

**FINAL MINUTES**

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

*Members are: Frank Sollecito. (Chair),  
Lou Calcagno (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair), Steve Villegas (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair),  
Dave Potter (Past Chair), Simón Salinas (County representative),  
Sue Kleber (City representative)*

**Wednesday, January 7, 2009**

**\*\*\*9:00 a.m.\*\*\***

Transportation Agency Conference Room  
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chairman Calcagno called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Board members present: Alternate Lee for Potter, Calcagno, Kleber, Salinas, alternate Reichmuth for Sollecito and Villegas. Staff present: Bachman, Cook, Goel, Hale, Hoschouer, Muck, Rodriguez, Watson and Agency Counsel Blankenship. Others present: City of Soledad's Mayor Ortiz and Public Works Director, Clif Price; Carl Sedoryk, General Manager of Monterey-Salinas Transit; and Henry Gowin, alternate for District 2.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Board member Salinas and second by Board member Villegas the committee voted 6 – 0 to approve the consent items as follows:

3.1 **APPROVED** minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of November 5, 2008.

**ABSTAINED:** Board member Kleber abstained, because she was not present at the November 5, 2008 meeting.

3.2 **APPROVED** a reclassification of the Administrative Services Manager position to Director of Finance and Administration, with a salary range adjustment to be determined based on a survey to be conducted in the next fiscal year.

3.3 **APPROVED** recommendations for the seventh annual Transportation Excellence Awards. Alternate Reichmuth pulled this item for discussion. Alternate Reichmuth asked staff for clarification on "Excellence Awards" versus "Honorable mention." He noted that in the past all nominations were worthy of an Excellence award. Kristen Hoschouer, Transportation Planner, replied that we had implemented Honorable Mentions in the program last year due to the volume of nominations. Executive Director Hale indicated that

selection criteria for awards and a selection committee composed of a subset of Executive Committee members could be included in next year' process.

#### **END OF CONSENT**

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#### **4. Three-Year Budget (FY09/10 – FY 11/12)**

On a motion by Board member Kleber and second by Board member Villegas the committee voted 6 – 0 to approve the following:

- 1. PROVIDED** direction and guidance to staff on the three-year operating budget for fiscal years 09/10, 10/11, and 11/12; and
- 2. APPROVED** alternative transportation benefits and **DEFERRED** bereavement leave, and accelerated merit increases to May 2009.

Rita Goel, Administrative Services Manager, presented the draft Agency budget for the 3-year period from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012. She noted that the Agency continues to control expenditures to stay within budget, and currently have a 9-month cash reserve.

Vice Chairman Calcagno reported that this is not the time to grant salary raises or merits, noting that the business world is not healthy. Board alternate Reichmuth complimented staff on obtaining a 9-month cash reserve and noted that he supports merit increase. He also noted that a 0% COLA sends a very strong message. Board members Salinas and Villegas concurred with alternate Reichmuth, but noted that staff should take a look at the economy and revisit the request for bereavement leave, and accelerated merit increases in May 2009.

- 5.** On a motion by Board member Salinas and second by Board alternate Lee the committee voted 6 – 0 to approve the **RECOMMENDATION** that the Board of Directors approve a revision to the Agency's administrative policies regarding State Transit Assistance funding and approved allocations for Fiscal Year 2008-09.

Don Bachman, Deputy Executive Director, reported that the Board of Directors adopted revisions to the Agency's administrative policies in February 2008 to eliminate substantial and ongoing unallocated carryover State Transit Assistance balances and award these funds to County transit operators competitively. Mr. Muck indicated that a substantial portion of the unused funds had been identified for Soledad under the old policy. He noted that the City of Soledad is requesting that the Agency allocate a total of \$380,000 to purchase a replacement hybrid-powered minibus as a back-up vehicle for its dial-a-ride service (\$200,000), an automated bus washer (\$100,000), and a permanent vehicle shelter (\$80,000).

Monterey-Salinas Transit has requested that all available State Transit Assistance be allocated to backfill lost operating funds for its RIDES paratransit service, which

is a federal Americans with Disabilities Act mandate. MST does not have sufficient operating funding to cover these costs given the state budget cuts. This program is eligible to use State Transit Assistance to cover operating expenses. Mr. Bachman reported that Staff met with the City of Soledad staff in December to discuss its request and is recommending that the Board allocate remaining State Transit Assistance funding to operate the MST RIDES service through June of 2009. Staff is recommending that the City of Soledad's capital needs be funded through the Proposition 1b transit bond program and is recommending that up to \$100,000 be approved for the City's bus replacement in the current year which represents the estimated cost of a hybrid vehicle should it be included on the state procurement contract. At the City's request, the Agency will reserve State Transit Assistance funds until bond funds are received by the City.

City of Soledad Mayor Ortiz expressed concern with the removal of the carry over funds, noting that the city has a need. He noted that the city manager had not informed council of the planned policy change. He further noted that staying with the "green theme" and reducing emissions, the city would like to purchase a hybrid bus. Mr. Ortiz requested that the decision be left up to the full Board for consideration. Carl Sedoryk, General Manager of MST, noted that the agency that previously funded trips for kidney dialysis had ceased contributions to transportation. MST Dial-a-Ride has picked up those additional customers without additional funding.

Deputy Executive Director Bachman reported that the item would be heard at the January TAMC Board meeting on the regular agenda. There was also consensus that a loan of RSTP funds to MST to reduce replacement bus debt was acceptable.

**6. DISCUSSED** Strategic Planning for priority road and transit projects, and **DISCUSSED** 2009 TAMC Board visioning session.

Executive Director Debbie Hale reported on strategic planning for priority road and transit projects, noting that we need to keep our projects in the pipeline moving forward. She reported that one of the County's greatest needs is the Highway 101/San Juan interchange and second is the Holman Highway 68 project. Ms. Hale also reported that the Prunedale Improvement Project remains the County's top priority project, noting the project is dependent on a lot of state funds. She also noted that we need to lobby and make sure this project stays on the table. Ms. Hale reported that Monterey-Salinas Transit continues to have bus issues and funding shortfall. She indicated that these will be discussed at the March TAMC workshop session. Board alternate Reichmuth noted that the local agencies use RSTP funds for local needs, and redirecting them to regional projects would be a hardship.

7. **APPROVED** revised legislative program.

On a motion by Board member Salinas and second by Board alternate Lee the committee voted 6 – 0 to approve the revised legislative program with the change under Federal Issues, 1F.4. to read “State Route 156 improvements”, removing “safety and access” and “environmental review”.

8. **APPROVED** rescheduling of the April 2009 board date to April 29, 2009.

On a motion by Board member Salinas and second by Board alternate Lee the committee voted 6 – 0 to approve rescheduling of the April 2009 Board date to April 29, 2009.

9. **RECEIVED** report on draft agenda for TAMC Board meeting of January 28, 2009.

Executive Director Hale reviewed the draft agenda. She noted that the Board would be asked to approve the revised administrative policies regarding State Transit Assistance funding and State Transit Assistance and Prop. 1B bond allocations for Fiscal Year 2008-09. Ms. Hale reported that David Silberberger of Caltrans would provide an updated and draft environmental document for the US 101 San Juan Road project. She noted that a public hearing would be held on February 5, 2009 at the Aromas High School. In conclusion, Ms. Hale noted that the Board would take a group photo.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Vice Chairman Calcagno adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant