

FINAL MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

*Members are: John P. Huerta, Jr. (Chair),
Dave Potter (1st Vice Chair), Lou Calcagno (2nd Vice Chair),
Ralph Rubio (Past-Past Chair),
Simón Salinas (County representative), Jyl Lutes (City representative)*

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Transportation Agency Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

1. **Call to Order:** Huerta called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Huerta, Rubio, Salinas, Calcagno, Alternate Lee for Potter, and Alternate Russell for Lutes. Staff present: Hale, Blankenship, Bachman, Goel, Watson, and Hoschouer. Others present: Paul Schlesinger by telephone.
2. **Public Comments:** None.
3. **Consent Agenda:** Executive Director Hale requested that Item 3.2, list of dates and locations scheduled for community meetings, be removed from consent for discussion. Hale presented the committee with an updated list of community meeting locations and dates. The committee discussed the format of the community meetings as being an open house arrangement with opening remarks. Hale asked if members would be interested in providing opening statements at the meetings. Huerta and Salinas commented that they would be interested in making comments at the Greenfield meeting. It was discussed that either Lutes or Calcagno may be available to make comments at the Salinas meeting. Hale indicated staff would contact Frank Sollecito for comments in Monterey.

On a motion by Board member Lou Calcagno and second by Simón Salinas, the Committee voted 5 – 0 to approve the consent items as follows:

- 3.1 **APPROVED** enclosed minutes from the meeting of the Executive Committee on February 7, 2007.
- 3.2 **RECEIVED** the revised list of dates and locations scheduled for community meetings in Monterey County.

4. **RECEIVED report on 2006 federal legislative activities and 2007 activities to date.** Senior Transportation Planner Watson introduced Paul Schlesinger, the Agency's Washington lobbyist, who participated by speakerphone. Schlesinger reviewed the current status of federal legislation. He explained that the last congress increased defense and homeland security funding, but otherwise kept government at existing levels through continuing resolutions. He discussed the history of the 1992 Prunedale Bypass earmark funds that would have been redesignated for the Prunedale Improvement Project last year but was not when congress failed to pass a transportation appropriations bill. He went on to explain that the 2008–09 budget process was underway and few earmarks are likely, and that, while congressman Farr may submit a request for our projects, it may be a long shot with the California senators due to the size of their constituency. Schlesinger indicated that it would be known if Monterey County projects are included when the House and Senate budget bill mark-ups are out in June. Hale announced that staff was trying to set up a visit with the executive committee and Congressman Farr with April 11 being the likely date, with the time yet to be determined. Counsel Blankenship noted that if there is a quorum of committee members, it must be noticed as a "special meeting". After Schlesinger's call ended, Huerta asked staff to provide information on the congressional budget committee chairs. Rubio moved and Salinas seconded to accept the report. The motion passed 5-0.

5. **REVIEWED Agency Bylaws and PROVIDED direction on policy related issues.** Administrative Services Manager Goel introduced the five policy related items for discussion: Board Stipend, Congestion Management Plan, Alternate Member Roles, Quorum, and Weighted Vote. Hale explained that the stipend issue arises because the Agency presently does not compensate board members and there are varying practices among the member agencies. After discussion, Board members reached a consensus to pursue recommending adoption of a \$50 stipend for TAMC non-salaried members for the monthly board meeting and up to one committee per month. Hale explained that the Congestion Management Program was originally a state requirement for the planning agencies, but that state law had changed to allow transportation planning agencies to opt out. It was committee consensus that the agency should opt out of the program and amend the bylaws to reflect that change. Agency Counsel Blankenship explained that there was inconsistency between sections of the bylaws on the role and authority of board member alternates, specifically that they had the same rights as board members, but also did not have the right to attend closed session meetings. After discussion regarding the need for consistency in representation, the committee agreed to propose allowing board alternates in closed session meetings. Blankenship explained that the bylaw provisions call for a board quorum to consist of at least nine members, of which seven are city members. The question was posed whether or not a quorum should consist of at least one County representative. The committee consensus was to revise the bylaws to require that at least one County representative for a quorum. Hale presented the weighted vote issue noting that under the current bylaws the City of Salinas could conceivably have veto power over Agency Board action if its population expands to exceed 50% of the county population. Hale also pointed out that use of the weighted vote is extremely rare. The committee consensus was for staff to retain the weighted vote but to add language to prohibit a single member agency from blocking an Agency action. Hale mentioned another issue with the bylaws was the formula for apportioning State Transit Assistance Funds. She explained that the STA funding is growing such that the South County cities do not have large enough transit operations to consume the STA funds allotted to them. She noted that language would be proposed to allow usage of some of the STA funds for Caltrain operations. Hale indicated that proposed revisions to the bylaw language would be brought before the Executive Committee in May.

6. **RECEIVED verbal update on state funding.** Executive Director Hale announced that new California Transportation Commissioners Carl Guardino and Jim Earp would like to visit the county for a tour related to Monterey county transportation matters. Staff will facilitate these visits as well as a visit by Assembly Member Caballero.. Hale reported that the California Transportation Commission plans to initiate the Trade Corridor Working Group discussion with a meeting on March 16. Hale indicated that the staff is targeting Hwy 101 as a trade corridor in partnership with San Benito and Santa Clara Counties. Calcagno suggested that the best time for a tour of the area to view the agriculture truck traffic would be in May. He also suggested staff work with Action Pajaro Valley to gain Santa Cruz County support. Rubio moved and Salinas seconded to accept the report. The motion passed 5-0.

7. **RECEIVED report on draft agenda for TAMC Board meeting of March 28, 2007 – Executive Director Hale reviewed the draft agenda.** Hale highlighted the agenda for the planned Study Session. Blankenship discussed how the legal matters would be addressed at the meeting related to the potential sales tax matter. He noted that multiple members of the board could work together on various issues provided the group did not comprise a quorum of the board or any standing committee of the board. Committee members discussed the fact that certain Board members would need to leave earlier than the planned 1:00 pm adjournment time and others would not be present. It was agreed to shorten the study session to 9:30 – 11:30 and address issues over multiple meetings. Rubio suggested that the Goals and Objectives portion be conducted earlier in the year prior to the budget.

Alternate Lee announced that Supervisor Potter's office wished to thank Jeff Morgan for his efforts on coordinating with the County on the Highway 68 projects. She also complimented Christina Watson for her efforts in assisting in the Fillmore-Western rail trip arrangements.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Huerta adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Bachman, P.E., Deputy Executive Director