

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

April 18, 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; Administrative Services Specialist, Kathy Postigo; Transportation Planner, Veronica Lezama; Transportation Planner, Betty LiOwen; Secretary, Monica Gomez

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Olejnik, Mark McCumsey, Caltrans District 5; Tony Mercado, MV Transportation

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chair Gomez called the meeting to order at 4:32 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:

Vice Chair Gomez stated for the record that the COG Board received Joe Thompson's public comment correspondence dated December 27, 2012 through April 12, 2013. The correspondence was entered into the public record.

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Rheinheimer

Ms. Rheinheimer announced that COG staff will hold its 2nd Walk N' Roll event Saturday, April 27, 2013, from 10am-2pm at the Hollister Veterans Building courtyard. There will be helmet fittings, safety course, raffle prizes, and bike tune-ups.

Ms. Rheinheimer invited the COG Board to join staff in celebrating the Grand Opening of the San Juan Highway Bike Lanes Project Friday, April 26, 2013 at 3:00 P.M. at Anzar High School.

Lastly, Ms. Rheinheimer reported that the Pinnacles National Park Highway is moving through Senate Concurrent Resolution #35. What this will do is rename Airline Highway and Bolsa Road to Pinnacles National Park Highway.

E. CALTRANS DISTRICT 5 REPORT –

John Olejnik reported that Caltrans has released a bulletin about Caltrans' Annual Safety Week, which will begin April 29th. Caltrans District 5 will have an open house and a memorial for the Caltrans employees who have fallen in the line of duty.

Regarding road projects, Mr. Olejnik announced that there will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on April 26th at 1:30 P.M. for the Salinas Road Interchange Project.

Lastly, Mr. Olejnik reported that Caltrans staff has been reviewing the San Benito County General Plan and a comment letter should be going out to the County by tomorrow.

Director Gomez inquired about the completion date for the Prunedale Project.

Caltrans staff stated that they did not have the date of completion handy, but would provide an update at the next meeting.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that she would verify the completion date with David Silberberger from Caltrans.

F. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS:

Chair Botelho mentioned that he along with Supervisor Barrios and Supervisor Muenzer attended the groundbreaking ceremony at the Red Barn for the Highway 101 San Juan Road Interchange Project. He noted that the project is a critical safety improvement that affects San Benito County in many ways.

Chair Botelho mentioned that he had the opportunity to have lunch with the Caltrans District Director, Tim Gubbins. He stated that they were able to clear the air on a few issues, noting that they must develop a level of cooperation with Caltrans for the completion of the Highway 25 Bypass transfer. The transfer of the Highway 25 Bypass is a critical issue that they would like to see happen sooner than what the current timeline states.

There was also brief discussion about the Highway 156 Project. Chair Botelho stated that the Caltrans District Director stated that he would meet with stakeholders in San Benito County to discuss some of the alternatives and have a better understanding.

Chair Botelho stated that overall, it was a productive meeting and he looks forward to an improved dialogue moving forward with Caltrans.

Director Scattini inquired about a request he made to Caltrans at a previous meeting regarding the installation of Pinnacles National Park signage on Highway 101 and Highway 156.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that she received a response letter from Caltrans and would forward the letter to Director Scattini at the City.

G. Presentations: Present Certificate of Recognition to COG Employee

Chair Botelho presented a Certificate of Recognition to Veronica Lezama on behalf of the COG Board and staff for her achievement in receiving the KSBW Jefferson Award.

Ms. Lezama thanked the COG Board for the Certificate of Recognition.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. APPROVE** Council of Governments Draft Special Meeting Minutes Dated March 21, 2013 – Gomez

2. **APPROVE** Council of Governments Transaction Report (Financial Claims) Dated March 2013 – Postigo
3. **RECEIVE** Construction Projects Report – Caltrans District 5
4. **APPROVE** Contract between the Council of San Benito County Governments, the Health Trust, and Santa Clara County Health and Hospital System for a Grant in the Amount of \$30,000 for Funding Safe Routes to RO Hardin and Calaveras Schools Plan - Rheinheimer
5. **APPROVE** Proclamation No. 13-01 Declaring April 27, 2013 as Walk N’ Roll Day and May 5-11, 2013 as Bike Week in San Benito County – Lezama

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

REGULAR AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS:

6. **APPROVE** Letter to Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Commenting on the Environmental Impact Report for the US 101 Improvement Project between Monterey Street and State Route 129 - Rheinheimer

Director Gomez excused himself for this item, due to a possible conflict of interest.

Ms. Rheinheimer reviewed the comment letter on the draft Environmental Impact Report for the US 101 Improvement Project between Monterey Street and State Route 129 with the COG Board. The proposed comments recommend Design Option B due to the fewer number of acres of prime and unique farmland needed for the project.

After some discussion, the Board also recommended that the design should accommodate a future connection of State Route 152.

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that comments are due by April 29, 2013. She asked the Board to authorize her to include the sentence noted above to the comment letter and have the Chair sign the revised letter.

There was no public comment on this item.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Scattini, and seconded by Director Boch, the Directors approved Item 6 with the inclusion of the change noted above.

7. **APPROVE** Letter Commenting on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San Benito County General Plan – Rheinheimer

Ms. Gilbert reported that staff has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact report and has prepared a comment letter for submission on behalf of COG.

Ms. Gilbert reported that overall, the land use and transportation goals and policies are consistent with those approved by COG for inclusion in its 2014 Regional Transportation Plan. The Environmental Impact Report identifies significant impacts to the County transportation network associated with build out of growth in 2035. Several projects that are identified to mitigate these impacts are not currently in the Draft 2035 Regional Transportation Plan project list.

Ms. Gilbert mentioned that COG is currently updating its Regional Transportation Plan. If the General Plan is adopted with the projects identified, COG would be required to amend its Regional Transportation Plan to ensure consistency.

There was no public comment on this item.

Upon a motion duly made by Director De La Cruz, and seconded by Director Scattini, the Directors unanimously approved Item 7.

8. RECEIVE Update on the Highway 25 Bypass Route Transfer and **APPROVE** Letter of Support for Senate Bill 314– Rheinheimer

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that she has been working closely with Senator Anthony Cannella’s office to initiate a bill and pursue legislation to expedite the relinquishment to the City of Hollister. The bill would allow for the relinquishment to occur and the City of Hollister to have ownership of San Benito Street, by early 2014.

Senate Bill 314 will be included in the statewide omnibus bill. A letter supporting SB 314 has been approved by the City of Hollister and County of San Benito. Staff recommended that the COG Board also send a letter of support to Senator Cannella’s office.

There was no public comment on this item.

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

9. DISCUSS and **PROVIDE DIRECTION** on Possible Relocation of the COG Office (Verbal Report) Rheinheimer

Ms. Rheinheimer stated that staff is seeking direction from the Board regarding the COG office location. COG is currently paying \$3,000 month for the COG office. In an effort to save the agency costs, staff has been looking at other locations in the downtown area.

The Board directed staff to continue searching for relocation of the COG office, if possible near the downtown area. They also mentioned that the office should be located on the 1st floor of a building to accommodate the elderly or disabled.

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

ADJOURN TO COG MEETING MAY 16, 2013.