

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

**February 16, 2012, 2:00 P.M.**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy; Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer; Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Gilbert; Administrative Services Specialist, Kathy Postigo; Transportation Planner, Veronica Lezama; Transportation Planner, Betty LiOwen; Secretary, Monica Gomez

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Miranda Thompson, Mead & Hunt

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Emerson 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 De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Gomez, the Directors unanimously approved the Certificate of Posting.*

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

Chair Emerson stated for the record that the COG Board received Joe Thompson's public comment correspondence dated January 26, 2012 through February 09, 2012. The correspondence was entered into the public record.

**D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Rheinheimer**

Ms. Rheinheimer provided a handout on the Public Awareness Campaign from March 1 – December 31, 2012 from KION CBS 46/KCBA FOX 35/KMUV Telemundo 23/CW Network. They are partnering with critical first responders (MC Office of Emergency services, MC Regional Fire, California Highway Patrol and local Police Departments) throughout the Central Coast to reduce the number of fatalities and accidents caused by distracted drivers.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that Director Botelho contacted her regarding a traffic signal problem at the Union/Mitchell and Route 156 intersection. The problem was caused by a big rig which hit a signal poll causing the signal to turn in a different direction causing confusion for drivers. Ms. Rheinheimer stated that Caltrans crews had fixed the problem.

Ms. Rheinheimer reported that staff is working with EDC and Community Vision through a grant from

the Community Foundation on a comprehensive transportation and economic development survey. The survey will end on February 29<sup>th</sup>. Participants can take the survey at CutTheCommute.com

Ms. Rheinheimer reported that she has been working with Senator Cannella's staff on trucking legislation that will help address some of the issues the local agriculture community has been dealing with for many years. A bill is in the works and she will bring more information to the Board at the March 15th meeting.

Lastly, Ms. Rheinheimer reported that the Caltrans District 5 Director, Rich Krumholz, informed her that he will be retiring from his post effective April 2nd of this year.

**E. CALTRANS DISTRICT 5 REPORT – Krumholz**

Ms. Rheinheimer noted that Caltrans provided a written report (handout provided at meeting).

**F. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS:**

Director Gomez provided feedback from a comment received at yesterday's Unmet Needs Hearing with regard to having County Express brochures available at the Chamber of Commerce office. Director Gomez stated that the Chamber has a policy in place that requires you to be a Chamber member in order to be able to distribute your information/brochures at the Chamber office. He mentioned that membership dues are \$150-\$200 a year and asked Board members if they would support COG/ LTA becoming Chamber members.

Director Botelho thanked Ms. Rheinheimer and COG staff for the quick response to the emergency signal problem at Union/Mitchell and Route 156 intersection, as well as with the work on the trucking legislation with Senator Cannella's office.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Draft Meeting Minutes Dated January 19, 2012 – Gomez
2. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Transaction Report (Financial Claims) Dated January 2012 – Postigo
3. **RECEIVE** Construction Projects Report – Caltrans District 5
4. **APPROVE** Amendment No. 2 to Contract with Meyers Nave for Legal Services for an Additional Amount not to Exceed \$25,000 – Gilbert
5. **APPOINT** Mike Dean as Member to Regional Transportation Plan Advisory Committee – Gilbert
6. **APPROVE** Request for Proposals (RFP) for Triennial Performance Audit Services and **AUTHORIZE** Publication of Request for Proposals – Postigo
7. **RECEIVE** Council of Governments FY 2011/12 Second Quarter Budget Report – Postigo

*Upon a motion duly made by Director Gomez, and seconded by Director Emerson, the Directors approved Items 1-7, from the Consent Agenda.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**TRANSPORTATION ITEMS:**

***2:00 P.M. Public Hearing (Or As Soon Thereafter As the Matter May Be Heard)***

8. **Unmet Transit Needs Hearing** – Lezama
  - a. **RECEIVE** Report on Unmet Transit Needs Hearing.
  - b. **OPEN** Public Hearing.
  - c. **CLOSE** Public Hearing.
  - d. **DIRECT** Staff to Return to the Council of Governments with Recommendation

Ms. Lezama provided a report on the Unmet Transit Needs Hearing.

Chair Emerson opened the Public Hearing at 2:12 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**David Fairweather**

Mr. Fairweather stated that he is overall satisfied with the services; however, he provided the following feedback:

Mr. Fairweather stated that he was stranded numerous times before he got the schedule figured out. He noted that the schedule is confusing and difficult to follow. He recommended that the schedule be posted at each bus stop, including the Gilroy Caltrain stop. He suggested using arrows to show route direction so that it reads easier. He recommended the use of 2 placards to break the schedule up to 2 parts so that it is more legible. The fixed route bus stop signs need to have the correct phone number posted (phone # off by one digit on the prefix). Lastly, with regard to the Intercounty Caltrain service, Mr. Fairweather stated that the last bus departing Gilroy at 7:47 p.m. should wait a few extra minutes to allow passengers to board because he was amongst 4 passengers that were almost left stranded.

Chair Emerson closed the Public Hearing at 2:15 p.m.

Director Boch inquired if the schedules have been posted at all the bus stops.

Ms. LiOwen stated that in the past staff would update the schedules every time Gavilan College was in session or not in session. In order to save costs, staff combined the Fall/Spring schedule with the Winter/Summer schedule so that the schedules are available at all times at the stops. Ms. LiOwen stated that Caltrain only allows the schedule to be posted at a "general information board" located near the Greyhound ticket sales.

Chair Emerson recommended that staff contact someone at the Caltrain Transit Center to try to work out a possible location to post the Intercounty schedule.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff will look into all recommendations as part of the Unmet Needs follow up.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

**9. REVIEW and COMMENT on Fiscal Year 2012/13 Budget Assumptions – Postigo**

Ms. Postigo reported that the State Controller's Office provided the FY 2012/13 State Transit Assistance Allocation Preliminary Estimate of \$311,646 for San Benito County. This allocation is an increase from FY 2011/12 allocation of \$248,868. This estimate is subject to change as the State Controller changed its collection methodology. The quarterly allocations will fluctuate based on actual revenues received. Full impacts of the proposed State Budget for transportation in FY 2012/13 are unknown at this time.

Staff will present the Draft Budget - FY 2012/13 to the Board of Directors at the March 15, 2012 meeting.

Director Botelho inquired if transit funds may be used to pay for maintenance of local streets and roads.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that \$700,000 was set aside for local streets and roads in 2009. The cities and county have not claimed these funds as of yet. Ms. Rheinheimer recommended to first build up reserves for the longer term stability of the agencies before allocating funds to local streets and roads.

There was discussion about the \$700,000 in funds available for the cities and county. Board members stated that they would bring this information back to their jurisdictions so that they claim their apportionment and put it towards much needed infrastructure improvements.

There was no further discussion.

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

**ADJOURN TO COG MEETING MARCH 15, 2012.**