

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

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

**FINAL MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chair Emerson, Director Boch, Director De La Cruz, and Director Gomez

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Deputy County Counsel, Shirley Murphy; Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer; Transportation Planning Manager, Mary Gilbert; Transportation Planner, Veronica Lezama; Secretary, Monica Gomez; Transportation Interns, Regina Valentine, Virginia Murillo

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Tim Gubbins and Brandy Rider, Caltrans District 5; Aaron Nousaine, AMBAG

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Emerson called the meeting to order at 2:02P.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:**

Chair Emerson stated for the record that the COG Board received Joe Thompson's public comment correspondence dated July 31, 2012 through August 16, 2012. The correspondence was entered into the public record.

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

Ms. Rheinheimer announced an upcoming California Transportation Commission town hall meeting to be held in Santa Cruz on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Rheinheimer will email board members to remind them about the meeting and ask if anyone might be interested in attending the event.

Ms. Rheinheimer announced that the Local Transportation Authority is recommended for award of a \$50,000 AB2766 Air District grant to continue the Intercounty Gavilan and Greyhound weekend service and one weekday route. COG was also awarded a Transit Planning Grant of \$100,000 for a Short and Long Range Transit Plan.

The City of Hollister also received a Transportation Planning Grant for a Complete Streets project that would include the McCray Street corridor and Tres Pinos Road Corridors for \$150,000. Ms. Rheinheimer recognized Mary Gilbert for her collaboration with Mary Paxton, from the City of Hollister, on the grant

application process.

Lastly, Ms. Rheinheimer announced that Mary Gilbert will cover the September COG meeting, as she will be out on vacation in September.

**E. CALTRANS DISTRICT 5 REPORT – Gubbins/Loe**

Tim Gubbins, the new Caltrans District 5 Director introduced himself to the Board. He mentioned that he has been with Caltrans District 5 for almost 25 years. Mr. Gubbins stated that he looks forward to interacting with the COG Board. Mr. Gubbins congratulated both the County and City of Hollister on their recent grant awards.

**F. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS:**

Chair Emerson congratulated staff on their efforts with the grant applications.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Draft Regular Meeting Minutes Dated July 19, 2012 – Gomez
2. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Transaction Report (Financial Claims) Dated July 2012 – Postigo
3. **RECEIVE** Construction Projects Report – Caltrans District 5

There was no public comment on the Consent Agenda.

*Upon a motion duly made by Director Gomez, and seconded by Director De La Cruz, the Directors unanimously approved Items 1-3 from the Consent Agenda.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**TRANSPORTATION ITEMS:**

4. **RECEIVE** Presentation on AMBAG's 2012 Population, Employment, and Housing Forecast – Rheinheimer/Nousaine (AMBAG)

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that the forecast helps agencies in the Monterey Bay region plan for anticipated growth in population, employment, and housing and subsequent transportation and infrastructure needs to accommodate that growth. The forecast is the foundational information which planners use to develop such plans as the Regional Transportation Plan, General Plan, a Specific Plan, the Traffic Impact Fee Study, and the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, among others.

Ms. Rheinheimer introduced AMBAG planner, Aaron Nousaine who provided a Power-Point presentation handout explaining the methodology and process which AMBAG will use to develop the forecast numbers for the region, counties, and cities.

Director De La Cruz expressed concern that the County has with AMBAG's forecast numbers.

Mr. Nousaine pointed out that the current process that is being used is much different from the one that has been used in the past to develop the regional forecast. AMBAG staff is aiming to make it a more transparent and more representative forecast.

After some discussion between Board members and Mr. Nousaine, the Board expressed their concerns and stated that San Benito needs to be disaggregated from the rest of the counties because San Benito County is very different from Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara.

Mr. Nousaine stated that AMBAG will continue to refine and improve the disaggregation method in

consultation with local jurisdictions, and other stakeholders. AMBAG staff will schedule additional one-on-one meetings as necessary to build consensus on county and local level projections. Any pertinent information that cannot be incorporated into the quantitative model will be acknowledged in the final forecast report so that anyone using the data knows what issues exist and that they get incorporated into the interpretation of the numbers.

There was no public comment on this item.

**5. RECEIVE Report on Progress of Highway 25 Bypass Transfer and Route 25 Relinquishment – Rheinheimer/Gilbert (Verbal Report)**

Ms. Rheinheimer reported that she has scheduled a meeting with Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission on August 27, to discuss the transfer and route relinquishment. Stephen Rosati and Gordon Machado are also expected to attend the meeting.

Ms. Rheinheimer reported on an issue that came out of the route transfer report. Ms. Rheinheimer contacted the contractor of the Bypass, Granite Rock, with regard to a crack in the sound-wall on Hillcrest. The contractor has agreed to repair the crack at no charge to the COG.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that she plans to come back to the Board with a staff recommendation at the October COG meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Stephen Rosati  
Hollister, CA**

Mr. Rosati stated that it seems that the direction from COG has been to make the City of Hollister the lead agency on the Bypass relinquishment, however, he commented that the COG also has a say in the matter as the commitments that were established in the beginning were a major role in the Measure A sales tax. Mr. Rosati stated that they will be fighting for relinquishment and a transfer so that both routes are swapped, as well as bringing the existing Route 25 to a state of good repair. He stated that it is what the community was told by Caltrans and there is documentation to support it. Mr. Rosati stated that he appreciates the support from the City of Hollister, COG, the CTC, and Caltrans.

**6. 2012 Unmet Transit Needs Report – Lezama**  
**a) ACCEPT 2012 Unmet Transit Needs Report**  
**b) ADOPT Resolution 12-09 Concerning Unmet Public Transportation Needs Funding and Implementation of the Program for Fiscal Year 2012/2013**

Ms. Lezama reported that the COG received 10 requests at the Unmet Transit Needs Hearings. She noted that the report identified one request that meets the adopted definition of an Unmet Transit Need. The remaining requests were not unmet needs because they are operational in nature.

Ms. Lezama reviewed the identified Unmet Transit Need request. The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council evaluated the qualifying Unmet Transit Needs request to “Reinstate the County Express weekday Fixed Route service between 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.” Dial-a-Ride services are currently provided between 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Fixed Route services are provided during the peak times of early morning and late afternoon. The SSTAC noted the fare difference between the Fixed Route and Dial-a-Ride services as an Unmet Transit Need. The one-way fare on the Dial-a-Ride service is \$2.00 while the one-way fare on Fixed Route is \$1.00. The SSTAC expressed the importance of fare considerations while recognizing that the request is not reasonable to meet at this time due to funding constraints. The Local Transportation Authority Board of Directors previously approved this service change as a result of funding cuts from the State.

Ms. Lezama stated that due to ongoing funding constraints, the Unmet Transit Need request does not meet the adopted Reasonable to Meet Criteria.

Upon approval, the Unmet Transit Needs Report and adopted resolution 12-09 will be submitted to the California Department of Transportation, Division of Mass Transportation.

Director Gomez inquired if financial constraints are reason to turn down an Unmet Transit Need.

Ms. Lezama responded by referring to the adopted Reasonable to Meet Criteria, Item C. Cost Effectiveness: The proposed service would:

1. Not cause the responsible operator or service claimant to incur expenses in excess of the maximum allocated funds.
2. Not set a precedent for other service expansions without a reasonable expectation of available funding.
3. Have available funding on a long-term basis to maintain the service.

Director Gomez inquired about what is considered to be a reasonable funding percentage to meet an unmet transit need.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff would have to look back at the budget and if there were a large amount of surplus, staff may consider funding the unmet transit need. At this time however, the budget is very tight.

There was discussion about a fare increase. Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff plans to bring back a fare increase schedule later this fall, to become effective in January 2013.

Director Gomez expressed concern about having to subsidize so much of the transportation service and was glad to hear that a fare increase schedule will be coming back to the Board soon.

Director De La Cruz inquired about past discussions regarding a partnership with Gavilan College.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that unfortunately, staff's contact at Gavilan College is no longer there. Staff will have to re-establish the relationship with Gavilan College.

Director De La Cruz recommended contacting Steve Kinsella at Gavilan College.

*Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Boch, the Directors approved Item 6(a)(b), with Director Gomez voting No. Motion passed 3:1*

## **7. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

No. of cases: 1

Authority: California Government Code Section 54956.9(a)

Council of San Benito County Governments v. Hollister Inn

Ms. Rheinheimer announced that Item 7 was not necessary at this time.

*Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Gomez, the Directors unanimously adjourned the COG meeting.*

**ADJOURN TO COG MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 2012.**