

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

**May 16, 2013, 3:00 P.M.**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chair Botelho, Director Boch, Director De La Cruz, Director Scattini, and Director Gomez

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Tony Mercado, MV Transportation

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Botelho called the meeting to order at 4:18 P.M.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**B. CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

*Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Scattini, the Directors unanimously approved the Certificate of Posting.*

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

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

Ms. Rheinheimer announced that she attended a workshop this week for the Sustainable Community Strategy that the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) is working on. AMBAG has developed a Metro Quest Survey, which allows people to give their opinion about what preferences they want to see regarding roads and bicycle/pedestrian facilities over the next 20 years. The survey will be the foundation for the next step of the Sustainable Communities Strategy. Staff will forward the survey to the Board of Directors by email.

Additionally, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) is going to be doing a telephone survey in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties, as it relates to transportation projects and priorities. The survey is a fairly lengthy survey and the goal is to get 300 survey responses in San Benito County. Staff will report back to the Board of Directors in June with the results of the telephone survey.

Ms. Rheinheimer announced that COG employee Marc Hain submitted his two-week notice resigning from his position as Mechanic. She will present a certificate of appreciation to Marc at a later time since he was not present at the Board meeting. Ms. Rheinheimer mentioned that the agency is sad to see him leave and wishes him much success. Staff will work with the County Administration office to fill the position as soon as possible.

Lastly, Ms. Rheinheimer stated that she will be on vacation during the next COG meeting. Mary Gilbert, Transportation Planning Manager, will fill in for her at the next COG meeting.

**E. CALTRANS DISTRICT 5 REPORT:** None

**F. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS:**

Director Gomez informed staff that he has requested that the City of Hollister reevaluates its priorities list for streets and roads. Director Gomez stated that he believes that the City can spend the money that is dedicated to the Highway 156 Project in other areas.

Director De La Cruz inquired about the possibility of putting in a crosswalk at the corner of San Benito Street and Hawkins Street.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that she would not recommend doing anything on San Benito Street until the City of Hollister has acquired ownership of the street from Caltrans.

Director Gomez stated that the City of Hollister has pedestrian friendly ideas for the future of the downtown area.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Draft Meeting Minutes Dated April 18, 2013 – Gomez
2. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Draft Special Meeting Minutes Dated April 18, 2013
3. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Transaction Report (Financial Claims) Dated April 18, 2013 – Postigo
4. **RECEIVE** Construction Projects Report – Caltrans District 5
5. **APPROVE** Letters of Support for Senate Bill 478 Providing Exemptions from Length Limitations for Livestock Vehicles and Assembly Bill 513 Expanding Rubberized Asphalt Concrete Grants – Rheinheimer

*Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Scattini, the Directors unanimously approved Items 1-5 from the Consent Agenda.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**TRANSPORTATION ITEMS:**

6. **APPROVE Proclamation** No. 13-02 Declaring May 19-25, 2013 as National Public Works Week in San Benito County – Rheinheimer

Ms. Rheinheimer asked the Board to approve Proclamation No. 13-02 to honor public works professionals who make them happen help sustain the quality of life we all enjoy. Communities across the nation celebrate National Public Works Week.

*Upon a motion duly made by Director Gomez, and seconded by Director De La Cruz, the Directors approved Item 6.*

7. **RECEIVE** Report on Transportation Funding through California's Emissions Trading Program (Cap and Trade) – Rheinheimer

Ms. Rheinheimer reported that the Cap and Trade system works by establishing a limit on the total amount of greenhouse gases which can be produced by the transportation sector, energy producers, certain large manufacturers, etc. The total limit is set to decrease over time with California's cap

declining by 2% in 2014 and by 3% annually from 2015 through 2020. An overview of the California Air Resources Board Emissions Trading Program was provided as an attachment to the staff report.

Ms. Rheinheimer provided an overview of the Transportation Coalition for Livable Communities Proposal and the AB 574 (Lowenthal) - Sustainable Communities Strategies. Ms. Rheinheimer noted that the AB 574 legislation includes a regional competitive grant program for projects that combine transportation investments with local land use changes. Some locally significant and eligible projects in this legislation include:

- Transit operations, maintenance, and infrastructure
- Road and bridge maintenance, retrofits for complete streets, bike and pedestrian enhancements
- Safe routes to schools
- Community infrastructure to support transit oriented developments, affordable housing, infill, and walkable communities

Staff will continue to monitor this legislation and the potential funding through Cap and Trade.

There was brief discussion about electric car owners not having to pay much in gas tax. Electric cars are a great way to reduce emissions; however, this causes a decrease in gas tax revenue collected. In essence, you are not solving the air quality problem, but rather solving a congestion problem.

There was not public comment on this item.

#### **8. RECEIVE** Update on the Highway 25 Bypass Route Transfer – Rheinheimer

Ms. Gilbert reported that for the Highway 25 Existing Route on San Felipe, San Benito, Nash, and Tres Pinos, the City of Hollister and Caltrans will enter into a Transfer Agreement that outlines the details associated with the transfer of the existing route into local control. Early action on this task can occur after Senate Bill 788, Section 3 (formerly SB 314) is passed and becomes law on January 1, 2014.

Ms. Gilbert stated that the items of work to be completed by COG, before the transfer of the new Bypass to Caltrans, include:

- Prepare a structural report on a portion of a sound wall joint that separated post-construction. Staff has secured a licensed engineer to complete this work at a cost of \$9,892. This work is anticipated to be complete by June of this year.
- Revise the right-of-way record maps and other right of way services. The Executive Director signed a contract for \$2,000 with MNS Engineers and Caltrans to develop a scope of work that is responsive to Caltrans requirements for right of way mapping. Staff will then prepare a contract for the Board's approval in June to complete this work. The original cost estimate was \$100,000; however, the scoping services to be completed this month are expected to decrease that amount significantly. This work is anticipated to be completed by October of this year.

Additionally, the City of Hollister will need to adopt a resolution requesting the relinquishment of the existing route through the City jurisdiction.

Director Gomez expressed his appreciation to staff for their progress on the project.

There was no public comment on this item.

#### **9. APPROVE** Cost Sharing Agreement for Preparation of the Environmental Impact Report for the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan and 2014 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy for an Amount Not to Exceed \$20,000 – Gilbert

Ms. Gilbert reported that as a part of preparing the *On the Move: 2035 – San Benito Regional Transportation Plan*, the Council of Governments is required to prepare a program-level Environmental Impact Report. COG is coordinating preparation of this Environmental Impact Report with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, who are also completing EIRs for their respective long-range transportation plans.

*On the Move: 2035* is required to undergo California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review and disclosure. Sharing in the cost of the Environmental Impact Report is a cost savings to COG, as an independent report would cost substantially more.

In addition, COG staff and staff from the other agencies work together to form a database of projects, complete financial projections, and complete a coordinated Environmental Impact Report.

Ms. Gilbert stated that under the Memorandum of Understanding, AMBAG will be the lead agency on the project and will contract with a consulting firm to complete the environmental document. COG staff will assist with consultant selection and will contribute to the development of the document.

There was not public comment on this item.

*Upon a motion duly made by Director Boch, and seconded by Director Scattini, the Directors approved Item 9.*

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

**ADJOURN TO COG MEETING JUNE 20, 2013.**