

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, October 3, 2007

Transportation Agency Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 1st Vice Chair Potter called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Rubio, Salinas, Calcagno, and Alternate Russell for Lutes. Staff present: Hale, Bachman, Goel, Muck, Watson, and Rodriguez. Others present: Alternate Henry Gowin, District 2; John Arriaga, JEA & Associates; Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies, and Ruth Bernstein, EMC, Inc., via telephone.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

On a motion by Board member Simón Salinas, and second by Board alternate Rob Russell, 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 September 5, 2007.

3.2 **APPROVED** out-of-state travel for Kristen Hoschouer, Transportation Planner, to attend the Rail –Volution Conference October 30- November 3, 2007, at an estimated cost of \$2000.

3.3 **RECEIVED** information on the sixth annual Transportation Agency Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

4. **RECEIVED** report on 2007 state legislative activities.

John Arriaga, JEA & Associates, gave an update on the state legislative activities. He reported on the state legislative matrix to show the status of key bills of interest to the Transportation Agency. Mr. Arriaga reported that the transit-oriented development (TOD) Prop 1-C guidelines continue to be looked at. Vice Chair Potter expressed concern that he did not see Monterey County included. He recommended that a letter be sent to Assembly member Laird and Senator Maldonado so that they can weigh in on the issue, and also set up meetings with them. Board member Salinas commented that Fort Ord should be asked to send a support letter, also.

Board member Rubio agreed that we should talk to Michael Houlemard, FORA's Executive Officer, and coordinate a meeting on the issue. Executive Director Hale agreed to coordinate with the County to send letters to our legislators and to ask FORA to send a support letter to the Housing and Community Development representative.

5. DISCUSSED issues for the draft 2008 Legislative Program.

Christina Watson, Senior Transportation Planner, reported that the purpose of the legislative program is to set general principles to guide staff and Board responses to proposed state and federal legislative or budgetary issues. The program also notifies state and federal representatives of the Transportation Agency's position on issues of key importance to the agency. Ms. Watson discussed the potential draft 2008 legislative state issues. The Committee asked that the double fine zone be added to the state issues list. 1st Vice Chair Potter asked that rail funding. Ms. Watson replied that it would be included in the state list and was also included in the federal issues list.

Board member Rubio noted that working to obtain good movements corridor funding should be included on the list. Ms. Watson stated that staff would be working with FORA, Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) and County on legislative issues and suggested including an item regarding the restoration of state transit funding. Mr. Rubio asked if monitoring the status of Blueprint (land use transportation planning requirements) was included. Mr. Muck replied that it was included.

1st Vice Chair Potter asked if the program included seeking funds from Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail via State Prop 84 (park bond). Ms. Watson agreed and noted that it should also be part of the federal issues, under appropriations funds for priority projects. Supervisor Potter also commented on the need to coordinate with the Coastal Commission and the County on the Salinas Road interchange project to achieve on-time delivery. Board member Rubio commented on the need to continue working on close relationships with the California Transportation Commission.

Ms. Watson reported that a draft program will be on the November 2007 committee agenda for discussion and will go to the Board of Directors in December for release to committees in January for review and comment. During the draft stage, staff will get input from other agencies locally and statewide. A final program will return to this Committee and the Board for approval in January.

6. **RECEIVED** update on Investment Plan/Fee Program.

Deputy Director Don Bachman gave an update on the regional impact fees and sales tax investment plan findings from the Board at the September Board meeting, and follow-up required. Mr. Bachman reported that the Transportation Agency Board agreed to go forward with the impact fee implementation. The use of a zone system and the 12-projects on the list are appropriate. The affordable housing should be pursued through alternative approaches to fee discounts. Staff is still working with South County on issues and with Caltrans on the Highway 156 project. He asked for resolution and direction from the Committee regarding the Highway 68 issues, and the East side bypass plan line. The proposal is to include funding of the plan line study in the investment program.

Deputy Director Hale commented on the letter received from the Monterey County Hospitality Association regarding their concern with the current direction of the Agency's planning and outreach efforts in developing a project list and transportation self-help funding ballot measure. She also commented on the letter from the Monterey County Farm Bureau regarding non-support of sales tax ballot measure because of their many concerns that the tax proposal and associated project list should clearly meet the needs of the agriculture and hospitality industries. Ms. Hale noted that staff would be meeting with them to address their concerns. Board member Calcagno replied that we need to resolve the agriculture and hospitality concerns quickly. He noted that we need to resolve the developer fee issues with the south county cities.

The Committee expressed many concerns regarding the Highway 68 widening (to a 4-lane) project. 1st Vice Chair Potter supports the Highway 68 improvements with modifications. In conclusion, Supervisor Potter recommended a meeting be scheduled with Supervisor Calcagno, Ron Lundquist, Jim Cook, Transportation Agency staff and himself to further discuss Highway 68 bypass alternatives.

Executive Director Hale reported that the goal of Land Watch's proposal is dedication of a sales tax for projects that address safety, existing roadway conditions, public transit, bikeways and pedestrian facilities, and smart-growth projects. Ms. Hale noted at the time the Land Watch proposal was submitted, they did not know that the Prunedale Improvement Project was already fully funded. In conclusion, Ms. Hale noted that staff needs to do some number juggling, meet with Land Watch, and the agriculture and hospitality industries to talk about the issues.

7. **RECOMMENDED** that the Transportation Agency for Monterey County **APPOINT** Ralph Rubio and Fernando Armenta as the Nominating Committee to meet and return to Board of Directors on December 5, 2007 with recommendations for Board Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, and Executive Committee to serve one-year terms beginning upon their election through the next election of officers at the close of the December 3, 2008 Board meeting.
8. **RECEIVED** report on draft agenda for TAMC Board meeting of October 24, 2007.

The Committee received a copy of the draft agenda for TAMC Board meeting of October 24, 2007.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** 1st Vice Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant