

FINAL MINUTES

**TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY
SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAYS EMERGENCIES AND MONTEREY
COUNTY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE
JOINT POWERS AGENCY**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

*Members are: Maria Orozco (Chair),
Simón Salinas (1st Vice Chair), Jerry Edelen (2nd Vice Chair),
Lou Calcagno (Past Chair), Jane Parker (County representative),
Kimbley Craig (City representative)*

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

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

Transportation Agency Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Orozco called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present: Edelen, Orozco, Salinas and alternates Gowin for Calcagno, Markey for Parker and Russell for Craig. Staff present: Bachman, Goel, Hale, Rodriguez and Watson. Others present: Agency Counsel Blankenship and Ruth Bernstein, EMC Research.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Board member Salinas and second by Board member Edelen 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 September 7, 2011. With correction noted; to remove the word “alternate” before “Boardmember Salinas” on the action item for approval of the minutes.

3.2 **RECEIVED** the call for nominations for the tenth annual Transportation Agency Excellence awards to honor individuals, businesses, groups or projects for their efforts to improve the transportation system in Monterey County.

END OF CONSENT

- 4.1** **CLOSED SESSION:** Pursuant to Government Code section §54957, performance evaluation for the Executive Director.

RECONVENE: Agency Counsel Blankenship reported that the Committee met in closed session pursuant to Government Code section §54957 and received information from counsel.

- 4.2** **PROVIDED** direction on programming strategies for the 2012 State Transportation Improvement Program.

Debbie Hale, Executive Director, reported this is an exciting time for the State program, noting we are very well poised to go after it. The Transportation Agency's target for 2012 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding is \$46.86 million. The Agency will need to request more than our target amount to fully fund all of the Agency's priority projects. She noted the proposed project list could be programmed if the California Transportation Commission agrees to advance \$4.77 million to Monterey County.

Director Hale asked the Committee for input on tolling. The Committee agreed to use up to \$10,000 to prepare a study report on tolls. She noted that she will be meeting with Tony Harris, Planning Company Associates, and Caltrans to discuss the toll implementation and study report. Committee alternate Markey expressed concern that collecting payments from drivers may cause a stall in traffic. Deputy Director Bachman noted that there is technology so that toll booths aren't needed. Committee member Edelen commented that it is nice that nonresidents would be paying tolls. Ms. Hale said she will provide an update as soon as information becomes available.

Director Hale highlighted the proposed projects for the 2012 STIP cycle. She reported the amount of Trade Corridor Improvement Funds available for the US 101/San Juan Road Interchange Project has decreased from \$28 million to around \$16 million. This \$12 million shortfall needs to be made up to keep the project fully funded. The California Transportation Commission will have to give the project special consideration to allow \$12 million RIP funds to be programmed in the 2012/13 year of the 2012 STIP in order to meet TCIF bond program deadlines. Overall state-wide the CTC will need to move out \$100 million worth of projects currently programmed in FY 2012/13 to meet the declining revenue estimated in the 2012 STIP Fund Estimate. The State Route 156 Widening project is ready to proceed into the Right-of-Way and Plans, Specifications & Engineering phases of the project. Caltrans estimates these phases will cost \$26.5 million and \$6 million, respectively. Five million dollars is included on the spreadsheet to conduct environmental and preliminary engineering work for the US 101 South County Frontage Road project. The project's Project Study Report estimates the total cost of this phase will be \$8.6 million dollars. Local funding will have to be contributed to this project to fully fund this phase in order to meet STIP programming guidelines.

The Monterey Branch Line Rail project has \$10.256 million programmed for Plans, Specifications & Engineering in this current fiscal year. This project is not ready to request a funding allocation for this phase. Staff is recommending these funds be shifted to the construction phase of the Commuter Rail project.

Committee member Salinas expressed concerns regarding the Davis Road bike lanes: He noted that the farmers are concerned with the large equipment. Director Hale noted that before this goes to the Board, staff will meet with County staff, Supervisor Calcagno's office and agricultural representatives to reach agreement on this project (whether and how to proceed).

In conclusion, Director Hale noted the Transportation Agency staff will draft the 2012 Regional Transportation Improvement Program for Board adoption at its December 7, 2012 meeting. The California Transportation Commission is scheduled to adopt the 2012 State Transportation Improvement Program on March 28, 2012.

5. **RECEIVED** information about vehicle registration fees and **PROVIDED** direction to staff on a possible Monterey County measure.

Ruth Bernstein of EMC Research presented on a state law that allows countywide transportation planning agencies to levy a \$10 per registered vehicle fee for transportation related programs and projects that have a relationship or benefit to the persons who pay the fee, subject to approval of two-thirds of the voters. Ms. Bernstein noted that Senate Bill 83 (Hancock), signed into law in 2009, authorizes a countywide transportation agency to implement a vehicle registration fee (VRF) of up to \$10 on motor vehicles registered within the county for transportation programs and projects. She gave an overview of 2010 San Francisco Bay Area VRF measures. Measures in 2010 required a majority vote. Due to Proposition 26 the assumption is that a VRF must now be approved by two thirds of voters in the county. She noted that the governing board of the agency must adopt an expenditure plan that details the programs and projects that would result from the VRF. She advised that if the Board decides to move forward with a VRF measure in 2012, that staff identify the key projects and develop an expenditure plan, work to build consensus around possible expenditure plan, possibly use successes in other counties as examples. In conclusion, Ms. Bernstein advised we wait to see if Santa Cruz moves forward on this measure, and wait for their poll results.

Committee member Edelen stated that he doesn't think we can reach the two-thirds vote necessary to pass the measure. Alternate Gowin noted that the public wants to know where their money is being spent. Alternate Markey concurred with both Boardmember Edelen and alternate Gowin, noting she thinks we should wait until spring to move forward, maybe there will be a shift in mood.

6. RECEIVED report on draft agenda for TAMC Board meeting of October 26, 2011.

Executive Director Hale reviewed the October 26, 2011 draft agenda. She noted that staff will present Assembly member Luis Alejo a certificate of appreciation for his great job working on SB436. She noted that Todd Muck would be giving an update on the State Transportation Improvement Program funding allocations and Andy Cook would be giving an update on the Taxi Authority. The Board will receive a report on the Joint Executive Committee meeting from Chair Orozco and herself. She highlighted the consent agenda, noting that the Board would be asked to approve the final 2011 Transportation Agency Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. In conclusion, Director Hale noted that the Board would receive information on the TIGER III grant application for the US 101 San Juan Road project and to approve support letters for TIGER III grant applications from the City of Salinas for the US 101 widening project and from the City of Marina for the Marina-Salinas Multimodal Corridor project.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Orozco adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elouise Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant