks. Serving on the committee are representatives from Fresno COG, Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System, National Parks Conservation Association, Visalia Transit, Convention and Visitors Bureau and MCTC. Fehr & Peers is the consultant conducting the Transit Market Assessment and Feasibility Study.

The study proposes an eight-step approach to completing the Transit Market Assessment and Feasibility Study. The steps are as follows:

1. Identify the study area (SR 41 and SR 180 corridors)

2. Conduct stakeholder interviews
3. Evaluate demand for the service
4. Develop service alternatives
5. Evaluate Federal, state, local and private sector funding opportunities
6. Feasibility evaluation
7. Develop preferred service plan(s)
8. Develop implementation plan(s)

Fehr & Peers is currently conducting stakeholder interviews. Local agencies, Eastern Madera County Chamber of Commerce, Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino and Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau are some of the stakeholders in Madera County who have been interviewed for this study thus far.

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only.

**B. New Madera Amtrak Station Grand Opening**

A Grand Opening Ceremony for the new Madera Amtrak Station was held in conjunction with the San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee's quarterly meeting on Thursday, November 4, 2010. The relocated Amtrak Station is a very important transportation project to Madera. For additional information, including meeting information, an agenda, and map, contact Lee Goldenberg with Caltrans' Rail Division at (916) 654-9777 or [lee.goldenberg@dot.ca.gov](mailto:lee.goldenberg@dot.ca.gov).

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only.

**C. FFY 2010-11 Call for Projects: Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Cycle 4**

The Division of Local Assistance issued a call for projects for Cycle 4 of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). This Cycle 4 HSIP call is for the FFY 10/11. Applications are due to the District Local Assistance Engineer's office by Thursday, December 9, 2010.

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only.

**Transportation Consent Calendar Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Wheeler, seconded by Commissioner Poythress to approve the Transportation Consent Calendar (Item III A to C. ). A vote was called and the motion carried.

**IV. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. SB 375 Target Setting - Follow-up Report**

On September 23, 2010, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets for the 18 MPOs in the State of California pursuant to the requirements of SB 375.

The 8 Valley MPOs and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District recommended a Valleywide GHG target of 2% and 5% in 2020 and 2035, respectively, citing a consensus among the agencies that the proposed ARB targets of 5% and 10% are not realistic or achievable. Fresno COG, for example, reports that the maximum achievable 2035 GHG reduction in Fresno County is only 6%.

The ARB chose to follow the original ARB staff recommendation and adopted a provisional GHG reduction target of 5% by 2020 and 10% by 2035 for the 8 San Joaquin Valley MPOs. This is a Valley wide, placeholder target that would be subject to revision in 2012 once the SJV MPOs have implemented their Model Improvement Plan (MIP) and completed additional scenario development. The 2012 informational update should include a report by the Valley MPOs on how they intend to address the statutory option to work together in the development of multi-county Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS).

MCTC staff is preparing to host a regional workshop for elected officials, local agency staff, and other stakeholders to discuss the issues related to SB 375, the SCS, and valley-wide coordination. The time

and date of the workshop have yet to be determined.

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only.

**B. *Options for Regional Organization in the Valley***

On March 26, 2010, the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council met at the offices of Fresno COG for a Development Workshop designed to determine the priority work plan and organizational structure for the Policy Council over the coming year, and to better define the relationship between the Policy Council and the San Joaquin Valley Partnership. A report was developed from the workshop. The report summarizes discussions and decisions from the Workshop, and makes recommendations for next steps based on those decisions including an appendix item that includes a discussion of alternative structures for regional governance bodies using the following case studies: King County Subarea Transportation Boards (Enhanced Authority); Sacramento Area Council of Governments (Super COG/MPO); and Portland Metro (Authoritative Agency).

The SJ Valley Policy Council also directed the COG Directors at its June 25, 2010 meeting to continue to explore alternative structures for the Policy Council in order to better position the San Joaquin Valley to speak as one voice to obtain a significant share of state and federal resources and to potentially consolidate the planning activities of 8 separate organizations.

**Action:** Direction may be provided.

**C. *2011 State and Local Partnership Program (SLPP) Resolution 10-15***

The Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006, approved by the voters as Proposition 1B on November 7, 2006, authorized \$1 billion to be deposited in the State-Local Partnership Program (SLPP) Account to be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for allocation by the California Transportation Commission over a five-year period to eligible transportation projects nominated by an applicant transportation agency. The Bond Act required a dollar for dollar match of local funds for an applicant agency to receive state funds under the program.

In 2008, the Legislature enacted implementing legislation (AB 268) to add Article 11 (commencing with Section 8879.66) to Chapter 12.491 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code. Article 11 defines the purpose and intent of the program, defines the eligibility of applicants, projects, and matching funds, and provides that 95% of program funds will be distributed by formula to match voter-approved transportation taxes and fees and that the remaining 5% will be available for a competitive grant application program to match uniform developer fees. Section 8879.74 requires the Commission to adopt an annual program of projects for the program and to develop and adopt guidelines to implement the program, consistent with Article 11. Project allocations are to be made beginning no later than October of each year.

The Commission will adopt an annual program of projects for the SLPP, by October of each fiscal year. The program will consist of projects nominated by eligible applicants for the formula program and projects selected by the Commission under the competitive grant program to match uniform developer fees. SLPP project funding will match eligible local funding for project construction or equipment acquisition, consistent with Section 8879.70. The Commission will not program or allocate SLPP funding to match local funding for preconstruction work. The program of projects for each fiscal year will include, for each project, the amount to be funded from the SLPP, the source of the dollar-for-dollar match of SLPP funding, and the estimated total cost of project construction or equipment acquisition, including any additional supplementary funding. The source of the dollar-for-dollar match will include only revenues from the transportation tax or fee that qualifies the applicant for SLPP funding and only funds to be expended after the Commission allocation of SLPP funds.

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Wheeler, seconded by Commissioner Poythress to approve the Madera County 2011 State and Local Partnership Program by Resolution 10-15. A vote was called and the motion carried.

**D. 2010 Fall Policy Conference - Madera County**

The 2010 Fall Policy Conference was held in Modesto on October 6 and 7. Stanislaus Council of Governments hosted the event. The COG Director's Vice Chair has the responsibility of hosting the conference. Patricia Taylor, Executive Director, will be the 2011 Vice Chair and therefore, the MCTC will have the responsibility of hosting the Fall Policy Conference. The Commission staff is considering possible venues. The Commission hosted the 2003 Fall Policy Conference at Bass Lake and is considering this location for the 2011 conference. Suggestions and recommendations are welcome.

**Action:** The Commissioner's agreed unanimously to hold the 2011 Fall Policy Conference at the Bass Lake-Pines Resort.

**V. REAFFIRM ALL ACTIONS TAKEN WHILE SITTING AS THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Action:** The Commission unanimously approved to reaffirm all actions taken while sitting as the Transportation Policy Committee.

**VI. ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS**

**A. Executive Minutes of September 22, 2010**

Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the September 22, 2010 Executive Minutes.

**Action:** Approve Executive Minutes of September 22, 2010.

**Administrative Consent Calendar Action**

**Action:** Upon motion by Commissioner Poythress, seconded by Commissioner Wheeler to approve the Administrative Consent Calendar. A vote was called and the motion carried.

**VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Transfer of Commission Funds to Citizens Business Bank**

When the Commission was formed in the late 1970s, a MOU was established with the County to provide accounting and legal services and to house the funds of the Commission because Commission staff did not have the capability to handle these tasks. Currently, Commission staff now has the capability of handling all financial and accounting tasks related to Commission funds.

Recently, the County Auditor-Controller requested a meeting with the Fiscal Supervisor to discuss the concern that they had related to the many Commission funds housed at the County. After this discussion and then reviewing the options available, Commission staff recommends transferring the Commission funds to Citizens Business Bank. Currently, the Commission has two accounts at Citizens Business Bank, an expense account and a payroll account. Attached to this item is a proposal from the bank as to how to accommodate this increase of funds and to minimize the risk associated with it.

Commissioner Poythress excused himself from this item, due to COI.

Janet Kroeger, County of Madera Auditor, expressed the County's concerns regarding the Commission transferring funds to Citizens Business Bank and internal control.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Bigelow motioned to defer this item for a possible future meeting and directed staff to meet with the Auditor-Controller's Office to see if they can resolve any issues first. If the issues cannot be resolved, then staff should bring the item back to the Board

explaining the issues. Commissioner Kopshever then directed staff that if we do bring this item back, that we should bring it back in two parts: 1) whether or not to move the funds, 2) where to move the funds to. All of the Commissioners came to a consensus on this direction.

**Action:** Staff is directed to meet with County staff to see if the issues can be resolved first and then only bring the item back if necessary.

#### **MCTC Sitting as the Madera County 2006 Transportation Authority**

### **VIII. AUTHORITY - ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS**

#### **A. Measure "T" Compliance Audit Report: County of Madera**

This Item was pulled from the Agenda.

#### **Authority Administrative Consent Calendar Action**

Upon motion by Commissioner Poythress, seconded by Commissioner Wheeler to approve the Authority Administrative Consent Calendar. A vote was called and the motion carried.

### **IX. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **A. Report of the September 16, 2010 Meeting of the Measure T Citizens' Oversight Committee**

The Measure T Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) was formed in 2007 to provide independent review and oversight for the Measure T transportation sales tax program. The primary responsibilities of the COC listed in the Measure T Expenditure Plan include:

- Receive, review, inspect, and recommend action on independent financial and performance audits related to the Measure
- Present Committee recommendations, findings, and requests to the public and the Authority in a formal annual report

On September 16, 2010, the COC met to review and discuss the FY 2008/09 Measure T compliance audits and issue an Annual Report to the Public. Available for review at the time of the meeting were the Madera County Transportation Authority and City of Madera compliance audits.

Several Committee members expressed concern that Measure T compliance audits were not available for review in a timely matter, delaying the issue of the FY 2008/09 Annual Report to the Public, and preventing the COC from carrying out its designated oversight functions. The Committee passed a motion admonishing local agencies to complete their audits in a more expeditious manner.

The COC will reconvene in late 2010 once the final Measure T compliance audits have been completed.

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only.

### **X. Miscellaneous**

#### **A. Items From Caltrans**

Christine Cox, Caltrans, updated the Board on local projects in Madera City/County.

Caltrans also reported, that Commissioner Darius Assemi has been appointed to the CTC and will be a voice for the valley.

***B. Items from Staff***

No Items from Staff.

***C. Items from Commissioners***

Commissioner Bigelow gave a follow-up report on the last San Joaquin Valley Policy Working Group meeting.

***XI. Adjournment***

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Next MCTC meeting set for Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia S. Taylor, Executive Director  
Madera County Transportation Commission