

FINAL MINUTES

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Members are: Dave Potter. (Chair),
Frank Sollecito (1st Vice Chair), Lou Calcagno (2nd Vice Chair),
John P. Huerta, Jr (Past Chair),
Simón Salinas (County representative), Steve Villegas (City representative)*

Monday, February 11, 2008

3:30 p.m.

Transportation Agency Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Potter called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. Board members present: Calcagno, Salinas, Sollecito, Villegas. Staff present: Hale, Bachman, Goel, Hoschouer, Muck, Watson, Rodriguez and Agency Counsel Blankenship. Others present: Rob Russell, City of Salinas; Vanessa Vallarta, City of Salinas Attorney; and John Fair, Salinas Chamber of Commerce. Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies, attended via teleconference.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

On a motion by Board member Simón Salinas, and second by Vice Chair Sollecito, 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 January 9, 2008.
- 3.2 **RECEIVED** state legislative update.
- 3.3 **APPROVED** out-of-state travel: a) for one Agency representative to attend the 2008 American Planning Association national conference, and b) for the Executive Director to attend an American Public Works Association meeting at the cost of that agency.
- 3.4 **APPROVED** adding a new job classification of Accounting Clerk to the administrative staff series of job titles.
- 3.5 **RECEIVED** “sustained superior performance” increase for Alfredo Martinez, from \$14 to \$15 per hour, effective November 5, 2007.

4.

CLOSED SESSION:

The Committee held a closed session on: Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section §54957 – Position: Executive Director, and **RECONVENED** in open session: TAMC Counsel Blankenship reported that the Executive Committee directed Chair Potter and Counsel Blankenship to meet with Debbie Hale.

5. **RECEIVED** update on status of fee program/sales tax plan, including and discussed February Agency Board of Directors workshop.

Executive Director Debbie Hale reported that Agency staff has been presenting the sales tax and fee program to local cities and outreach groups. She noted that the Board workshop would be postponed from February.

Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies, reported that the Agency has had very good press on its public open houses. The media has been very supportive and positive. She asked that the Board members send the message and ensure the public that we are moving forward this year with the sales tax measure. She noted that Santa Cruz has pulled their tax increase from the ballot. This is a benefit to Monterey County given that Monterey County shares their media market and they were likely to have opposition.

Board member Salinas noted his concern on the split vote by the Board regarding the sales tax and fee program linkage. Ms. Hale noted that there was some confusion on the issue and staff would be working with the City of Salinas to address their concerns yet remain within the Board direction.

Executive Director Debbie Hale presented a letter addressed to Board Chair Dave Potter from Luis Alveraz, Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce President, regarding support for the Agency's two proposed transportation-funding sources, the sales tax and fee program. The letter noted the Chamber support can only be offered if implementations of the sales tax and fee program are linked together (i.e. the fees do not take effect unless and until the sales tax is adopted). John Fair, Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce, reported that the Chamber is firm that the fee and sales tax must be tied together.

Vice Chair Sollecito noted that it is important to have the fee funding even without the sales tax monies. Chair Dave Potter reported that fees are helpful and that projects in the 5th District have progressed with the help of partial funding from fees. Executive Director Hale noted about 60% of the funding for the safety and congestion relief projects in the investment plan can be constructed with just development fees and state/federal matching funds; some of the projects can be fully constructed and others can be partially constructed.

Vanessa Vallarta, City of Salinas Attorney, reported that the City of Salinas wants to stand shoulder to shoulder and get the sales tax and fee program approved, but the City wants the linkage of the sales tax and fee program, and the weighted vote on amendments to the investment plan changes.

2nd Vice Chair Calcagno reported that on behalf of Supervisor Armenta, he would like to address this issue and vote again at the next Board meeting. Executive Director Hale replied and Chair Potter agreed that the issue should be brought back for a vote in February, as part of the approval of the fee program legal documents.

Executive Director Hale noted that a staff level meeting has been scheduled with the City of Salinas on February 25th to resolve the outstanding issues and staff would attempt to advance that meeting date. In conclusion, Chair Potter directed staff to schedule a special Executive Committee meeting prior to the next Board meeting to try to come up with language that all jurisdictions can accept.

6. REVIEWED and COMMENTED on public outreach materials.

Executive Director Hale reported that the Transportation Agency 2007 annual report, which addresses Agency accomplishments for 2007 and goals for 2008, would be mailed to residents and businesses throughout the County during the month of March. She also noted that a new Transportation Agency informational video will be shown on public access television and on the Agency website as part of the outreach efforts to raise awareness about transportation. The video will be used to educate the public on who the Transportation Agency, how the agency is contributing to the community, the transportation funding needs for Monterey County and how local monies are needed to solve the funding shortfall.

Chair Potter reported that he looked over the Annual Report and did not find any inaccuracies. He noted that the picture of the bike wheel was not clear and also noted that Boronda Road was spelled incorrectly.

The Committee viewed a portion of the video noted that there are too many Peninsula ocean views and recommended adding footage in the video of the Salinas Valley, including wineries and produce trucks loading at local companies.

7. RECOMMENDED that the Board **AUTHORIZE** Executive Director Hale to submit the draft fiscal year 2008/09 Work Program to Federal and State funding agencies for initial review.

The Committee recommended that Executive Director Hale submit the Draft Work Program for fiscal year 2008/09. This is necessary to meet deadlines of Federal and State funding agencies to review the Transportation Agency for Monterey County work plan. The Work Program describes the activities that the Agency will undertake during the next fiscal year, and provides the basis for the 2008/09 Agency budget.

Deputy Executive Director Bachman noted that the 2008-09 Work Program and budget do include implementation of the new Regional Development Impact Fee, which is proposed for adoption independent of the Sales Tax Investment Plan.

Chair Potter asked that staff remove the goals and objectives from the work program. Director Bachman noted that the goals and objectives were for reference only and he would be happy to remove the language from the work program.

8. On a motion by Board member Simón Salinas, and second by Board member Villegas, the committee voted 5 – 0 to **RECOMMEND** that the Board authorize the Executive Director to submit enclosed draft fiscal year 08/09 budget to federal and state funding agencies for initial review; and **RECOMMEND** that the Board provide direction and guidance to staff on the three-year budget for fiscal years 08/09 through 10/11, and **DIRECT** Executive Director to bring the final three-year budget back to the Board on May 28, 2008 for approval.

Rita Goel, Administrative Services Manager, presented the three-year Budget (FY 08/09 – FY 10/11). She reported that authorization to submit the draft budget for fiscal year 08/09 is necessary to meet deadlines of federal and state funding agencies to review the Agency budget for fiscal year 08/09; and noted that it does not include potential new revenue from the November 2008 sales tax measure, should it pass, since dollars will not flow until fiscal year 2009-2010.

Chair Potter noted that this was a good report.

9. **RECEIVED** report and a copy of the draft agenda for TAMC Board meeting of February 27, 2008. – Executive Director Hale reviewed the draft agenda.
10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Potter adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant