

FINAL MINUTES

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

*Members are: Lou Calcagno. (Chair),
Steve Villegas (1st Vice Chair), Simón Salinas (2nd Vice Chair),
Frank Sollecito (Past Chair), Jane Parker (County representative),
Maria Orozco (City representative)*

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

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

Transportation Agency Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chair Villegas called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Board members present: Orozco, Parker, Salinas, Sollecito, Villegas and alternate Gowin for Calcagno. Staff present: Chen, Cook, Goel, Hale, Rodriguez, and Watson. Others present: Yaz Emrani, Monterey County Public Works.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Board member Parker and second by Board member Salinas the committee voted 6 – 0 to approve consent item 3.1 – 3.2 as follows:

- 3.1 **APPROVED** enclosed minutes from the Executive Committee meeting of March 3, 2010. – Rodriguez
Board alternate Gowin abstained from approval of the minutes.
- 3.2 **RECEIVED** report on update of the Agency's Cafeteria Plan.

END OF CONSENT

4. On a motion by Board member Salinas and second by Board member Sollecito, the Committee voted 6 – 0 as follows:

RECOMMENDED that the Board **APPROVE** Resolution 2010-06 adopting the fiscal year 10/11 budget and work program and estimated budgets for fiscal year 11/12 and 12/13.

Rita Goel, Director of Finance & Administration, presented the Three-Year Budget (FY10/11 – FY12/13). She reported that there were a few changes to the budget since the Board approved the draft in February. She noted the Agency budget separates expenditures into two types: operating and direct program. Operating expenditures include staff salaries and benefits, materials and supplies, and equipment purchases. Direct program expenditures include outside consultants, contracts, expenditures that apply to specific work program tasks such as rail program, highway projects, bicycle and pedestrian program etc. She highlighted the following new revenue changes to the budget: Caltrans for Prunedale Improvement Project Outreach Coordination added by \$64,274; Rideshare activities added by \$21,425; Airport Land Use Commission added by \$35,235 and 511 Planning grant by \$58,001.

Director Goel reported that the biggest risk to the agency is a reduction in federal and state planning funds for an extended period of time. Staff will keep the Board advised of any developments related to transportation funding and should major revenue reductions occur, will return with potential cost cuts in both operating and direct programs.

Executive Director Hale gave an update on the work program. She noted that the final work program contains minor changes as a result of comments by the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans. She provided details on the Prunedale Improvement Project Outreach Coordination, Rideshare activities and Airport Land Use Commission. She also noted that staff recommends a 25% reduction for legislative advocacy services for fiscal year 2010/11. Board member Salinas noted that the 25% reduction makes sense. Board members Orozco and Sollecito concurred.

5. On a motion by Board member Salinas and second by Board member Parker, the committee voted 5 – 0 as follows:

RECEIVED information on the AB2766 Motor Vehicle Emission Reduction Grant Program, and **RECOMMENDED** the Agency Board approve grant applications for a Bicycle Sharing Feasibility and Implementation Study and a tri-county Bike Week campaign, and authorize the Executive Director to sign letters of support for member agencies' grant proposals.

Kaki Chen, Transportation Planner, reported that the AB2766 Motor Vehicle Emission Reduction Grant program, administered by the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, provides funding for projects that can ultimately result in the reduction of motor vehicle emissions. If awarded, the grants would fund a Bicycle Sharing Feasibility and Implementation Plan, outlining the steps to deploy a bicycle sharing program if found feasible, and a two-year tri-county bike week campaign. She noted that the revenue source for the grant program comes from a \$4.00 per vehicle registration fee surcharge collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The maximum grant amount is \$200,000. Staff is seeking \$100,000 for the two projects (\$70,000 for the Bicycle Sharing Feasibility and Implementation Study and \$30,000 for the tri-county bike week campaign, respectively).

6. FISCAL YEAR 2010-11 UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS FINDING:

REVIEWED and **COMMENTED** on fiscal year 2010-11 unmet transit need finding.

Andy Cook, Associate Transportation Planner, reported that State law requires the Transportation Agency to make a finding on unmet transit needs prior to allocating Local Transportation Funds to any jurisdiction for streets and roads projects or other eligible purposes. He noted that Caltrans has informed the Agency that it must fund any reasonable unmet transit need before allocating funds to streets and roads projects, regardless of whether or not the need is identified in an existing service area where Local Transportation Funds are already allocated to public transit. The Caltrans interpretation could significantly reduce the funding allocated to the County for streets and roads projects in future years. Mr. Cook reported that if the Caltrans interpretation, if confirmed, expands the scope of the Agency's unmet transit needs analysis for Fiscal Year 2010-11 to include the following services: MST Line 20: 15-minute service during weekday peak periods and 30-minute Sunday service between Salinas and Monterey via Marina as recommended in MST service studies; MST Line 24: extension to Cachagua (need could possibly be met through vanpools) and MST Line 25: proposed service between Marina and Salinas via CSUMB as recommended in MST Marina area service study. Mr. Cook reported that the Transportation Development Act does not allow the Agency to weigh the need for transit against the need for streets and roads.

Mr. Cook reported on behalf of Carl Sedoryk that MST is looking at a significant budget shortfall in Fiscal Year 2010-11 regardless of the outcome of the unmet transit needs process. MST is currently considering cuts to Saturday evening service among other measures, which could save approximately \$500,000 in costs next year, which is an emerging emergency unmet transit need.

Board member Salinas expressed concerns on the interpretation from Caltrans. He noted that this is taking away our funds for local roads. Board member Parker noted that, although the interpretation is a shock to the system, the Local Transportation Funds are intended for transit.

Monterey County Public Works Director Emrani also expressed concern regarding the interpretation from Caltrans, which would have a huge impact on the County, coming at a time when the county has potentially balanced its budget. The unmet needs finding being considered will require staff layoffs and require the County to reprogram all priorities. Board alternate Gowin noted that it isn't right to change the rules in the middle of the process and that staff should wait until next year.

Director Hale noted that staff would seek the Caltrans interpretation in writing.

7. RECEIVED report on draft agenda for TAMC Board meeting of May 26, 2010.

Executive Director Hale reviewed the May draft agenda. Ms. Hale reported that there are two big items on the agenda, the approval of Resolution 2010-06 adopting the fiscal year 10/11 budget /work program and the Unmet Transit Needs finding for fiscal year 2010-11. She announced that the Board would be holding a public hearing on the Draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan and may hold a closed session regarding the real estate negotiations concerning the acquisition of one property for the Salinas train station depending on the response from the property owner. Ms. Hale noted that the Taxi Study also might be agendized. Per TAMC Board legal counsel Blankenship the Board would be asked to adopt an "oppose" position on Senate Bill 972, Indemnity, design professionals. Also on the agenda for Board approval the grant applications for a Bicycle Sharing Feasibility and Implementation Study. In conclusion, Ms. Hale noted that the Board would receive information on the AB2766 Motor Vehicle Emission Reduction Grant Program.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Villegas adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant