

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

**November 15, 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; Secretary, Monica Gomez; Natasha Pennix, Intern

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mark McCumsey, Caltrans District 5

**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 Gomez, and seconded by Director De La Cruz, 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 November 6, 2012. The correspondence was entered into the public record.

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

Ms. Rheinheimer reported that the bus shelters at Sunnyslope School and R.O. Hardin School would be installed today. The bench at Central and Miller Road is also in. The last bus stop shelter, which will be installed at Graff and Central Road, is pending on the purchase of the property through the County. Staff is working with the Tax Assessor's office to acquire the tax defaulted property and anticipates bringing the item to the Board in December.

Ms. Rheinheimer introduced COG's new Intern, Natasha Pennix, who was hired through part of the Transit Advocates for the Future Program.

Ms. Rheinheimer wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

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

Mark McCumsey noted that there was more detailed information on the ADA Curb Ramp Project under

Item 6 on the Agenda.

Mr. McCumsey provided an update to the San Juan Road Interchange Project. He stated that the Project Manager reported that construction is set to begin the first week of December.

**F. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS:**

Chair Emerson announced that this would be his last meeting, as the Hollister City Council makes their appointment changes in December. Chair Emerson thanked his fellow Board members and stated that he had enjoyed being on the COG Board over the past five years. He gave special thanks to COG's Executive Director, Lisa Rheinheimer and staff. He noted that the County is very fortunate to have the staff that works at COG.

COG Board members thanked Chair Emerson for his service on the Board.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Draft Regular Meeting Minutes Dated October 18, 2012 – Gomez
2. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Transaction Report (Financial Claims) Dated October 2012 – Postigo
3. **APPOINT** Janet Felice to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) – Lezama
4. **APPROVE** COG Office Closure Days During the Upcoming Holidays – Postigo
5. **RECEIVE** Construction Projects Report – Caltrans District 5

Director De La Cruz pulled Item 4 for discussion.

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, and 5 from the Consent Agenda.*

**Item 4**

Director De La Cruz inquired about the office closure day, the day before Thanksgiving. He asked if staff would be using their vacation time.

Ms. Rheinheimer confirmed that staff would be using their vacation time.

*Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Gomez, the Directors unanimously approved Item 4 from the Consent Agenda.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**TRANSPORTATION ITEMS:**

6. **RECEIVE** Update on the Highway 25 Bypass Route Transfer – Gilbert

Ms. Gilbert reported that staff is working with Caltrans on identifying what items of work are going to need to be completed on COG's end before the transfer of the Route can occur. There's some follow-up with some of the As-built Project Plans and some of the mapping that was provided to Caltrans. Staff will be meeting with Caltrans in early December to review the follow-up work. In terms of the relinquishment of the existing Route, staff is waiting on the ADA Curb Ramp Project. It will be starting as soon as the contractor has all of their insurance approvals in to Caltrans. The project is taking place in Monterey and San Benito Counties, with the southern portions of the project being completed first. The

contractor will start work in Soledad and complete work in Hollister. Completion is anticipated in late winter of 2013.

Director Gomez inquired if it was possible to have the contractor begin their work in Hollister.

Ms. Gilbert stated that unfortunately, it is not possible to require the contractor to change their order of work. Usually, the work is left up to the contractor, which usually results in a cost savings. Ms. Gilbert noted that the contractor is located in San Luis Obispo County and this may be one of the reasons why they're starting with the southern area of the project.

There was no public comment on this item.

**7. APPROVE** Agreement for Services with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments for Work to be Completed During the Development of a Sustainable Communities Strategy – Gilbert

Ms. Gilbert requested that the action on this item change, and continue the approval of the contract to the December meeting. Staff had requested that AMBAG change some contract provisions, however, they did not have time to get the changes through to their legal department.

Ms. Gilbert provided a Power-Point presentation on Complete Streets in Transportation Planning

Director De La Cruz asked what the end result would be once the work is completed.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that cities and counties may be able to cut through some of the red tape through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and streamline some of the projects that fit in with the concepts of Complete Streets and the Sustainable Communities Strategy. It will help developers, as well as the City and County, with moving projects along in a more streamlined manner. Ultimately, staff will be able to incorporate these ideas into the Regional Transportation Plan, as it's a vision of what we're going to look like in terms of transportation infrastructure in the next 25 years and it would serve as a reference point for planners.

There was no public comment on this item.

Staff will bring this item back in December.

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

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