



**SPECIAL MEETING  
AGENDA  
COUNCIL OF SAN BENITO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS**

**DATE:** Thursday, May 29, 2014  
4:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Board of Supervisors Chambers  
481 Fourth Street  
Hollister, CA 95023

**DIRECTORS:** Chair Victor Gomez, Anthony Botelho, Tony Boch, Jerry Muenzer, and Robert Scattini  
Alternates: San Benito County: Jaime De La Cruz;  
City of Hollister: Pauline Valdivia; San Juan Bautista: Andy Moore

*Persons who wish to address the Board of Directors must complete a Speaker Card and give it to the Clerk prior to addressing the Board. Those who wish to address the Board on an agenda item will be heard when the Chairperson calls for comments from the audience. Following recognition, persons desiring to speak are requested to advance to the podium and state their name and address. After hearing audience comments, the Public Comment portion of the agenda item will be closed.*

**4:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER:**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Verification of Certificate of Posting

**TRANSPORTATION ITEMS**

***4:00 p.m. Public Hearing (Or As Soon Thereafter As the Matter May Be Heard)***

***On the Move: 2035 – San Benito Regional Transportation Plan – Rheinheimer***

- a. **HOLD** Public Hearing on the February Draft *On the Move: 2035 – San Benito Regional Transportation Plan*,
- b. **PROVIDE** Comments on the Draft Plan, and
- c. **DIRECT** Staff to Respond to Public Comments in the Final San Benito Regional Transportation Plan.

**Adjourn to COG Meeting on June 19, 2014.**

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if requested, the Agenda can be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. If an individual wishes to request an alternative agenda format, please contact the Clerk of the Council four (4) days prior to the meeting at (831) 637-7665. The Council of Governments Board of Directors meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Council's office at (831) 637-7665 at least 48 hours before the meeting to enable the Council of Governments to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.*



## Staff Report

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To: Council of San Benito County Governments  
 From: Lisa Rheinheimer, Executive Director  
 Date: May 29, 2014  
 Subject: ***On the Move: 2035 – San Benito Regional Transportation Plan***

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### Recommendation:

- a. **HOLD** Public Hearing on the February Draft *On the Move: 2035 – San Benito Regional Transportation Plan*,
- b. **PROVIDE** Comments on the Draft Plan, and
- c. **DIRECT** Staff to Respond to Public Comments in the Final San Benito Regional Transportation Plan.

### Summary:

The Council of Governments is accepting comments on its February draft *On the Mover: 2035 – San Benito Regional Transportation* through May 30, 2014. As a part of the public review period, Government Code Section 65080.5 requires that a public hearing be held after publishing notice of the hearing and prior to the adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan.

### Financial Impact:

As one of its core functions, the Council of Governments is required to prepare a long-range Regional Transportation Plan to be eligible for hundreds of millions of dollars in transportation funding. The Plan provides the basis for financial allocations by the State, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and others for transportation projects and programs in San Benito County. The amount of funding varies each year, depending on project readiness, State and Federal budgets, and grants received for transportation projects.

### Background:

In April, the Council of Governments released the February draft *On the Move: 2035 – San Benito Regional Transportation Plan* for a 30 day public comment period which ends on May 30, 2014.

The Council of Governments coordinated the required CEQA Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission. This coordinated approach to the EIR was approved by COG Board action at the September 2013 meeting, through a Cost Sharing Agreement.

The Draft EIR was released by AMBAG for a 55-day public review period and all comments were due on April 8, 2014.

**Discussion:**

*Public Hearing and Public Comments*

As a part of the public review period, San Benito COG is required to hold a public hearing on the draft Regional Transportation Plan. Staff provided the mandated notice in the local newspaper prior to the scheduled public hearing. Notice was published in the Free Lance on April 25, 2014.

The public hearing is an opportunity for the public to express their opinions about the draft Regional Transportation Plan. The public may also provide written comments to the Council of Governments until close of business, Friday, May 30, 2014.

Comments and responses to comments will also become part of the final Regional Transportation Plan, scheduled for adoption in June 2014.

*Draft Regional Transportation Plan*

The draft San Benito Regional Transportation Plan was coordinated with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan, and SB 375. The Regional Transportation Plan outlines the region's planned projects and programs for meeting the mobility needs of the population within the constraints of the revenue forecast over the 20-year planning horizon.

After *On the Move: 2035* – San Benito Regional Transportation Plan is adopted by the Board (scheduled for June 2014), the next update of the Regional Transportation Plan will be due in 2018. Amendments may occur before 2018 without affecting the 4-year update cycle.

The COG Board approved changing from a 5-year update cycle to a 4-year update cycle by way of Resolution No. 09-13 in May 2009 (Supporting Attachment 1). This change was made to align with an 8-year General Plan Housing Element update and to coordinate with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) under the requirements of SB 375. AMBAG, Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission, and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County also made this change to a 4-year planning cycle.

Staff prepared the Draft Regional Transportation Plan in coordination with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) as part of the development of the Sustainable Communities Strategy. The Sustainable Communities Strategy is mandated by SB 375 and designed to achieve greenhouse gas emissions targets set by the California Air Resources Board for each region. The system-wide performance of the projects contained in the regional plan are evaluated relative to greenhouse gas targets. The Monterey Bay area target is 0 percent increase by 2020 and 5 percent decrease by 2035 based on 2005 levels.

The three main components of the Plan are the policy, financial, and project list elements. These elements were reviewed and/or approved by the COG Board in 2013 and incorporated into the draft document. The list of projects was reviewed by the COG Board in August 2013 as a part of the Sustainable Communities Strategy Hybrid Scenarios development. There was direction from the COG Board that preserving the existing infrastructure was a priority and this direction is reflected in the projects identified for funding in the Plan.

A programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared by AMBAG and covers the Regional Transportation Plans of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties as well as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. The Draft EIR was released in February for public review and comments were due by April 8, 2014. COG is a responsible agency for the EIR under CEQA; therefore, COG will be asked to approve the final EIR in June.

Executive Director Review: \_\_\_\_\_

Counsel Review: \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting Attachment(s):

1. COG Resolution No. 09-13

BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF SAN BENITO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF SAN BENITO	)	
COUNTY GOVERNMENTS APPROVING THE	)	Resolution No. 09-13
CHANGE FROM A FIVE YEAR TO A FOUR YEAR	)	
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CYCLE	)	

WHEREAS, the Council of San Benito County Governments (COG), as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for San Benito County, produces a long-range Regional Transportation Plan every five years to identify prioritized transportation projects and services for a 25-year period; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties, produces a long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan that incorporates each county's Regional Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, COG produces, in collaboration with local jurisdictions, a Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan (RHNA) every five years; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 375 added and amended specified sections to the Government Code and Public Resources Code, thereby establishing new requirements to align the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the RHNA through the development of a Sustainable Communities Strategy; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Communities Strategy integrates land use and transportation planning for purposes of reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions to 1990 levels set by the California Air Resources Board; and

WHEREAS, shifting to a four year transportation planning cycle will facilitate the alignment of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and RHNA, create efficiencies and facilitate the region reaching its Greenhouse Gas Emissions targets, thereby assisting local jurisdictions including the City of Hollister, County of San Benito, and City of San Juan Bautista in receiving SB 375's intended benefits;

NOW, THEREFORE; BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Council of Governments hereby adopts a four year transportation planning cycle, in lieu of a from five year cycle.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF SAN BENITO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS on this 21st day of May, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: Chair Botelho, Edge, Emerson, Gomez

NOES: 0

ABSENT: De La Cruz

ABSTAIN: 0

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Botelho, Chair

ATTEST:

Lisa Rheinheimer, Executive Director

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 5/22/09 \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

San Benito County Counsel's Office

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Shirley L. Murphy, Deputy County Counsel

Dated: May 12, 2009 \_\_\_\_\_