FINAL MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY
SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAYS EMERGENCIES AND MONTEREY
COUNTY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE
JOINT POWERS AGENCY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Members are: Jane Parker (Chair),
Kimbley Craig (1st Vice Chair), Fernando Armenta (2nd Vice Chair),
Jerry Edelen (Past Chair),
Dave Potter (County representative), Alejandro Chavez (City representative)

Wednesday, March 5, 2014
*** 9:00 a.m. ***
Transportation Agency Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

1. **CALL TO ORDER: 1st Vice** Chair Craig called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Chavez, Craig, Edelen, alternate Jessica Martinez for Armenta, and alternate Jayne Mohammadi for Potter. Staff present: Goel, Hale, Muck, Rodriguez, Watson. Others present: Agency Counsel Reimann, Sam Teel, MCHA and Paul Schlesinger, Alcalde & Fay via phone. Committee member Chavez arrived after approval of the consent agenda.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**
   On a motion by Board member Edelen and seconded by Board alternate Martinez, the committee voted 4 – 0, with Boardmember Chavez not present, to approve the consent agenda.

3.1 **APPROVED** minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of February 5, 2014.

END OF CONSENT

4.   The Executive Committee received an update on federal legislative activities.

Paul Schlesinger, Agency Federal Legislative Consultant, reported that the highway trust fund is running out of money, and that it no longer generates enough funds to cover existing obligations, noting the highway funds will run out in August and the transit funds in October. Mr. Schlesinger noted that discussions center on how to generate more funds by increasing the gas tax – which most of the Congress oppose – or identifying a new fund source. Mr. Schlesinger reported that President Obama gave a speech last week in which he proposed increasing funds for transportation from corporate taxes.

Executive Director Hale commented on potential tweaks in the next authorization bill, noting key challenges for smaller regions:
- Active Transportation Program does not sub allocate to smaller urban areas, so that they need to compete through the state for funds that used to come via formula;
- "Buy America" regulation has become very stringent, causing serious delays for projects, especially where utilities are involved; and
- Environmental streamlining in the previous bill was a step in the right direction, and now streamlining with other federal regulations should be considered.

5.   The Executive Committee discussed the implications of a Monterey-Salinas Transit sales tax as relates to future regional transportation financing strategies and provided direction to staff.

Executive Director Debbie Hale reported that staff continues to gather information and will wait for the results of the November election to move forward on the potential future transportation sales tax. Past Chair Edelen said that becoming a self-help county makes us eligible for state and federal matching funds. He commented that he thinks going for a 1/8 cent sales tax is more likely to pass, and is better than nothing at all. Director Hale noted that we are polling in May and will bring the draft questions to the committee for review.

1st Vice Chair Craig commented that the City of Salinas is looking at proposing a one-cent sales tax measure. She expressed concern about the Cities of Monterey, Marina, Salinas and Monterey-Salinas Transit placing a sales tax measure at the same time. She asked if staff would discuss a deal with MST, if they hold off on the measure. Past Chair Edelen commented that this makes sense. Director Hale replied that it's not too late; the time frame is early August.

Sam Teel, stated that tax payers are very sensitive to these issues, and four measures on the ballot will lose the support of the voter. People will say "forget it all".

6. Received the draft Transportation Agency for Monterey County 2013 Annual Report.

Executive Director Hale reported on the draft Transportation Agency for Monterey County 2013 Annual Report. She noted that the theme for this year's annual report is "Moving Forward" with planning, funding and delivering a balanced transportation system. The annual report will be mailed to all of the households in the county.

Past Chair Edelen commended staff, noting the annual report gets better every time. He recommended adding in bullets and explaining more about the funding realities and the need to raise funding, including alternative ways of getting more funding. Agency Counsel Reimann cautioned against using "total cost" for the project cost, and recommended changing it to "total estimated cost". Board member Chavez recommended including all of the south county frontage road projects.

7. Received a report on the Draft 2014 Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan.

Deputy Executive Director Muck reported the Agency must adopt a Regional Transportation Plan by June 2014 to meet state planning requirements. The plan identifies projects to be funded over a twenty year timeframe with revenues forecasted to be available over that planning horizon. He noted that the Regional Transportation Plan will be released on March 7th, for a thirty-day review period that closes April 8, 2014. He noted as part of this process, staff will schedule a noticed public hearing on the draft plan at the March 26, 2014 Board meeting. Director Muck noted that staff works collaborate with AMBAG on both documents. He also mentioned that staff decided to also do an Executive Summary to provide an alternative having to read/ go through the whole document, noting the summary covers major regional issues.

8.   Received a report on the draft agenda for TAMC Board meeting of March 26, 2014.

Executive Director Hale reviewed the March 26, 2014 draft agenda and took committee comments. She noted that the top item on the agenda is the public hearing on the Draft 2014 Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan.

9.   ADJOURNMENT
1st Vice Chair Craig adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.
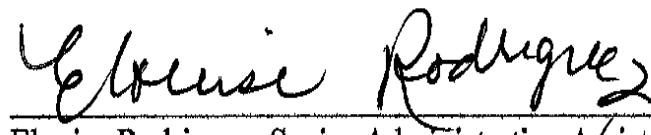
Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant