

MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2011

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: MCTC Board Chambers

Members Present: Chairman Robert Poythress – Councilmember, City of Madera
Vice Chairman Tom Wheeler – Supervisor, Madera County
Max Rodriguez – Supervisor, Madera County
Janan Hebert – Councilmember, City of Chowchilla
Frank Bigelow -Supervisor, Madera County

Members Absent: Sam Armentrout – Councilmember, City of Madera

Policy Advisory Committee: Above Members present and Caltrans Representatives:
Paul Marquez

MCTC Staff Present: Derek Winning, Deputy Director
Troy McNeil, Fiscal Supervisor
Richard Poythress, Planner II
Dylan Stone, Planner I
Sheila Kingsley, Administrative Asst.

MCTC Staff Absent: Patricia Taylor, Executive Director

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.

No Public comment.

III. TRANSPORTATION CONSENT ITEMS

A. *Initiate 2011-12 Unmet Transit Needs*

The State Transportation Development Act (TDA) requires that the MCTC Policy Board determine that public transportation needs within Madera County will be reasonably met in FY 2011/12 prior to approving claims of Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for streets and roads. The MCTC's Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) is responsible for evaluating unmet transit needs. Each year the SSTAC begins the process of soliciting comments from the public by sending letters to agencies and individuals interested in providing feedback on their public transportation needs within Madera County. The request for comments letters, included in the Commissioner's packet, will be mailed late February 2011.

MCTC's Unmet Transit Needs public hearing is scheduled as follows:

- PUBLIC HEARING – Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.
*Location: Madera County Transportation Commission Board Room
2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera, CA*

First Transit will provide free demand response service to the hearing. A Spanish language interpreter will also be available for those who wish to testify in Spanish. A public notice will be printed in the local newspapers and flyers will be distributed throughout the community publicizing the hearing.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

B. Prop 84: Strategic Growth Council Urban Greening Grant Workshops

In November 2006, California voters approved Proposition 84, a \$5.388 billion bond act providing funds for environmental conservation, water quality, and sustainable development. The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) has been tasked with administration of the Urban Greening Program component of Prop 84, which provides \$90 million for projects that reduce energy consumption, conserve water, improve air and water quality, and provide other community benefits.

During this second of three planned grant cycles, the SGC will offer separate grants to both develop urban greening plans and implement specific urban greening projects. More information on eligible projects and the application process can be found at the SGC Urban Greening Grants website: http://www.sgc.ca.gov/urban_greening_grants.html

The SGC is planning a series of technical workshops to be held throughout the state during the months of February and March. On March 9, a workshop will be presented locally at the Visalia Convention Center from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the flyer with the full list of workshop dates and location.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

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

IV. TRANSPORTATION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council "Valley Voice" Sacramento Trip

The Regional Policy Council, made up of members from the 8 Valley Regional Planning Agencies, took its legislative platform as a "Valley Voice" to Sacramento on February 2-3, 2011. Madera County representatives included: Supervisor Tom Wheeler; Mayor Rob Poythress; Patricia Taylor and Richard Poythress.

The dates for the "Valley Voice" Washington D.C. trip are scheduled for September 14-15, 2011. Advocacy Issues that will be discussed at the State and Federal meetings were enclosed in the Commissioner's packet.

Action: Information and Discussion Only.

B. Feasibility Assessment - Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park Transit Market Assessment & Feasibility Study

Fresno Council of Governments recently completed the Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Transit Market Assessment & Feasibility Study. Factors included in determining feasibility were local support, ridership potential and financial sustainability.

The study concluded there is substantial amount of demand for the Fresno-Yosemite route. Support was indicated from stakeholder interviews for the Fresno-Yosemite route. Success of the YARTS service, linkage to transportation hubs, amount of hotel rooms in the corridor, large population base of the Fresno Region and Fresno State as a major generator were also given as supporting reasons.

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) operates a transit service between Merced and Yosemite National Park that has been considered comparable to the potential transit service between Fresno and Yosemite National Park. Market analysis and funding assessments are both derived from YARTS data and survey information collected for this study.

The study used the transit capture rate of YARTS system at the Arch Rock entrance to Yosemite and calculated it by the South-41 entrance, the number of parks workers using YARTS was extracted and inserted as a surrogate into the Fresno-Yosemite ridership forecast and a 5% increase was given for Casino and intercity commutes. Preliminary Fresno to Yosemite ridership estimates in peak season range from 9,100 to 7,200 riders. Off-peak estimates are 3,500 to 2,600 riders. The travel market which makes up these riders consists of long distance visitors, short distance visitors, Fresno residents, National Parks Service and park concessionaire Delaware North Corporation employees living in Fresno or Madera County. Potential for reverse commuting from Oakhurst or Chukchansi Casino to Fresno has also been factored into the ridership numbers.

Funding estimates are based on the assumption that the Fresno-Yosemite service operations will be similar to existing YARTS service. The study outlines a route between Fresno and Yosemite National Park along State Route 41 in its operating plan. The system would be operated on a contract basis. It proposes six to eight daily round trips with 14 total stops, two in Madera County (Chukchansi Casino and Oakhurst). Preliminary estimates of the annual operating costs range from \$1.8 million to \$2.4 million. The initial capital cost which would consist of the purchase of 9 to 12 new busses ranges from \$6 million to \$9 million. Potential funding sources are Federal Grants, National Park contribution, State programs, hotel occupancy surcharges, Amtrak, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District programs, and Local Agency support.

Several public members representing the Oakhurst/Yosemite area expressed their concerns regarding the affects of the service on a region that relies heavily on the tourism trade.

Also expressed was their concern that the stakeholders in the tourism industry should be more extensively interviewed, the economic benefits and/or drawbacks to the Oakhurst area need to be studied in greater detail before the study is adopted.

There were several letters from the public that have been put in record.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Bigelow, seconded by Commissioner Hebert to oppose the Draft Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park Transit Market Assessment and Feasibility Study as currently written leaving the door open for further discussion. MCTC staff is directed to attend the Fresno Council of Government meeting, Thursday, March 24, 2011 to relay the Commission's position on this issue. A vote was called and the motion carried. Caltrans abstained from the vote.

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 January 19, 2011

Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the January 19, 2011 Executive Minutes.

Action: Approve Executive Minutes of January 19, 2011.

B. 2011-12 Transportation Development ACT (TDA): Local Transportation Fund (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) Estimates

Local Transportation Fund (LTF): Prior to February 1 of each year, the county auditor provides MCTC an estimate of monies to be available for apportionment and allocation during the ensuing fiscal year. The estimate for FY 2011-12 is **\$2,409,909**. The estimate includes monies anticipated to be deposited in the fund during the ensuing fiscal year. The county auditor makes an estimate from such data including those which may be furnished by the State Board of Equalization. The county auditor will furnish a revised or updated estimate of funds available when requested by MCTC staff.

State Transit Assistance (STA): Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 99312.7, the State Controller is directed to send a preliminary estimate of STA Funds to each transportation planning agency. For fiscal year 2011-12, there is \$329,460,734 budgeted according to the most current information from the State Controller's Office. STA allocation estimate for Madera County is \$654,926.

MCTC advised prospective LTF claimants of the estimated area apportionments within Madera County. Applicants must file LTF and STA applications with MCTC by April 1, 2011.

Action: Information and Discussion only.

Administrative Consent Calendar Action

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Wheeler, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez to approve the Administrative Consent Calendar (Items A-B). A vote was called and the motion carried.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Draft 2011-12 Overall Work Program -Budget

Included in the Commissioner's packet was a copy of the DRAFT 2011-12 MCTC Overall Work Program (OWP) and Budget. This document is prepared annually pursuant to Caltrans guidelines and was required to be submitted to Caltrans, FHWA and FTA. The OWP discusses the MCTC, its organizational structure, regional planning issues, and presents work element descriptions and budgets. Following review, the OWP will be brought before the Commission for adoption at its May 2011 meeting.

The Annual Group Meeting which includes the federal and state agency review group is scheduled to meet with MCTC staff on March 15, 2011 to review the OWP.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Wheeler, seconded by Commissioner Hebert to authorize circulation of Draft 2011-12 MCTC Overall Work Program for agency review. A vote was called and the motion carried.

MCTC Sitting as the Madera County 2006 Transportation Authority

VIII. AUTHORITY - ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS

No Authority - Administrative Consent Items

Authority Administrative Consent Calendar Action

No action needed.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. *FY 2009-10 Madera County Transportation Authority Audit Report*

MCTA has received the Measure "T" Compliance Audit Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2010 for the Madera County Transportation Authority. This report was done in accordance with Section 99245 of the Public Utilities Code by Price, Paige, and Company.

Staff reported that there was one finding that addresses the need of the MCTA to have better software to account for all of the Authority costs. Staff is addressing this finding and anticipates no future issues related to this finding.

Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Wheeler, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez to accept the Madera County Transportation Authority June 30, 2010 Measure "T" Audit Report. A vote was called and the motion carried.

X. Miscellaneous

A. *Items From Caltrans*

Caltrans gave a brief report on local projects in Madera County.

B. *Items from Staff*

Staff gave a brief report on the State Route 152 Trade Corridor Study which will be presented to the Board at the next meeting of the Commission.

C. *Items from Commissioners*

No comments from the Commissioners.

XI. *Adjournment*

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Next MCTC meeting set for Wednesday, March 23, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia S. Taylor, Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission