

**SAN BENITO COUNTY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGULAR MEETING**

January 19, 2012, 2:00 P.M.

FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair De La Cruz, Director Boch, Director Botelho, Vice-Chair Emerson, and Director Gomez

STAFF PRESENT:

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy; Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer; Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Gilbert; Secretary, Monica Gomez

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brandy Rider, Mark McCumsey, Caltrans District 5

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair De La Cruz called the meeting to order at 2:01 P.M.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Upon a motion duly made by Director Emerson, and seconded by Director Boch, the Directors unanimously approved the Certificate of Posting.

Chair De La Cruz moved Item D and Item E up on the Agenda.

D. ELECT COG Chairperson for 2012

Upon a motion duly made by Director Gomez, and seconded by Director Botelho, the Directors elected Doug Emerson as COG's Chairperson for 2012.

E. ELECT COG Vice Chairperson for 2012

Upon a motion duly made by Director Gomez, and seconded by Chair Emerson, the Directors elected Anthony Botelho as COG's Vice Chairperson for 2012.

C. PRESENT Certificate of Recognition to Outgoing COG Chairperson, San Benito County Supervisor Jaime De La Cruz

Chair Emerson thanked fellow Board members for his appointment and noted that he looks forward to working on COG again this year.

Chair Emerson presented Certificates of Recognition to the last three outgoing COG Chairpersons for their continued commitment to improving transportation for all of San Benito County residents: 2011 Chair, Jaime De La Cruz; 2010 Chair, Victor Gomez; and 2009 Chair, Anthony Botelho.

F. Committee Appointments

1. Associate Member to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) and an Alternate

Chair Emerson appointed Tony Boch as Associate Member to AMBAG for 2012. Chair Emerson appointed Victor Gomez as the Alternate Member to AMBAG for 2012.

2. Delegate and Alternate to the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG)

Chair Emerson appointed himself as Associate Member to CALCOG for 2012.

3. One Member to the SR 152 Mobility Partnership

Chair Emerson appointed Robert Rivas to the Ad-Hoc South Santa Clara County/San Benito County Mobility Partnership for 2012.

4. Representative to Speak on Behalf of COG at California Transportation Commission Meetings

Chair Emerson appointed Victor Gomez to speak on behalf of COG at California Transportation Commission Meetings for 2012.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Chair Emerson stated for the record that the COG Board received Joe Thompson's public comment correspondence dated December 16, 2011 through January 10, 2012. The correspondence was entered into the public record.

H. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Rheinheimer

Executive Director Lisa Rheinheimer congratulated Chairman Emerson and Vice-Chairman Botelho on their appointments.

Ms. Rheinheimer reminded everyone that the Council of Governments will hold two Unmet Transit Needs hearings on:

February 15, 2012
1:00 p.m.
Senior Center
300 West Street
Hollister, CA

February 16, 2012
2:00 p.m.
Board of Supervisor Chambers
481 4th Street
Hollister, CA

Ms. Rheinheimer provided an update on the Draft Hollister Municipal Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. Staff received many comments from the public and is preparing responses as quickly as possible however, staff requires more time to complete responses. A proposed Addendum to the Draft Plan with responses to comments is anticipated to be made available to the public on February 1, 2012. The Airport Land Use Commission is scheduled to take action on the Draft Plan at their February 16, 2012 meeting at 2:30 p.m.

I. CALTRANS DISTRICT 5 REPORT – Krumholz

Brandy Rider reported on behalf of Director Krumholz.

Ms. Rider announced that there is about \$45 million available statewide in the State Safe Routes to School Program. The deadline for grant applications is March 30, 2012. The Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants cycle has also opened up. Caltrans will be hosting a workshop February 10, 2012 from 10am-12pm at the Monterey Conference Center. Caltrans will also be hosting another workshop on the New Freedom and Jobs Access Reverse Commute Programs, January 25, 2012 at the Caltrans San Luis Obispo office.

J. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS:

Director De La Cruz inquired if it is possible to apply for the Safe Routes to School Grant for the Calaveras School location at Buena Vista Road because it is becoming more of a safety concern with increasing traffic in the area.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff will look into the possibility of applying for the grant and will contact Director De La Cruz to discuss specific locations in that area.

Chair Emerson inquired about the painting of the center stripes that was done on Highway 25 between Ridgemark and Tres Pinos Road because the striping was poorly done.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff has an inquiry request into Caltrans and is waiting to hear back from them.

Director Gomez inquired about who is responsible for the maintenance of weeds at the intersection of Tres Pinos Road/ Sunnyslope Road and Highway 25, because the issue has been brought up by constituents at City meetings.

Ms. Gilbert stated that there is a maintenance agreement between the City and the County. COG still owns most of the strip near Heritage Plaza. Staff will contact County Public Works to put in a maintenance request.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Draft Meeting Minutes Dated December 15, 2011 – Gomez
2. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Transaction Report (Financial Claims) Dated December 2011 – Postigo
3. **RECEIVE** Construction Projects Report – Caltrans District 5
4. **APPOINT** Mike Dean to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Member - Lezama
5. **ADOPT** Resolution 12-01 Authorizing the Executive Director to Apply for and Accept Federal Transit Act Section 5311 Funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2012 – Lezama

Upon a motion duly made by Director Gomez, and seconded by Director Boch,, the Directors unanimously approved Items 1-5, from the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS:

6. **RECEIVE** Report on Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Efforts to Create a New Caltrans District – The Innovation District – Rheinheimer

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is working on an effort to create a new Caltrans district – the Innovation District (iDistrict) to be located in San Jose. The iDistrict is envisioned to be an incubator for a new way of delivering transportation projects, ahead of time and under budget, with innovation as a key strategy for making this happen.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that COG staff has been following this effort due to the proximity of Santa Clara County and the inter-county commute patterns that exist between the regions. Ms. Rheinheimer asked the Board if they would like San Benito County to be more actively involved in this effort.

Director Botelho and Chair Emerson concurred that this sounds like a good idea for San Benito County to be a part of this joint venture and for staff to continue to monitor.

Director Botelho inquired if elected officials have already stated their position on moving forward with this effort or if it's still in the preliminary stage.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that the Transportation Agency for Monterey County and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission have discussed this notion, however she was not aware of what the feedback has been. Ms. Rheinheimer noted that more work has to be done at the state level in order to determine if this would move forward or not.

There was not public comment on this item.

7. DISCUSS Ideas for Transportation Planning Grants Available through the Department of Transportation – Gilbert

Ms. Gilbert reported that COG staff is proposing three grant applications for a total of \$700,000 for the following projects: Tres Pinos Road and McCray Street Corridors Complete Streets Improvements Study; San Juan Bautista Access Improvements Planning; and the Short Range & Long Range Transit Plan. The local cash match would be \$22,500, with the other match requirements being met with in-kind contributions.

Director Gomez inquired if staff would be incorporating the area around Rancho Drive and Nash Road in the Complete Streets Improvements Study, since it is also an area of concern with a lot of pedestrian traffic from the High School and Rancho San Justo School.

Ms. Gilbert stated that staff had not ventured out as far as Nash Road and Rancho Drive intersection, but they would definitely take a look at that intersection.

With regard to the San Juan Bautista Access Improvements Planning project, Director Botelho inquired if the local cash match portion of the funds would be split between the City of San Juan Bautista and Caltrans.

Ms. Gilbert stated that it is a partnership planning grant with a 20% local match, however the entire match can be in kind and staff is hopeful that a cash match for the proposal will not be necessary.

Director Boch stated that there was mention of the Alameda in the project, and inquired if it would also include Monterey Street.

Ms. Gilbert confirmed that both access points to San Juan Bautista at the Alameda and Monterey Street would be included.

The Board expressed support for staff's recommendations.

Ms. Gilbert mentioned that grant applications are due to Caltrans in April. Staff will prepare a more detailed scope of work and budget for each grant application and obtain Board approval prior to submitting the applications

There was no public comment on this item.

8. Federal Transportation Funding Bill Reauthorization – Gilbert

- a. **RECEIVE** Information on the Proposed Federal Transportation Reauthorization Legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)
- b. **APPROVE** Comment Letter to Senator Barbara Boxer and **AUTHORIZE** the Chairperson to Sign

Ms. Gilbert reported on the proposed Federal Transportation Reauthorization Legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). Ms. Gilbert stated that Caltrans has convened a working group to develop consensus on responses to the bill. RTPAs and MPOs similar in size to COG and AMBAG have expressed similar concerns to those of COG staff. Staff will monitor the efforts of this working group, provide input, and bring information to the COG Board for action and direction when appropriate.

Ms. Gilbert noted that staff had prepared a letter to Senator Barbara Boxer addressing the concerns with the legislation and asked for the Boards approval.

There was no public comment on this item.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Gomez, and seconded by Director De La Cruz, the Directors unanimously approved Item 8.

The Board adjourned to closed session at 2:40 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

9. Public Employee Performance Evaluation

Title: COG Executive Director

COG reconvened from closed session at 3:00 p.m.

Deputy County Counsel Shirley Murphy stated there was no reportable action taken under Item 9 Public Employee Performance Evaluation Title: COG Executive Director.

Upon a motion made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Botelho, the Directors unanimously voted to adjourn the COG meeting.

ADJOURN TO COG MEETING FEBRUARY 16, 2012.